

political information, the great mass of the people of England will long remain unconscious or heedless of the true economic position. If and when they realize it, they will probably be drawn to exercise that power, which the franchise places in their hands, to secure through the instrumentality of the Commons house of parliament a readjustment of taxation, relief for industry in every form, and the imposition of the burden where also the benefit rests.

Judge O'Connor believes that this can be better and more safely done through normal development in the right direction than by angry and revolutionary changes. But he clearly means to point out to the privileged orders that unless they do speedily agree to a righteously progressive policy they will have to submit at no distant day to drastic experiences.

This British tax report is justly regarded in England as another strong indication of the phenomenal advances of the movement which Henry George set on foot less than 25 years ago. With these reports before it, parliament cannot much longer delay granting the petitions—nearly 300 in number from as many different English and Scotch cities, including Glasgow, London and Liverpool—for permission to adopt site value taxation.

NEWS

The great labor conflict between the association of steel workers and the steel trust, the beginning of which is reported at pages 200 and 234, furnishes about the only important news of the week, and that is not very abundant. At Wellsville, Ohio, an attempt was made by the trust on the 22d to open the mills, but only three out of the eight started and they were not sufficiently manned for more than partial operation. They closed completely on the afternoon of the same day, on account of the extreme heat, as the managers say, but on account of desertions from the working force, as the strikers insist. The air at Wellsville has been full of rumors of arrangements by the trust to import negro workmen from the south to take the places of the strikers. It is understood that this plan is to be put

in operation in all the striking mills; and the strikers are "picketing" railroad stations for the purpose of obstructing it. As a countercheck the trust is reported as preparing to secure injunctions against picketing, from the federal courts. Another of its plans, especially with reference to Wellsville, is to move to another place, or at least to threaten to do so. This has had a tendency to throw the influence of local merchants and landowners against the strikers. The place to which the trust threatens to move the Wellsville plant is Vandergrift, Pa., where the trust has established a "model town" for its workmen, each of whom is engaged under a written agreement with the trust which would forfeit his house and lot were he to join the strike. These Vandergrift employes, to the number of 1,800, have adopted resolutions in support of the trust as against the strikers. At McKeesport, Pa., the situation is not so encouraging to the trust. A large lodge of the Amalgamated association was organized there on the 20th, in the nonunion stronghold of the National Tube works.

The head of the steel trust, J. Pierpont Morgan, is credited in a newspaper interview with announcing that there can be no compromise of the strike, that the mills of the trust will be operated by nonunion men protected by armed guards, and that the trust will beat the strikers at whatever cost. To this announcement comes the response from Mr. Shaffer, the leader of the strike, that he "will take from the mills every union man in them," so that "it will be impossible to operate them." Mr. Shaffer adds:

The steel combine statement is a signal for riot and violence. Morgan has begun an appeal for lawlessness. Now let him open the mills, get his injunctions, post his deputies and incite men who are striking for their rights, to some act of violence. Then we can point to this statement of his and say: "This was the starting point. Morgan flung down the challenge." Morgan says he will beat us at whatever cost. How is he going to do it? He cannot do it until he wears out every particle of energy and every resource at our command. Dare he do this? Does he dare to inflict such a wrong on the American workingman? Besides, what guaranty has he that we can't hold out as long as his millions? I have yet to be convinced that the Amalgamated association, if worst comes to worst, cannot stand the strain as long as Morgan's money.

At present the strike centers are Pittsburg, Connellsville and McKeesport, Pa.; Wellsville, Martins Ferry, Youngstown, Dennison, New Philadelphia, Mingo Junction and Cleveland, Ohio; Cumberland, Md.; and Wheeling and Bridgeport, W. Va. Men are out at Elwood, Anderson, Atlanta, Middleton, Gas City, Hammond and Muncie, Ind.; Joliet, Ill.; Irondale, Lisbon, Cambridge, Canton, Dresden, Niles, Piqua, Struthers, Girard and Pomeroy, Ohio; Cannonsburg, Johnstown, Newcastle, Carnegie, Sharon and Greenville, Pa.; and Muskegon, Mich. Of all the mills of the trust, in the three lines—tin plate, sheet and hoop—only one tin plate mill, one steel hoop mill and five sheet steel mills are running. The tin mill is at Monessen, the hoop mill is at Duncansville and the sheet mills are at Vandergrift, Chester, Old Meadow, Saltsburg and Scottdale, all in Pennsylvania.

To supplement the steel strike, a large strike of garment makers began in New York and Newark on the 22d. All the thousands of sweat shops in those cities are reported as idle, and it is estimated that 50,000 workers are engaged in the strike. Its object is to compel manufacturers to abandon the "sweating" or contract system and to employ the garment makers directly and for time wages instead of piece work, the working week to consist of 59 hours. Before the strike the workers were putting in from 12 to 16 hours a day, at piece work under "sweating" contractors, and were then dependent upon these irresponsible middlemen for their pay.

From strikes to hot weather. From every quarter come reports of a period of heat, extraordinary in duration and intensity. It has prevailed for more than a month, and the thermometer has fluctuated from 90 or 100 degrees upwards. The heat has been attended by widespread drouths which threaten the destruction of the corn crop throughout the west. The assured loss in yield is estimated at 25 per cent. Russia is undergoing a similar experience. Phenomenal heat is reported from all the northern parts of the empire, and the Siberian crops are said to have failed.

After a long interval, news of the Chinese settlement begins again. Our last news with reference to this subject will be found on pages 134 and