

terest," the allusion here being to a preliminary statement that the miners' union "was originally formed in the bituminous coal region, and three-fourths of its members are miners of bituminous coal." The address also puts its refusal to accept the arbitration heretofore proposed upon the further ground that such arbitrations ignore the right of miners to work in safety whether they are union men or not. In conclusion the address proposes terms of settlement as follows:

We suggest a commission to be appointed by the President of the United States (if he is willing to perform that public service) to whom shall be referred all questions at issue between the respective companies and their own employes, whether they belong to a union or not, but decision of that commission shall be accepted by us. The commission is to be constituted as follows: (1) An officer in the engineer corps of either the military or naval service of the United States; (2) an expert mining engineer, experienced in the mining of coal and other minerals and not in any way connected with coal mining properties, either anthracite or bituminous; (3) one of the judges of the United States courts of the Eastern district of Pennsylvania; (4) a man of prominence eminent as a sociologist; (5) a man who, by active participation in mining and selling coal, is familiar with the physical and commercial features of the business. It being the understanding that immediately upon the constitution of such commission, in order that idleness and nonproduction may cease instantly, the miners will return to work and cease all interference with and persecution of any nonunion men who are working, or shall hereafter work. The findings of this commission shall fix the date when the same shall be effective, and shall govern the conditions of employment between the respective companies and their employes for a term of at least three years.

The foregoing proposal was not satisfactory to the strike leaders because it made no provision for allowing the strikers any representation in the arbitration board, while it did provide for representation for the corporation; and Mr. Mitchell went to Washington on the 14th to confer with the President. All of the 16th was spent in negotiations through the President with the conflicting parties, with the result that at 20 minutes after two o'clock on the morning of the 16th the following official announcement was given out at the White House to the newspapers:

After a conference with Mr. Mitchell,

and some further conference with representatives of the coal operators, the President has appointed the members of the commission to inquire into, consider and pass upon all questions at issue between the operators and miners in the anthracite coal fields:

Mr. E. W. Parker, Washington, D. C., as an expert mining engineer. Mr. Parker is chief statistician of the coal division of the United States geological survey and the editor of the *Engineering and Mining Journal of New York*.

Hon. George Gray, Wilmington, Del., as a judge of a United States court.

Mr. E. E. Clark, Cedar Rapids, Ia., grand chief of the Order of Railway Conductors, as a sociologist, the President assuming that for the purposes of such a commission the term sociologist means a man who has thought and studied deeply on social questions, and has practically applied his knowledge.

Mr. Thomas H. Watkins, Scranton, Pa., as a man practically acquainted with the mining and selling of coal.

Bishop John L. Spalding, of Peoria, Ill. The president has added Bishop Spalding's name to the commission.

Hon. Carroll D. Wright has been appointed recorder of the commission.

The compromise consisted in the appointment of Bishop Spalding as the special representative of the miners. Both sides are understood to have accepted the commission as appointed.

The Detroit conference over the coal strike, which was assembling as our last report (p. 422) was written, adjourned on the 9th after a long one-day's session. Its work consisted in the adoption of an address and the appointment of a committee to transmit the address to President Roosevelt and to call another meeting of the conference in its discretion. The address urges the President to instruct the attorney general to institute civil and criminal proceedings against the coal trust under the inter-state commerce act; to direct the inter-state commerce commission to investigate; and to advise Congress to empower the inter-state commerce commission to fix rates of transportation. It requests the governor of Pennsylvania to call a special session of the legislature and advise it to provide for the condemnation of coal mines and coal carrying roads under the principle of eminent domain. It requests the President to call a special session of the lower house of Congress and recommend to it the appointment of a committee of investigation. It censures the representatives of the

roads and mines, and expresses sympathy with the miners. It condemns the bituminous operators for taking advantage of the situation to raise the price of bituminous coal. Finally, it compliments President Roosevelt. Senator Mason, of Illinois, was permanent chairman of the conference.

The New Orleans street car strike (p. 424) came to an end on the 12th, through mutual agreement. Both the militia and the police were largely in sympathy with the strikers in their riotous demonstrations against imported "strike breakers," and at one time the city was reported to be under the control of a mob. On the 11th Gov. Heard issued a peace proclamation, and on the following day the strikers accepted the proposal which he had exacted from the companies. The basis of settlement is 20 cents an hour for a minimum day of seven hours and a half and a maximum of ten, no discrimination to be made against strikers. On the 13th, accordingly, the cars resumed operations after an interval of two weeks.

In American politics the period for nominating conventions has about drawn to a close. The latest convention to meet is that of the Republicans of Rhode Island, which assembled at Providence on the 9th and nominated Charles Dean Kemble for governor.

In the Ohio campaign Senator Hanna's party proceeded on the 7th from Barnesville (p. 423) to Bridgeport, the center of a tin plate industry, where they had an audience of between 4,000 and 5,000. They were at Marietta on the 8th, where a small opera house was packed to hear them. The Republican candidate for secretary of state, Mr. Laylin, takes the part of attacking Mayor Johnson at these meetings, though Senator Hanna contributes to that part of the discussion. It was authoritatively announced at Athens on the 9th that the Republican speakers would not accept invitations to discuss the issues from Democratic platforms. This was in answer to invitations to debate. At Logan on the 9th the party spoke in a circus tent. On the 10th Senator Hanna's future engagements were cancelled, owing to his illness, though he filled that date at Columbus before an audience of 4,000 or more.

Mayor Johnson's campaigning party went from Wooster on the 6th (p. 423) to Orrville, in the same county, Wayne, on the 7th. Mr. Bigelow, the Democratic candidate for secretary of state, announced at this meeting that he would hold tent meetings for six nights in Hamilton county, and invited the Republican candidate, Mr. Laylin, to be present at any or all his meetings to discuss the questions of home rule, equal taxation, and any other issue of direct interest to the people of Ohio. The meeting at Orrville, a town of 2,000 inhabitants, numbered 3,000. Next the party went to Massillon, in Stark county, a Republican locality, where they were greeted by an audience of 4,500. At Canton, in the same county, on the 9th, the large tent was too small. Over 5,500 got inside and thousands were turned away, the weather being too cold to permit of raising the sides of the tent as had been done elsewhere. For the first time Mr. Bigelow was not present, he having parted company with Mayor Johnson to hold meetings in other parts of the state. Newton D. Baker, of Cleveland, has taken Mr. Bigelow's place in the Johnson tent. The recreancy of the Republican auditor of this county, with reference to railroad taxation, was the text for part of Mayor Johnson's speech at this meeting. Mr. Bigelow spoke the same night at Lancaster, Fairfield county, which is Democratic, to an audience reported by the dispatches to have been immense. He was supported by ex-Attorney General Frank Monnett and W. G. Lawrence, the coal miner who is running against Grosvenor for Congress. Mr. Bigelow spoke at Sidney in the Democratic county of Shelby, on the 10th, while Johnson was at Alliance, still in Stark county. Johnson's audience numbered 3,500; Bigelow's is not reported. While Mr. Baker was speaking at the Alliance meeting, he asked the audience, "Why shouldn't the railroads pay taxes as other people?" Before he could proceed, a Republican interrupted with a reply based upon a party campaign document: "Because Tom Johnson don't pay his taxes." Mr. Baker was as prompt as his questioner. He said:

That is no reason. If Tom Johnson don't pay his taxes, make Tom Johnson and the railroads both pay. As a matter of fact the people of Cleveland do not believe that Tom Johnson owes any taxes. They have been trying to prove it for five years, and during all that

time all the city officials have been Republicans, all the judges have been Republicans and the tax inquisitor is a Republican. And they have not been able to collect those taxes which they claim Tom Johnson owes. With a good rake off for many of the officials, and with the additional incentive of partisan hostility against the mayor don't you suppose that those Republicans would have collected the taxes if there were any to collect?

From Alliance Johnson went on the 11th to Salem, in the Republican county of Columbiana, where the night was stormy and his audience numbered only 2,800. After a Sunday's rest, the last week of the tour was begun by Mr. Johnson, supported by John H. Clarke, of Cleveland, and John S. Crosby, of New York, before an audience of 4,700 at Youngstown, in the Republican county of Mahoning.

While the Johnson and Hanna forces are stumping the State of Ohio, the two houses of the legislature, both Republican, have been trying to come to an agreement on the bill for making a municipal code for cities. At the time of our last report (p. 409) each house had a separate bill before it. In acting upon its own bill, the lower house has adopted a clause curing the defects in the 50 year franchise law so as to make the Cincinnati street franchise secure; and on the 2d it defeated a home rule amendment by cutting off debate. On the 7th it rejected the senate bill, passing its own, and immediately afterward the senate rejected the house bill. A conference committee was appointed the following day. Only one Democrat is on this committee and he had voted with the street car Republicans on the franchise clause. Democrats therefore declare that the committee is solidly Republican. The committee holds its sessions behind closed doors. Latest reports from the committee room are to the effect that the Cincinnati or "board plan" of city government will be adopted.

An international question has been decided this week by the arbitration court at The Hague, the first decision of that tribunal since its establishment pursuant to the peace conference of 1899. (See Public, No. 60, p. 9; No. 61, p. 10; No. 62, p. 10; No. 63, p. 10; No. 69, p. 9, and No. 70, p. 10.) The parties to the controversy were Mexico and the

United States, and the subject matter what is known as the "Pius fund." A trust fund for the support of Roman Catholic missions in the Californias was established in 1697, the trustee being the Society of Jesus. Seventy years later, the Spanish crown having expelled the Jesuits from Mexico and the Californias, assumed the administration of the fund through a crown commission. This continued until Mexico achieved her independence, after which she continued to administer the fund through a government commission. But upon ceding upper California to the United States, Mexico discontinued distributions of the income of the fund to the Catholic church there. In 1868 the Roman Catholic prelates of California made claims upon Mexico, through the American government, and the question was submitted to Sir Edward Thornton, as umpire, the delegates of the two governments disagreeing. Thornton decided that the income should be apportioned equally between the church in California and the church in Lower California, and required Mexico to pay the church in California \$904,700, being interest from 1848 to 1869. This payment was made, but Mexico refused to continue the annual distribution between the two churches, on the ground that the umpire had exceeded his authority in deciding that the obligation in favor of the California church was a customary one. On complaint of the Roman Catholic bishop of California, the United States government began pressing the claim in 1897 with the result of securing an agreement submitting it to The Hague tribunal; and that body made a decision on the 14th, holding that Sir Edward Thornton's award was conclusive and condemning Mexico to pay to the United States \$1,820,000 in Mexican currency on the 2d of February, 1903, and \$43,050.99 annually thereafter forever. The United States was represented before The Hague tribunal by Jackson H. Ralston, of Washington.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—The crown prince of Siam called upon President Roosevelt at the temporary White House on the 11th.

—By orders promulgated on the 15th the war department has reduced the strength of the army to the minimum prescribed by law, 59,600.

—The Grand Army of the Republic