

During the present week F. C. Loucks, president of the Virden Coal company, made a specific demand upon the governor for troops. He did this nominally through the sheriff, but the conversation, which was by telephone, was carried on between himself and Gov. Tanner personally. The governor offered to send troops, in case of a breach of the peace, for the purpose of preserving the peace and protecting property, but refused to send any for the purpose of assisting the company to bring in laborers from other states. To this the president of the company replied that he would work his mines in his own way and defend himself if the governor wouldn't defend him. Immediately following that interview, and on the 11th, the governor wrote Mr. Loucks to the effect that if the company undertook to bring in imported labor they would do so with full knowledge that they were provoking riot and bloodshed, and that therefore they would be morally responsible if not criminally liable for what might happen.

That was the condition at Virden when, on the 12th, near noon, a train loaded with negroes from Alabama, and carrying a heavily armed guard of private detectives, rolled into the village, and, passing the station without stopping, went on toward the stockade. The remainder of the story is the substance of the Associated press dispatches. As the train passed the depot, its character was recognized by the miners, and a gun was fired in the air by one of them as a signal to their associates nearer the stockade, half a mile away, that the imported laborers had arrived. Instantly shots were fired from the train itself into the crowd of miners. Then the miners fired at the train, and were fired at in turn both from the train and from the stockade. The train stopped at the stockade only two minutes, when it pulled out for Springfield; but its departure did not stop the firing from the stockade. Eye-witnesses assert that most of the miners were killed after the departure of the train.

Under orders from Gov. Tanner, a detachment of militia arrived at Virden in the evening. It was under orders to disarm everybody, to preserve the peace, and to protect life and property, but to give no aid in the importation of non-resident laborers. Coming first in contact with

the stockade guards, the officer in command ordered them to throw up their hands, but instead of doing so, they backed into the stockade, holding their revolvers menacingly. The order was repeated but was still disobeyed, when one of the stockade guards was shot, though whether by the troops or not is uncertain. The miners when ordered by the troops to hold up their hands did so, and surrendered their firearms. At the present writing there are no further developments.

An enormous strike is under way on the other side of the Atlantic, in Paris. It began with the poorest paid grade of day laborers, who demanded 60 centimes (12 cents) an hour, for their work. On the 6th, the municipal council undertook to put an end to the strike by offering to make good to contractors the difference between what they were paying and the wages demanded. At first the strikers were inclined to fall in with this proposition and call off the strike; but upon consideration they refused to do so unless the other building guilds were allowed a proportionate increase, whereupon the strike extended from the day laborers to masons, iron workers, stone cutters, truckmen, plumbers, locksmiths, carpenters, joiners, painters, decorators, and other house-building unions. This is the cabled explanation of the strike, and must be accepted with caution. The strike has grown marvelously. On the 8th, of 200,000 house building workmen in the city, 40,000 were on strike. Only 200 then remained at work on the exposition structures and the Metropolitan railway. The strikers act under the direction of socialist leaders.

A general strike was proclaimed on the 7th, and efforts were made to extend it to every branch of industry. The success of these efforts cannot be predicted, but the cable reports the strike as daily spreading. On the 10th the number of strikers had increased from 40,000 to 50,000, and on the 11th the number was still further increased by the decision of the bricklayers and wood carvers to join. To oppose or intimidate the strikers, 11,000 troops have been brought into the city as reinforcements to the regular garrison; and Paris is described as taking on the appearance of a huge camp. It is said to look more warlike than at any time since 1870. Great fears are felt that the strike excitement may merge with that in connec-

tion with the Dreyfus scandal, and precipitate an uncontrollable outburst of popular passion.

The Spanish-American peace commission now convened in Paris has met altogether four times. The first two meetings were reported last week as having been held on the 1st and 3d respectively; the third, pursuant to the adjournment noted last week, was held on the 7th. On this occasion the sitting was brief, lasting less than an hour. What was done has not been officially divulged, and the cabled reports of the meeting sent by special correspondents have proved to be valueless. The only information directly from the meeting room came through an interview on the 8th, with the secretary of the Spanish commission, Senor Ojeda, who said:

The proposals and replies of both countries have been carried on with perfect smoothness, and the American proposals so far have contained nothing that surprised us or gave the least cause for misunderstanding; but that is natural, as they have not gone an inch outside of the terms of the protocol. Spain has accepted, as she could not help it, all the proposals from the American side so far, but the commission is still discussing the terms of peace. The principal question, that in regard to the Philippines, has not yet been taken up.

On the 11th, the fourth meeting of the joint commission took place. It lasted more than two hours. Cabled reports are to the effect that the Spanish commissioners presented the reply of their government to a refusal of the United States to assume any liability for the Spanish-Cuban debt, and that the American commissioners plainly stated that the decision of the American government not to assume that debt is irrevocable. But this meeting, also, was held in secret; and as no official reports have been given out, the published accounts of its doings may be of no more value than those relative to preceding meetings. Adjournment was taken until the 14th, it being apparently the purpose of the commissions to meet regularly in joint session on Tuesdays and Fridays. The American commissioners hold long sessions of their own, daily.

Pending the conclusions of the peace commission, in which the fate of the Philippines is involved, the Philippine republic is making the islands untenable to Spain. The re-

publican troops have invaded Panay, one of the Philippine group to the south of Luzon; and though the Spanish captain general is concentrating a Spanish force there to resist them, he admits that owing to the numbers and enthusiasm of the republicans, resistance is hopeless. At last reports, the Spanish had been badly beaten on the west coast of Panay island, and the republicans were advancing eastward upon Iloilo. Gen. Rios, the acting captain general, had already cabled Madrid, advising that autonomy be granted to the Philippines. Upon the refusal of the Madrid government to accept his advice, he resigned, and a new captain general is said to be now on his way to the islands from Spain.

Aguinaldo does not confine his warfare against Spain to military movements. A diplomat as well as a general, he had sent a letter to the pope, of which we get reports on the 8th, assuring the pope that the Philippine republic will respect all religions, and that catholics need have no fears for their personal safety, while for the security of their property special laws will be enacted in accordance with the principles of civilization.

Puerto Rico is to become American territory on the 18th. The last joint meeting of the evacuation commissions was held at San Juan on the 12th, and in accordance with their agreement, the American flag is to be raised on the 18th.

The commission of naval officers appointed to determine the merits of the Sampson-Schley controversy relative to the destruction of Cervera's fleet on the 3d of July, reported on the 11th. This report decides that the battle was fought and won upon plans prepared by Sampson; that any directing of the movements of ships by Schley was inconsiderable; that the New York had no active part in the fight; that the Brooklyn was not engaged at so close quarters as represented in the first report; that the brunt of the fighting was borne by the Oregon, the Texas and the Iowa; that the New York was more than 9 miles from the Colon when that ship surrendered, and between 4 and 5 miles from the nearest of her sister ships engaged; that the average range of ships most engaged was about a mile and a half; and that

no American ship at any time during the battle was within a mile of an surrendered Spanish ship.

Among the witnesses examined during the past week by the presidential committee for the investigation of the mismanagement of the war were Gen. H. V. Boynton, in command at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga; Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, in command at Jacksonville; Maj. Hersey, of the "rough riders;" Dr. R. Emmet Giffin, chief surgeon at Camp Thomas, and Capt. James C. Balbridge, commissary of subsistence at Jacksonville. Gen. Graham, also, was examined. No privates have yet testified.

Gen. Boynton's testimony was to the effect that brigade and regimental commanders and subordinate officers were responsible for the increase of disease at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, toward the close of the camp, because they neglected to cover the regimental kitchen and hospital sinks as directed by the surgeon general. Gen. Lee testified that the army ration was abundant and in the main well suited to a tropical climate, and that Jacksonville was a good site for a camp. The health of his troops had been good, only about 2 per cent. having been sick, and he had no complaint to make against the war department. Gen. Greene said that the most flagrant case of neglect that he had seen was in connection with the transports at New York. He had also seen green coffee issued both in Florida and at Manila. While the camp site at San Francisco was bad, he was certain it had not been selected in collusion with railroad interests. In comparison with Turkish and Russian troops, he had found the condition of the Americans favorable at every point. Maj. Hersey testified that the troops were well supplied and well cared for; that Camp Winkoff was the most perfect camp he had ever seen; and that young Tiffany, whose physician had certified that he died of starvation, suffered more from the kindness of his friends after getting to Boston than from any other source. Dr. Giffin's testimony cannot be briefly summarized. Part of it reflected upon, and part tended to exonerate, the war department. He thought the complaints of starvation due to the sparse diet necessary for typhoid fever convalescents. Capt. Balbridge placed the responsibility for well-founded complaints upon the

inexperienced officers of volunteer regiments. Gen. Graham had no complaint to make as to the management of the war department.

While still considering affairs concerning the war with Spain, the government has become involved in difficulties with Minnesota Indians, which give promise of an Indian war. As we went to press last week, it was reported that a collision with a branch of the Chippewas had occurred at Bear island, in Lake Leech, about 70 miles west of Duluth, and that Gen. Bacon had been ambushed and he and his whole command massacred. It appears now, that a fight with the Pillager Indians, a branch of the Chippewas, did occur at Sugar Point, near Bear island, but that there was no ambush nor massacre. In the fight, however, Gen. Bacon lost in killed, 1 commissioned officer, 1 non-commissioned officer, and 2 privates; and in wounded 10 privates. This battle occurred on the 5th. It was renewed on the 6th, when 2 privates were killed and 1 wounded. Besides these, 4 civilians were wounded. The Indians fought from heavy timber and underbrush, but they were driven back, and as Gen. Bacon reported on the 7th, had then scattered in their canoes to the various islands in the region of the fight. In the same dispatch Gen. Bacon reported that he had done all he could, and would return to St. Paul.

Owing to Gen. Bacon's report, the general government revoked an order theretofore made, placing back under the command of Gov. Clough, of Minnesota, the Minnesota volunteers now in the national service who are on furlough at Duluth and St. Paul. But Gov. Clough was not so well satisfied, as were the Washington military authorities, that the Indian trouble was over, and he telegraphed to Adj. Gen. Corbin very sharply. In his telegram he said he did not think, nor did the settlers, that Gen. Bacon had won the victory he reported. On the contrary, it was his opinion that the claim of the Indians that they had won was true. Continuing, he said:

The soldiers are here and are willing and ready to go, but as you have revoked your order of yesterday you can do as you like with your soldiers. The state of Minnesota will try and get along without any assistance from the department in the future.

To an interviewer the governor explained: