

did not state when and under what conditions the plebiscite was held at which this decision of the employers and employees of the country was arrived at.

The interesting point to be borne in mind is the known existence of a corporation, having its headquarters in Cleveland, which is secretly organizing the manufacturers of the country against labor legislation, and is adopting Molly Maguire and Ku Klux methods in bringing this result about. It is hardly necessary to add that Davenport declined to state the specific membership of the organization he represented, saying it was necessarily a secret organization. And yet we are told that it is only socialistic leaders and agitators who are attempting to array class against class!

It is very doubtful whether a Congressional majority was ever guilty of a more shameless exhibition of partisanship than was exhibited on Wednesday when all but three Republicans voted to seat William Connell in place of the Democrat who, as every fair minded, unbiased person must agree, was elected in the 10th Pennsylvania district in 1902.

When it is stated that Connell was one of the largest individual coal operators in the anthracite region, and had made himself particularly objectionable to the miners during that titanic struggle, immediately preceding as it did the election in November, 1902, it is not surprising that a county normally Republican should have been carried by the Democratic Congressional candidate. It was carried by the Democratic candidate for governor by 5,000 majority.

For years Connell has degraded and debauched that constituency with a most lavish expenditure of money in Congressional campaigns. It is charged and not seriously denied that he spent 60 to 80 thousand dollars to secure his election and nearly as much more to set aside the vote of the people and have Howell unseated. It is striking proof of the demoralization which protection has produced in inducing its chief beneficiaries to contribute millions to campaign funds to perpetuate that policy that there was but one voice raised on the Republican side (Geo. Shiras, 3rd) against this shameless sale of a seat to one who had been and was still expected to be a wholesale contributor to Republican campaign funds, both national and local.

Overwhelming evidence was furnished showing that Connell tapped his "barrell," opened his "savings bank," and provided practically inexhaustible funds for any and all who could be induced to distribute them—no matter whether Republican or Democrat. A veritable saturnalia of corruption reigned. Men were told, "Here is a thousand dollars; go and 'work' for Connell!" Foremen of gangs of Italian workmen who were known only by numbers, most of whom had only been in the country a few

months, were given what to them must have seemed princely sums to vote their gangs "en bloc" for Connell. The cry of the Connell heelers was for votes. Votes, votes, votes, were what they wanted they said, and there was no question of how or by what means they were obtained. Any Democratic election official could get the equivalent of half a year's wages if he would but deliver the "goods."

When this wholesale bribery failed of its object by less than 500 votes, then Connell with brazen effrontery sets up the cry of fraud! Of course there was fraud. Fraud on a gigantic scale was the natural outcome of this general debauching of the suffrage and of election officials. Why, fraud was planned and bribery practiced long before election day. Fearing the wrath of the miners and doubtful of the sufficiency of the Republican nomination, Connell sent his agents into the Democratic convention and bought up a part of its delegates, so that 32 of its 160 delegates withdrew after Howell had been nominated for Congress and another man had been nominated for a judgeship. These 32 and others formed a rump convention and nominated Connell, thereby shutting Howell out from the Democratic column, as Connell carried his contest to the Dauphin County (Harrisburg) Court, created by Quay and manned by one of his creatures for the express purpose of doing what was done in this case, viz., depriving a Democratic nominee (Howell) of a place in the Democratic column on the official ballot.

How general the revolt in Lackawanna County—the 10th district—was, is shown in the election returns. Although his name appeared in an independent column, and despite the use of an enormous corruption fund, Howell, who was a poor man, having been a school teacher there for 17 years, received a plurality of 461.

The mere fact, never denied, that Connell has repeatedly spent scores of thousands of dollars to secure his election, should of itself have debarred him from a seat in Congress. But what monopolist could be expected to contribute to the campaign treasury of a party which should thus fail to "stand by its friends?"

Three hundred and twenty private pension bills enacted into law in 155 minutes is the record so far of this Congress. In the face of this, who will deny that the 58th Congress is composed of a most industrious body of men. None but a confirmed cynic would cite the fact that the 320 bills were passed in the House during a day when the average number of members present was about forty.

The Baltimore conflagration has again demonstrated the indestructibility of land-values—except from the with-

drawal of population. Although some \$75,000,000 worth of labor products in the form of stores, warehouses and their contents were destroyed, we find that the land upon which these structures were built has been enhanced, rather than lowered, in value by the fire. Increases of 25 per cent. and even 50 per cent. are reported. One property is cited for which the present owner, who only a few months ago paid \$7,500 for it, has been offered \$40,000; but like Oliver Twist he cries for "more." The same thing is seen in Brooklyn, where about a month ago fire destroyed its Academy of Music. The stock of the company which owned that building and site was in the market at \$115 a share before the fire, against which there was no insurance; but almost immediately thereafter it rose to \$225 a share.

ROBERT BAKER.

## NEWS

Week ending Thursday, Feb. 18.

Reports from the Russian-Japanese war (p. 710), are still untrustworthy as to much of the detail; but it is now possible to gather out of the complexity of rumors, confirmed and unconfirmed, a reasonably probable account of the opening of hostilities.

As indicated by the reports of last week, the war began near midnight of the 8th. The Japanese made the first attack. They made it with torpedo boats at Port Arthur. Six of these boats crept close up to the Russian warships in the harbor, and before they were discovered began firing torpedoes. Three torpedoes took effect. They struck the Russian battleships Czarevitch and Retvizan and the cruiser Pallada, all of which retreated into the harbor in a sinking condition. The Japanese torpedo boats were subjected to a continuous fire from the Russian forts and ships, but four of them escaped. One of the six was sunk; the other, deserted by her crew, was captured in a sinking condition by the Russians. This fighting ended about 3 o'clock in the morning of the 8th after a Russian loss of 8 killed and 20 wounded. The Japanese loss, if any, has not been reported.

About 11 o'clock on the morning of the 9th a Japanese fleet of 15 ships appeared off Port Arthur in two lines of battle. Outside of

the harbor, about two miles from shore, there were 13 Russian warships. The Japanese fleet steamed slowly past to the westward, about 4 miles from shore, each vessel beginning to fire when opposite the Russian ships. A general engagement resulted, in which over 300 shells were thrown on both sides. Very few reached their mark; although some damage was done in the town and also to the defending fleet, while 22 Russians were killed and 64 wounded. At noon the Japanese withdrew to the southward. They claim to have suffered but little injury to their vessels and to have lost but 4 men killed and 54 wounded. War correspondents at Port Arthur report the destruction of a battleship and the disablement of a cruiser, as part of their loss.

While this engagement of the 9th at Port Arthur was in progress, another occurred off Chemulpo, a city on the western coast of Corea. Two Russian war vessels, the Variag and the Korietz, left the harbor of Chemulpo at about 11:30 on the morning of the 9th. They were attacked about 12 o'clock on the outside by a Japanese squadron, and for half an hour the fighting was furious. The Russian vessels then retreated into the neutral waters of the harbor. But they had been so badly damaged that their crews were ordered to destroy them. The Korietz was accordingly blown up by its escaping crew and the Variag was burned. The Japanese claim heavy loss of life on the Russian vessels and none on their own. The Russians concede 41 killed and 10 wounded.

Many reports of naval engagements have appeared in the daily press during the week; but, except as outlined above, the news in these reports is of the kind known as "headline news." It consists altogether of variations in accounts of the affairs of the 8th and 9th at Port Arthur and Chemulpo and of unconfirmed rumors of subsequent happenings. Among the more probable of these reports are those regarding movements of troops on land with reference to the Yalu river region. In this connection it is reported that the Japanese made an effort on the 10th to land two forces simultaneously

in the rear of Port Arthur, on opposite sides of the Liaotung peninsula, but that the movement was repulsed with serious loss to the Japanese. It must be remembered, however, that the censorship on each side is enforced with such extreme severity that no reports that are subject to it can be accepted without careful consideration of the probabilities or satisfactory confirmation.

Japan's formal declaration of war was proclaimed on the 10th. For purposes of comparison with the Russian declaration (p. 713), we append the text:

We, by the grace of heaven, Emperor of Japan, seated on the throne occupied by the same dynasty since time immemorial, hereby make proclamation to all our loyal and brave subjects as follows: We hereby declare war against Russia, and we command our army and navy to carry on hostilities against her, in obedience to their duty, with all their strength, and we also command all our competent authorities to make every effort, in pursuance of their duties, to attain the national aim with all the means within the limits of the law of nations. We have always deemed it essential in international relations, and have made it our constant aim, to promote the pacific progress of our empire in civilization, to strengthen our friendly ties with other states and to establish a state of things which would maintain enduring peace in the far East, and assure the future security of our dominion without injury to the rights or interests of other powers. Our competent authorities have also performed their duties in obedience to our will, so that our relations with all the powers had been steadily growing in cordiality. It was thus entirely against our expectation that we have unhappily come to open hostilities against Russia. The integrity of Corea is a matter of the gravest concern to this empire, not only because of our traditional relations with that country, but because the separate existence of Corea is essential to the safety of our realm. Nevertheless, Russia, in disregard of her solemn treaty pledges to China and her repeated assurance to other Powers, is still in occupation of Manchuria, has consolidated and strengthened her hold on those provinces and is bent upon their final annexation. And, since the absorption of Manchuria by Russia would render it impossible to maintain the integrity of China, and would, in addition, compel the abandonment of all hope of peace in the far East, we were determined in these circumstances to settle the question by negotiations, and

to secure thereby permanent peace. With that object in view our competent authorities by our order made proposals to Russia and frequent conferences were held during the last six months. Russia, however, never met such proposals in a spirit of conciliation, but by wanton delays put off a settlement of the serious questions, and, by ostensibly advocating peace on one hand, while on the other extending her naval and military preparations, sought to accomplish her own selfish designs. We cannot in the least admit that Russia had from the first any serious or genuine desires for peace. She rejected the proposal of our government. The safety of Corea was in danger and the interests of our empire were menaced. The guarantees for the future which we failed to secure by peaceful negotiations can now only be obtained by an appeal to arms. It is our earnest wish that by loyalty and valor of our faithful subjects peace may soon be permanently restored and the glory of our empire preserved.

The bearing of the war upon the interests of neutral nations has been a matter of news concern during the week. Corea's interests are peculiar. It was reported last week (p. 713) that Japan had taken possession of her capital, the city of Seoul, on the 11th. This was confirmed by dispatches from Seoul of the 12th, which reported that the Japanese minister there had informed the Emperor of Corea that Japan would appoint a member of the Japanese imperial house as viceroy, and that he would come to Seoul merely as adviser to the Corean government. The Emperor was assured that there was no cause for alarm, as the appointment would be but temporary. On the 16th further dispatches from Corea reported that the Corean government had granted Japan the right to traverse the country. All this followed a military occupation of the city by the Japanese, which began on the 9th.

China is reported to have ordered troops into Manchuria for the protection of her own sovereignty there and at the same time to have proclaimed neutrality. Great Britain also has proclaimed neutrality. She is urging Russia to relinquish Manchuria, in fulfillment of international pledges, and has asked Denmark whether the Danish government is prepared to defend Denmark's neutrality. Den-

mark has replied in the affirmative. The United States proclaimed neutrality on the 11th.

The subject of chief interest to the United States, however, with reference to the war, is Secretary Hay's diplomatic note (p. 713) regarding a proposed delimitation of the fighting territory. As unofficially (but probably correctly) reported on the 13th, Mr. Hay's note instructed the American representatives to Russia and Japan as follows:

You will express to the minister of foreign affairs the earnest desire of the government of the United States that, in the course of the military operations which have begun between Russia and Japan, the neutrality of China, and in all practical ways her administrative entity, shall be respected by both parties, and that the area of hostilities shall be localized and limited as much as possible, so that undue excitement and disturbance of the Chinese people may be prevented and the least possible loss to the commerce and intercourse of the world will be occasioned.

At the same time, Mr. Hay notified of this action all the Powers that participated in the Chinese adjustment at the close of the "Boxer" trouble, and requested similar action on their part. Great Britain, France, Germany and Austria-Hungary are reported to have fallen in with the suggestion. Japan has notified the United States of her assent; but Russia has not yet replied.

A significant dispatch comes through the Reuter agency from Moscow, Russia, under date of February 15th. It speaks of the degeneration of patriotic demonstrations at St. Petersburg into riotous scenes in which "seditious proclamations" play a conspicuous part. The police are reported to be making domiciliary visits and arresting many persons. As Russia is believed to have been on the verge of revolution at the outbreak of the war, the reported circumstances may have peculiar importance.

In British politics the most important event of the week was the defeat on the 15th of John Morley's amendment (p. 696) to the address of the Commons in reply to the King's speech. This amend-

ment, intended to raise the issue of free trade or protection directly, was as follows:

It is our duty to present to your majesty that our effective deliberation on financial services is impaired by conflicting declarations from your majesty's ministers. We respectfully submit the judgment of this House that the removal of protective duties has for more than half a century actively conduced to the vast extension of the trade and commerce of the realm and the welfare of the population, and this House believes that, while the needs for social improvement are still manifold and urgent, any return to protective duties, and more particularly when imposed upon the food of the people, would be deeply injurious to the national strength, contentment and well being.

The defeat of the proposed amendment was by a vote of 327 to 276. The Irish vote was cast solidly against the ministry, for the reason, as Mr. Redmond, the Irish leader explained, that—

Ireland has suffered in the past equally from the protectionist as from the free trade policy of England. We are determined to use the complications which have arisen in the English parties solely for the purpose of forwarding the cause of home rule. We voted against the government to-night not on the merits of Mr. Morley's amendment, but because we regarded it a vote of want of confidence in the ministry. We shall strike in the same way against every ministry so long as home rule is refused.

For the same reason, namely, that a vote for the amendment was regarded as a vote of want of confidence in the ministry, many ministerialists who oppose protection, voted against the amendment. The debate disclosed a hopeless division of opinion in the ministry itself.

Attention has again been drawn to the principle of home rule in American municipalities, by an apparent rivalry of both parties in the New York legislature to promote home rule legislation. The Republicans, under the lead of Gov. Odell, are reported to be contemplating laws which would delegate to municipal control not only the Sunday question, but most other subjects of local concern, such as the regulation of local finances, the granting of local franchises, etc.

In the same general direction, though more advanced, was the action of the League of Michigan Municipalities at its meeting at Ann Arbor on the 13th. The following report by the committee on resolutions, of which Frederick F. Ingram, of Detroit, was chairman, were adopted by the League unanimously:

Whereas, It is the purpose and object of this League to further efficiency and progress in municipal government, and believing that such ends will be promoted by creating interest in the vital municipal problems of the day; therefore be it resolved, that this League take official action favoring and encouraging the adoption of the following:

First. A complete and efficient direct nomination law, whereby all nominations throughout the State shall be made by single blanket ballot.

Second. That the principle of municipal ownership of public utilities be fostered and encouraged.

Third. That public rights should be zealously guarded; therefore, ordinances alienating any public rights or granting so-called franchises should be given the strictest scrutiny and opportunity for discussion, in which the public should be invited to participate. Therefore, with that end in view, no ordinance granting such rights should be put to final passage until due notice of at least 30 days shall have been given to the public, and not then, if in the meanwhile a petition containing a fair percentage of the qualified voters shall have been received by the common council asking for its reference to a popular vote.

A programme for securing immediate municipal ownership and operation of the Chicago street car systems (p. 705), was adopted on the 14th at a special delegate meeting held under the auspices of the Chicago Federation of Labor. The plan proposes—(1) That the Mueller law be adopted at the April election. (2) That the city acquire "as much of the tangible property, unexpired franchises and ninety-nine year act rights as may be a necessary part of an ideal system" by purchase or condemnation. (3) That the city council then submit to a vote of the people the question of issuing certificates to pay for the system and the question of municipal operation. (4) That in the meantime the council permit cars to be run only by revocable licenses.