

vania to confer amicably with their organized employes upon questions of wages and grievances. About the middle of August last the anthracite mine workers's convention, in session at Hazleton, adopted a series of resolutions in which, after setting forth the bad condition of the miners in the anthracite regions, and declaring their deprecation of strikes except as a last resort and their desire to settle differences by arbitration and amicable discussion in joint conferences of men and employers, they respectfully invited the anthracite coal operators to meet with them in joint conference. This invitation was supplemented with assurances to the operators and the public at large that the miners would, when in such conference, gladly withdraw from any position which they might have taken as soon as it had been demonstrated that the position was wrong. To make the invitation definite, the resolutions fixed August 27 as the date and Hazleton as the place for the meeting. At the time and place appointed the miners were represented, but no operators nor any representative from them appeared. They had ignored the amicable overture. Consequently the miners formulated demands and passed a resolution asking the general organization—the United Mine Workers of America—to authorize a strike unless the demands were complied with within ten days. Since then efforts have been made by the general officers to bring about an agreement, and in the hope that a friendly adjustment might possibly be effected, authority to strike has been delayed. But the operators refused to give any attention to the matter. They would not go so far in recognition of the organization of their employes as to confer with its representatives. So at last, on the 12th, the strike was formally authorized by the general officers. It is to begin without further notice on the 17th.

John Mitchell, the president, and W. B. Wilson, the secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers of America, sign the strike call. It recites the meeting of August 27 at Hazleton and the application there made for leave to strike. It then explains the delay in granting leave by describing promising possibilities of settlement, which, however, proved to be misleading, and concludes by instructing—

all the miners and mine workers of the anthracite coal region, whether members of the United Mine Workers or not . . . . to cease work on and after Monday, September 17, 1900, and remain away from the various collieries, strippings and breakers until the demands of the Hazleton convention have been acceded to by the coal companies.

The following admonition to the men accompanies the strike call:

Be law-abiding, self-respecting and quiet; do not allow any person, whose interest it may be, to provoke you into quarrels and violations of the peace. That is one of the most common methods used by large employers to destroy the public sympathy and defeat our cause.

The grievances that form the basis of this strike, which threatens to be one of gigantic proportions, need explanation. At the head of the list is a demand for the abolition of the company store system. This is the familiar system whereby employers compel their men to spend their wages at stores owned by the employers where the prices are excessive. Next comes a demand for the reduction of powder to \$1.50 a keg. Workmen are furnished their blasting powder by the employers, who deduct the price from the workmen's wages—a custom which affords further opportunities for robbing the men. Third in order comes a demand for "the abolition of the company's dictation as to who shall be our doctors." The men are regularly assessed for the salaries of mine doctors, but are not allowed to select the doctor thus paid for. Some of the other demands are either obvious or too technical to admit of brief explanation. They call for the abolition of the "sliding scale" in use in the Lehigh and Schuylkill regions, for the substitution of a 2,240-pound ton for the 3,360-pound ton, and for a rule that "no miner shall have at any time more than one breast, gang or other class of work, and shall only get his legal share of cars." There is also a demand that the employers comply with the state law requiring fortnightly pay days instead of paying monthly, and that wages be paid in cash instead of store orders. Then there is the demand for an increase of wages. It calls for a 20 per cent. increase on wages of less than \$1.50 a day, 15 per cent. on wages not less than \$1.50 nor more than \$1.75, and 10 per cent. on all wages now in excess of \$1.75.

NEWS NOTES.

—The annual convention of the International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen met at Peoria on the 10th.

—British capitalists are reported to have acquired options on more than 1,000,000 acres of oil fields in north-eastern Wyoming.

—The National Association of Letter Carriers, in session at Detroit on the 7th, elected John N. Parsons, of New York, as its president.

—Brig. Gen. Joseph Wheeler, in command until the 10th of the department of the lakes, was then relieved by Brig. Gen. James F. Wade, and placed upon the retired list.

—President McKinley having appointed ex-Presidents Harrison and Cleveland as members of the permanent board of international arbitration provided for by the treaty of The Hague, Mr. Harrison has accepted but Mr. Cleveland declines.

—Rev. Dr. Frank Gunsaulus has resigned as president of the Armour Institute of Technology at Chicago for the purpose of devoting himself wholly to the Central church, an institutional church in the heart of the business district, which is to be open day and night to compete with the theaters for the patronage of people of all classes, ages and conditions.

—In Cleveland on the 31st the "Northern Ohio Democratic Club of Women" was formed. Its motto is "Save the Republic." It has a membership of 83 and its officers are Louisa A. Southworth, president; Sara von Ehrenberg, vice president; Lucinda B. Chandler, secretary, and Orpha O. Jones, treasurer. The club is enrolled in the membership of the National Association of Democratic Clubs.

—The monthly statement of the treasury department for August shows on hand August 31—

Reserve fund.....	\$150,000,000.00
Available cash balance..	135,419,696.09
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Total .....	\$285,419,696.09
On hand at close of last fiscal year, June 30,	
1900.....	305,705,654.78
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Decrease .....	\$20,285,958.69

—Members of the Henry George association, of Chicago, have formed a "Henry George Bryan and Stevenson Campaign club," with Edward Os-good Brown as president, Thomas G. McElligott as vice president, Theodore J. Amberg as treasurer, Charles A. Butler as secretary and Frederick H. Monroe as chairman of the executive committee. Similar clubs are forming elsewhere. The movement began in New York with the organization of the "Single Tax Bryan and