



HOPE OF COAL PEACE. HARMONY AT MEETING.

Operators Impressed by Mitchell's Statement, Says Truesdale.

The conference between President Mitchell and the anthracite scale committee with the operators took place yesterday in the rooms of the Trunk Line Association in the Jersey Central Building, at 1:30 p. m., and lasted until about 3 p. m. The session was harmonious and President Truesdale at the close said the operators were impressed with Mr. Mitchell's statement of the miners' grievances. A peaceful settlement is now hoped for.

Before the conference began there was an informal talk among some of the presidents of the companies on the seventh floor of the building. At the conference with the miners the following represented the companies: George F. Baer, president of the Jersey Central Company, who also represented the Philadelphia and Reading Company; W. E. Truesdale, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad; David Wilcox, president of the Delaware and Hudson Company; E. R. Thomas, president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad; Thomas P. Fowler, president of the New-York, Ontario and Western Railroad, representatives of the Pennsylvania and Erie Railroads and other minor representatives of the companies. The representatives of the independent operators were W. L. Connell, Frank Pardee, J. L. Calk, E. B. Jermyn and J. Shepard. Mr. Jermyn is a proprietor of the Old Four Mines, of Scranton, where 1,200 miners are on strike.

After the conference the following joint statement was given out:

There was a full representation of mine operating companies and miners. The meeting was called to order with Mr. Connell in the chair. Mr. Mitchell addressed the meeting, giving in general terms the propositions desired by the miners, stating that the same had not been entirely formulated in detail. After a brief discussion it was concluded that the miners and mine operators should each appoint a committee to represent them in the future in reference to the matter, the committee to consist of seven members each.

The committees of seven are as follows: For the operators, George F. Baer, president of the Jersey Central Railroad; W. H. Truesdale, president of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad; John B. Kerr, attorney for the New-York, Ontario and Western Railroad; David Wilcox, president of the Delaware and Hudson Company; Manager Williams of the Pennsylvania Railroad; E. R. Thomas, president of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, and J. L. Calk, one of the independent operators. For the miners, John Mitchell, president; John Fahy and George Hartline, president and secretary of District No. 9; W. H. Detry and John F. Gallagher, president and secretary of District No. 7; and T. D. Nichols and J. T. Dempsey, president and secretary of District No. 1.

Most of the members of the scale committee were on hand in the corridors of the building some time before Mitchell came down. Mitchell left the Ashland House about 12:30 p. m., accompanied by District President Nichols. Beyond the joint statement issued Mitchell had nothing to say. It was generally believed that the representatives of the mine workers wanted to exercise a little caution before they presented the schedules of demands, in order to find out the temper of the operators, and the speech of Mitchell, it was said, was conciliatory. The operators were not willing to discuss what they thought of the demands.

President Truesdale of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad said:

"Until we have formulated lists of the demands we can say nothing. It may be a week or ten days before we hear from the miners, and we expect communication from them when they formulate their demands. The conference was harmonious and the meeting was impressed by the statements of Mr. Mitchell as to the grievances."

"When we have anything to give out," said President Wilcox of the Delaware and Hudson Company, "we will not hesitate to talk, but until we know the demands of the miners we cannot say what stand we will take."

He was asked if his letter to Mitchell, which afterward was endorsed by the other presidents of coal carrying companies, did not indicate the stand to be taken.

"I do not want that letter to be misunderstood," he said. "It was my opinion as an individual, and was not an ultimatum. We have not said our last word, and there may be several conferences before we say it."

Mitchell left the meeting room first, accompanied by several district presidents, and the rest of them followed him to the Ashland House. In reference to the Ryan resolution, passed at the national convention, by which, if the soft coal miners went on strike, the anthracite miners would also strike, Mitchell had nothing to say. It was given to be understood, however, that this resolution was not intended as an ultimatum, and could be rescinded if the anthracite miners and the operators came to terms.

Mitchell denied a rumor that he had called a meeting of the national executive committee to repudiate this resolution. He said that the miners committee of seven will begin at 9 a. m. to-day to formulate the demands.

GIVES LIE TO MITCHELL.

Patrick Dolan Arouses Ire of Pittsburgh Delegates.

Pittsburg, Feb. 15.—When the Pittsburg miners' convention resumed its sessions to-day President Patrick Dolan made a caustic address to the delegates, replying to the letter of President John Mitchell, which was read to the delegates yesterday by National Vice-President Lewis. President Dolan said in part:

I want to say that Mitchell's statements in his letter are barefaced lies. He claims that the statement in the newspapers last Monday was not written by me. I most emphatically say that it was I charge Mitchell with sending national board members into the Pittsburg district to try to defeat me. He says that the delegates at Bellingham will be candidates for re-election, however, and will go before the miners for a vindication of our vote at Indianapolis. President Dolan, in conference with the anthracite operators, no matter if they were willing to pay the miners \$10 a day, Mitchell could not sign an agreement with them until he called the national convention together.

I want to go on record by saying that the present wage scale is the best the miners ever had, and we did not get it by selling out to the operators. John Mitchell and W. D. Ryan are not the only men in the country who understand the industrial situation.

Following President Dolan's remarks there was much disorder among the delegates. A majority of them took exception to the manner in which Dolan referred to President Mitchell and the

S.P.C.A. MEETING GAGGED. STORM FALLS ON HAINES.

Members Charge "Packing" and Promise More Trouble.

The adjourned meeting of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, held yesterday afternoon, was the stormiest session yet held and broke up in disorder, with many of the members accusing John P. Haines, president of the society, with "packing" the meeting and preventing the further consideration of charges of mismanagement against the society.

The adjournment came immediately after a hotly debated resolution offered by Miss J. C. Irwin Martin, vice-president of the Toy Spaniel Club, that "no more evil reports and unfair criticism be considered," which was seconded by Commodore Kane. This resolution caused a storm of protest on the part of the members who are trying to bring before the society grave charges of mismanagement, with a view to effecting reforms. The adjournment was made to the next annual meeting, to be held in January, 1907, and with the exception of a few changes in method, leaves the plans of the members without action. It also defeats the object of the reformers of the society.

But, while they are temporarily beaten by the supporters of Mr. Haines, they are to carry on the fight with even greater vigor. Among the members who seek a consideration of the many charges against the society, are several members of the board of managers, and they expressed themselves loudly and vigorously on what they termed a highland proceeding. Some of those who openly charged Mr. Haines with "packing" the meeting and gagging the members, were Mrs. Cadwalader Jones, General Rush C. Hawkins, John H. Iselin, Leonard E. Opyke, Richard Welling and E. R. Wharton. Mr. Wharton said: "This fight has only begun."

Mrs. Jones, when the meeting ended, addressed Mr. Haines as follows:

Mr. Haines, the time will come when you will be very sorry for the friends you had here to-day.

One of the most excited of the protesting members was Bertrand F. Bell, who, shaking his finger within a few inches of the president's face, declared loudly:

"Yes," broke in Mr. Iselin, "he packed this meeting with employees of the society, and if he wants to fight we'll fight. Just wait until the next board meeting."

"And I," shouted another to the pale executive head of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, "have been with you before this, but you packed this meeting and I am now against you."

General Hawkins likened the meeting to a 6th Ward Tammany convention.

Those who are informed said last night that the result of the meeting meant either the wholesale loss of members or the removal of President Haines by the board of managers at their next monthly meeting in March.

There was an unusually large attendance when President Haines called the meeting to order. Many had been attracted to the meeting by the proximity of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Building, at Madison-ave, and 28th-st., to Madison Square Garden, where some of the members are exhibiting dogs at the Westminster Kennel Club bench show. Among those there were Bishop Coadjutor David H. Greer, Evert J. Wendell, Herbert L. Satterlee, Mrs. Herbert L. Satterlee, daughter of J. Pierpont Morgan; the Rev. Percy S. Grant, Colonel Alfred Wagstaff, F. D. S. Bethune, Colonel Joel B. Ehrhardt and Gordon Knox Bell. Bishop Greer did not remain long at the meeting.

As the members entered the meeting room they observed twelve men seated in a semi-circle near the chairman's table, but none seemed to recognize them. They were acquainted with one another, however. One of them wore a blue flannel shirt, while the others, too, appeared in sharp contrast to the known members. The spokesman of the mysterious dozen wore a silk hat—brushed the wrong way—and sack coat. Their presence aroused an immediate suspicion, and before the meeting had progressed far they were regarded by the whole roomful as "floaters."

When on the rollcall on a motion the name of John Attridge was reached it was found to have a red ink line drawn through it, which meant that his dues had not been paid.

"I seen the treasurer," he said, when his right to vote was questioned. His membership card was requested and produced.

"Did Mr. Haines pay the dues?" asked Mr. Wharton.

The excitement that prevailed throughout the meeting began immediately after it was called to order.

Mr. Iselin was requested by the chairman to act as secretary pro tem. Mr. Haines announced that the secretary would read the minutes of the previous members' meeting, held on January 25, Mr. Bethune, who in the absence of John Knox Mason acted as secretary at that meeting, jumped up and said: "You are in error; the minutes are here," holding up a bundle of typewritten sheets.

"What the secretary has," he continued, "are merely a number of resolutions adopted at the meeting. These minutes are voluminous, but ought to be read for the information of members who were not present."

"Hand them to the secretary," said the chairman coldly, "and they will be read."

Mr. Haines then asked Frederic R. Couderc to take the chair, and offered the resolutions taken into consideration by the board of managers at a meeting last Thursday, which were passed at a joint meeting of that body and a members' committee. The board adopted several resolutions, some of which meant a decided victory for the members fighting for reforms.

Resolved, That in the next and all future published reports of the society, full details of the income and disbursements of the society's funds be given.

Resolved, That such reports include the certificate of some reputable firm of certified public accountants at least once in three years or as much oftener as may be required in the judgment of the board.

ACCOUNTANTS' LETTER.

A letter was then read from Haskins & Sells, expert accountants, who examined the accounts of the S. P. C. A. It was addressed to Mr. Haines, in reply to a communication by him, who called attention to the fact that wide publicity had been given to statements that irregularities had been found in the books of the society. These statements, the president said,



JOHN MITCHELL. President of the Miners' International Union. (Photograph copyright, 1906, by Underwood & Underwood.)

FRANCE STANDS FIRM.

"Temps" Says Private Efforts at Algiers Are Useless.

Paris, Feb. 15.—The semi-official "Temps" this afternoon says the time has now come "for a public discussion before the Algiers conference, with Europe and America as witnesses of France's good intentions."

The paper further asserts that private efforts among the delegates to induce France to retreat from its position are henceforth useless, adding:

"It is now for the assembled conference to decide whether, as Germany contends, France's claims are irreconcilable with the integrity of Morocco, the sovereignty of the Sultan and commercial liberty."

The foregoing is the first indication that France does not desire to pursue any further the efforts which Ambassador White, the Marquis Visconti Venosta and other representatives of neutral powers are making for a private accord before the controversy reaches the conference.

NO CHANGE AT ALGECIRS.

Algecirs, Spain, Feb. 15.—The situation of the Franco-German controversy over the vital points of the proposed Moroccan reforms remains unchanged, although a feeling prevails among the delegates that some decisive step is not far off. They are particularly cautious just now, in view of the alternate waves of optimism and pessimism, and of the fact that the inability thus far to reach an accord does not warrant overconfidence.

MR. WHITE DENIES RUMOR.

London, Feb. 16.—A dispatch to "The Daily Telegraph" from Algecirs says:

Mr. White, United States Ambassador to Italy and one of the American delegates to the Algecirs convention, informs me that the rumors that the United States will arbitrate the differences between France and Germany are absolutely imaginary. As I understand the matter, in the event of a failure to reach an understanding Mr. White thinks it would be best to terminate the conference rapidly.

PRIEST'S THROAT CUT.

Supposed "Black Hand" Plot—Lynching Threatened.

Wilkes-Barre, Penn., Feb. 15.—The Rev. Charles Palducek, rector of St. John's Slavonian Catholic Church, at Freeland, near here, was attacked to-night by an unknown assailant at the priest's door, who cut his throat and struck him on the head. Father Palducek is still alive, but unconscious.

The intense excitement among the parishioners causes the authorities to fear a lynching. The police believe the attack was the result of a "Black Hand" plot.

OFFICERS AND SUPPLIES FOR EAST.

Major General Weston May Command in Philippines in Case of Trouble.

San Francisco, Feb. 15.—The transport Sherman sailed to-day for Honolulu, Guam and the Philippines with 100 cabin passengers, a few troops and 400 tons of military supplies. Among the passengers were Major Generals Brooke and Weston, the latter going to Manila under sealed orders. In army circles it is surmised that the latter should be ordered to China.

Colonel William S. Patten, who for some time has been quartermaster of the Department of California, also sailed on the Sherman, to assume a similar position in the Department of the Philippines.

LYNCHERS LOCKED UP.

Lexington, Ky., Feb. 15.—Thirty men are in jail at London, Laurel County, and four women are under guard charged with being implicated in the recent lynching of Virgil Bower, a negro. Their friends threaten to attempt a rescue, and the feeling is so strong that troops may be called out to preserve the peace. Bower murdered George Farris, a wealthy logging man, whose father is one of those arrested for taking part in the lynching. The situation is critical.

PENNSYLVANIA AFTER TWO-CENT FARE.

Columbus, Ohio, Feb. 15.—The General Assembly of Pennsylvania is evidently preparing to follow Ohio in the regulation of steam transportation of passengers. A Pennsylvania legislator has written here for a copy of the Freiner law, enacted last week, which fixes the rate to be charged for carry-week, which is on steam railroads in this State at two cents a mile.

HENDRICKS TO RETIRE.

Is Not a Candidate for Reappointment, Governor Announces.

Albany, Feb. 15.—Governor Higgins announced to-night that Superintendent Hendricks of the State Insurance Department did not want a reappointment. Who his successor will be the Governor is not likely to decide until the Armstrong report has been presented. Superintendent Hendricks is likely to hold over.

James McKeen and Matthew C. Fleming, both of whom worked in the insurance investigation, have been mentioned as possible candidates for the place. Neither's candidacy has been presented formally to Governor Higgins. One story has it that Cuthbert W. Pound, the Governor's counsel, may be appointed until the Governor can select some one to take the place permanently.

The exact date of the expiration of Superintendent Hendricks's term was fixed to-night by the Governor at noon on February 11, twenty-four hours after the anniversary of his taking the oath of office. When asked as to whether Superintendent Hendricks would be reappointed, Governor Higgins said:

In what conversations I have had with Superintendent Hendricks I have been led to believe that Mr. Hendricks at no time in the last year desired a reappointment. He is seventy-one years of age, and feels that his physical condition would not warrant him in accepting a reappointment, even if I desired to select him for another term.

Superintendent Hendricks has made no request of me for a reappointment or for delay in action or for the appointment of any one in his place. I think that he feels that many of his acts have been misconstrued by the press, and he is sincere in the belief that he has discharged his duties with fidelity, integrity and to the best of his ability. He took the place originally with reluctance and he accepted a reappointment reluctantly.

The Governor was asked if he would appoint Superintendent Hendricks's successor at once. He replied: "I cannot answer you definitely. At the present time the field from which to select a candidate is more limited than it will be after the legislature has disposed of the insurance legislation, because comparatively few men will consent to be candidates before they know what that legislation will be and what conditions it will create in the State department."

"Are we to infer that the criticisms have induced Mr. Hendricks to take this attitude toward another term?"

"Oh, no; that had nothing to do with it," replied the Governor.

DR. VAN HISE IN BLAZE.

Head of University of Wisconsin Near Death Fighting Fire.

Madison, Wis., Feb. 15.—President Charles R. Van Hise of the University of Wisconsin, a well known geologist, narrowly escaped death this morning in a fire at the Parkview mansion, across the street from the president's home. Dr. Van Hise was one of the first on the scene, and, aided by several college students, made a desperate effort to extinguish the flames.

He climbed to the peak of the high roof and was still there trying to put out the fire coming through the roof when it was found that the entire attic underneath was aflame.

President Van Hise and his student assistants barely fled out of the store. The woman's cries of the building fell into the furnace underneath.

BRUTAL ASSAULT IN JEWELRY SHOP.

Thug Attacks Saleswoman with Iron Bar, and Is Captured by Police.

Mrs. Anna Ferenstein was brutally assaulted on the head in a jewelry store at No. 317 Broome-st., yesterday afternoon. The police of the Eldridge-st. station arrested Arthur Smith, who lives at the Salvation Army Hotel, Chatham Square, as her assailant. She was taken to the Gouverneur Hospital in a critical condition. It was said at the hospital last night that she had a slight chance of recovery. Smith entered the store and said he wanted to buy a diamond. While Mrs. Ferenstein was showing him some rings he pulled a short iron bar from his coat and hit her on the head. He then dashed out of the store. The woman's cries attracted a policeman, who caught Smith after a long chase.

MAJOR'S DAUGHTER TRIES SUICIDE.

Los Angeles, Feb. 15.—Mrs. Gertrude Hamilton Howard, daughter of the late Major R. H. Pond, gashed her wrists with a razor and jumped from a second story window to-day while laboring under the delusion that her family was disgraced. She is now dying in the county hospital. Mrs. Howard is the granddaughter of Captain E. C. Ross, of Augusta, Orono, Palm Beach and Miami, New-York offices, Nos. 71 and 128 Broadway.—Adv.

PUNCTUATION.

Characterizes the Southern's Palm Limited. Luxurious in all appointments make the Southern Railway the favorite route to St. Augustine, Alton, Augusta, Orono, Palm Beach and Miami. New-York offices, Nos. 71 and 128 Broadway.—Adv.

CACERES WILL RESIGN.

TO ORDER AN ELECTION.

Sanchez, Here Incognito, Will Ask American Supervision.

General Ramon Caceres, who became president of Santo Domingo recently, when President Morales was exiled, will, according to trustworthy information, resign the Presidency shortly and order an election for the office.

General Caceres was Vice-President when President Morales fled from the capital a few months ago.

Juan Francisco Sanchez, who was Minister of Foreign Affairs and who fled to Porto Rico, came to this city incognito about ten days ago, it was learned yesterday, and has been living at the Hotel America, on East 15th-st., near Union Square.

Señor Sanchez left this city for Washington on Wednesday night to confer with the State Department. His mission to this country is in the interest of General Juan Isidro Jimenez, ex-President of Santo Domingo, who is now in Porto Rico, and who seeks re-election as President of the Dominican Republic. Señor Sanchez will ask the State Department that the United States take charge of the coming election for President, so that there may be a fair count. It is expected, however, that General Caceres will be re-elected.

Señor Sanchez was in this country about two years ago on a diplomatic mission from his government in connection with the Santo Domingo treaty which bears his name.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Juan Francisco Sanchez, late Minister of Foreign Affairs of Santo Domingo under the Morales administration, called at the State Department to-day to see Secretary Root, but was unable to see him. He says he is here on a mission for Morales, which he cannot discuss until the mission is accomplished. He has written to Secretary Root asking for an interview with him.

A report of further disturbances in Santo Domingo reached the War Department to-day from Colonel George R. Colton, Collector of Customs, in the following dispatch:

Local disturbances reported in vicinity of Dabon, Monte Cristi district, caused by smugglers. Disturbances not political and of no general significance.

EXPRESS HITS "EMPTYIES."

One Boy Killed—Several Seriously Injured in Boston.

Boston, Feb. 15.—The Pacific express on the Boston and Albany division of the New-York Central system, which left the South Union Station at 8 o'clock to-night, was wrecked in the Huntington-ave. yard, about a mile from the terminal. One person was killed, five were seriously hurt and several others sustained minor injuries.

The accident occurred at a point where the railroad widens from a two track to a four track road and was caused by the express "side swiping" a train of empty passenger coaches at a switch. Frank Otterson, engineer of the express train, supposed that he had a clear track, as according to his statement made after the accident, the signals indicated no danger.

The police and a number of ambulances were rushed to the scene. The most seriously injured were taken to the Massachusetts General Hospital.

At first it was not known that any one had been killed, but when the police and train hands searched the wreckage of one car they found the body of Melke Jonassen, a Swedish boy, who arrived on the steamer Ivernia to-day and was bound to a town in Illinois. Most of those injured were immigrants on their way to the Western States.

BROKERS FAIL FOR \$300,000.

Wilmington Firm's Assets Put at \$100,000—Speculation Alleged.

Wilmington, Del. Feb. 15.—The failure of H. L. Evans & Co., bankers and brokers, in this city, was announced to-day. The liabilities exceed \$300,000. The assets are said to be about \$100,000. Unfortunate investments and speculation on the part of the firm are given as the causes of the failure.

The firm, which was one of the leading brokerage houses in Wilmington, comprises Henry L. Evans and his brother, John H. Evans. The failure was not made known until the close of the stock market, when it was announced that H. L. Evans and his wife, Mrs. May Evans, and John H. Evans had assigned all of their real and personal holdings to John H. Danby. Financial institutions in Wilmington hold the firm's paper to the total amount of \$100,000. The largest liabilities are the accounts of customers, they ranging from \$100 to \$25,000.

James W. Ponder, attorney for the firm, made a statement to-night in which he said the firm lost heavily through the failure of customers to make good their accounts.

CHICAGO BANK FAILS.

Charges Against President and Officials of New Institution.

Chicago, Feb. 15.—The Bank of America, incorporated last December, with a capital stock of \$250,000, was placed to-night in the hands of a receiver by Judge Chytraus, of the Superior Court, on complaint of John E. Kavanagh, a stockholder. The bill asking for the receivership holds former Judge Abner Smith, president, and three other officers of the bank responsible for the alleged insolvency of the institution.

In the few weeks since the opening of the bank President Smith is charged with having so manipulated securities, mortgages and notes and the stock of the bank that he has obtained amounts aggregating \$148,000. The three other officers who in connection with President Smith are held responsible for the alleged insolvency of the bank are G. F. Sorrow, vice-president; Jerome V. Pierce, cashier, and F. E. Creelman, a stockholder and director.

The operations of Smith and the other officers are said to have begun before the bank opened for business. Judge Smith is said then to have borrowed money and placed it in the treasury to deceive the State Auditor into believing that the stock had been paid up.

INDIAN NAMED FOR WEST POINT.

Benton Harbor, Mich., Feb. 15.—Paul Knapp, a half-breed Indian, of this city, whose mother was a daughter of Chief Peter Pokagon, of the Pottawatomie tribe, has received an appointment to enter West Point. Knapp was formerly a student at Haskell Institute, and receives his appointment through being recommended to President Roosevelt by Indian Commissioner Leupp. Knapp is nineteen years old.

FLORIDA'S FAMOUS TRAINS.

"N. Y. & Fla. Special." 2:10 P. M. "Fla. & West Indian Ltd." 3:25 A. M. Unexcelled service, via Penn. & Atlantic Coast Line, 1:15 P. M. N. Y. Adv.

RATE BILL DEADLOCK.

WORK TO BREAK IT FAILS.

Mr. Knox May Draft an Amendment Which Will Bring Harmony.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Notwithstanding the somewhat discouraging situation in the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce over the Railroad Rate bill to-day, the judgment of Republican leaders in the Senate is that when Senator Knox returns to the city, in a few days, he will draw up an amendment providing for judicial review which will bring Senators Dooliver and Clapp into line with the other Republicans of the committee.

After a forenoon spent in unavailing efforts to come to an agreement on an amendment providing for judicial review the committee adjourned to meet again to-morrow, when voting on the clauses of the bill and the amendments may begin. The failure to take action to-day was due primarily to uncertainty as to the position of Democratic Senators, which can only be developed by actual rollcall in committee. Senators Elkins, Aldrich, Keen, Foraker and Crane were ready to agree on a judicial review amendment. Senator Cullom was absent and unpaired, and Senators Dooliver and Clapp were opposed to the amendment. That accounted for the Republicans.

Of the Democrats it was hoped that Senators Foster and McLaughlin would favor review, but they were holding off until the Republicans should make a show of strength. To-morrow's votes will demonstrate whether there will be a combination between the Democrats and Dooliver and Clapp, or between Foster and McLaughlin and the majority of the Republicans.

Three propositions will be presented to the committee to-morrow, in case it is decided to press the issue to final vote. It is possible, however, as was said in these dispatches yesterday, that the issue may be postponed until next week. These propositions are:

First—That the Democrats will agree with the Republicans on the court review amendment, and report the Hepburn bill to the Senate with the understanding that other amendments may be voted on in the Senate.

Second—To report the Hepburn bill to the Senate without recommendation and settle all questions of amendment in open contest in the Senate.

Third—The possibility—so remote, however, as to be exceedingly unlikely—that the Democrats and Dooliver and Clapp will vote to report the Hepburn bill without amendment.

When the tired and perplexed Republican leaders left the Capitol this evening after a day spent in fruitless conferences and much speculation as to the outcome to-morrow, they admitted that the situation was more uncertain than it has appeared at any time since the Hepburn bill came over from the House. They were utterly unable to forecast to-morrow's action.

The Democrats are holding the key to the situation. There were renewed rumors to-day that they may decide to seize whatever partisan advantage there appears to be, and present a solid front, to the discomfiture of the Republicans. There was further talk of the Democrats trying to agree on a bill of their own—which, however, was admitted to be a decidedly remote contingency—and leave the Republicans split on the judicial review amendment to the Hepburn bill. In that event there would be two, and possibly three, reports from the committee, throwing the entire question into the Senate, with a prospect of a long debate.

The Democratic leaders in the Senate were persistently asserting to-day that the Democratic membership of the committee, despite the reported attitude of Messrs. Foster and McLaughlin in favor of the court amendment, is in thorough discipline and subject to concerted party action. It was declared by these leaders that if the Republicans raise a party issue in the committee the Democrats will stand together and wage a contest along partisan lines.

If, however, the Republicans can agree among themselves on a bill whose principal features are acceptable to the Democrats, there will be a division on minor amendments. That was interpreted by the Republicans as being a general statement, concealing an intention on the part of the Democrats to follow whatever course may seem to be most embarrassing for the Republicans.

The bill will come before the Senate in some form, crude or perfected, early next week, and then will be subject to general amendment.

DIVISION IN COMMITTEE.

How Lines Are Drawn on Court Review Feature.

Washington, Feb. 15.—Agreement to vote on a railroad rate bill to-morrow in the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce is an issue that neither faction on the question of judicial review of orders of the Interstate Commerce Commission seems inclined to force. Neither knows the strength of the other, and unquestionably the Democratic members of the committee are the balance of power. Neither of the Republican factions has issued a formal statement setting forth the differences, but the Democrats in an authorized statement from Senator Bailey have made it clear that "an adequate bill" must be reported or the minority will have a measure of its own. In this statement, however, it is admitted that the Democrats are divided on the question of judicial review.

The members of the committee insisting on an amendment to the House bill—Senators Elkins, Aldrich, Foraker, Keen and Crane—do not believe the amendments providing for any change in the court features of the bill can be voted on to-morrow. Senators Dooliver and Clapp, the champions of the House bill in its present form, are not disposed to insist upon a vote. They desire to have Senator Cullom paired against amendment, but the conservative faction will not permit this. If the vote is postponed Senator Cullom may return to Washington before it is taken. Different reports are circulated concerning his position, the conservatives admitting that he is against an amendment that would suspend an order of the commission pending a review by the courts, but insisting that he is not opposed to a more moderate amendment.

The positions will be outlined clearly to-morrow, even though a vote is not obtained.