PEFFER SOUNDLY DRUBBED.

THE FOOLHARDY CHAMPION OF MOB LAW CASTIGATED.

SENATORS DAVIS AND GORDON ELOQUENTLY DENOUNCE THE ATTEMPT TO EXCITE LEGISLATIVE SYMPATHY WITH THE CHICAGO STRIKERS—THE MOST EXTRAVAGANT OF PEFFER'S MANY FANTASTICALITIES.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

Washington, July 10.—Mr. Peffer's ill-advised and inopportune effort to excite to-day, in the Senate, some legislative sympathy with the programme of Debs and the other leaders of the strike in Chicago met deservedly with a prompt and crushing rebuke. The just indignation of the country at the exhibition of lawlessness and disorder which has been given by the mobs at Chicago and Hammond was powerfully expressed in two eloquent speeches by Senators Davis and Gordon in reply to Mr. Peffer's anarchistic bluster, and the weight of their denunciation of the managers of the strike fell somewhat indirectly, but with unmistakable severity, on the foolhardy champion who had ventured to plead the cause of mob law in the Senate.

Mr. Peffer has made many heterodox and extravagant speeches since his entry into public life here, but in no other has he so rashly exposed himself to the just criticism of an outraged and exasperated public opinion. The castigation he received in consequence at the hands of Messrs. Davis and Gordon was keenly appreciated by both sides of the chamber, even his Populistic colleagues, Messrs. Allen and Kyle, failing to come to his rescue with a single word of sympathy or approval. Mr. Kyle, it will be remembered, introduced a somewhat inflammatory resolution last week on the subject of the pending strike. But the North Dakota Senator prudently declined to press it in the midst of the public excitment occasioned by the flagrant outbreak of disorder in Chicago, preferring to wait until all forcible resistance to the Government had been put down before appearing in the Senate as an apologist and advocate of the principle that popular rights are invaded whenever striking workmen are forced to keep within the strict letter of State and Federal law.

Mr. Peffer made himself ridiculous to-day by urging the abolition of Congress and the delegation of all Governmental powers to a sort of committee of safety, with one member from each State, and by advancing other equally fantastic political views. Not fearing to rush in conspicuously where the crafty Mr. Kyle had hesitated to tread, he met the appropriate fate of the over-venturesome, for no sharper personal rebuke for the promulgation of anarchistic and inflammatory ideas has been administered in Congress for years than that which the Kansas Senator received to-day from his two indignant colleagues, Mr. Davis and Mr. Gordon. Mr. Davis's reply was especially noteworthy for its intensity and effectiveness, and, taken with his recent telegram to a Minnesota constituent, will go far to establish for him a most enviable reputation for sound patriotism and political courage.

LOYALTY IN THE SENATE.

THERE WAS LITTLE LEFT OF PEFFER AND HIS RESOLUTION.

Washington, July 10.—The Senate spent three hours to-day in debate upon the resolution offered Monday by the Populist Senator from Kansas, Mr. Peffer, looking to Government control of interstate railroads, the regulation of their freight and passenger rates, the fixing of the wages of railroad employes, the acquisition and operation (either by the Federal Government or by the State governments) of all the coal beds of the country, and to many other ideas of the Populist party. As was to be expected, the great railroad strike at Chicago was the chief topic in the debate. In a speech of over an hour and a half Mr. Peffer stated the case from the Debs or strikers' point of view, and laid all the blame for the outbreak on Mr. Pullman, whom he characterized as soulless, conscienceless and tyrannical. The cause of law and order and of the maintenance of free and unobstructed intercourse by railroad communication was championed by Senators Davis (Rep., Minn.) and Gordon (Dem., Ga.), both of whom denounced, in eloquent language, the position taken by the Kansas Senator, and the lawless acts of Debs and his followers. A substitute for the Peffer resolution was offered by Mr. Daniel (Dem., Va.), upholding and commending the official action of the President and his Cabinet; and then, after some remarks by Mr. Daniel and by Mr. Stewart (Pop., Nev.), the whole subject went over till to-morrow.

In the last two hours of the session the Postoffice bill and the House bill for the admission of Utah as a State were passed, the former with little friction and the latter without any at all; even without the yeas and nays being called upon its passage.

When the resolution offered yesterday by Mr. Peffer (Pop., Kan.) was laid before the Senate, the Populist Senator arose to speak. In view of the seriousness of the present situation he appealed to the Senators not only to be patient, but to listen to him, because, while he was not a prophet or the son of a prophet, or an alarmist, still he had frequently called the attention of the Senate and of the country to what seemed to be within the range of every ordinary man's horizon—that was to say, great public peril. The resolution which he had offered was made up, he said, of four or five distinct parts, all relating to one fundamental error, which the country had fallen into and which was that a few men here and a few men there had usurped governmental functions. And so his resolution began with the proposition that all public functions ought to be exercised by public officers.

A MAN NAMED DEBS.

What, he asked, was the situation in which the country now found itself? Every one understood that situation, and it only seemed necessary to ascertain the causes and to apply the remedy. A man named Debs, by reason of his being the official head of a great organization, had made a written statement of the condition of business, and it had been published generally in the papers. From that statement Mr. Peffer rehearsed some assertions as to the ill-treatment of the Pullman employes leading up to the great strike.

"And now," he said, "the trouble is at hand and the leader of that great corporation is off at the seashore, or the lakes, or the islands, or somewhere, refusing to entertain even a newspaper man, except to say that he has nothing to say. Heartless, soulless, conscienceless is this tyrant of tyrants."

Mr. Peffer spoke of several attempts made before the strike to have an arbitration with the Pullman Company, and said that when they failed the strike came; a general dropping of tools, a leaving of employment and a letting the railroad companies go ahead without their employes if they could. The object was, he said, simply to have the Pullman cars dropped. The men of the American Railway Union would not handle them, and in modern parlance a boycott was declared. It was not his purpose, he said, to argue whether that act was right or wrong. They were not at the point now. The situation confronted the Senate and it was its duty to deal with it. The railroad companies stood by the Pullman Company, let the results be what they might.

"Are you not aware," Mr. Hawley (Rep., Conn.) asked, "that the railroad companies have contracts with the Pullman Company by which they are bound to use the Pullman cars?"

"These men," was Mr. Peffer's answer, "have nothing to do with those contracts. The use of Pullman cars in interstate commerce is a mere matter of personal convenience. And I was delighted as well as surprised the other day at the distinguished Senator from Ohio, Mr. Sherman, offering a resolution for Congress to overhaul the Pullman car business. I was surprised and delighted at such a resolution coming from such a source at such a time. But we have no time now to talk about contracts between the railroad companies and the Pullman Company, and it is strange to see a Senator bringing in those contracts in connection with the great question which confronts us, more especially a Senator who has been the champion of American labor. From such friends may God save us!"

CONTRACTS MADE TO BE KEPT.

Mr. Hawley—The Senator ought not to misrepresent me. He talks about the railroad companies taking sides with Mr. Pullman. I know nothing of the kind, and I never knew anything of the kind. I called attention to the undeniable fact that there are certain things which under the law the railroad companies are bound to do.

Mr. Peffer—I do not wonder sometimes that there is a growing feeling against the political condition of things in Washington. I do not wonder that my friends write to me expressing the hope that the Senate shall be abolished. I wrote to one of them the other day, saying that I would vote for its abolition, and I would go further and vote for the abolition of the House of Representatives. I would favor the Government being confined to one man (not more than one) from each State. The fewer governors that we have in this country the better. At any rate, one man can do no worse than a few hundred men have done.

Then Mr. Peffer went on to speak enthusiastically of the grand spectacle that would be presented when all the workmen of the country stopped work, when all the life of the communities would be at an absolute standstill—like the silence of Sunday morning, when nobody would be at work, when everything would be paralyzed and inert. And that was, he said, what this thing meant to the American people.

"The time had come for employers to learn how to handle the situation, by fair treatment of their men, and if they could not do that, it was time for the people, in their sovereign capacity, to interfere and to say that the thing had gone far enough—to say 'Thus far and no further.'"

Mr. Peffer continued at considerable length. He criticised some sermons of Washington clergymen who described Populism as simply an incipient, ignorant and unorganized socialism, which arrayed the poor against the rich and the improvident against the provident, and the legitimate fruitage of which was mob violence. He was asked to name the clergyman whose sermon he criticised, and he gave the name of the Rev. Dr. Hamlin.

The Populist, Mr. Peffer declared, was the antipode of Anarchy. But the Church was "in the dark valley of the shadow of death, grovelling for light," and the men who were outside of it—as he was today—were asking that it be restored to that sort of Christianity which "the Master taught." Then he spoke of the modern tendency to teach the use of arms in the colleges, public schools, and even, he said, in the Sunday-schools, and he exclaimed passionately: "It is time that this militarism should cease. If I am asked what we are going to do when disputes arise between employers and employes, I would say, 'Keep your hands off.'"

PEFFER'S SAGE ADVICE.

"That is my advice—Keep your hands away from them. They will settle this thing themselves, and they will do it without bloodshed. They will do it without using the torch. They will do it without getting angry. They will do it justly, safely, wisely, promptly. The very instant you begin to call out the military arm in order to protect one side, and send the other to oppression, just so soon you arouse a spirit of animosity which cannot be quelled by force."

In closing he said that he would not ask action on his resolution, but he besought Senators to pay some attention to it, and to treat it in that conservative, statesmanlike way that would throw out to the people some intimation that the Senate would not turn its back upon them.

Then Mr. Davis (Rep., Minn.) rose and declared, in a manner which betrayed intense indignation, that he had heard with amazement and pain much of Mr. Peffer's remarks. He had supposed that, by common consent, it appeared to be the better course not to inflame the situation by speeches on either side, because even the most moderate language, at such a time, might be construed into intemperance.

"At a time," he said, "when, in the second city of the United States, and in the fourth or fifth city of the civilized world, order is suspended, law is powerless, violence is supreme, life is in danger, and property is in the very arms of destruction, I am amazed to hear the trumpet of sedition blown in this chamber, to marshal the hosts of misrule and further devastation."

It was not an issue, he continued, between the Pullman Company and its employes; it had got beyond that. It had got beyond the strike of the American Railway Union. The boycott had taken the liberties of the American people by the throat. From that it had gone on to riot, and from riot to an insurrection, which now confronted the country. And to-day, with all the dormant and latent powers of revolution threatening the country, the Senator from Kansas was advising the dismemberment of the Government and the abolition of the Legislative and Executive departments. He (Mr. Davis) spoke on this occasion with great reluctance. He would not say a single word to inflame the situation. But something had been said by the Senator from Kansas which demanded a reply, and that reply, to be efficacious, had to be immediate. He would speak in regard to the men more immediately engaged in the existing difficulties with the utmost moderation and kindness. They were misled and misguided men. But they were not the entire people. The Senator from Kansas had professed to speak for the people of the country, but those for whom he had spoken were the mob that had obtained control of a great strategic point.

Here Mr. Peffer interrupted, and said that he protested against being misrepresented.

"I decline to yield," said Mr. Davis, angrily. "The Senator speaks in behalf of a mob."

"He does nothing of the kind," Mr. Peffer broke in, "and the Senator from Minnesota knows it."

SENATOR DAVIS'S KEEN REBUKE.

"A mob," Mr. Davis continued, "of misguided men, which has seized by force a strategic point in the city of Chicago, paralyzed the means of intercourse, and stopped the supply of food over several States of the Northwest. The Senator from Kansas speaks of the rights of labor, and, in the abstract, I am with him. No one denies that there are before the American people, to be settled through legislation, vast questions as to the rights of labor and capital. Nobody denies that. But in this time of present exigency these questions cannot be settled. The Senator from Kansas has no word of reproof, not a single word of reproach, for the bloodshed that has been going on in Chicago for the last ten days, or for the millions of property that have been destroyed. The light of arson against the sky over that city has aroused in him no pang, and elicited from him no word of disapprobation. He insists that we must go back to the causes of the strike, to the dispute between Pullman and his men, and must arbitrate that, while everybody knows that we have got far beyond that transaction. The proposition is just as foolish as if some one, when the battle lines were drawn at Gettysburg, had insisted that the impending conflict should be withheld until Lee and Meade had argued, between the lines, the question of slavery in the Territories.

"Mr. President, the people are interested in this controversy—the whole people, I mean the entire body of the American people. I do not mean that judgment of the people, acting under a perverted idea, have sought, by force, to overthrow not only the functions of civilization and intercourse, but the very functions of government itself. The Senator from Kansas says that those instrumentalities should be controlled by the Government itself; and in that I agree with him. Are they controlled by Government officers in Chicago? Can the United States Marshal execute there the process of the courts? Does the great system of railroads on which interstate commerce depends operate? Not at all. It is interrupted at Chicago and Hammond, and it is replaced by riot, which has grown into insurrection. And the Senator from Kansas proposes to disturb the Government itself, and expresses the opinion that now is the time to annihilate the legislative and executive functions of the Government, and change its principle into that of a 'Committee of Public Safety' like that which existed during the 'Reign of Terror' in the days of the first French revolution. Mr. President, this whole proceeding, which has grown into a magnitude, which I have inadequately described, has come from the illusion that a fraction of society (useful in itself, of course) and indispensable, I admit, can, by force, dominate every other portion of the body politic. But, Mr. President, what is society? It is every member of it taken together. The railroad employes of the country number 750,000 or 800,000, indispensable, useful, valuable citizens in ordinary times, when not misled; but compared to the great mass of the American people, how few they are in numbers. Why will they not learn, and why will not their self-appointed leaders teach them the doctrine of a community of interest and of the interdependence of all upon the whole? Does anybody suppose that by burning cars, destroying property, disturbing securities, weakening credit, the employment of poor men is to be increased hereafter? Why, they are destroying the very thing from which they derive their nourishment, the very thing which they have helped to build; and they are doing it at the command of self-appointed dictators, who have put themselves at the head of their organizations. And people prate about liberty. The only liberty worth having in this country is the equal liberty of all men alike, liberty in its philosophical and common sense definition, the right of the individual to exercise the freest action, up to and not beyond that point where he infringes on the exercise of the like right of other men. Beyond that it is the destruction of the liberty of others by the more strong, and is a subversion of the very theory of the Republic. It is the return to primeval existence on the one hand, or, as an alternate, to despotism on the other."

THE PEOPLE INDIGNANT.

Coming to the question of boycotting, Mr. Davis put the case of others imitating that example. Suppose, said he, the butcher, the baker, the farmer, the grover declare each in turn, a boycott on those who had declared on them; and how instantaneously they would rise, and rise justly, in condemnation of such an act as that. The tide of commerce, he added, went on, calmly and deliberately, until it reached the barrier at Chicago. There was some disturbance on the Pacific Coast, but nothing to warrant the declaration of the Senator from Kansas in that connection, that he spoke for the people.

"The people," Mr. Davis exclaimed, "are, by private letters, by telegrams, in the public press and through the pulpit crying aloud in condemnation of this most wicked, monstrous and cruel attack on the very functions of our civilization; and the Senator from Kansas talks about putting this matter in the hands of the people. The people have taken this matter into their hands, through the constituted authorities. It is in the hands of the people in the highest sense of the term—the people of a free country, with laws which guarantee to every man the same right which every other man has, and no more. Who has conferred such authority on this man Debs? Where is his patent of right to say to the city of Chicago that it shall not be fed—to say to the people of the Northwest that they shall not leave their homes or shall not be able to get back to them if they are away? This Aladdin of a day, drunk with power, has unloosed agencies which he cannot chain, and set at work destructive forces which he cannot recall. It is a notorious fact that this violent action has drawn from the caves and dens of Chicago the vilest criminals, the idle and the vicious, the Anarchists. Everybody who is conspiring to put down modern civilization is now moving under the mark of this strike, and is taking life and destroying property in its name."

Mr. Davis argued that if such crimes as had been committed in Chicago against the United States had been perpetrated at sea, or on a United States vessel, they would be treated as acts of piracy, punishable with death. The authority of the United States in the matter could not, he said, be denied. It was the duty of the President of the United States to see that the laws were faithfully executed. He complimented "The New-York Sun" for an editorial article commending the President's action, and he sent it to the Clerk's desk and had it read as stating, better than he could himself, the patriotic duty of American citizens at such a time. He spoke of the resolution offered last week by Mr. Kyle (Pop., S. Dak.), and said it was an attempt to inflict on the country a blow as deadly as that which the dagger of Santo had struck in France.

In closing Mr. Davis said: "The ship of State, which two weeks ago was floating securely and proudly through untroubled waters, is now buffeted by contrary winds and hurled headlong over the waves of a tempestuous sea. I have not said a word about parties in this matter. I shall expect the Democrats, the Populists and the Republicans to join hands in this matter, so that a secure and peaceful rest may be obtained at last, after which the best efforts of the Executive Department of the Government will be exerted to bring about the only solution of the affair that can possibly be obtained."

MR. GORDON'S PATRIOTIC WORDS.

Mr. Gordon (Dem., Ga.) followed in a like indignant and patriotic strain. At a time like this, he said, when the peace of great communities was not only threatened but broken, when the law was openly defied, when a great central city (one of the first in this or any other land) had its homes threatened with a reign of blood and fire and terror; when civilization and the very form of government were heaving under the mighty groundswell of a great agitation, it seemed to him that any Senator who rose and appealed to party—as the Senator from Kansas had done—had descended very far from the lofty plane of statesmanship. What mattered it whether Senators were Republicans or Democrats? What mattered it on what side they had stood in the great American conflict of the past? They stood now, shoulder to shoulder, for the peace of the country, for the enforcement of its laws, for the support of its dignity, and for the perpetuation of the liberties of its people. He would not speak to such a subject from a Southern standpoint. It mattered not to him whether the woe which threatened Chicago be a Western, an Eastern, a Northern or a Southern woe.

It involved in its meshes the very life of the Republic, which was a republic of law, if it was a republic at all. And whenever the will of the people failed to support the law, the Government would be defunct. There was no government here except a government recognized and upheld by the free will of the people as a government of law—law sanctioned by the popular will—law to protect public property, private property and private rights—law to protect the workingman in his right to dispose of his labor and to sell it wherever he pleased; and whenever that right was impeded by Mr. Debs or Mr. Anybody-else, it was a defiance not only of the spirit that lay at the foundation of the institutions of the country, but it was the inauguration of a system of slavery not known in the past history of the Republic. There had been a time when the Southern master had the right to order his slave to desist from labor or to begin labor; but that institution had been recognized in the fundamental law of the land, and was wiped out in blood drawn from the veins of the Northern and Southern kindred. But there never had lived a man on this continent who had the right to order one of his own blood to cease from labor. Such a right was so preposterous, so utterly abhorrent to every thought which an American citizen ought to entertain, that it was impossible for him to treat it with any consideration whatever. He recalled, at no little pain and some misgiving, that wonderful prophecy of Lord Macaulay, that in some great public upheaval (like that which confronted the country to-day) the Republic would either lose its civilization through mob law, or, in putting down mob law by the strong arm of power, would lose its liberties. He did not believe it; but he confessed that if such doctrines as the Senate had heard to-day were to become popular, the people would have to pause and consider whether Lord Macaulay's prophecy was to be realized or not. He preferred to think, with Gambetta, that at such times all the liberty-loving people of the country would unite and save the Government, however much they might fight each other about politics. He stood here to proclaim, not as a Southern man, but as an American citizen (and he wished that his voice could reach every lawbreaker on the continent), that the men who wore the gray from 1861 to 1865 and who confronted the Stars and Stripes in that great conflict would be found side by side with the men who wore the other uniform, following that same flag in upholding the dignity of the Republic over which it floated, and every law upon the statute books. (General applause, which was renewed when Mr. Gordon, after some further remarks, resumed his seat.)

SENATOR DANIEL'S RESOLUTION.

Mr. Daniel (Dem., Va.) offered the following resolution as a substitute for that offered by Mr. Peffer:

Resolved, That the Senate indorses the prompt and rigorous measures adopted by the President of the United States and the members of his Administration to repulse and repress by military force the interference of lawless men with the due process of the laws of the United States and with the transportation of the mails of the United States, and with commerce among the States.

Mr. Daniel said he hoped that such a resolution, at such a time, might pass without opposition, without a dissenting voice.

Mr. Stewart (Pop., Nev.) got the floor for a brief speech, in which he concurred in the resolution, but drew an objection showing the cause of the strike, from which he passed rapidly to a discussion of financial affairs and to a plea for silver.

An effort was then made to get a vote on the resolution, but Mr. Gardner (Rep., N. H.) asked that it go over until to-morrow. Under the rule, this was done, although his colleagues sought to have him withdraw his request.

TROOPS NEED ONLY THE WORD TO MOVE.

There was no news as to the movement of United States troops given out yesterday at the Army Building or on Governor's Island in addition to the statements made two days before. The officers stationed at Governor's Island say that there is no probability of any troops being ordered from the immediate vicinity of New-York. General Howard's officers have made complete arrangements for rapid and prompt transportation to the West of any troops which may be ordered from the Department of the East. If more regular troops are needed it is thought that the garrisons at David's Island and Fort Adams, Newport, will be the first ordered for active duty.

DEBS'S RECORD ON ARBITRATION.

THE LABOR LEADER WHO NOW DEMANDS IT REFUSED IT FROM THE GREAT NORTHERN LAST APRIL.

From The Chicago Inter Ocean.

When did Mr. Debs become a convert to arbitration? Early in April of this year he ordered a strike on the Great Northern Railroad. The company had gone over schedules with the chiefs of all the old organizations of labor represented in the road, and the men were taking a vote on these when Mr. Debs ordered the strike. After this strike had been in force for two weeks the American Railway Union and a committee of employes on a strike sent a message to President Hill asking for a conference. President Hill will look this reply.

"The company is always ready to receive and hear its employes or their representatives on all matters affecting their relations with the company."

Vice-President Clough, of the same road, said at the same time:

"The company has stated time and again that it is always ready to hear its employes who have grievances. The men know this."

Mr. Debs and the American Railway Union refused to submit to arbitration the differences between the company and the men. Governor Nelson, of Minnesota, and the Boards of Trade of Minneapolis and St. Paul repeatedly tried to have the differences arbitrated. President Hill expressed his willingness for such arbitration, because he had been the first railway president to suggest this plan of settlement. But arbitration would not recognize Mr. Debs and the American Railway Union. Debs wanted a conference because that would place him on the same footing with Chiefs Arthur, Sargent and Clark, of the Engineers', Firemen's and Conductors' brotherhoods.

President Hill agreed to the conference, and met the thirty-three members of the American Railway Union and the Grievance Committee of the employes in St. Paul, April 26. Mr. Hill announced at this conference his willingness to arbitrate, but the American Railway Union demanded as the first condition that the road grant all the demands of the men for a renewal of the wage schedule in force prior to last August.

That was Mr. Debs's manner of meeting an offer of arbitration at St. Paul. He had successfully tied up the Great Northern road, and he refused all offers of compromise not dictated by himself and his union. He then placed himself in just the position he now claims the Pullman Company is in.

THE BOASTINGS OF DEBS.

From The Railway Age and Northwestern.

When E. V. Debs was at Dwight, Ill., taking the Keeley cure for drunkenness he used to brag much to his fellow-patients of what he was going to do some day for the workingmen of the country. I was talking recently to a man who was at Dwight at the same time as Debs (Debs "graduated" on March 10, 1892)—but who differs from Debs in having refrained from drink without backsliding since then—and he told me much that was interesting of the style of Debs's talk at that time. It was scarcely the talk of a sane man, and, in the light of recent events, it seems not unreasonable to believe that as a result of his years of drunkenness, with the added strain of the Keeley treatment and the still greater strain of his subsequent relapse into drinking (if all reports are true), Debs's mind has been affected and that he is not sane. Debs, when in his cups or when talking confidentially to his fellow-patients at Dwight, has never made any secret of his ambitions, which were not to win for any one class of workingmen or for workingmen as a whole any especial scale of wages or any particular kind of treatment from their employers, but simply to put the working classes in control of the government of the country. This, of course, has been the scarcely veiled object of the present strike. It has not been a strike of any given orders or classes of employes against a certain number of employing corporations; it has been a strike of the lawless elements against constituted society—a revolt of Anarchy against law. It is not difficult to see how a man—and especially a man whose mental vision was distorted by drunkenness—might dream dreams of the possible success of such a movement under the right conditions. Where Debs's line of thought seemed to have shown the characteristic indications of insanity is in his ridiculous miscalculation of means to ends, his amazing misunderstanding of what were the "right conditions," and his incredible folly in believing that on such a pretext as that on which the present strikes were inaugurated, he could win any reasonable measure of the sympathy of the large neutral mass of the public, without whose sympathy success in any revolutionary movement is hopeless.

LEADERS ARE A-TALKING

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY NO. 49, K. OF L., SAID TO WANT A STRIKE.

MAYOR GILROY, SUPERINTENDENT BYRNES AND GENERAL FITZGERALD IN CONSULTATION AT THE CITY HALL—SAMUEL GOMPERS STARTS FOR THE WEST.

The labor leaders of this city are talking vigorously and holding conferences and arranging for mass-meetings and passing resolutions and denouncing monopolies and expressing their sympathy—but they are not striking, nor are they getting ready to strike. They would strike if the occasion arose, for they profess to be enthusiastic adherents of the cause of labor, and sympathize with Debs, but they have no grievance themselves, and every personal consideration urges them not to engage in any Quixotic crusade. The hard times have drained the treasuries of some organizations, and many union men are in no position to throw up their jobs and weekly wages, no matter how much such a step might benefit the cause of organized labor. In fact, there are a great many loyal union men in this city who stand in the greatest dread of a strike. They are hoping and praying for the sake of their wives and children that they may not be called upon to give up their means of subsistence. These men can be depended upon to favor conservative action at the present time. They do not dare to speak openly against a sympathetic strike for fear of being accused of disloyalty, but they are doing a heap of thinking.

The Executive Board of District Assembly No. 49, Knights of Labor, held a special meeting last night at No. 8 Union Square. The meeting was called by District Master Workman McCaddin. He told a Tribune reporter that he had not heard from Mr. Sovereign; that he did not believe the general master workman had issued an order for a general strike, and that the meeting had nothing to do with it. He said later, however, that a sub-committee had been appointed last night to see the leaders of the seventy-four local assemblies comprising the district assembly, and the members of it were then hurrying about the city to have everything in readiness for a strike, if it should be necessary. The men, he said, were wild to go out. The arrangements would be so perfected before this morning that 18,000 men could be called out in twenty minutes.

WILL M'CADDIN WINK HIS EYE?

The district assembly comprises local assemblies from Newburg to Staten Island and from Glen Cove to Newark, and embraces workmen of all kinds of trades. Mr. McCaddin said that his local assembly, No. 2,228, which is made up of pressmen and feeders, would stop work as soon as he winked his eye, as he expressed it. He had received information that a number of small local assemblies in the district had gone out without waiting for orders, on hearing of the call for the board meeting last night. He could not be persuaded to give the names.

The Master Workman said that people did not realize the strong feeling that prevailed among the men upon the subject. It was all the executive committees could do to hold them in. The committee was acting with as much conservatism as possible. He had no doubt that the men would strike at once, if called upon. It would depend upon the report of the committee sent out last night whether No. 49 should be called together to take decisive action. What he said left no doubt as to what the report would be.

THE LIMIT OF SOVEREIGN'S POWER.

Mr. McCaddin said further that Mr. Sovereign had no authority to order a general strike. He could only suggest to the different district assemblies the advisability of striking. It would then be put to the vote of the delegates of all the local assemblies, and if they approved, then the Executive Board of the district assembly would empower the district master workman to call out the men. In anticipation of such a suggestion from the general master workman, the arrangements for getting the men in line were being made.

No decisive action was taken last night. The subcommittee was out until almost daylight this morning, and the Executive Board remained in session until a late hour. There was a full meeting, and as far as could be learned only one sentiment was expressed, and that was in favor of a strike.

MR. GOMPERS STARTS FOR CHICAGO.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, started for Chicago last night by way of the New-York Central Railroad. He will make the Briggs House his headquarters in Chicago. He will meet the Executive Council of the Federation at noon on Thursday. One of the other great brotherhoods will certainly have a representative at the conference, and negotiations have been pending to have other great brotherhoods represented. Mr. Gompers admitted this much in a guarded way.

There is no doubt that the greatest pressure has been brought to bear on Mr. Gompers and the Federation to induce them to join the strike. Mr. Gompers has so far yielded to the request for aid to call this council together, and as it is known that he is in sympathy with the strikers, the outcome of Thursday's conference may have serious consequences.

Mr. Gompers said that he did not believe that the backbone of the strike was broken. He said that the refusal of Mr. Pullman to arbitrate was proof that he was wrong. He refused to say what the conference in Chicago would do, except to say that an attempt might be made to bring order out of chaos, which might mean anything.

Chris Evans, the secretary of the Executive Council of the American Federation of Labor, accompanied Mr. Gompers to Chicago. They expected to meet William Warden, the executive member from Boston, at Albany. John B. Lennon, the treasurer of the council, will go to Chicago this morning. He remained in the city last night to attend the mass-meeting at Cooper Union.

Mortimer O'Connell, who said that he was at the head of a street railway organization in this city, criticised Mr. Gompers yesterday. He said that Gompers's trip to Chicago was a farce, and that the Federation couldn't order out 5,000 men. Mr. Gompers said that O'Connell and his organization were too insignificant to talk about. There was no organization of any size among the street railway men in this city.

A CONFERENCE AT THE CITY HALL.

When the news of General Master Workman Sovereign's order, calling upon all Knights of Labor to go out, reached this city, Mayor Gilroy sent word to Superintendent Byrnes and Brigadier-General Louis Fitzgerald, commanding the First Brigade of the National Guard, and asked their presence at the City Hall without delay. Both the summoned officials hastened to meet the Mayor, and a consultation of nearly an hour's duration was held in his private office.

It was decided at the conference not to make any public announcement concerning the arrangements made for maintaining order in this city, but it is understood that there is no question that the civil and military authority in New-York is fully prepared for any emergency which may arise. Neither the Mayor, the Superintendent nor General Fitzgerald apprehend any serious trouble, but it is well known that general preparations have been under way for several days. An entire spirit of confidence in the ability of the city to repress disturbances was felt and expressed.

Mayor Gilroy, after the conference was over and General Fitzgerald and Superintendent Byrnes had left the City Hall, said, in answer to inquiries made by a Tribune reporter:

"I do not think it wise to say anything upon this subject now. It is not a time for talk, and I must decline to express any opinion connected with possible phases which the strike may assume.

"You may say, however, that there is no occasion whatever for the citizens of New-York to become alarmed. Peace and good order will be maintained, and the rights of all citizens will be guarded and protected."

POLICE AND TROOPS TO CO-OPERATE.

There is little question that the conference prepared the way for perfect co-operation between the police and the military, should disturbance of the peace make this necessary. Disorder will be quelled without delay should it show itself. There will be no interference with the rights of the workingmen nor will interference with the rights of other citizens be permitted.

Permits for mass-meetings of the labor unions will not be refused and they will be allowed to meet and discuss affairs just the same as if there was no strike. But acts of violence will be promptly and vigorously dealt with. The authorities are determined that no such scenes as have been enacted in Chicago shall be repeated in New-York.

THE MAYOR TO STAY IN THE CITY.

Mayor Gilroy has taken rooms at the Waldorf, and will remain in town at night until the danger is over, ready for consultation with officers of the municipality and the National Guard, should the emergency arise. General Fitzgerald went to Seabright as usual last evening, but he will return to the city early this morning and will remain in town for the present. The field and staff and the officers and men of the various militia regiments, batteries and other commands have been requested to postpone their vacations, so as to be ready for the call of duty.

ORDERS TO INSPECTORS AND CAPTAINS.

After the conference with Mayor Gilroy and General Fitzgerald, Superintendent Byrnes returned to his office at Police Headquarters, and gave some orders, which were transmitted to the inspectors and captains, but he declined to say anything about the talk at the Mayor's office. He said that it would be a pity if many men in this city foolishly obeyed an order to engage in a sympathetic strike. There were enough idle men in the city now, he thought, and another strike here would only add to the destitution and helplessness of many families.

The police will keep a sharp lookout for any acts of violence if there is a sympathetic strike in the city, and men who make the least attempt to incite riotous conduct will be dealt with as they deserve. The aid of the National Guard probably will not be needed to stop any disturbances which might follow a strike in the city, as the police will bring out their formidable night-sticks and disperse any crowds that may gather in the streets. It is believed by the police officials that there is not a place in the city big enough to hold a crowd that a battalion of police armed with "locusts" and revolvers could not put to flight in a short fight.

A POPULISTIC POINT OF VIEW.

The Populists have an organization in this State, although probably thousands of voters know of them here only as a name. W. J. Ghent, a member of the State Committee of the People's party, told a reporter yesterday what the Populists of this State think about the strike: "It is only the beginning of the end," he said. "The whole thing will be a great victory of the People's party. At their last convention the A. R. U. almost unanimously indorsed the platform of the People's party. If Debs had been supported as he ought to have been by the brotherhoods, it would have been the greatest strike in the history of this country. Owing to jealousies among the organizations, the strike has not been unanimous. In any case, the result will make great political capital for the People's party, especially in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Kansas. Senators Peffer, Allen and Kyle and Congressmen Simpson and Pence have expressed the sentiments of the Populists."

Joseph Barondess, of the Cloakmakers' Union, when asked as to the refusal of Mr. Wickes and Mr. Pullman to arbitrate, said: "A man who refuses to arbitrate is always on the wrong side. When an attempt is made by the military to compel people to do what Mr. Pullman and other capitalists want them to do, they should refuse to do a single stroke of work until they compel Mr. Pullman and the capitalists to do as the people want them to do.

"If the strike is ordered among the Hebrew workmen they will all quit work inside of two hours."

"Do you think that there is less prospect of a strike to-day than yesterday?" was asked.

"No; there is more prospect to-day. If all the A. R. U. men were out there would be no need of a general strike, but now that the men of the A. R. U. are beginning to weaken in places, there is more need of a general strike. This strike will do the cause of labor more good than any previous strike has done, whether we win or lose. It will show capitalists that the rights of laboring men must be respected."

Harry White, auditor of the Amalgamated Association of Garment Workers, said that the refusal of Mr. Pullman to arbitrate gave the people an idea of Czarism.

WHAT THE "NATIONALIZATION OF LABOR" IS.

H. R. Salisbury, Editor of "The XXth Century," a member of the Socialist Labor party, who fed the Coxeyites when they passed through New-York and who was counsel for Sweetland, the "general" or "corporal" or whatever he was who commanded them, said that there was no solution of the present question except the "nationalization of labor."

"What does that mean?" was asked.

"Such a condition that the Government would be compelled to furnish work for every man, and give every man a living."

"Isn't that Utopian?"

"I have the greatest faith that it will be realized when the people get more intelligence."

"Would you have the country still open to the hordes of Europe? Would the Government owe these hordes a living?"

"Certainly."

The committees of the Central Labor Union, District Assembly No. 49, Knights of Labor, and Typographical Union No. 6 met again last night at No. 28 Lafayette Place, and perfected arrangements for the mass-meeting which will be held to-morrow night at Cooper Union. They will hold another meeting to-night.

The Miscellaneous Section of the Central Labor Union met last night at Clarendon Hall, East Thirteenth-st., and adopted resolutions, reiterating the expressions of sympathy made by the union for the Western strikers.

The Atlantic Coast Seamen's Union received on Monday night a letter from Debs, the irrepressible one, thanking them for their expressions of sympathy and offers of assistance.

FEW DELAYS ON THE GREAT LINES.

RAILWAY MEN HAVE LITTLE FEAR THAT THE STRIKE WILL EXTEND EAST.

Railway men seem now to feel convinced that there is no possibility of the big strike extending as far East as this. They feel that the vigorous measures taken by the Federal authorities have disabused the strikers of certain ideas they had, and convinced them that Uncle Sam is an ugly old gentleman when he is ruffled. Almost all trains are arriving on time, and there are no evidences of the strike at the different railway stations in this city and Jersey City. Most of the fears of trouble at Buffalo have disappeared, and railway men here look for a speedy settlement of the vexatious delays to traffic.

Late on Monday night the Pennsylvania road received at Jersey City from Chicago ten carloads of general merchandise which had been fifteen days on the way. No beef has arrived over this road from Chicago since the strike became so great. One hundred and fifteen carloads of live stock and twenty cars of dressed beef from points in Pennsylvania came in on Monday, and 125 cars of live stock arrived yesterday from local points. The last bulletin received by the general freight master of the Pennsylvania road was that the embargo on perishable goods from points east of Toledo and from Cincinnati, Cleveland, Englewood and St. Louis was raised yesterday. The first section of the St. Louis express on the Pennsylvania road, due in Jersey City at 3:22 p. m., arrived on time yesterday. The second section was one hour and forty minutes late. This train brought members of the National Educational Association, and carried twelve Pullman cars. The Chicago limited train on the same road, with six Pullman cars, was four hours late. All other trains were on time.

Alfred Walter, general manager of the Erie, said that the road was doing better in both passenger and freight departments than on any day since the beginning of the strike. It was moving both passengers and freight in and out of Chicago without trouble. No apprehensions were felt in regard to a strike at Buffalo.

All trains on the New-York Central road were running on time, and the officials at the Grand Central Station had not changed their opinions as to a possible strike at Buffalo. They thought there was no probability of one.

General Horace Porter, one of the vice-presidents of the Pullman Palace Car Company, was seen yesterday. He said he had no news from Pullman, and was inclined to be reticent about the strike. The general agent of Wells, Fargo & Co. here said that the business of the company in the West had been suspended since June 26. Freight was now taken at owner's risk, subject to delays, if it was prepaid. The strike had caused great inconvenience to the company.

The general superintendent of the Western Union Telegraph Company said that the strike had increased their business.

Frank P. Dwyer, Eastern passenger agent of the Chicago and Grand Trunk Railway, which is the Chicago connection of the Grand Trunk Railway, has been informed by his general passenger agent, W. E. Davis, that they have been running their regular passenger trains, and that he can resume the sale of tickets to Chicago.

The general agent of the Denver and Rio Grande is in receipt of the following dispatch from the general office in Denver: "Strike off. All trains running regularly between Denver and Ogden. Have notified all connections to resume sale of tickets as far west as Ogden."

HOW IT AFFECTS THE HOTELS HERE.

Many Western people who intended to go home before this are still at the hotels in this city, waiting for