

BIG TAILORS' STRIKE

TROUBLE INVOLVING 16,000 WORKERS BEGUN IN NEW YORK.

Clothing Contractors Repudiate Agreements Entered into Last Summer—The Federation.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The members of the Clothing Contractors' Mutual and Protective Association have repudiated the contracts entered into by them with the members of the United Garment Workers of America in this city last July and strike involving 16,000 tailors in New York city, Brooklyn, Brownsville and Newark is precipitated. The contractors are under bonds in \$300 each to live up to the terms of the agreement for one year made during the last conflict between themselves and the organized tailors, to whom the contractors had yielded and granted their demands at the close of the struggle, which terminated three months ago. To-day being the first work day in the Hebrew weekly calendar, the tailors, though anticipating a repetition of the old trouble, found notices posted on most of the shops stating that employees had agreed to abolish the weekly system granted under the provisions of the new contract, and that the men would be paid in the future under the piece and taskwork systems. The employers further notified the strikers that they were to enter their shops, and were to be treated as employees with the services of timekeepers, whose names were to be on the roll of employees. This greatly incensed the tailors, who quit work this morning in one hundred shops, employing three hundred and thirty tailors. The news spread like wildfire in the Hebrew section of the city, and before noon fully five hundred strikers had gathered at No. 29 Suffolk street, where meetings were held. General organizer, Joseph Schindler and Secretary Herman Robinson were the members of the organization called on by the strikers. Tailors called on by the strikers, and instructions were given them to return to their shops, and to sign as securities the violated agreements of the contractors. Steps will be taken to recover the amount of the strike, and meantime, the fight will wage more fiercely than ever.

The executive committee of the United Garment Workers met to-night, and it is more than probable that they will send hand tailors, pants makers, knee-pants makers, cutters, finishers and baster will desert the shops.

Federation Committees. NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The session of the National Federation of Labor will continue to-morrow. It is expected that the convention will close Wednesday, although there is talk of a night session Tuesday, so as to adjourn on that day. To-day some of the committee on resolutions, and the committee on organizations decided to report a plan for formally admitting to the federation unions that have not been admitted, with the exception of those asked for admittance. The committee on strikes and boycotts also reported, and it is expected that it will make a report to-morrow concerning the strike of the American Postal Telegraph employees. A party went to Ellis Island to see the national park, and still another to Grant's tomb.

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The little body of investors styled themselves the De Beers Consolidated Mines (Limited). The De Beers of one of their number, the mines over which they wished to gain control were owned by the Kimberley Consolidated Mines (Limited). After a series of negotiations a price was agreed upon for the transfer of these mines to the De Beers Consolidated Mines. This price was \$5,238,600. It was made one of the conditions of the purchase that the money should be paid cash down.

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OUR GREATEST RIVER

THE WONDERFUL VALLEY THAT IS DRAINED BY THE MISSISSIPPI.

Formation of its Delta, Which Covers 1,400 Square Miles—Characteristics of the Tributaries.

B. C. Jilison, in Pittsburg Dispatch.

In nearly the exact geographical center of the United States is a great valley, called the Mississippi valley, which is drained by a single river, the longest in the world.

This river in many respects differs from all others known, and is so admirably worthy of careful study, that we examine the large rivers of our globe, we find the one now under consideration more favorably located than any other.

The great rivers of Siberia and British America, which empty into the Arctic ocean, have their mouths closed during the greater part of the year, while the Mississippi opens the season is thawed, and as the mouth is still held firm in icy bands, the mighty torrent rushes over the adjoining plain, carrying desolation in its course.

The great rivers of China, as well as the Amazon of South America, flow in an easterly direction, and although the whole course follows closely its own degree of latitude, the Volga and the Danube empty into inland seas.

The Nile is obstructed by cataracts, and having its source under the equator, annually overflows its banks; but the Mississippi, flowing from north to south through its own valley, and with its mouth unobstructed at all seasons of the year, is not only a great river, but a great highway for commerce, and presents us with a model river, differing from all others, and in every respect the greatest of the world.

AREA DRAINED BY THE RIVER.

The Mississippi valley includes the space between the Appalachian chain on the east, and the Rocky mountains on the west, and the water-shed south and west of the great divide, which is only a few miles, and is 2,000 feet; of its western 8,000 or 9,000, while its northern is at the most only 1,500 feet above the sea. This northern rim is said to be a perfect labyrinth of lakes, and its portage at any season between the headwaters of the rivers separated by the great divide is only a few miles, and the spring boats can easily pass from one to the other. So slight a cause prevented the Mississippi from draining all the northern half of the continent, and the waters of the Arctic ocean were sent to the Gulf of Mexico.

The lower Mississippi from Cairo to the river and its branches is estimated at 2,500,000 square miles, an extent of country twenty times as large as Great Britain, and more than half as large as all of Europe. When this river was first navigated, it was known as the Father of Waters, and the name Mississippi was unfortunately given to one of its branches, while the name of the main river was lost. The population of Missouri. The latter river, being the larger and longer, and by its larger volume of water, and its more rapid current, has become the more important of the two. The Mississippi below their junction, should have been considered the main stem of the Mississippi, and its length would have been 3,000 miles. In 1868 a steamboat was run up the river as far as Falls, a distance but little less than 4,000 miles from the Gulf. This river is remarkable for its numerous islands, and is said to have 1,500 navigable streams unite their waters with the parent river, and statistics show that the Mississippi has 2,000 tributaries, and its length is 3,700 miles. When we compare this river and its tributaries with those of any other river, we find that the Mississippi is the longest of the world.

DIFFERENCES IN CLIMATES.

Scanning the surface of our continent we find a depression extending from the Arctic ocean on the north to the Gulf of Mexico on the south, and bounded east by the Appalachian chain and west by the Rocky mountains. So slight and gradual are the slopes that we might have mistaken the Arctic ocean for the Gulf of Mexico, and the Appalachian chain for the Rocky mountains, and not be aware of a change in level. The general direction of winds north of the equator being from the Tropics of Cancer and the Arctic circle, the winds from the north sweep unobstructed across the eastern slope of the Mississippi valley, and give us our most copious showers, thus abundantly watering the Atlantic highlands from the Gulf to the Rocky mountains, an abundant vegetation, a fertile soil, an abundant population, and a happy and contented people. If we cross the great valley to its western slope, we shall find, though at the same distance from the equator, a different climate. Its climate is drier, it has very few summer showers and very little rain. The soil is sandy, and the vegetation is sparse. The population is thin, and the people are generally poor and discontented. The Appalachian chain is here unknown, and the so-called American desert, so conspicuous in the west, is here a mere name.

Here we find the soil covered in many places with a white alkaline incrustation, which, raised in clouds by the passing trade winds, strikes the eye, cracks the parched throat, and excites a thirst which the water, strongly impregnated with this same alkali, is not only unable to quench, but is the means of greatly aggravating his sufferings. This desert is devoid of vegetation, and the mountains are as few and worthless shrubs.

The winds of this region are also from the southwest, but coming from the Pacific, filled with moisture in crossing the Rocky mountains, and the Rocky mountains, their moisture is given up, and they fall on the eastern side as dry winds, and the whole section is generally barren, remarkable for the lack of moisture, and vegetation. This is well shown by the fact that the annual amount of rain generally falling in this valley is about three-fourths of that from the Ohio, though the amount of water in the Mississippi is infinitely larger than that of the latter. It is also shown by the results of irrigation, where many parts of this so-called "Great American Desert" have been made unusually productive.

WHY HE WANTS ROOMS.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Dec. 15.—The Kansas City Chamber of Commerce is engaged in a rooming house on the principle that politics not only makes strange bed-fellows, but a great many of them.

HEAD MASHED BY A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF HER FATHER—Chance for a Michigan Lynching.

BENTON HARBOR, Mich., Dec. 15.—For several weeks Miss Minnie Sparks has been in mortal fear of her life, and this afternoon those fears were realized. She was struck on the head by a brick thrown by Harry Sweetman, Sweetman was discharged from her father's employ some time ago, and it has grown on his mind to such an extent that he has become temporarily insane.

Last evening he secured entrance to her house and fired two pistol shots at the girl, but both bullets failed to hit the mark. She kept silent about the episode, and the police did not hear of her persecution until her bruised body was found this afternoon.

When the police arrived at the house, they struck her a terrible blow on the head, which fractured her skull, and she was carried to the hospital. She is now in a critical condition, and it is feared that she will not recover.

SECOND MATE BROOKS.

Aband Ten Days Without Food or Water Before Rescued.

BALTIMORE, Dec. 15.—The British steamer Lord Erne, Capt. J. J. O'Brien, from Liverpool, by way of Swansea, arrived here to-day, having on board James Brooks, of Liverpool, second mate of the ship Belle O'Brien, of Thomaston, Me., which foundered off the west coast of Ireland in November. Brooks was taken to a hospital.

Brooks, we are told, was in the open sea for ten days without food or water. He was rescued by the ship Plymouth, and is now in a hospital.

AN INFERNAL MACHINE.

Left on the Door Step of the Spanish Minister's Residence.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—What the police regard as a practical joke or hoax was the discovery of an alleged infernal machine on the doorsteps of the Spanish minister at an early hour this morning.

The story is that one of the servants going out to get the morning paper saw the machine on the doorsteps, and called the attention of the minister to it. He ran back into the house and told the wife of the minister, who went out and investigated. The machine was found to be a hoax, and the police were called.

PRIZE STORY CONTESTS.

Chicago Post.

A New York newspaper, commenting on the Chicago Post, expresses surprise at the poor showing made by the West and the South in the contest for the prize offered by the Chicago Post.

A respectful question is entitled to a respectful answer. It is true that no good story was submitted, but it is also true that the contest was a failure.

ANTI-HARRISON COMBINE.

Alleged Understanding Between Friends of Morton, Reed and Allison.

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—The Morning Advertiser writes to-day that a combination of friends of Morton, Reed and Allison, who are supposed to be in the city, are alleged to have understood to support these candidates.

The advertiser is able to make this announcement on what may be termed the best authority. During the present week a distinguished party leader told an advertiser reporter last night, the Governor may conclude to take the office of Governor, and declare to them just how he feels about 1896.

"A leader who saw the Governor at Ellerslie on Friday last came back with a pretty firm conviction that Mr. Morton does not propose to toss away the honor offered him at the last State election, and that he will exert himself, he will be pleased to have the New York delegation stand as firmly for his nomination at St. Louis as it did at the famous 28th of July meeting at New York."

Continuing the Morning Advertiser says: "The advertiser presents other information which has to do with the formation of a most powerful combination, which, as occasion requires, it is intended to be used by the State and Federal parties, and Reed or Allison. It was at the home of Senator Matthew Quay, in Washington, D. C., that the combination was formed. The night