

from militarism. Let us pray to be delivered from the tyranny of a phrase which, by raising the standing army above reproach or criticism, would make it a fit implement for the needs of some ambitious and despotic commander-in-chief.

NEWS

The coal strike looms up as the most important event of the week. At the time of last week's report (p. 106) four out of the necessary five districts of the United Mine Workers of America had joined in a call for a national convention with a view to extending the strike so as to include not only the anthracite region, where it is now in progress, but also all the coal mines of the country. Three of these districts were those into which the anthracite region is divided, and the fourth was the Michigan district. The necessary fifth has since joined in the call. It is the West Virginia district, No. 17. This district was reported on the 26th by the secretary-treasurer of the national organization as having taken that action at a conference of district organizers and officers held at Fairmount, W. Va., and President Mitchell has since admitted the fact. The calling of a national convention is, therefore, now imperative; and as the five districts which have joined in the call will be entitled to a majority of the delegates, it is believed that a general strike will be ordered.

A strike throughout the West Virginia district had already been ordered at a convention held at Huntington, W. Va., on the 24th. It is ordered to begin June 7 and to continue until the demands for an increase of wages by from 10 to 22 per cent. shall have been granted. The number of miners involved is estimated at from 30,000 to 40,000. This strike, like the anthracite strike, was declared after all efforts on the part of the workmen to secure a joint conference of workmen and employers had failed.

A teamsters' strike against the meat trust packing houses at Chicago was declared by the Packing House Teamsters' Local Union on the 25th to enforce its demand for an increase of wages. The strike went into operation at once, and on the 27th every packing house in the stock yards was tied up, their teamsters having in a

body refused to haul for them. They negotiated with the big express companies for substitutes, but the express drivers refused to take the strikers' places. Then they applied to the railroad companies to switch their cars to points where the wagons of retail butchers could get at them, but the railroad freight handlers declined to do any work in furtherance of the meat trade. At this writing it is expected not only that there will be a general strike throughout the stockyards, but also that the retail butchers will close their shops out of sympathy with the strikers, and that there will be an absolute suspension of trade in meat in Chicago. The smaller dealers are willing to adopt the teamsters' scale of wages, and some have formally done so, but the large packers refuse all concessions.

Another Chicago strike is imminent, one in connection with the operation of the street cars. Should it occur it will be due to low wages and to efforts on the part of one of the street car combinations to break up a recently formed union of street car employees.

Some six weeks ago several employes were dropped from one of the lines for having joined the union, and a feeling of resentment became general at once among the men. Until then the meetings of the union had been in secret, but on the 2d of May five open meetings were held at which 1,665 employes joined the organization. At that time there was no design to strike. On the contrary, all strike talk was discouraged. Since then large numbers of men have been discharged for alleged incompetency who are all members of the union, which intensifies the general feeling of resentment. Attempts to confer with the employers have been frustrated. They refuse to confer with a committee of the Federation of Labor, and also with one composed of their discharged employes. They do offer to confer with committees of their own men, but it is feared by the latter that this is intended as a trap to catch the union leaders among their employes for the purpose of making examples of them. To offset the labor organization, a benevolent association of trusted employes of the traction company has been formed by or with the approval of the company.

The Chicago Federation of Labor took decisive action on the 11th with

reference to a possible strike by adopting resolutions declaring that—as the tactics of the Union Traction company are plainly intended to precipitate a strike, it is the sense of this Federation that all our efforts should be concentrated on the promotion of organization until such time as the membership thereof shall be justified in presenting their reasonable demands to the company and thus protect the public from inconvenience; and be it resolved, further, as an earnest of this pledge, that we request all affiliated unions to contribute a sum equivalent to 1 cent per capita per week on their membership until it shall become necessary to increase the contribution; and be it further resolved, that each delegate here present pledge himself to bring his local union into the closest harmony with the foregoing resolution, with a view to hastening the contribution, so that no victimized men may suffer and thus be discouraged from showing their activity; and resolved, that the Chicago Federation of Labor, wishing to demonstrate its fairness to the public, will again send a committee to request the company to refrain from further discrimination against its employes on account of exercising the constitutional rights as American citizens to organize, and in the event of a refusal to meet us in a spirit of fairness, the executive board be authorized to take such action as may be necessary in the premises.

Pursuant to the last of these resolutions a committee of the Federation has been in conference with Franklin McVeagh, the local member, along with James H. Eckels (who is also a director and officer of the traction company), of the committee of the National Civic Federation on arbitration, of which Senator Hanna is chairman. As we write (May 29) it is rumored that this conference has proved successful and that the strike will be averted. The demands of the street car employes are in substance that all employes discharged for becoming members of the union, now numbering about 150, shall be reinstated; that the union shall be recognized by the company; and that the scale of wages be raised to 25 cents an hour.

Still another important strike has been in progress for several weeks past. It is that of the licensed tugmen's union of the great lakes. This strike, which originated at Duluth, has affected the whole shipping interest of the lakes from Duluth to Buffalo. The Duluth firemen and line-men, who had received \$60 a month last season, struck against accepting

\$52.50, the amount offered this season by the Great Lakes Towing company. They were supported in their strike by the grand grievance committee of the Tug Firemen's and Linesmen's Protective association, in session at Cleveland on the 17th, 18th, 19th and 20th of April; and on the 7th of May a general strike was ordered to take place on the 8th if the Great Lakes Towing Company did not on that day grant the demands of the strikers. The general strike went into effect accordingly, the tugmen tying up their boats, and the strike is still on throughout the entire territory of the great lakes. After trying in vain to break the strike by employing non-union men and disrupting the tugmen's organization, the towing company took steps to secure a revocation of the United States licenses of the tugmen. Complaints for this purpose were laid before the United States steamboat inspectors at Cleveland and Buffalo on the 24th, charging the tugmen with conspiring to hinder lake commerce. No decision upon these complaints has yet been made.

In American politics the chief event of the week is the session of the Republican convention of Ohio, which met at Cleveland on the 27th. Gov. Nash was elected temporary chairman, and Congressman Grosvenor permanent chairman. The convention adjourned on the 28th after adopting a long platform and nominating Lewis C. Laylin for secretary of state.

The highest officer to be elected in Ohio this year is secretary of state; but the convention was a notable event because it so distinctly recognized Senator Hanna as the Republican leader. According to the Associated Press report of the 27th—the feature of the Republican state convention here to-day was the unanimity of sentiment in favor of Senator Hanna. He has been the center of interest since his arrival here from Washington last Sunday. In the meeting of the delegates by congressional districts the feeling for him was demonstrated in an unprecedented degree. His friends had claimed eighteen out of the twenty-one districts, and more than realized their expectations. Interest centered in the selection of state committeemen, as the new state central committee selected to-day will have control next year when members of the legislature are elected who will choose the successor to Mr. Hanna in the Senate. It is claimed to-night that

there is only one anti-Hanna man elected on the new state committee, and that he "has been reconciled." The drift of sentiment in all the preliminary meetings was most enthusiastic for the senator, and in the convention the delegates would not rest till he got up and showed himself, although he insisted that he would not discuss the issues in advance of the speech of Gen. Grosvenor, who is to be the permanent presiding officer. . . . While the interests of Senator Hanna were paramount in the selection of all the committees, others were recognized in the selection of the committee on resolutions.

Kansas is another state in which nominations for the fall elections have been made. The Democratic convention met at Wichita on the 22d, and on the 23d it nominated a partial ticket, with W. H. Craddock as the candidate for governor, and adjourned to meet at Topeka on the 24th of June, with a view to adjusting a common ticket with the People's party which is to assemble there at that time. The action of the People's party with reference to a fusion campaign in Kansas was foreshadowed by an advisory convention held this Spring, the result of which is reported in volume iv. at page 761. The platform is a progressive one, declaring, says the Kansas City World, "first and last, that the equal rights of the entire people shall be uppermost." The principal plank on local questions demands home rule in taxation for the counties and cities of Kansas. The initiative and referendum also are demanded.

The Republican convention of Kansas met on the 27th, also at Wichita, and on the 28th nominated W. J. Bailey for governor. This was a triumph for the Roosevelt wing of the convention, the anti-Roosevelt element having opposed Bailey vigorously. The convention went further in the same direction by nominating Mr. Roosevelt, in a long and eulogistic plank of the platform, for the presidency in 1904.

Although the Pennsylvania conventions have not yet been held, there are indications of a radical tendency in the Democratic party of that state with reference to the advancing question of taxation. A tax reform conference, composed of delegates from the counties of Allegheny, Beaver, Blair, Cambria, Somerset, Mercer, Juniata, Berks, Philadelphia,

Butler and Bedford, met at Pittsburgh on the 23d and adopted the following significant resolution:

Believing that more equitable laws on taxation are of paramount importance, and that a man of character and education, in favor of home rule in taxation, and of securing to communities the full value of franchises granted, should be the next governor of the state of Pennsylvania, we suggest the name of Mr. Warren Worth Bailey, of Cambria county, to the favorable consideration of the Democracy, and urge upon the delegates to the state convention a fair and full canvass of his availability.

The conference which adopted the foregoing resolution made arrangements to take an advisory referendum in Pennsylvania upon the question of home rule in taxation, pursuant to which circulars are now being distributed over the state asking the recipients to mark upon accompanying postal cards (to be mailed by them) a cross indicating whether they are for or against the tax reform proposed. The referendum circular is of interest wherever questions of taxation are discussed, and we reproduce it:

Pittsburgh, Pa., May 23, 1902.

We herewith mail you a copy of the report of the revenue commission of Colorado, and respectfully request that you read same and give it your careful consideration. The people of Colorado will vote on the amendment to their constitution therein contained, giving them "home rule" in taxation, on the 4th day of next November. This amendment has the approval and support of all the labor organizations of Colorado, and all papers actuated by high ideals of popular government, among which is Mr. Bryan's Commoner, also that sterling democrat, Hon. Tom L. Johnson. The auditor general's report of the state of Pennsylvania shows that the farmers and home owners pay \$16.50 in taxes for each \$1,000 in value, while the steam railroads pay but \$2.75; the street railroads but \$4.75; the telegraph and telephone companies but \$3.20. This has been set forth in an able article by our state chairman, Hon. William T. Creasy. We assert that the people who are so inequitably taxed are entitled to such representation as will enable them to apply just and equitable remedies looking to the abolition of the wrongs arising from a system of taxation the one aim of which is to secure revenue irrespective of equity or justice. The fact we wish to ascertain, in order that we may carry on an intelligent propaganda, is, Do you approve of, wish to further consider or to oppose the proposition to amend