

pendent and in spite of their task-masters, that they danced the 'cake-walk' all along the line of march." Oh! how sad this comedy! What a spectacle for the citizens of this republic to behold!

They look up with their pale and sunken faces,  
And their look is dread to see,  
For they mind you of their angels in high places,  
With eyes turned on Delty.  
"How long," they say, "How long, Oh cruel nation,  
Will you stand, to move the world on a child's heart—  
Stifle down with a malled heel its palpitation,  
And tread onward to your throne amid  
- the mart?"

Why are these little lives dwarfed in body and mind?

Is it that labor is so much in demand that the older boys and men cannot supply it? No, for we are informed that 175 days is all the time the mines were operated during the year. Is it because the labor of these children is necessary for our common good? No, every consideration for the public weal points the other way. Their blood and bones are converted into gold so that more millions may be added to the colossal fortunes of the coal barons and a few railroad kings who own and dominate the anthracite fields, the richest coal bed in the world, placed there by God for the use and benefit of all. No true American can read of this procession of children without feeling ashamed that the conditions which it exposed should exist in this republic.

Is it any wonder that the illiteracy of Pennsylvania is 40 per cent. greater than that of Kansas?

When the procession was over, Dilcher, in company with some of his juvenile friends, approached Mr. Kidd and said: "Tom, these are all my boys."

Kidd laid his hand on a little fellow's head and asked: "How old are you?"

"Sixteen," was the reply.

"And you?" to the next.

"I am 15."

"And you?" to the third.

"Fifteen."

"Well, well, how small you all are! Why, I have a boy at home in Chicago who is only 12, and he is bigger than either of you," said Kidd.

"Do he work in the mine?" asked one.

"No."

"What do he work?"

"Why, he doesn't work at all; he goes to school," said Kidd.

"Oh!" they all chimed in, as if that solved the mystery. "We'd be bigger, too," said one, "if we'd go to school."

No one can read of this without being reminded of similar conditions that prevailed in Great Britain in the early part of the century, when women were harnessed in chains, and on all fours hauled coal cars in English mines, and when little boys and girls were working in mines and factories 14 and 16 hours a day. But to the credit of England be it said that no such spectacle as that witnessed in the Pennsylvania coal fields disgraces her any longer.

I am told that during a parliamentary investigation, brought about through the efforts of Robert Owen, a little boy employed in one of the mines was placed on the witness stand, and among other questions was asked whether he knew anything about God. The little fellow reflected awhile, and then shook his head and said: "No, I don't know God. He doesn't work in our mine; maybe he works in one of the others."

That disclosure of the positive ignorance of the child about God startled the English people and contributed much toward the overthrow of the conditions that fostered it.

But what must we think of Pennsylvania, originally settled by William Penn and his Quaker friends, one of the 13 colonies that contributed so much towards the triumph of the American revolution? Upon its sacred soil was signed the solemn declaration of American independence, and its "liberty bell" chimed forth the glad tidings to the world "that all men are created equal" and entitled to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Benjamin Franklin, writing of early colonial days, said: "Childhood was sure of its joys, industrious men and women of their reward, and old age of its comforts." What a change! To-day she is dominated by a heartless clique of

millionaires upon the one hand, and on the other populated by a horde of imported foreigners, whose ignorance and poverty have made them an easy prey, but who, unable to endure the oppression any longer, are now in revolt against their task-masters. Is the commonwealth of Pennsylvania an irreclaimable degenerate? Is the conscience of her people dead? Is there no power within her border to rise and redeem her name? Has privilege so thoroughly entrenched itself that no one dare contest its power?

Chicago. GEORGE A SCHILLING.

## NEWS

The fourth week of the anthracite coal strike in Pennsylvania began on the 8th with more men out than ever. Less than 4,000 miners are reported as at work in the whole anthracite region, where the number usually employed exceeds 140,000. And shipments of coal to tide water have almost ceased. On the 4th only 20 coal cars passed down the Philadelphia & Reading railway, over which the daily average before the strike was 1,400. Some disorder has occurred, but in only one instance of a serious kind. This was at Oneida, about 12 miles from Hazleton, where a mob of Hungarians came into collision with a body of mine guards and coal and iron police, who were escorting a party of non-strikers. One guard was killed and one guard and one of the mob were seriously injured. Of the non-strikers, 13 were injured slightly. The leaders of the strike have succeeded, as a rule, in preventing rioting, whether from outbursts on the part of strikers or assaults by the police, by appealing to the strikers not to march in bodies in the neighborhood of the mines, an appeal that has generally met with favorable responses. The riot at Oneida was a result of the neglect of this appeal by the Hungarian strikers there.

From time to time, as noted last week, the operators, who refused to deal with the strikers as an organized body, have posted notices offering to their respective employes individually terms of settlement. These offers are vague. Apparently they amount to an increase in wages of ten per cent., and a reduction in the price of powder from \$2.75 to the market

rate of \$1.50; but upon examination they appear to involve a deduction from the proposed ten per cent. increase by the amount of the proposed reduction in the price of powder. To ascertain the sentiment of the strikers regarding these offers, and also to enable them to decide for themselves, the officers of the United Mine Workers of America, under whose authority the strike was begun, have called a delegate convention of the strikers to meet at Scranton on the 12th, with one delegate to each 100 strikers as the basis of representation. This is a new departure in strike methods. As President Mitchell said in a speech to an immense mass meeting of strikers on the 9th at Shamokin—

Every other strike that has taken place in the anthracite region has been declared off by your officers. Heretofore when men went on strike they remained out for a time and then the chief executive or the executive board declared the strike off without consulting the wishes of the strikers. I want to say, as I have said before, that this strike will never end until the miners, through delegates in convention, end it for themselves. We have called a convention, and you men are invited to send delegates there. You are invited to pass judgment on the operators' proposition. If you believe that they act in good faith; if you believe ten per cent. to be enough; if you believe that they will pay the ten per cent. for a year, then you must decide whether to return to work. On the other hand, if you reject the offer and continue on strike, John Mitchell will be there to help you do it. I do not expect that this one strike will eradicate all the wrongs from which you suffer. I do not believe that the accumulation of 40 years of injustice can be wiped out at once, but I do believe that you have established an organization here that, with each succeeding year, will give you improved conditions of employment.

Another feature of the labor situation is the continued resumption (see page 407) of work by steel and metal mills, after periods of idleness; at a general reduction of wages. The wage reduction in most mills averages 20 per cent. Among the plants so to resume during the current week were the American Tin Plate company, of Pittsburgh, which employs 35,000 men; also the Susquehanna Iron and Steel company, and some of the mills of the Illinois Steel company's plant at Joliet. In the iron plants owned by the Reading company,

which controls the Philadelphia & Reading Railway company, and the Reading Coal and Iron company, the wages of puddlers has been reduced from four dollars per ton to three dollars. Yet the annual report of this company, just published, makes the most profitable showing of recent years. After paying all expenses and demands there remains an undivided surplus of \$1,938,000. The revenue from coal alone is 12 per cent. larger than that of the previous year.

Except as these evidences of depression in connection with the labor interests of the country have their bearing, nothing of importance is to be noted in American politics for the week, beyond the concluding proceedings of the convention of democratic clubs at Indianapolis, the opening of which was reported last week. The great day of the convention was the 4th, when Mr. Bryan spoke. He was followed by Bourke Cockran, Mr. Stevenson, and Bishop Turner, the colored minister to Liberia under Grant. Gov. McMillin, of Tennessee, presided, and the following permanent officers were elected: President, W. R. Hearst; secretary, Max T. Ihmsen; treasurer, Marcus Daly.

In England the parliamentary voting mentioned last week is still in progress, and the number of votes thus far cast is enormously in excess of the number at the last preceding general election, 1895. On the 6th the Tories had polled 4 per cent. and the liberals 29 per cent. more than their respective votes of that year. Among the great liberals reelected is John Morley, who defeated a "liberal-jingo" adversary in Scotland with a vote of 3,960 to 2,390. Out of the 670 seats to be filled the polling is now (October 10) complete for 562, with the following results:

Ministerialists .....	357
Opposition .....	205
Total .....	562

And still the fighting goes on in the Transvaal. There are skirmishes daily. On the 8th a London dispatch told of the retreat of a body of 4,000 to 5,000 Boers from Pilgrim's Rest, near the Portuguese border; and one from Aliwal North, Cape Colony, reported the Boer general Dewet to be in the Orange Free State about 70 miles north of that place. The lat-

ter dispatch was confirmed by the Associated Press from London on the 10th, which quoted from the London Times a report of a three days' fight, October 5 and 7 both inclusive, with Gen. Dewet and his force of 1,000 men and five guns in the Orange Free State mountains near Vredefort. According to the Times, Dewet was dislodged and his force demoralized and dispersed.

The presbytery of the Dutch Reformed church, in session at Cape Town on the 5th, adopted a resolution, by a vote of 23 to 4, which strongly condemns the British policy in South Africa.

In the Philippines as well as South Africa the war goes on, the Americans finding it even more difficult to subjugate the Filipinos than do the British to subjugate the Boers. Confirmation has been received of the capture reported last week of Capt. Shields's command by the Filipinos on the island of Marinduque, but details are still lacking. Reinforcements consisting of 12 full companies of infantry were sent to Marinduque by Gen. MacArthur on the 4th, under Gen. Hare, with orders, says MacArthur in his official report, "to push operations until insurrection is stamped out absolutely." This was in addition to the two companies sent out under Col. Anderson as reinforcements, with orders, as reported last week, to "move relentlessly until Shields and party were rescued."

American casualties since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to October 10, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91) .....	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900..	84
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900 .....	441
Total deaths since July 1, 1898....	2,372
Wounded .....	2,290
Captured .....	10
Total casualties since July 1, 1898..	4,672
Total casualties reported last week .....	4,633
Total deaths reported last week..	2,339

Substantial progress appears to have been made with the Chinese question. On the 2d a Chinese edict, issued on the 25th of last month at Tai Yuen, capital of the province of