

ware & Hudson Coal company, for instance, says that the strike fund is only about \$71,000, which will not support a great strike long; while a director of the Pennsylvania Coal company predicts an early victory for the operators because the strikers lack the resources to carry on a protracted strike, whereas the operators can hold out for at least six months. One of these magnates glosses over his appeal to mere wealth power by assuring the public that "the miners have no grievances." This in the face of a detailed statement of the operators themselves which shows that all the wages of the region average only \$20 a month!

After issuing the strike call, but before the day fixed for striking, the United Mine Workers of America published a general statement of the miners' grievances, which makes some very interesting and important revelations. It states that the average wages of anthracite coal miners has for many years fallen below \$250 annually, while the cost of necessities of life has risen during the same period more than 20 per cent.—thereby in effect reducing wages. Referring to a law of Pennsylvania making 2,400 pounds of coal a miners' ton, it charges that the miners are required nevertheless to produce 2,700 to 4,000 pounds for a ton, and in addition are docked exorbitant sums for impurities. When paid by the car, they are required to furnish much more than a rounded car load. For blasting powder of a grade that can be purchased in the open market for \$1.50 a keg retail and one dollar wholesale, they have \$2.75 per keg deducted from their wages. Unless they deal at the "pluck-me" corporation stores, many of the companies discharge them. They are assessed one dollar a month for a doctor whom the company employs without consulting them, and are required to make this payment whether they need a doctor or not. The hard life resulting from these oppressive conditions compels them to take their young children from school and put them at work in the breakers. And they have been unable to get redress. When they have complained individually, they have been told that they are free to quit work. When they have organized and sent committees, the committees have either been informed that competition makes redress impossible or have been discharged as "agitators." When they

have asked for a general conference and adjustment between all, operators and miners of the region, their request has been completely ignored. And when they have telegraphed the presidents of the great railroad companies who control the anthracite coal fields, proposing arbitration, their messages have been treated with silent contempt. Such are the reasons the strikers give in justification of their strike.

Coincident with the beginning of this strike, Mr. Roosevelt gave out for publication his letter of acceptance as the republican vice presidential candidate. It puts forward prosperity as the great issue of the campaign, declaring in that connection that "under the administration of President McKinley this country has been blessed with a degree of prosperity absolutely unparalleled, even in its previous prosperous history." A discussion of the money question occupies much space in the letter, and some of it is devoted to the question of trusts; but, as with Mr. McKinley's letter, most of it is taken up with a presentation of the Philippine question.

In Colorado the republicans have nominated Frank C. Goudy for governor.

Mr. Bryan's formal letter of acceptance appeared on the 18th. Having dealt fully and exclusively with the Philippine question in his speech at Indianapolis, he makes in his letter but brief reference to that subject, devoting the letter almost wholly to the other questions raised by the platform. But upon each of these he expresses himself directly, though briefly, his entire letter being hardly half as long as Mr. McKinley's. He begins with an emphatic renewal of his pledge, made four years ago, that if elected, in order that he may not be tempted to use the patronage of his office to advance any personal ambitions, he will under no circumstances be a candidate for reelection. His letter then proceeds to discuss in their order trusts, tariffs, corporations in politics, the money question, the election of senators by the people, direct legislation, government by injunction, the blacklist, labor arbitration, the proposed labor cabinet officer, Chinese exclusion, pensions, the Nicaraguan canal, territories, the Cuban question, the reclamation of arid lands, foreign alliances, the

Monroe doctrine, excessive taxation, and the income tax.

In his discussion of the Monroe doctrine, applied as he had in his speech proposed to apply it to the Philippines, Mr. Bryan answers the objection made in Mr. McKinley's letter of acceptance by saying:

The position taken by the republican leaders, and more recently set forth by the republican candidate for the presidency—namely, that we cannot protect a nation from outside interference without exercising sovereignty over its people—is an assault upon the Monroe doctrine, for while this argument is at this time directed against the proposition to give to the Filipinos both independence and protection, it is equally applicable to the republics of Central and South America. If this government cannot lend its strength to another republic without making subjects of its people, then we must either withdraw our protection from the republics to the south of us or absorb them. Under the same plea, that the guardian nation must exert an authority equal to its responsibility, European nations have for centuries exploited their wards, and it is a significant fact that the republican party should accept the European idea of a protectorate at the same time that it adopts a European colonial policy. There is no excuse for the abandonment of the American idea. We have maintained the Monroe doctrine for three-quarters of a century. The expense to us has been practically nothing, but the protection has been beyond value to our sister republics. If a Filipino republic is erected upon the ruins of Spanish tyranny its protection by us will be neither difficult nor expensive. No European nation would be willing for any other European nation to have the islands, neither would any European nation be willing to provoke a war with us in order to obtain possession of the islands. If we assert sovereignty over the Filipinos we will have to defend that sovereignty by force, and the Filipinos will be our enemies; if we protect them from outside interference they will defend themselves and will be our friends. If they show as much determination in opposing the sovereignty of other nations as they have shown in opposing our sovereignty, they will not require much assistance from us.

Mr. Bryan closes his letter of acceptance with a reminder to the people that the various subjects treated in it, "important as each may seem in itself, do not press so imperatively for solution as the question which the platform declares to be the paramount issue in this campaign,"

but can be postponed until "the doctrine that the people are the only source of power is made secure from further attack."

American military affairs in the Philippines are worse. For seven days, according to a dispatch of the 19th from Manila, there has been a distinct increase of Filipino aggressiveness, especially near Manila and along the line of the railroad. On the 17th a serious engagement occurred near Siniloan, on the eastern shore of Laguna bay, between an American force of 90 men and a Filipino force of 1,000. The Americans suffered a loss of 26 wounded, 5 missing and 12 killed. The result of the battle is not reported.

American casualties since July 1, 1898, inclusive of all current official reports given out in detail at Washington to September 19, 1900, are as follows:

Deaths to May 16, 1900 (see page 91)	1,847
Killed reported since May 16, 1900	55
Deaths from wounds, disease and accidents reported since May 16, 1900	409
<hr/>	
Total deaths since July 1, 1898	2,311
Wounded	2,255
Captured	10

Total casualties since July 1, 1898	4,576
Total casualties reported last	4,539
Total deaths reported last	2,274

Under date of August 1, a Manila mail dispatch just at hand tells of the problem of insufficient troops. The return of the two years' volunteers must soon begin, and as that time approaches the question of replacing them is becoming in Manila a topic of general discussion. The prevailing idea appears to favor the organization and arming of a native militia force. Steps in that direction have been already taken. Another mail dispatch, received by the postmaster general at Washington and given out for publication on the 13th, transmits two undated proclamations, one issued by President McKinley's Philippine commission, and the other by the Filipino government. The American proclamation promises free transportation home to all Filipino soldiers who surrender their arms, and directs the confiscation of all money and hemp belonging to the Filipino government; the Filipino proclamation announces that for a period of ten days amnesty will

be extended to all Filipino spies in the American service, and declares that the American threats to pursue the Filipinos to the hills are idle because the American forces are short of food and ammunition and have received no reinforcements for many months.

Our affairs in Cuba are gradually coming to a head. The elections, under the authority of our war department, for delegates to a convention to be held at Havana in November for the purpose of adopting a constitution for Cuba, took place on the 15th. They were wholly undisturbed by rioting or violence of any kind. The votes cast numbered 186,240, with the following result:

Pinar del Rio, three nationalists.
Havana, six nationalists and two republicans.
Matanzas, three republicans and one democrat.
Santa Clara, six republicans and one independent.
Puerto Principe, two nationalists.
Santiago de Cuba, six nationalists and one republican.

The chief difference in principle between the nationalist and the republican parties is that the latter stands for a federation of the provinces, and, while favoring independence for the island, does not push that question to the front; whereas the former stands for making of Cuba a compact nation, and insists upon early independence. In the elections, therefore, the principle of nationality and early independence is asserted. As the republican party is composed mostly of whites and the national party is very generally supported by negroes, the former is locally known also as the white and the latter as the black party; and recent dispatches indicate that owing to the triumph of the blacks, the whites may advocate annexation.

From our own affairs to British. London is guessing over the movements of President Kruger, of the South African republic. The object of his change of base to Portuguese territory, as reported last week, while his countrymen still carry on their warfare, is a mystery. Lord Roberts reports that Kruger has formally resigned the presidency, and he threatens drastic measures against guerrilla fighters. The resignation is denied from Holland by the Boer envoys. They explain that the executive council has full authority to authorize Kruger's departure, and that the vice president acts during his absence.

The envoys have also issued an appeal to the nations for intervention, in which they accuse the British of proclaiming the annexation of the Transvaal so as to enable them "to prosecute the war in, an inhuman manner, contrary to international law, and to mercilessly pursue as 'rebels' exhausted combatants hitherto recognized as belligerents." Holland has offered Kruger passage to Europe on a war vessel, and Kruger has accepted.

While Kruger has been making his way to Europe upon a mysterious mission, the Boers have continued their stubborn resistance to the British advance. Lord Roberts reported heavy fighting on the 12th near Barberton (the southern terminus of the branch railroad from the Lorenzo Marques line), and the British occupation of that place on the 14th. At last accounts fighting was in progress at Komatipoort, which is on the Transvaal-Portuguese frontier, about 50 miles west of Lorenzo Marques; and Gen. Viljoen, who has succeeded Botha in supreme command, was reported to be moving northward in the direction of Hectorspruit with a force of 3,000 men.

Taking advantage of the South African situation the British ministry have decided to dissolve parliament and go at once to the people. Elections in England at this time of year are extraordinary. It is supposed that they are called now because the Tories realize that jingo sentiment is subsiding, and also because the vote can now be taken upon the old registration. There will be a new registration in January. Since most of the voters who have moved since the last registration are probably liberals, the Tories being wealthier as a rule, and therefore more stationary in their abode, it is believed that an election now would be to the advantage of the Tories, as well on account of the disfranchisement of liberals under the old registration as of the rapidly declining war feeling. So the queen's consent to dissolution on the 25th has been obtained. Writs for a new election will be issued at the time of the dissolution, and voting will begin October 1. The new parliament will assemble November 1. A Tory majority is confidently expected. The Tories themselves claim that they will have a larger majority than they have in the present house, which is 128, the ministry being supported by