

A call signed by Samuel Gompers, President of the American Federation of labor, has appeared. It is addressed to the trade and labor unions of America, and urges "the necessity of immediate action in the collection and contribution of funds for the 150,000 coal miners whose struggle for an eight-hour day is to begin May 1. This call is the outcome of a program prepared about one year ago by the Federation, which intends taking up the various troubles and including separately, and by concentrating the entire moral and financial support of the organization upon any certain class of workmen each year hopes to achieve the eight-hour day. In 1890, the plan was inaugurated by calling out the carpenters who were well prepared and equipped for such a struggle. The result was not a complete victory for the workmen but, in the majority of cities and towns they succeeded in reducing the hours of work to one taken to prepare for the next similar strike; and May 1, 1891, was selected as the time to put in effect the order to suspend all mining operations in the United States. The mandate of the Federation is proposed to include every coal miner in the country who can be induced to respond.

Now, while the Federation is making such excellent preparations for what would be the largest and most paralyzing strike known, it might not be amiss to ask if Mr. Gompers and his colleagues are not counting without their host. From the aspect of mining affairs all through Pennsylvania it would be clearly a case of "blowing the whistle." To the miners in this State such a strike would be only a farce, if the Pennsylvania miners were not included. It would be indeed, playing "Hamlet" with Hamlet not in it. It matters not how expedient an eight-hour day would be to miners in general, they are not prepared, even with Federation backing, to demand it under threat of striking. In the first place the Federation has not even so much as a skeleton organization in the anthracite or bituminous regions, and consequently an order for miners here to strike must necessarily come in the shape of a request. There is, however, an organization in both regions larger in numbers and more powerful than most people have any idea. But that organization is connected with the K. of L., and the Knights have no coal miners' strike in view. It can readily be seen that Gompers' call for support or an order to strike can in no way affect the miners of this State.

A Knave in Kingly Garb.

Like his predecessor, King Humbert of Italy is never content unless concocting or carrying out some original and barbarous plan of action in connection with the unrelenting and sordid war he is waging against Christianity. This arrogant and inhuman urge, whose presence on earth is a blot upon humanity, has now in contemplation, it is said, a series of projects by which he expects to silence all opposition to his selfish designs and intrigues. In furthering his schemes the base impostor will bring upon himself the deserved condemnation of the civilized world, but until the authenticity of the rumors is established it is better to refrain from any comment. According to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin, probably the most conservative newspaper in this country, King Humbert's polluted and profligate passions have impelled him to close immigration, increased activity the suppression of religion in Italy. It asserts "that the government has begun active steps for the suppression of all religious institutions. More than one hundred and fifty churches in Rome itself are to be closed immediately, the best of their pictures, and statues sent to the public galleries, and the others sold at auction; while in the rest of Italy these art treasures are not even permitted to be sold, but will be destroyed outright. To officers and soldiers will be given military duties which will prevent their attending church on Sunday, and all religious emblems are to be removed from the schools, sacred names being even erased from the school-books. It is added that the laws for the suppression of religious guilds and for the abolition of chaplains in hospitals, asylums and prisons began to be put in effect, but as so this is the first that has been heard about it. The whole story has a very improbable appearance; but if it is true we shall soon have a confirmation of it.

An Unhealthy Growth.

Outside of Philadelphia and Allegheny county the largest gains in population are in the anthracite and bituminous coal regions of the State. Luzerne has gained since 1880, 68,188; Lackawanna, 52,819; Westmoreland, 34,783; Clearfield, 26,157; Schuylkill, 24,189; Northumberland 21,575; Fayette, 21,164; and Jefferson, 16,079. In these eight coal-producing counties the growth of population has been upward of a quarter of a million within the last ten years. In some of these counties the increase of inhabitants has been so rapid and unwholesomely stimulated by the coal corporations in importing cheap labor from Eastern Europe. Population has increased in excess of the opportunities of the remunerative employment. Skilled miners, who once earned good wages, have been supplanted by Bohemian and Russian peasants, who never saw the mouth of a mine until brought to this country. With the frequent stoppages of labor, in order that the corporations might maintain prices of coal against consumers, two miners do not earn much more in a year now than one earned in a former period. Industrial production, though increased, has not kept pace with the unhealthy growth of population; and as a consequence there is a great deal of distress among the working people of the mining regions. Pennsylvania has, therefore, no reason for self-congratulation upon this portion of the State's increase of inhabitants. With less population imported from Hungary and Transylvania there would be more comfort and prosperity among the working people of the mining regions while there would be no diminution of the output of coal.—Record.

Seeking Equal Taxation.

The legislators in many of the States are having considerable trouble in devising means by which taxes may be equalized. The Granger or farmer element is making strenuous efforts to bring about such revisions as would, in their opinion, lessen the amount of taxes paid upon land. The farmer, whether he lives in Pennsylvania or in Kansas, loudly proclaims himself to be the heaviest taxed mortals on earth. Whether or not this is true is a disputed question, but he firmly believes such to be the case, and through his representatives in the Legislature he means to solve the difficulty. At Harrisburg the House has passed a bill which its projectors calculate will bring relief to the tillers of the soil. This bill contemplates the taxation of everything which a farmer does not possess. Everything that can be construed into personal property is to be assessed, and under such system the farmers of Pennsylvania think they can dodge the annual visit of the tax collector. The bill must yet go through the Senate, and there, no doubt, its sweeping contents will be exposed, and the measure laid at rest. Nevertheless, the adoption of this inventory system of taxation would be of immense advantage in one respect. It would show the fallacy of the wild-cat schemes and give an impetus to a system of taxation that is just and equitable one yet devised—a tax upon the value of land.

The Record, noted for its general soundness upon all economic questions, terms the passage of the bill "bootstrap legislation." It recognizes that legislation of the proposed sort is useless, and yet, by its comment, it seems at sea regarding any definite system which might tend to bring about an equalization. It advocates a "tax on land," and in the same article refers in a vague manner to a "tax on the use of land." The comment is as follows, and though very good in some points, the reader can notice the constant shifting of the paper's position on taxation: "If it could be possible for men to live on the earth without drawing their sustenance from it, or to accumulate any form of property that was not of the earth itself, then such extraneous terrestrial subsistence or holding might be appropriately assessed and taxed. But, as long as there can be no such incorporated holding, all taxes, however laid, resolve themselves into land taxes. They are paid out of the proceeds of labor, derived either directly or indirectly from the earth which the taxpayers stand upon as they occupy an equalization. It advocates a tax on land," and in the same article refers in a vague manner to a "tax on the use of land." The comment is as follows, and though very good in some points, the reader can notice the constant shifting of the paper's position on taxation:

It is possible to think that the condition would be improved by putting heavier taxes on lands, machinery, merchandise, money at interest, etc. By so much as might be collected from personal property, by so much the astute granger legislator at Harrisburg expect to relieve the burden upon property. But can farmers seriously hope to profit themselves by making it harder for other men to live in Pennsylvania? To tax personal property is to tax the tools with which all trade and traffic are carried on. It is in the end a tax on the use of land. If taxes should be taken from the furrow and put upon the plow, of what transient advantage would it be except to those who would choose to get rid of their plows? The farmers cannot lift themselves by their bootstraps, as they will presently find out when they think they have "equalized" taxation.

The New York Legislature has under consideration a tax bill which proposes to tax everything—every taxpayer to be compelled to make out a complete list of all his property and swear to it. Refusal to comply is to be made a misdemeanor. The New York papers denounce the bill as tyrannical, and the landholder, and demand that it would be defied or evaded by a majority of taxpayers. The Sea is especially severe in its condemnation, and in its criticism takes a shy at single taxism, but wants to include "improvements" as well as the "land" in the taxables. The Sun says of the New York bill: "Its passage would bring out more plainly than our existing law does the folly of trying to tax personal property at all. What is called personal property is, mostly, nothing but interests in real property in this State or in other States. Holders of mortgages are, to the amounts owned, joint owners with the makers of the mortgages, in the mortgaged property. Debtors in railroad companies, in manufacturing companies and in other corporations have nothing but rights to dividends earned by investments which are for the most part composed of land and buildings. Money lent and credits given are in the same way represented by the property of the debtors, and this, too, is chiefly land or improvements affixed to land. The only personal property which it is reasonable to tax at all is composed of merchandise and of household goods, and the value of these is comparatively unimportant. A single tax upon land and its improvements is easily laid and cheaply collected, and would furnish all the money needed for public purposes without being oppressive."

Harrison Bidding for Votes.

There is every indication that Harrison is making use of his high office to secure a renomination for a second term. The hypocritical effort early in his administration to deceive the public that he was trying to fill the offices under his disposal with men of high integrity has been laid aside, and the loaves and fishes are now being handed to the workers and spoilsmen. The Democracy of this country cordially wishes the President success in his efforts to again become the Republican standard bearer. His nomination will mean that the Republican masses uphold the disgraceful looting of the treasury and the iniquitous pension legislation, which threatens to swamp the country. It will mean that the Republicans have no higher ambition than the spoils, and that they would cheerfully sacrifice principle and honor in order to retain their grip upon the offices. It would mean a Democratic victory so overwhelming as to be practically unanimous. The country is tired and sick of Republicanism, and the Harrison variety is now a nauseating dose for even those who a few years ago voted for the Indiana ex-Senator.—Phila. Herald.

STREET COMMISSIONER BURTON has made his rounds of the borough and will place before the council the result of his observation. It is quite likely that a new departure will take place in regard to the placing of curbs and sidewalks, and that instead of owners to have them made to property that the street commissioner will do it himself. We can not congratulate ourselves that we have a council that means business, and who have the welfare and health of our people at heart.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE Middle Coal Field Poor District. FOR THE YEAR 1890.

Receipts. Wm. Heister, tax collector, 1889, \$47 15; Wm. Heister, tax collector, 1890, 282 25; Sam'l Derby, tax collector, 1889, 494 42; Patrick Smith, tax collector, 1889, 158 45; James Butler, tax collector, 1889, 191 63; John P. Miller, tax collector, 1889, 100 00; Geo. W. Miller, tax collector, 1889, 41 75; Wm. W. Buck, tax collector, 1890, 100 00; H. L. Reihman, tax collector, 1888, 210 36; H. L. Reihman, tax collector, 1889, 80 00; Thos. Elliott, tax collector, 1889, 311 27; Thos. B. Carr, tax collector, 1889, 149 00; John Kern, tax collector, 1889, 100 00; T. S. McLaughlin, tax collector, 1889, 62 90; G. L. Laurecht, tax collector, 1889, 31 25; A. P. Goedeeck, tax collector, 1889, 192 88; Patrick Dunlavy, tax collector, 1889, 200 00; J. J. Zinner, tax collector, 1889, 187 94; Jno. Shaffer, tax collector, 1889, 200 00; Philip Ferry, tax collector, 1889, 200 00; G. W. Miller, tax collector, 1889, 62 85; Gabriel Miller, tax collector, 1889, 71 53; Geo. W. Miller, tax collector, 1889, 41 75; H. M. Doudt, tax collector, 1889, 265 00; George Bittin, tax collector, 1889, 20 70; Thos. Dutoit, tax collector, 1889, 370 90; Simon Heckard, tax collector, 1889, 120 00; Sarah Giles, for maintenance, D. Giles, 147 43; Com'rs. Exp., 132 66; Mrs. Pat'k Ward, sale of furniture, 30 00; A. P. Goedeeck, tax collector, 1889, 192 88; Abe Nesbit, ad. relief, Mrs. Shiner, 10 00; Andrew Roth, maintenance, Amanda Roth, 20 00; Hugh McLafferty, cash found on A. P. Goedeeck, 3 05; Ward, 110 95; Hazleton National Bank, temp. loans, 10,000 00; National, 40,000 00; \$58,697 52

Disbursements. Paid bal. Dec. 31, 1889, as per last report, 50 00; Children's Aid Society, 236 00; Clothing, boots and shoes, 1st 3 mos., 174 88; Conveying paupers (itemized below), 528 43; Insane to Danville (itemized below), 130 28; Dry goods and notions, 1st 3 mos., 300 25; Election expenses, 20 00; Freight and expressage, 75 28; Farm implements, 58 50; Feeding, 33 56; Farm expenses, 1st 3 mos., 198 89; Groceries and provisions, 1st 3 mos., 275 97; Hospital expenses, 1st 3 mos., 82 00; House, 1st 3 mos., 320 75; House fixtures, 116 39; Lectures, 85 29; Improvement acct., new boiler house and steam heating apparatus, 1880 24; Interest on advance, Hazleton National Bank, 310 80; Live stock, 5 cows, 216, 2 mules, 1, 1 horse, 524 00; Light and repairs, 188 29; Maintenance, 112 51; Medicine, 1st 3 mos., 251 78; Office expenses, 28 25; Out-door relief and burials (itemized below), 10,281 85; Out-door Med. attendance, 1st 3 mos., 107 75; Printing, 263 04; Paid to other districts (itemized below), 202 02; Repairs to building, 67 54; Steward Anthony, 200 00; George T. Wells, 163 55; Tobacco, 1st 3 mos., 49 89; Taxes refunded, 12 00; Temp. loan - Hazleton Sav. Bank, 10,000 00; Whiskey, 1st 3 months, 205 05; Of the above amount \$1,000.00 remained on hand April 1, 1891. Balance cash on hand Jan. 1, 1891, 3679 24; Dry goods and notions, 1st 3 mos., \$58,697 52

Receipts. Hazleton National Bank, temp. loan, 10,000 00; Assets in excess of liabilities, 90,355 00; \$100,355 00

Liabilities. W. D. Schuler, M., 4 25; Hazleton National Bank, temp. loan, 10,000 00; Assets in excess of liabilities, 90,355 00; \$100,355 00

Steward and Matron's Acct for 1890. ANTHONY COLL, DR. To cash rec'd from Directors, 10,000 00; To cash rec'd from Directors, February and March, 1890, 677 54; \$10,677 54

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