

TWO CENTS.

SCRANTON, PA., MONDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 24, 1900.

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GOVERNMENT OF PHILIPPINES**Interesting Information Upon Its Affairs Is Furnished by Department Reports.****THE CURRENCY PROBLEM**

Mexican Dollars Render It Difficult of Solution—Government to Reimburse Banks for Losses Sustained in Paying Out Mexican Silver. The American Immigration Laws a Damage to the Work of Developing the Country—People of Negroes Are Contented.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Washington, Dec. 23.—The war department has made public a series of reports made to General MacArthur by the subordinate officers constituting the head of the various bureaus and departments, which have administered the civil affairs of the Philippine islands during the last year. These are closely but sufficiently summarized in the report of Lieutenant Colonel Crowder, thirty-ninth infantry, secretary to the military governor.

Under the head of the treasury department, it is said that the problem of securing a stable currency has never approached a definite solution in the Philippines, though it had not pressed for immediate settlement until very recently, when United States and Mexican dollars were for a few days evenly exchanged. This was terminated by a provisional order, whereby the government arranged to reimburse the banks for any losses they might sustain through paying out Mexican silver for United States currency from disbursing officers and trade. The loss is expressed, however, as to the desirability of continuing this arrangement.

The customs service is discussed at some length in the report, and it is stated that there does not seem to be any present necessity for an increase in the number of ports of entry. Attention is directed to the marked increase in the customs receipts under American management. This is explained in part by the fact that formerly a large part of the imports came from Spain and paid duties, also the American system of collection is said to tend to honest collections. The new tariff adopted for the islands is set out in detail. In almost every case specific duties are fixed, following the established system in the islands, which it was believed to be dangerous to change to the ad valorem system.

Immigration Laws.

The extension of the United States immigration laws to the islands with substantial change to meet the local conditions is said to have proven of doubtful expediency, and especially so with regard to the contract labor law. It is essential, says the report, for the mercantile interests to secure employees from abroad under contract, else business will suffer. These laborers do not come into competition with the native residents. More than 25,000 Chinese entered and left the islands last year. Only one-ninth of the land in the archipelago has been brought under cultivation, and there is no land tax. Regarding the criminal law, it is said that it is essential to provide a system which would be divested of those harsh and oppressive features so much in conflict with American standards. It was impossible for lack of time to supply an entirely new system, and the existing law, regarded as indispensable were made by a general order. It appears that the law as thus qualified has been satisfactory in securing to defendants in criminal cases the fundamental rights of a free and open trial. The writ of habeas corpus has been frequently invoked, and under its speedy operation nearly one hundred prisoners, the heritage of Spanish regime, have been liberated from unwarranted detention. Colonel Crowder thoroughly endorses the recommendation of Lieutenant Burritt, in charge of the mining bureau, looking to a thorough change in the mining laws. He says that these are extremely cumbersome, and that one who is brought into the country to improve the mineral condition of the country soon will be enormously improved, as experienced prospectors and competent mining engineers now in the islands stand ready to undertake the work of exploitation.

People of Negroes Happy.

Colonel Crowder closes with a summary of the report of General J. F. Smith, military governor of Negroes, showing that this island, which has had under the entire period of American control a substantially autonomous form of government, has progressed in marked and favorable contrast with the other islands. The attitude of the people is highly favorable towards the United States and the largely autonomous government which they now enjoy seems to be their fitting reward, and the people are naturally desirous that it should be continued. But it will be impossible to discriminate in favor of Negroes, the report says, in a scheme of government to be ultimately adopted, so that complications are expected not easy of adjustment.

Philippine Autonomy Party.

Manila, Dec. 23.—The recently organized Autonomy party was launched today at a meeting attended by virtually all the loyal Filipino leaders in Manila. The declaration of principles was read and, after some discussion, adopted by a vote of 123, less than half a dozen declining to vote. All signed an endorsement of the platform, including Senator Paterno, one of the most influential of the former insurgent leaders, whose real attitude towards

American authority had been much questioned. The principal discussion was with reference to the organization of the government of the party. A council of twenty-five members was elected, together with an executive committee.

BLIZZARD AT ST. PAUL.

First One of the Present Winter. Storm General in Minnesota. By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. St. Paul, Dec. 23.—This section of the northwest is experiencing the first blizzard of the present winter. The past week has been extremely mild and pleasant. Early today, however, the wind shifted to the northwest and chilled the air. In St. Paul the snowfall has been light, but the fierce wind blew it in blinding sheets and made things very disagreeable. The storm is general throughout the state.

WAR DEPARTMENT**AUDITOR KILLED**

Frank H. Morris Murdered by Samuel MacDonald—Assassin Attempts Suicide, but Lives.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Washington, Dec. 23.—Frank H. Morris, of Ohio, auditor of the war department, was shot and instantly killed about 2:10 o'clock yesterday afternoon by Samuel MacDonald, also of Ohio, recently a disbursing clerk of the treasury in the former's office at the Windsor building, in Seventeenth street. MacDonald afterward shot himself and slashed his throat with a penknife. He was arrested while leaving the building. Before being taken into custody, however, he shot himself in the breast, and made an ugly gash in his throat with a small penknife.

MacDonald was removed to the Emergency hospital, where the doctors have been busily engaged in trying to save his life.

MacDonald is a brother of William H. MacDonald, the well-known baritone singer of the Bostonians, who is said to have educated him for the opera stage. He is unmarried, fifty-eight years of age, and of Irish descent. He entered the government service soon after the Civil war. In 1869 he was removed from his place as chief of division in the office of the commissioner of customs. In 1890 he was reappointed a clerk in the office of the auditor for the war department. In 1897 he was made disbursing officer in that office, in addition to his other duties, receiving in all \$2,000 a year. In February of this year his accounts were found \$1,000 short, and upon being required to make an explanation he said that on one occasion he had forgotten to close his safe on leaving his office, and that it had been robbed of \$1,000. He produced evidence which tended to exonerate him from the charge of embezzlement, and he was immediately made good. Since that time, nothing further was done except to reduce his salary to \$1,400 and transfer him to the office of the auditor for the postoffice department, where he was employed at the time of the tragedy. It is said that MacDonald has been a drunkard at times, and that many of his misfortunes can be traced to this source. He has many friends, however, who regard him as a man of excellent qualities.

MacDonald has been entirely conscious since his removal to the hospital. His condition this morning seemed more favorable, but tonight it took a turn for the worse and he began to sink. He has constantly reiterated, though, that he would die, declaring he did not care to live. All day long there was a continuous stream of visitors to the sick man. He was surrounded by a large number of friends in this city, and the opinion was expressed quite generally that his mind was in an unsettled condition at the time of the shooting.

An autopsy was performed on the body of Mr. Morris today and developed the fact that three of the five bullets fired had struck him. The body will be taken from here tomorrow evening to Cleveland, where the internment will be made in Lakeview cemetery. The family of the dead man was the recipient of many telegrams and letters of condolence today and among the touching incidents was a visit of twelve children of Mr. Morris' Sunday school class from Faith chapel. Dan A. Grosvenor, deputy auditor for the war department and the next in line of the rank to the late Mr. Morris, was discharged on Saturday. Mr. Grosvenor received his discharge papers half an hour after the killing of Mr. Morris. They were conveyed to him from the office of Secretary Gage, the discharge taking effect at once.

Captain Coughlin, of the treasury watch, took charge of affairs at the Windsor building shortly after the shooting on Saturday, with instructions to report to W. W. Brown, auditor for the navy department, and the predecessor of Mr. Brown, who had been reinstated in his old position as auditor for the war department.

TORNADO AT MACON.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Macon, Miss., Dec. 23.—News was received today that a tornado passed through the eastern edge of Nottoway county and the western part of Pickens and Sumpter counties, Ala., last night, doing great damage. Several plantation houses were blown down. Two negroes are known to have been killed.

Population of Berlin.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Berlin, Dec. 23.—The population of Berlin, including the suburbs, is 2,469,676, as compared with 2,070,949 in 1895.

Steamship Arrivals.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Queenstown, Dec. 23.—Sailed: Etruria, from Liverpool, New York.

KITCHENER IS HOPEFUL**Commander of the British Troops Believes Boer Movement in Cape Colony Checked.****COLONISTS ARE ARMED**

British Soldiers Getting Around Both Bodies of the Invaders—De Wet in the Neighborhood of Senekal. Clement's Force Engaged South of Oliphant's Nek—General French After Beyers and Delarey.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

London, Dec. 2.—The war office has received the following dispatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, Dec. 22:

"As far as it is possible for me to form an opinion from the reports of officers on the spot, I think the Boer movement into Cape Colony has been checked. Of the two forces that entered the colony, the eastern is still north of Zeeburg Range, while the one that entered west appears to have been turned in the direction of Britstown and Breda. Our troops are getting around both bodies and a special column is also being organized, which will be dispatched immediately when I know where its services are most wanted.

"The Boers have not received much assistance in Cape Colony, as far as my information goes. We have armed some of the colonists, who are assisting our forces. Railway and telegraph communication has been much interrupted by the very bad weather.

"De Wet is in the neighborhood of Senekal. General French, in conjunction with General Clements, attacked a force under Beyers, south of Magaliesberg. The Boers broke away in a southwesterly direction, toward Potchefstroom, and were followed by General Gordon, with a column of French's force.

At Oliphant's Nek.

"Yesterday evening about 5 o'clock Clements' force was engaged south of Oliphant's Nek, but I do not yet know the result.

A later dispatch from Lord Kitchener, dated Pretoria, Dec. 22, says:

"The western column of Boers occupied Britstown and cut the railway south of De Aar Junction. The enemy is being followed up.

"General French has been in contact for two days with the commandos of Beyers and Delarey, south of Magaliesberg. He is pursuing them. The enemy has lost considerably and Commandant Kruis and others have been captured.

"General Colville engaged two separate commandos Dec. 21 near Vlakfontein, with slight losses, the enemy retreating."

"DARK" MAN ARRESTED BY THE OMAHA POLICE**They Are Actively at Work on the Cudahy Case—Chief Well Pleased with Progress.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Omaha, Neb., Dec. 23.—The mysterious "dark" man in the Cudahy kidnapping case was arrested this afternoon by the police from the description given by Miss Maude Munshaw. The man, who is believed to be Edward Cudahy, was held for ransom by his abductors. His name is Edward Johnson. He is a laborer in the Cudahy packing plant and resides at Twenty-sixth and Walnut streets. He admitted having gone out to the Grosvenor street house three days ago for the purpose of renting the building, which he found already let to the "light" man and his accomplices.

Johnson was easily able to prove to the satisfaction of the police and Mr. Cudahy, who was called in, that he had nothing to do with the case, and was allowed to return to his wife and family. Chief of Police Donahue is well pleased with the progress his men are making, saying that the arrest of Johnson narrows the case down by eliminating one of the suspects.

DEATH FOLLOWS KNOCKOUT.**Joe Kelly, the Opponent of Edward Barr, Is Arrested.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Philadelphia, Dec. 23.—Frank Barr, aged 19 years, died late last night in a hospital here following a boxing contest at the Philadelphia Athletic club. Joseph Kelly who was Barr's opponent, and Frank Henderson, the referee, were arrested. For the past few days a tournament between local amateurs has been in progress at the club.

On Thursday night Barr was knocked out by a boxer who was afterwards disqualified on the ground of professionalism. This allowed Barr to enter last night's finals. He boxed four rounds with Kid White and was awarded the decision. He then met Kelly. The first round was fast and Kelly sent Barr to the floor. Henderson, the amateur referee stopped the round. Barr came up for the second round and Kelly so far outlasted him that the fight was stopped. Barr staggered as he was raising the ring and it was found that he had a fractured skull and death followed soon after.

DEATHS OF A DAY.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Syracuse, N. Y., Dec. 23.—Theodore L. Poole, United States marshal for the northern district of New York state, member of the Fifty-fourth congress from 1894 to 1895, and a civil war veteran, died of apoplexy this morning.

Cincinnati, Dec. 23.—W. E. Jones, who has been treasurer and assistant secretary of the Baltimore Southern railway and its predecessors for over thirty years, died suddenly at his residence here today, aged 53 years.

TROUBLE IN THE VALLEY**Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Electric Railroad Employees Want Shorter Hours and More Pay.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Wilkes-Barre, Dec. 23.—The employees of the Wilkes-Barre and Wyoming Electric railroad company and the officials of the company met in conference today to talk over certain grievances, which the men submitted to the company on Saturday. The employees demand shorter hours, and twenty cents an hour for every hour worked. President Rigg said he wanted to be fair with the men, but their demands were too sweeping, and the company could not afford to grant them. As the men sixteen cents an hour, but no reduction in the hours of labor. The conductors and motormen refused to accept this offer, and gave the company until Thursday to decide whether or not the original demands would be granted. After the conference President Rigg declined to talk, but it is understood he will not grant the demands, and a strike is likely to follow.

HORSES PURCHASED FOR BRITISH ARMY**Captain Heygate Desires 50,000 American Horses and Mules for South African Campaign.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Kansas City, Dec. 23.—Captain Heygate, of the British army, is purchasing 50,000 cavalry horses and mules for the British army in South Africa. He came here more than a year ago to buy horses and mules, but was ordered home a short time ago. But the unexpected renewal of hostilities has made the purchase of more horses and mules necessary. As fast as the animals are inspected and bought they will be sent to New Orleans and shipped to Cape Town, Durban and New London on British transports, some of which are now on their way to the United States. The shipload of the animals will be taken to South Africa by Lieutenant David Moberly, leaving New Orleans soon after January 1. Lieutenant Moberly said:

"By the time the horses and mules are landed in South Africa they cost the British government \$300 a head. That is a large price for an animal which will be fit for service only six weeks. Most of the animals die because of the change in climate. They must cross the equator in going to South Africa and the torrid heat of the tropics kills them rapidly. The average death rate on shipboard is 32 to 1,000. Forty days after a horse is purchased in Kansas City it is landed in South Africa. So great is the demand for horses at the front that it is impossible to give them the needed rest after landing before putting them into service. Consequently they go to the front in a weakened condition, and not getting a sufficient amount of food, they soon die. Since the beginning of the Boer war, England has purchased over 100,000 head of horses and mules in the United States. It required sixty-five ships to carry them from New Orleans to South Africa. Government transports will be kept very busy from now on carrying the horses which England will need in South Africa and which have been ordered by the British government. Baden-Powell now has 25,000 mounted police, and it is proposed to mount 50,000 of the Imperial infantry. England has discovered that her soldiers must be mounted to be able to cope with the Boer, who gets the country with alarming rapidity."

"The British government has decided that with fourteen patients in the hospital at this place and three nurses the municipal authorities allow the steward to draw only one dollar a day in municipal stamps for the subsistence and care of the patients, and that the steward can draw only 50 cents for his stamps, and with that amount daily he has to provide the scanty hospital food."

PHILBIN IS SUCCESSOR TO ASA BIRD GARDINER**The Members of the New York District Attorney's Staff Talk of Resigning.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. New York, Dec. 23.—Eugene A. Philbin, who has been appointed by Governor Roosevelt to succeed Asa Bird Gardiner as district attorney, in an interview today said the first thing he would do would be to resign as a member of the state board of charities, and that he would be in charge of the district attorney's office as soon as he receives the official notification.

"I had made no effort to get the appointment and it was entirely unexpected. I shall not make a clean sweep of the district attorney's office. I shall move no man who is competent to fill the office he occupies and who is doing his duty."

The members of District Attorney Gardiner's staff held two conferences today and it was decided that they would not resign, though several of them at first strongly favored the resignation of the entire staff.

At the conclusion of the conferences, Assistant District Attorney McIntyre said:

"Of course, all of us feel that Colonel Gardiner has met with great injustice, and as individuals we protest against the governor's action. Our sympathies are with Colonel Gardiner, and we will stand by him to the last ditch, but it was decided at the conference today that Colonel Gardiner will not enter into any legal contest over the matter but will surrender the office."

FURLONG PARDONED.**The Policeman Who Shot a Brother Officer Again Free.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Chicago, Dec. 23.—Former Policeman Patrick Furlong, who in February, 1899, killed Edward Leach a brother officer and was sentenced to the penitentiary for fourteen years, has been pardoned by Governor Tanner and will take his Christmas dinner with his family in Chicago.

Furlong, who is of Irish parentage, and Leach, an Englishman, became involved in an argument about the Boer war. Leach's declaration that England could whip any country on earth led to blows and both men drew revolvers. Furlong shot first with fatal effect.

Largest Coal Deal.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Fairmont, Va., Dec. 23.—The largest coal deal ever made in Harrison county will be closed in a few days. The territory comprises 12,000 acres or nineteen square miles, lying around Saline. The purchasers are James E. Brown, of Uniontown, and Alfred J. Cochran, of Dawson, who will pay \$842,000 for the entire tract.

Mangled Beyond Recognition.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press. Lancaster, Pa., Dec. 23.—An unknown man was killed on the Pennsylvania railroad this morning at Gordonville. His arms and legs were cut off and his head crushed the mutilation so terrible that the remains were gathered and brought to this city in a bag. There was nothing by which he could be identified.

PORTO RICANS ARE STARVING**Appalling State of Affairs Revealed by the March of United States Troops Across the Island.****HUNGER CAUSES DISEASE**

Report of Dr. Williams Shows the Suffering Prevailing in the Country Districts—Men, Women and Children Swollen, Blasted and Diseased, Pinched and Haggard as Though Weighted with the Sorrows of Years.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 23.—Dr. A. D. Williams, assistant surgeon of the United States army, has arrived from Porto Rico, where he was detailed to make a report on conditions of the people as observed by him on a march with the soldiers across the island. The report was made to the adjutant general, department of Porto Rico. A copy of the paper was given out tonight by Dr. Williams.

"At Adjuntas," the report says, "we began to see the vanguard of misery. In that small, squalid town, there is no medical man. Many were sick. A Mr. Teneuand, the American school teacher, told me that many of the people, not only of the surrounding country, but of the town, were in great distress. I asked him the cause of so much sickness and so many deaths. He answered without hesitation, 'for want of food.'"

The report continues:

"At Adjuntas the conditions were appalling, men, women and children, swollen, blasted and diseased, emaciated, whose pinched and haggard features appeared weighted with the sorrows of years. When I asked the city physician of Adjuntas the cause of such a large death rate—fifty-two deaths and four births the week immediately preceding our visit there—he replied: 'The death rate is about the same every week. The prime cause, chronic starvation.'"

Dr. Williams in this report declares that with fourteen patients in the hospital at this place and three nurses the municipal authorities allow the steward to draw only one dollar a day in municipal stamps for the subsistence and care of the patients, and that the steward can draw only 50 cents for his stamps, and with that amount daily he has to provide the scanty hospital food."

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THE NEWS THIS MORNING.**Weather Indications Today, RAIN, COLDER.**

1. General—Affairs in the Philippines.
2. Appalling State of Affairs in Porto Rico. Progress of the War in South Africa. Street Car Employees Go Out on Strike.
3. Local—Christmas Services in the Churches. Lackawanna County News.
4. Local—Sermon by Rev. Dr. Hughes on the Death of His Daughter. Vacancies in the Thirtieth Regiment.
5. Editorial. Note and Comment.
6. Local—Dummore Woman Murdered. Judge Kelly Defines Powers of City Council.
7. Local—West Scranton and Suburban.
8. General—Northeastern Pennsylvania. Financial and Commercial.
9. Local—News of the World of Labor.

LI HUNG CHANG'S HEALTH IMPROVES**He Will Be Able to Attend the Meeting Today and Accept the Preliminary Joint Note.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Peking, Dec. 23.—Li Hung Chang, answering inquiries from the foreign envoys regarding his health, said he believed he would be able to attend the meeting tomorrow to accept with Prince Ching the preliminary joint note.

The note will be presented by the Spanish minister, Senor E. I. De Coloman, day of the diplomatic corps, with a few words expressive of a hope of as prompt a reply as possible to a note which has been carefully prepared with every desire to continue the dynasty and not to be hard toward the nation, and of a further hope that the Chinese plenipotentiaries will urge upon Emperor Kwang Su the necessity of immediate compliance.

An answer is expected about Thursday.

BAD EXPERIENCE OF THE BOERSE**Great Rise in Values in New York Meets with No Response in Berlin.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Berlin, Dec. 23.—Last week the Berlin Boerse had a bad experience, here, except in American railway shares, where great activity has prevailed. The German market sold Americans heavily after the rise in November, but during the past week it purchased heavily in London and New York. Under the lead of Northern Pacific, all the American railroads were sought after, and the papers were beginning to warn the public against buying at the present high prices.

The great rise of values in New York has not met with a response here, except in American railway shares, where great activity has prevailed. The German market sold Americans heavily after the rise in November, but during the past week it purchased heavily in London and New York. Under the lead of Northern Pacific, all the American railroads were sought after, and the papers were beginning to warn the public against buying at the present high prices.

Bank stock declined one or two points during the week, iron shares from two to four points and coal shares ten points.

During the week the iron market showed an unusual number of bad reports, and more declines in price than during any other week since the reaction began. There were several auctions of goods not taken by those who had ordered them that resulted in unexpectedly low prices. Five thousand tons of steel were sold at auction in Witten tonight only 56 marks per ton, which was offered by the company, the latter bidding in the whole lot.

On the Dusseldorf Boerse English pig iron, number 3, fell five marks.

FIRE UNDER CONTROL.**Celebrated Burning Mine at Summit Hill Will Soon Be No More.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Tamapa, Pa., Dec. 23.—The officials of the Lehigh Valley and Susquehanna companies are jubilant over the fact that the fire in the celebrated burning mine at Summit Hill, which started forty-two years ago, is now under control and it is said that the next two years will see its extinguishing.

The fire has consumed about thirty-five acres of the finest coal land in the anthracite coal region, has moved westward toward Lanford. Two immense drilling machines which have been constantly probing for the fire, have now lanced the earth to the west of the burning portion.

JESSIE MORRISON'S TRIAL.**Results in a Hung Jury—Prisoner May Be Released on Bail.**

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Elkridge, Kan., Dec. 23.—Hayward Morrison, brother of Jessie Morrison, whose trial for murdering Mrs. Castle ended in a hung jury, said today:

"Six wealthy men of this county have volunteered to go on the \$500 bond. We are in no hurry to file the bond. Jessie is feeling very well and still receives letters of sympathy daily."

While Mr. Morrison would not say when the bond would be filed he left the impression that his sister would spend her Christmas at home.

Two Ribs Broken.

By Exclusive Wire from The Associated Press.

Wilkes-Barre, Dec. 23.—In a Graeco-Roman wrestling match at the West End Wheelmen's club room last night between M. J. Dwyer of this city, and H. C. Leonard, of New York, the latter sustained two broken ribs. He declined medical attention but left on the early morning train for New York. The bout was awarded to Dwyer, who received a purse of \$250 and 7 per cent. of the gate receipts.

CAR MEN ARE ON STRIKE**Without Waiting to Give an Ultimatum, They Decided to Quit in a Body Yesterday Morning.****ONLY TWO CARS WERE OPERATED**

Every Motorman, Conductor and Barn Man Between Pittston and Forest City Joined in the Strike, and When the Company Wanted to Man a Couple of Cars It Had to Draft Officials Into Service—General Manager Silliman Expects to Have Some Cars Running Today, and to Keep Adding to the Number Until the Full Equipment Is in Motion—Men Issue a Statement. President Clark Here.

The strike of the street car men, which had been brewing for several weeks, was declared yesterday morning at 5 o'clock.

Every man in the employ of the Scranton Railway company, engaged in running or caring for cars, excepting superintendents and foremen, in all the territory covered by the company's sixty-five miles of tracks, between Pittston and Forest City, joined in the strike. The men at the power houses continued to work, but sent word to the car men that they are ready to quit if satisfaction is deemed necessary to the success of the strike.

A few cars were run yesterday at irregular intervals, with officials of the company acting as motormen and conductors, but they carried very few passengers.

The employees of the Wyoming Valley Traction company, which operates all the lines in upper Luzerne county, are also threatening to strike. It was expected they would order a strike yesterday morning, but after a lengthy deliberation on all their demands, they deferred action until next Thursday.

The local strike is the result of the company's refusal to grant demands for increased wages and shorter hours.

PRESENTED GRIEVANCES.

On December 12, a committee of the men presented to General Manager Silliman a statement of grievances and a request for their redress. They asked that an answer be given December 17, last Monday. Inadequacy of the answer, a meeting of the car men was held Tuesday morning, at the conclusion of the day's work. When the committee reported that the answer was not at hand and that it would not be given until Saturday, some of the more ardent workers wanted to quit then and there, but the more conservative element, headed by R. L. Reeves, of Pittsburg, a member of the executive committee of the Amalgamated Association of Street Car Employees, who is here to confer with the local officers, resisted to wait until the answer was received before taking any action.

Saturday, General Manager Silliman gave the company's answer to the committee in printed form and also sent one to each employee. The men met at 5 o'clock yesterday morning at the Carpenters' hall to hear and act upon the committee's report. Every man, practically, in the membership of the union was in attendance. The men from Carbondale