

so on the 16th. A boy of 10 years testified on the 13th that all the pay he got last month was 24 cents, the rest of his wages having been collected for rent. On the 15th Mr. Darrow attempted to show in behalf of the miners what the illegal relation is between the mining companies and the coal carrying railroads, and that under it the railroads control the mining companies and charge exorbitant rates; but the commission ruled the evidence out for the present, holding that if when the coal companies present their case they undertake to show that they cannot afford to pay better wages, then the miners will be allowed to prove their ability to do so. On the same day it was proved that girls of 10 and 12 work 12 hours in factories, some in the day time and some even at night in order to eke out the scant wages of their fathers, who are miners. To break the force of this testimony the operators exhibited wage sheets to show that their fathers got from \$900 to \$1,400 a year; but on the 17th Mr. Darrow discredited this showing by drawing out an admission that these sums had to be divided with as many as from two to four helpers. The miners have produced over 160 witnesses. On the 17th they rested their case, and the case for the other side was opened.

Further signs (pp. 407, 502) of financial trouble in the United States are apparent. Business on the New York stock exchange was almost stagnant the first part of last week; and this condition was followed by a sag in prices and then a recovery, the meaning of which none of the experts seem to know. James J. Hill, president of the Northern Securities Company, the greatest railroad consolidation in the world, and a well-known optimist as to business conditions, explains it with the prediction that the idea of prosperity has reached its climax and that a downward movement is near at hand. His words were, as reported in an interview on the 12th:

Things look serious. They are bad already, and, what's more to the point, they are destined to grow worse. This country has reached the top of its prosperity. If the serious downward movement has not already begun, it is not far off. There are more reasons than one for this; chief among them is the uncertain state of mind in which the New York men find themselves from day to day. . . . Look at the way prices have fallen in the last two or three days. Somebody has to suffer when these

things occur. Just at present the future is dark to men who are in debt. In my opinion it has not been so dark in years. . . . One does not need to look at Wall street for support of this opinion. Tight money is not felt there alone. The manufacturing districts are suffering already. Their suffering will increase as things grow worse. Good evidence can be found, too, among builders. Where they were receiving orders for five buildings a year ago they are lucky if they are getting one to-day. Of course, I am not saying that my opinion is held by everybody in New York. Probably a good many men who have positive ideas about things would flatly contradict everything I have said, but there are many people in New York and elsewhere who agree with me.

Efforts are being made in Chicago to secure an amendment to the State constitution which will enable the city to adjust itself to the demands of modern conditions. Originally it was believed to be necessary to hold a constitutional convention and wholly revise the organic law; but latterly the promoters of the movement have decided that a single amendment (only one article of the constitution) will accomplish the purpose. The article which it is intended to amend is article V. The proposed amendment would add a section to be known as section 34. It is in substance as follows:

The general assembly shall have power, subject to the conditions and limitations hereinafter contained, to pass any law providing a scheme or charter of local municipal government for the territory now or hereafter embraced within the limits of Chicago. The law or laws so passed may provide for consolidating in the municipal government the powers now vested in the various boards and other local governments having jurisdiction of the said territory, and may provide for the creation and government of one or two counties in Cook, and lying just outside the present or future limits of the City of Chicago; and for the assumption by the said city of the debts and liabilities of the governments or corporate authorities whose functions shall be vested in the City of Chicago; and shall authorize said city in the event of its becoming liable for the indebtedness of two or more of the existing municipal corporations to become indebted to an amount not exceeding 5 per cent of the full value of the taxable property in its limits; and may abolish all offices the functions of which shall be otherwise provided for; and the general assembly may pass all

laws deemed requisite to effectually provide a complete system of local municipal government in and for the City of Chicago.

When this amendment came before the charter convention (a non-legal organization) on the 14th, upon a report of its executive committee, Judge Dunne, a member of the convention, admonished that body that it was ignoring the fact that the people have recently demanded the referendum, and offered the following substitute:

The general assembly shall have power, anything in the constitution of this State to the contrary notwithstanding, to pass any and all laws which may be requested by the city council of the city of Chicago (and the city councils of all cities in the State whose populations exceed 10,000), or which may be requested by 10 per cent. of the legal voters of said city, said law or laws to be applicable only to said city (or cities), and to take effect only when approved by a majority of all the legal voters of said city (or cities) voting thereon, at the next municipal election held not less than 30 days after the enactment of such law or laws.

So much discussion was provoked by Judge Dunne's proposal that the whole matter was referred back to the executive committee with directions to report on the 18th.

#### NEWS NOTES.

—Senor Silvela has succeeded in forming a new Spanish cabinet (p. 569).

—The American Roentgen Ray society held its convention in Chicago on the 11th.

—The widow of the late President U. S. Grant died at Washington on the 14th, aged 77.

—Bishop Quigley, of Buffalo, has been nominated as Roman Catholic archbishop of Chicago to succeed the late Archbishop Feehan.

—Arguments on the demurrer in the prosecution of the beef trust (p. 106) were heard on the 16th in the United States circuit court before Judge Grosscup at Chicago.

—A pool of \$50,000,000 has been formed by the large banks of New York for the purpose of easing the strain of trust investments and sustaining the money market.

—The laying of the Pacific cable from San Francisco to Honolulu was begun on the 14th. Communication between San Francisco and the cable vessel on her way to Honolulu is now open.

—The Glenn court-martial at Manila (p. 553) was organized on the