

was unanimous for continuance of the strike. Steps are now being taken to make the strike national by bringing into it all the coal miners of the country. To that end the three anthracite districts now on strike have joined in a call for a national convention of the United Mine Workers of America. Five districts are necessary to make the call effective. One more has joined in it—the Michigan district,—and if another joins the call will be issued.

Plans for resisting the strike were considered at a secret meeting of the presidents of the coal-carrying roads involved, which was held at New York on the 20th.

As the time when Congress is expected to adjourn draws near, interest grows in the arrangements that both the principal political parties are making for the congressional elections next fall. In connection with the Republican side of the contest there is nothing unusual to report; but Democratic leaders are at work drawing together different elements of the party in the expectation of securing a majority of the lower house in the next Congress. Several weeks ago, John M. Griggs, a congressman from Georgia, was unanimously elected chairman of the Democratic congressional campaign committee by the Democratic members and senators. It was then suggested that the active work of the committee be done by an executive committee, with ex-Congressman Ben T. Cable, of Illinois, at its head, and this idea has since been put into practical shape. At a meeting of the whole committee, held at Washington last week, it was decided to increase the executive committee from 11 to 14. It was understood that 8 of these should be senators and representatives, that 1 of them should be Mr. Cable, and that the remaining 5 should be well-known Democrats selected by Mr. Cable. The committee decided also to establish headquarters at Chicago. The members of the executive committee as since constituted are as follows:

Ben T. Cable, of Illinois; Senator Cockrell, of Missouri; Representatives Richardson of Tennessee, Newlands of Nevada, Robinson of Nebraska, Randall of Texas, Gooch of Kentucky, Ruppert of New York, and Griggs of Georgia; Edward M. Shepard, of New York; Judson L. Harmon, of Ohio; David T. Overmeyer, of Kansas; Jo-

siah Quincy, of Massachusetts, and E. C. Wall, of Wisconsin.

Mr. Cable has not yet been made chairman. It is reported that his appointment now depends upon whether the general committee or the executive shall make the appointment. If the latter, it is believed that he will be appointed, but if the former that he will not.

An obstruction, temporary probably, has been encountered in the proceedings by the United States to acquire the Danish West India islands from Denmark. According to the last report upon that matter in these columns (vol. iv, p. 777) the folkething, which is the lower house in the Danish rigsdag, or parliament, had voted on the 11th of March to ratify the treaty of cession, the text of which appears in volume iv, at page 711, and which had already been ratified by the United States senate (vol. iv, p. 730); but on the 7th of April the landsting, or upper house, was barely saved from rejecting it by a vote of 35 to 28, and on the 23d of that month voted to ratify, with a proviso for a referendum vote in the islands. The referendum required was based by the landsting on a property qualification of 2,000 kroner, or about \$500. The government party, which advocates ratification without any referendum, numbered 22 in the landsting, while an independent group which favors a popular referendum numbered 8; but the party that advocated a property qualification referendum succeeded in securing against this aggregate of 30 a vote of 34. The question of ratification was consequently again submitted to the folkething, where the property qualification referendumists are in a hopeless minority; and on the 16th of May, by a vote of 98 to 2, this branch of the rigsdag decided to ratify with a proviso for a referendum vote of all the inhabitants of the islands. It was supposed that the upper house would yield, but it did not. On the same day it voted 33 to 30 to reaffirm its demand for a property qualification referendum. The houses being therefore at a deadlock, the time for ratification, June 24, must be extended if the United States is to acquire the islands. Elections for a new rigsdag are to be held in September, when the government hopes to secure a majority that will ratify unconditionally.

From that other island of the West Indies, Haiti, where a revolution be-

gan last week (p. 88), nothing decisive is yet reported, but news of the situation is not so vague. The provisional government set up by ex-President Canal, which seemed for a day to have lost control, is now reported as in possession of the capital; and Gen. Firmin, who was then hourly expected with an army from the north, is still camped at Cape Haytien, where he has been joined by Admiral Killick, with one of the two vessels of the Haitian navy. Gen. Firmin is tied up for lack of funds.

The question of revising the Presbyterian creed (vol. iv, p. 713) is now before the supreme body of the Presbyterian church—the General Assembly—which met at the Fifth Avenue church, New York city, on the 15th. It elected as moderator, the presiding officer, the Rev. Dr. Henry Van Dyke, of Princeton University, who represents the liberalizing tendency, by a vote of 298 to 276. There were six candidates, and on the first ballot, although Dr. Van Dyke was in the lead with 217 votes, he did not receive a majority and a second ballot was necessary. On this ballot there were only three contestants, and of the minority votes 227 were cast for the Rev. Dr. James D. Moffat, president of Washington and Jefferson College, and 49 for the Rev. Richard S. Holmes, of Pittsburg. During the morning session of the 16th, among the reports of special committees submitted was that of the special committee on the confession of faith. Final action has not yet been taken upon the report, which is too lengthy to be here produced in full and too comprehensive to admit of brief condensation. It purports to be not a substitute for the old confession but an explanation of it.

NEWS NOTES.

—A hurricane which swept southern and western Texas on the 18th destroyed from 100 to 200 lives.

—President Loubet, of France, arrived at St. Petersburg as the guest of the czar (p. 90) on the 20th.

—In a coal mine explosion at Coal Creek, Tenn., on the 19th, between 175 and 225 miners were entombed.

—The seventy-second General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian church in the United States met at Springfield, Mo., on the 15th, with the largest roll call in its history.

—Prof. Willis L. Moore, of the weather bureau, has applied for a patent on an apparatus which at small