

ENDEAVORING TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM Minister Wu in Conference with Department Officials.

SPECULATION ON SECRET INTERVIEW It is Intimated That the Government is Preparing a New Plan of Action in the Chinese Affair—The Important Subject is Being Treated with the Greatest Deliberation.

Washington, Sept. 7.—Minister Wu arrived in Washington from Cape May this afternoon and although it was near the close of the official day he proceeded directly to the state department.

For several hours preceding the minister's visit Acting Secretary Hill and Assistant Secretary Adie had been engaged in short conferences and it was gathered that the negotiations relative to China were approaching another phase and that another proposition of some kind was in preparation.

Attitude of Powers. Our government has pretty well satisfied itself as to the attitude towards this last proposition of each and all of the powers interested in the Chinese problem.

There was a dearth of official information from China today. General Chaffee got through a dispatch dated September 1 at Peking, indicating that couriers are still employed to close the gap in the line of communication between Tien-Tsin and Peking.

LI HUNG CHANG'S REQUEST. He Wants an American Guard to Escort Him to Peking. London, Sept. 7.—In a special dispatch from Shanghai it is said that Li Hung Chang has made a request for an American escort to accompany him on his journey to Peking, and that United States Consul Goodnow is considering his request.

OBJECTIONS TO TOBACCO TARIFF Havana, Sept. 7.—The tobacco growers have submitted a petition to General Wood asking the removal of export duty on tobacco. The petition is being favorably considered, as it affects only the low grade product, which is not used in the United States, but goes chiefly to Spain.

SENATOR HILL ON THE STUMP The Sage of Wolfret's Roost Breaks the Silence of Many Seasons by Taking Up Bryan's Burden.

Herkimer, N. Y., Sept. 7.—Ex-Senator Hill's appearance here this evening occasioned something of a sensation in political circles. He came ostensibly to visit his old friend ex-Judge Earl.

In the evening the Fort Dayton band serenaded Mr. Hill and a large crowd of citizens assembled. He was introduced by Judge Earl and made a speech, the chief feature of which was his reiterated declaration in support of Bryan.

"An appeal is made by our opponents to our love of country? We heard the same specious appeal in 1896, and we always hear it when our opponents seek Democratic votes to aid their cause. It is a patriotic and not a sincere patriotic appeal. It is based upon false pretences. The country is not in danger except from those who are now administering its government. We will protect the flag wherever it goes, but we will see that the flag goes only where it belongs. It shall not be heaped down in disgrace, neither shall it be raised anywhere in dishonor.

BURNED TO DEATH IN HOTEL FIRE Sempsey's Hotel in Liberty, Tioga County, Is the Scene of a Disastrous Conflagration.

Williamsport, Pa., Sept. 7.—Fire broke out in Sempsey's hotel barn at Liberty, Tioga county, at 12:30 o'clock this morning, and before the flames were controlled they had destroyed the structure in which they originated. Jacob Kemble's blacksmith shop, Robert Reed's wagon shop, Huyler's tailor shop, a pool room, Ferguson's furniture store, the Woodruff business block and the Sempsey hotel building.

DEMOCRATIC LEADERS MAKE AN EFFORT TO GET TOGETHER. New York, Sept. 7.—There was an important conference of the leaders of all factions of the state Democracy today at the Hoffman house. Richard Croker, ex-Senator Edward Murphy, Jr., Frank Campbell, Perry Belmont, State Senator H. McGarren, Corporation Counsel John Whelan and ex-Governor Stone of Missouri, who looked after the interests of the national committee in his capacity of chairman of the sub-committee of that body, were present.

STEAMSHIP ARRIVALS. New York, Sept. 7.—Arrived: Trave, from Southampton; Aquatic Victoria, from Hamburg; Cleared: Masson, Rotterdam via Brest; Minerva, London. Have-Arrived: Aquatic, from New York; Hamburg-Arrived: Kaiser Friedrich, from New York; Southampton-Baltimore; Furst Bismarck, from Hamburg; New York via New York; Liverpool (via Liverpool). Leave: Aquatic, to New York; Hamburg, to New York; Kaiser Friedrich, to New York; Southampton-Baltimore, to New York; Furst Bismarck, to New York; Liverpool (via Liverpool), to New York.

ENTHUSIASM AT GRAND RAPIDS UNSURPASSED Immense Crowds Listen to Governor Roosevelt's Speech.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Sept. 7.—Governor Roosevelt arrived at this city at 6 o'clock this evening, and was accorded a grand street demonstration. Tonight he spoke in the Auditorium, which was crowded to its utmost capacity, and later made a brief speech in Powers' theatre.

A Curious Similarity. In many points there is a curious similarity between this campaign of 1900 and the campaign of 1896. In 1896, President McKinley was elected by a vote of 270 to 155 electoral votes. In 1900, President McKinley was elected by a vote of 292 to 145 electoral votes.

There are several great issues at stake in this campaign, but of course, the greatest issue of all is the issue of keeping the country on the gold standard. It has been brought forward for the first time in the history of the United States.

IN SECRET SESSION. Democratic Leaders Make an Effort to Get Together. New York, Sept. 7.—There was an important conference of the leaders of all factions of the state Democracy today at the Hoffman house.

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do not do them the least harm and simply postpone the day when we can make them another proper law. The legislation of a violent type is utterly ineffective against the evil, or else crushes the evil at the expense of crushing even more of good. We need to apply the proper law, with firm resolution, to the evil and in a spirit of hard common sense as we search for the means of abating them. One of the first things to obtain is publicity. There must be able by law to find out exactly what each corporation does and earns. This mere publicity will do something toward remedying many evils. Moreover, it will give us a clear idea of the remainder of the evil, and will therefore enable us to shape our measure for attacking the latter with good prospects of success. Immoderate attack always reacts disastrously on industry and commerce, combined with resolution, can alone secure results worth having.

Let me point out to you that within the last few years in New York, established a franchise tax under which the corporations which owe most to the state, but which had hitherto largely escaped taxation, have been required to pay a tax of 1 per cent on their net assets. This is a very heavy tax, and it is not an anarchistic spirit, but simply as the friends of order and liberty, of property and individual rights, who intended temperately, but firmly, to insist upon the payment of their share of the cost of the government.

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BIG BATTLE OCCURS IN SOUTH AFRICA General Buller Attacks the Boer Forces at Lydenburg.

London, Sept. 7.—Lord Roberts reports from Belfast, Transvaal, under date of Wednesday, September 5, as follows: Ian Hamilton traversed Duilstron yesterday with slight opposition. Buller engaged the enemy's left (near Lydenburg) this morning. Hamilton is endeavoring to turn his right.

Boers, with two guns and one pom-pom, this morning attacked 125 Canadian mounted infantry guarding the railway between Pan and Wondersfontein. Mahon proceeded to their assistance, but the little garrison had beaten off the enemy before he arrived. This was a very creditable performance. The wounded were Major Handers and Lieutenant Moodie, slightly, and two men. Six men are missing.

BADEEN-POWELL HONORED. Ovation in Cape Town to the Hero of Mafeking. Cape Town, Sept. 7.—General Baden-Powell arrived here today. In spite of the early hour of his arrival, a great public ovation was given in his honor. The crowd carried him on their shoulders from the railway station to the Government House, a distance of half a mile.

DEADLOCK IN 23d DISTRICT Bradford-Wyoming Squabble Results in Two Republican Candidates for Senator. Wyalusing, Pa., Sept. 7.—Conference of the Twenty-third Senatorial district met in Brown's hotel, Wyalusing, today. Present, Bradford, five conferees; Wyoming, six conferees. Bradford refused to meet Wyoming in conference except on a basis of Bradford five conferees, Wyoming, two. Wyoming was willing to meet on a basis of equal representation in both counties.

SITUATION AT LUZERNE Opposition to the Proposed Strike Is Encountered in Kingston. Wilkes-Barre, Sept. 7.—Miners' meetings were held in various parts of the Wyoming valley tonight and the strike situation discussed. In nearly all the meetings the sentiment was in favor of abiding by the decision of the executive board of the United Mine Workers now in session in Indianapolis.

GETTING AFTER THE AKRON RIOTERS. Akron, O., Sept. 7.—Andrew Halter, brother of the police court clerk, was arrested today on the charge of having participated in the recent riot. He is the most prominent of the rioters who were arrested and is now held over in \$2,000.

WATER COMPANY CHARTERED. Harrisburg, Sept. 7.—A charter was issued by the state department today to the Huntington Water Supply company, of Scranton; capital, \$60,000.

BLAME FOR HATFIELD WRECK IS PLACED CORONER'S JURY CENSURES THE ENGINEER AND CONDUCTORS OF THE EXCURSION TRAIN. Lansdale, Pa., Sept. 7.—The coroner's jury, which has been investigating the cause of the wreck on the Philadelphia and Reading railroad at Hatfield on last Sunday morning, in which thirteen persons were killed and over fifty injured in a collision between a milk train and a crowded excursion train, today rendered a verdict fixing the responsibility upon Engineer John Davis and Conductor Thomas Shelby of the colliding excursion train; R. D. Beldier, telegraph operator at Souderton, which is next to Hatfield, and W. S. Groves, train dispatcher in the Reading terminal station at Philadelphia. Following is the verdict:

"We strongly recommend that the Philadelphia and Reading Railway company strictly observe the five-minute rule in the running of all trains not governed by some sort of block system. We recommend the continuation by the Philadelphia and Reading Railway company of the Hall signal system at Hatfield. We condemn John Davis, the engineer of the excursion train, for running past the red flag at the station at Souderton, for running his train ahead of time and running his train recklessly. We condemn Thomas Shelby, of the excursion train, for permitting Engineer John Davis to run recklessly ahead of time, and for not ordering Davis to reduce speed. We believe that Operator R. D. Beldier, at Souderton station, neglected his duty in his failure to raise the red board after the milk train had passed. We are of the opinion that Train Dispatcher W. S. Groves did not perform his duty in the manner in which he dealt with the milk train and the first section of the excursion train.

District Attorney Hendricks said there would be no arrests today. William S. Groves, train dispatcher at the Philadelphia terminal, was by far the most important witness of the day. To the coroner's question: "Were the special train and the milk train under your control last Sunday morning?" Groves answered, "No, they were not. All the operators were in the house down to Souderton were slow in reporting them and none of these operators answered our repeated calls."

Groves' testimony made not only Engineer Davis but every one who had anything to do with running the special responsible in some measure for the accident. Groves produced his records, which showed that reports had not been promptly made. The witness further declared that it was the duty of Davis to have stopped his engine at Souderton when he saw the flag which had been placed by Watchman Benner. The red board should also have been displayed after the milk train had left Souderton. Davis also violated the rules by running into Hatfield ahead of time.

AN EFFORT FOR ARBITRATION Presidents of the Districts Prepare Another Statement in Hopes of Averting Strike. Hazleton, Sept. 7.—A statement, prepared with the hope of effecting an arbitration conference and averting a strike in the anthracite region, was forwarded by the district officers of the United Mine Workers of America. The statement is as follows: "We, the district officers of the United Mine Workers of America, of the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania, having exhausted every effort to induce the operators to meet us in friendly conference for the regulation of a fair day's wages for a fair day's work, and all other points at issue, do hereby agree to submit our cause in every respect to honest arbitration, as enjoined by the constitution of our organization, as follows: "To use all honorable means to maintain peace between ourselves and employes, adjusting all differences, so far as possible, by arbitration and conciliation, that strikes may become unnecessary."

OFFICIAL CENSUS RETURNS. Washington, Sept. 7.—The population of Portland, Me., is 50,145, an increase of 12,720 over 1890, or 25.37 per cent. Concord, N. H., 47,991, an increase of 15,838, or 49.67 per cent. Boise, Wis., 23,021, an increase of 8,085, or 35.19 per cent.

UTAH STATE CONVENTION. Salt Lake, Utah, Sept. 7.—At the Democratic state convention assembled today the following nominations were made: State auditor, S. Hays; treasurer, R. C. Lund; attorney general, A. J. Weber; superintendent of public instruction, N. T. Porter.

WEATHER INDICATIONS TODAY. PARTLY CLOUDY. 1. General-Anthracite Strike Has Not Yet Been Ordered. Rescued Talks to Multitudes at Grand Rapids. Administration at Work on Chinese Problem. Big Battle Fought in South Africa.

WEATHER FORECAST. Washington, Sept. 7.—Eastern Pennsylvania: Moderate temperature and partly cloudy weather Saturday; fresh northwest wind; probably rain Sunday.

THE LEADERS DELIBERATE AT INDIANAPOLIS Apparently Have Been in No Hast to Order a Strike.

Under the Constitution of the United Mine Workers of America the Executive Board Will Be Obligated to Act Upon the Applications from Districts for Permission to Strike. President Mitchell Is of the Opinion That a Big Strike Is Inevitable—Belief That the Strike Can Be Won in Thirty Days—Programme of the Labor Leaders.

Indianapolis, Sept. 7.—Under the constitution of the United Mine Workers of America, the executive board must decide before 6 o'clock tomorrow night upon the application of the districts embraced in the anthracite region for permission to strike. Indications tonight are that before the time limit has expired, messages will have been sent to the presidents of the three districts in question announcing that the permission has been granted. Following these messages will be others ordering the men out of the mines.

The question of ordering the strike was not submitted to a vote at the meeting of the executive board which was in session here all day today. Expressions were heard from the members of the board as to the advisability of ordering a strike, and after a day spent in discussing the situation and hearing the views of the board members, President Mitchell said tonight: "I said some time ago that in my opinion there would be a big strike. After talking with my colleagues all day I have no reason to change my opinion."

This assertion is considered very significant at this time, and is taken as an assurance that unless conditions change very materially before tomorrow night the big anthracite strike will be a question of but a few hours. A report was circulated here today that a committee of eastern business men whose interests are vitally concerned in the outcome of the strained situation had waited upon the operators of the anthracite region in an effort to bring about a wage conference and thus avoid a strike.

President Mitchell, Vice President Lewis and other officers of the Mine Workers, tonight denied any knowledge of such a meeting and put little credence in the report. In so far as actual results are concerned the situation is practically the same as yesterday. The deliberations today were for the purpose of putting the members of the board in possession of such facts as must necessarily enter into their consideration before a strike can be ordered.

FACTS IN THREE QUESTIONS. The facts embraced three questions: Will all the men strike? How can the half-million people be maintained during the strike? Can the bituminous districts prevent coal from being shipped to all the anthracite operators? All have been satisfactorily answered. If all the 142,000 men go out, it is argued by the Mine Workers' officials that the strike can be won in thirty days. There is, it is said, plenty of aid in sight to maintain the strikers and their families. The organizers and officials of the bituminous districts have been called here and all report favorably on the ability to prevent diversion of coal.

IT REQUIRES A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE BOARD TO GRANT PERMISSION TO STRIKE. No vote has been taken. In the event the majority of the members of the board are in favor of a strike telegrams announcing the decision will be sent to T. D. Nichols, of Nanticoke, Pa.; John Fahey, Shamokin, Pa.; and Thomas Duffy, Hazleton, Pa., presidents of districts Nos. 9 and 7, respectively, to the effect that the men in their districts have been given permission to strike. The men will then be ordered out by President Mitchell, who will immediately depart for the region to take personal supervision of the strike. Several members of the executive board will, in all probability, accompany Mr. Mitchell to lend their assistance.

WILL CLOSE MINES. Hazleton, Sept. 7.—The only new development in the strike situation here tonight is the unconfirmed rumor which has gained general circulation that if a strike is declared by the national executive board of Mine Workers tomorrow all the operators in the region will close their collieries for an indefinite period on Sunday night. Operators and superintendents, when asked about the matter, professed entire ignorance of the alleged general understanding to this effect among the coal interests. If such a decision has been reached and is carried into effect, it will be impossible next Monday to tell really how many men are in favor or against the inauguration of a strike. It can be positively stated that the operators will not agree to arbitration.