The Sun.

THIRTY-EIGHTH YEAR. NEW YORK, FRIDAY, MARCH 3, 1871. PRICE TWO CENTS.

WHO THE FIRST TO STARVE?

THE MINERS SCOUTING THE MONOPOLISTS' PROPOSALS.

No Hope of a Speedy End of the Strike—The Miners' Vote to be Taken on Arbitration—The next General Council to Declare the Result—Meantime What?

Correspondence of The Sun.

MAHANOY CITY, March 2.—The Grand Council of the Workingmen's Benevolent Association for the anthracite region concluded its work at half-past two this afternoon, and adjourned *sine die* at the morning session a resolution was introduced deploring the present condition of affairs, and providing for the appointment of a committee of one from each county to elect a like committee to be appointed by coal operators to arbitrate matters of difference between the miners and the operators, the two parties to choose a disinterested umpire, and his decision to be final. The proposition was met with manifest symptoms of disapproval, and was openly opposed by a majority of the talking delegates. The argument was that the Council had already declared for the basis of 1869, and that it would accept nothing else. There was therefore nothing left to arbitrate. To pass the resolution would be merely for the Council to stultify itself. It would also indicate a wavering disposition, and give the operators encouragement to hope that

THE MEN WOULD COMPROMISE.

The advocates of the resolution, finding the sentiment of the Council decidedly against it, proposed an amendment, that the question be referred to the County Boards. This was voted down by a decided majority. The main resolution was then rejected by 11 to 16. Subsequently, a resolution was adopted by a close vote, calling upon the several districts to take a regular vote of the members on the question of arbitration or no arbitration, the result to be certified through the County Boards to the General Council at a future meeting. The Committee appointed last night to report

THE RATE OF WAGES

earned in the different counties submitted a partial report as follows:

Schuylkill county by contract, breastwork per yard, $10; per wagon load, $1.50, at reduction of 6¼ per cent., $8.97½c., and $1.19⅛ reduction o'16⅔ per cent., $8.35 and $1.08⅓. Reduction of 24⅔ per cent. $7.52½ and 98c.

Lentz & Bowman, miners, average at Boss's wages $2.25 per day, powder, oil, and tools at these prices to be found by the miners; time work on the basis of $3; miners $14 a week; inside labor $19; outside labor $11, at a ¼ per cent. Reduction $12.84½, $11.01, and $10.03¼ at 16⅔ per cent.; reduction $11.69, $10.02, and $9.19⅛; at 24⅔ per cent., $10.53½, $9.03, and $8.29¼.

Northumberland county at basis—Miners $15 per week, inside laborers $12, outside $11; no report of contract work.

Luzerne county, Wilkesbarre region, at basis—Miners $15 per week, inside laborers $13.50, outside $10.50; no report of contract work.

Wyoming region, at basis—Miners $16 per week, inside $13.5, outside $12; no report of contract work.

Lehigh region—Miners $16, inside $13.20, first-class, outside $12, second-class $10.50, third class $9; no report of contract work.

Carbon count.—Miners $16, inside $13.20, outside $13.75, first class $11.90, second-class $10.90; contract work 37 cents for wagon of 48 cubic feet, when coal is $5 at Port Carbon.

EXPLANATION.

The above is computed on a $3 basis: 8⅓ reduction, means coal at $2.75 at Port Carbon; 16⅔ reduction, means coal at $2.50; 21⅔ reduction, means at $2.35. Contract work has not touched the latter figure during the past year, and therefore these rates have not been paid. The report was continued to make a more complete report at a future meeting.

A committee of three was also authorized to ascertain the average amount of coal produced by each miner in the different localities during the past year. A committee of three was also authorized to keep before the public the workingmen's side of the pending controversy. More of these committees were announced by the President. The rest of the session was occupied in the disposition of business relating exclusively to the organization.

MR. SLOAN ON THE SITUATION.

The Suffering in the Mining Region—How Long can the Miners Fight the Great Railways?—Who is Responsible?

A reporter of THE SUN yesterday called upon Mr. Samuel Sloan, President of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, to learn his views touching the absorbing coal question. He found Mr. Sloan busy in his cosy office at 26 Exchange place; but on making known the object of his visit the reporter was courteously received, and was soon in the midst of an interesting conversation on the topic of the hour.

Mr. Sloan—I think there can be but little doubt that the present trouble is due entirely to the mischievous machinations of the men who lead and control the movements of the Miner's Associations. Their course is all of a piece. When coal was up to a high figure they did not refuse to work, but as soon as it came down to a certain point a suspension was ordered, and now hundreds of men are out of employment in the mining region, the equipment of the railroads is idle, and the

WHOLE COUNTRY IS IN A TURMOIL.

Reporter—But the miners lay the blame at the door of the carriers. They charge that their pay has been reduced, and that they are kept idle by the exorbitant tolls charged by the railroad companies.

Mr. Sloan—The wages of the miners went down with the price of coal. But allow me here to correct a false impression that has taken hold of the public mind in regard to miners' wages. The papers have led the people to believe that under the $3 basis of 1869, miners received but $12 and $14 a week. Now, very few miners work by the week. At least 75 per cent. of them cut coal by contract. Those who receive weekly wages do only enough work as cannot be contracted for, and this is but a small portion of the work to be done. On the basis I speak of and under the $3 basis, few miners received less than $4 a day. Many make $6 and more, working only seven and eight hours a day. In 1869 the Workingmen's Benevolent Association fixed the scale of weekly wages under the $3 basis, at $10, $11, and $14. Last year the wages of miners in August, September, October, November, and December averaged $2.92, $4.11, and $5.29 per diem, a correct deal more than is paid the employees of the railroad, who have not so many

HOURS OF REST.

Reporter.—How is it, if the Workingmen's Benevolent Association is so impetious, that it fixed the weekly wages so low?

Mr. Sloan—Simply to prevent men from working by the week. Here is a paper containing a section of their by-laws, which says:

"No member of this Association shall be allowed to take more than one contract, nor shall any member that takes a contract be allowed to employ a miner at day's wages."

Reporter—Then you think the question of wages has but little to do with the strike.

Mr. Sloan—The miners want all they can get, of course. But considering the rate of wages in all other departments of labor, and the present state of business throughout the country, do you not think they are well paid for seven and eight hours' work a day? It is wrong that these few men should cripple the business of the country as they are doing. The whole of the anthracite region is closed. All the great mineral wealth that should be in use is lying idle in the bowels of the earth, only because a handful of men

CONTROLLED BY DESIGNING LEADERS,

see fit to throw down their tools and refuse to work. At our meeting in Philadelphia the other day there were several iron manufacturers, some of whom declared that they would let their mills rot before they would yield to the whims and caprices of these unreasonable men.

Reporter.—What do you think of Gov. Geary's stand?

Mr. Sloan—I think the Governor was very judicious; to say the least. If he had talked to both parties and counseled moderation, and advised a settlement of the difficulties by compromise, no one could find fault. But he has ostensibly taken the part of the miners, has identified himself with them, without giving due attention to the claims of the operators. This will give him

VOTES, I PRESUME.

Reporter—Are the miners unanimous in regard to the propriety of their present stand?

Mr. Sloan—They follow their leaders. About 20,000 are now in idleness, and the families of many of these are suffering. If the Workingmen's Benevolent Association had adhered to the basis agreed upon last November between the Committees of the Anthracite Board of Trade and the Workingmen's Benevolent Association, and kept at work, there would have be no difficulty. The miners's business would have been good, and the spring trade would now be opening, with 20,000 miners at work, and their families above want.

Reporter—Under what basis was the agreement made?

Mr. Sloan—Under the basis of $3 as a minimum.

Reporter—Why do you propose to lower the basis?

Mr. Sloan—In the spring of last year the price of coal fell, and the effort was made to so alter the basis as to have it decline as well as advance with the market.

Reporter—Do you think there is any danger now of a

SCANT SUPPLY OF COAL?

Mr. Sloan—I do not. I think the danger of coal famine and high prices is about over. We have heard a great deal about the terrible scarcity in coal, but the highest price charged thus far has been only $12 50. The only real sufferers have been the poor, who purchase by the bucket.

Reporter—Have you much coal in your hands?

Mr. Sloan—A very small quantity. Our coal is generally sold to arrive, and we seldom have any on hand except of odd sizes.

Reporter—How do you think the trouble between the operators and the miners will end?

Mr. Sloan—That is hard to say. The miners cannot hold out forever, and but for the mischievous demagogues who have controlled them, I have no doubt that thousands would have resumed work long ago. The terms offered them are fair, and they know it; but the laws of their tyrannical Association compel them to drop work

WHEN THE WORD IS GIVEN.

In the Delaware and Lackawanna region there is a great deal of unnecessary suffering among the women and children. The men are idle, they have no credit, and their condition is pitiable in the extreme. For the sake of humanity, I hope they will soon come to their senses, and not only relieve their own distress by going to work, but by the same act aid in restoring the numerous industries their stubbornness has crippled. Their insane course has already cost the country millions of dollars, and if they persevere in it there is no telling what evils may follow. It is well for the rights to encourage the workingmen to protect and defend them from

INJUSTICE AND OPPRESSION,

but in a case like this, in which 20,000 workingmen are manifestly in the wrong, it is worse than folly to let the agitation. Now that the injustice is on the other side, and when a few thousand wayward men are really oppressing the whole country, the papers should tell the truth, and lay the blame where it rightfully belongs.

PLENTY OF COAL.

Rumor that the Miners of the Luzerne Region have Resumed Work—What a Capitalist Says about the Strike.

A despatch was received late last night at THE SUN office, saying that the miners of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Road (the Luzerne region) had offered to go to work independent of the Workingmen's Benevolent Association. The despatch added that it was impossible to obtain particulars on the spot.

A reporter hastened to the residence of Mr. Saml. Sloan, in West Seventeenth street, to inquire into the truth of the rumor. Mr. Sloan had heard nothing about it, and gave it as his opinion that if it were so he would have been informed by telegraph. Still he thought that there was some likelihood of the men giving in, but advised that no importance be attached to the rumor. He said that he wished with all his heart that it were so, and believed that the men must

SOON RESUME WORK,

independent of the Workingmen's Association.

"Wouldn't this have the effect of greatly lowering the price of coal, if true?" asked the reporter.

"Most assuredly," answered Mr. Sloan. "There is no reason why coal should have reached the present prices. I understand that $12.50 is the highest that has been asked in this city per ton; but it has never been warranted; and as for charging the poor who purchase by the bushel at the rate of $30 per ton, it is an outrage. There is no excuse for this panic which has been oppressing the poor, except the extortion of the middlemen, who are benefited by the rise. There is plenty of coal in the city; and I have been informed by the Delaware and Hudson Company that they have a large quantity of coal stored at Rondout which they will be able to bring down to the city

AS SOON AS THE RIVER OPENS.

I see, too, that a boat has reached Tivoli, so that the city will have all the coal it wants in a day or two."

"Yes, sir," continued Mr. Sloan, "the companies and the railroads have been blamed for this thing; the press has abused them, and the people have taken up the cry. But it is the miners only who should be censured. A great principle is involved in this strike. They have what they call a "basis" in the Schuylkill region for regulating the payment of mining labor. If the price of coal goes up they demand an increased percentage; if it goes down the percentage is decreased—to a certain limit. When the percentage reaches a certain low point they refuse to take less, no matter how much below the corresponding price per ton the coal may go. They immediately

STOP WORK,

and cannot be induced to resume it until the scarcity makes the price of coal go up again, and the percentage with it. This is way coal becomes dear; this is the reason of these miners' strikes.

"It is not the companies nor the railroads who are responsible for the distress brought upon the poor by the high price of coal. The railroads have been censured for running up the rates of freight, but the miners by their action compel them to do so. They have large expenses, and if the quantity of coal passing over their routes becomes decreased, they must put the rates up to make the carrying pay. It is not the question of a few dollars which is involved in this contest between the coal companies and the miners; it is

THE GREAT PRINCIPLE

whether we who own the lands and mines, are to have our work stopped and our millions of capital lie idle for months whenever our workingmen wish to dictate to us new terms of payment. We, of the Delaware and Lackawanna Company pay our men regular rates of wages and have always refused to submit to the "basis" which rules in the Delaware and Hudson and the Pennsylvania Coal Companies. Some other men agreed to hold out if our men would support us, but they got the basis too; but we will never submit to it. The men will have to give in and then coal will be as plenty and cheap as ever. It will require only a few days to settle this result about; and as for the rumor about its having taken place already, I would, if I were you, give it only little credence, because I myself have heard nothing at all about it.

ANOTHER TURN OF THE SCREW.

THE SUN learned yesterday, through a letter from the Philadelphia Coal Company to a leading dealer in New York, that on Monday next coal miners and consumers are to be suspected to another squeeze. Mr. Frederick B. Gowan, President of the Reading and Columbia Railroad, has given notice that on and after the 6th inst. $2 more a ton is to be added to his present prohibitive tariff. This will make the freight charges $6.25 on the main line, and $3.05 on lateral roads. Mr. Gowan takes this action as an offset to the resolution of the Grand Council of W. B. A., that they will stand firm for the basis of 1869, and not permit the transporting companies to regulate their scale of wages. The Philadelphia Coal Company have announced their intention to ship no coal after Saturday next. They say that the miners will not resume work this month.

THE SHANTY MURDER.

A Cold Blooded Murderer Discharged Because the Witnesses of his Crime have Disappeared—Beauties of the Law.

In the latter part of August, 1869, James Wood returned one night to his shanty with a friend named Burns, both considerably under the influence of liquor. They determined to make a night of it. They procured some music and prepared for a dance in Wood's hut. After midnight Wood had some words with his wife. They quarrelled. He chased her from the shanty, struck her in the face with his fist, and in the head with a broomstick, and so brutally beat and kicked her that she died a few days afterwards in Bellevue Hospital. At the Coroner's inquest three witnesses were examined, and all positively testified to the murderous conduct of Wood. Mary Devine heard the pitiful cries of Mrs. Wood, and saw her husband strike her in the face. She also saw her fall into the shanty of a man named Clarke. A more positive and material witness yet was one William Mulligan, another resident of one of those miserable huts. He swore at the inquest that he saw Wood kick Mrs. Wood after she had fallen into Clarke's hut. He saw her almost lifeless body removed to her own shanty, and saw Wood kick and choke her while lying nearly insensible on the floor, and even strike her on the head with a stick while in that condition. Some of the other occupants of neighboring shanties heard her cries of murder, and one or two saw her dying condition on the following morning.

Of all the witnesses examined at the inquest not one, save the policeman who arrested Wood and the doctor who made the *post mortem* examination could write. From time to time Wood's trial has been deferred, until at last it was placed on the calendar yesterday. This was done, not with the view of trying him, as the prosecution have been unable all along to procure the attendance of witnesses, and was obliged to consent to his discharge. Mr. Sullivan, the Assistant District Attorney, explained to the Court the utter impossibility of finding the witnesses, who, he said have been searched after for three days by the officers, in a final effort to find them. He should therefore move the prisoner's discharge. Wood, who has been confined eighteen months, looks haggard and miserable enough. He is about forty years of age, and possesses a repulsive countenance. The stifling character of the shanty pestilence saved him from the gallows.

The Lyons Obsequies.

At a large meeting of colored citizens last night in Bethel Street Hall, a general committee was appointed to make arrangements for the funeral of the Hon. Senator Lyons on the 12th inst., consisting of Col. G. H. Griffin, F. A. Pennoyer, Dr. Bass, David Sands, G. A. Conover, Col. E. Hawkins, Maj. J. I. Rankins, John C. Sanchez, Capt. J. B. Walker, Adjt. W. B. Mansfield, Francis Lewis, and Lieut. David A. Tripp.

LIFE IN WASHINGTON CITY.

THE CLOSING SCENES OF THE FORTY-FIRST CONGRESS.

Jersey City Snubbed—The Senate and House Fight Over the Income Tax—A Commission on Southern Loyalists' Claims—Gen. Howard Acquitted.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—At the request of Senator Brownlow, the House bill providing for the collection of debts due from Southern railroads, and for other purposes, was taken up and passed. It authorizes a compromise and settlement of the pending suits on account of Government property sold to railroads in Tennessee.

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER (Rep., Mich.) the House bill creating Jersey City a collection district and constituting Jersey City a port of entry, was indefinitely postponed.

The Cincinnati and Southern Railroad bill was read a second time, and then laid over for a final reading to-morrow.

Mr. SCOTT (Rep., Penn.), from the Committee of Conference to which was referred the question at issue between the two Houses as to the right of the Senate to originate a measure repealing the income tax, made a report that the Committee had failed to agree; advising the Senate to adhere to its position, and stating that no further conference is necessary. The report was ordered to be printed.

The Deficiency Appropriation bill was passed.

The Senate insisted on its amendments to the army and naval appropriation bills, and appointed Committees of Conference. On the army bill, Messrs. Cole, Thayer, and Blair; on the naval bill, Messrs. Sprague, Cragin, and Stockton.

Mr. MORTON (Rep., Ind.) offered a resolution, which was adopted, calling on the President for any information communicated by the legation at Constantinople relating to restrictions on the passage of the Straits of Dardanelles and the Bosporus by ships of other nations.

The Fortification Appropriation bill was taken up and passed without amendment.

THE RIVER AND HARBOR APPROPRIATION BILL was then taken up. Pending its consideration the Senate went into Executive session.

House of Representatives.

Mr. WASHBURNE (Rep., Mass.) reported a bill, which was passed, to provide for a Board of three Commissioners for the examination of claims of loyal citizens of the late rebel States for stores or supplies taken or furnished during the rebellion for the use of the army, including the use and loss of vessels or boats while employed in the military service of the United States. The Commission is to exist for two years, and is to make a report at the commencement of each regular session of Congress to the Speaker of the House, who is to lay the same before Congress for consideration. The Commissioners are to have $5,000 a year and necessary and actual expenses of travel, and are to have a clerk and a shorthand reporter at $2,500 each, and a messenger at $1,200, who are to accompany the Board.

The Senate amendments to the Army and Navy Appropriation bills were, now concurred in, and a Committee of Conference ordered. Messrs. Dickey, Beck, and Logan were appointed.

THE INCOME TAX REPEAL BILL DEFEATED.

Mr. HOOPER (Rep., Mass.) moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill repealing the income tax. Rejected—yeas, 91; nays, 116. The result was received with laughter.

A resolution [illegible] of the charges preferred against them in connection with the Freedmen's Bureau, and commending the policy pursued toward the enfranchised people of the South was adopted—131 to 52. A strict party vote.

Mr. DAWES (Rep., Mass.) from the Conference Committee on

THE LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATION BILL,

reported that the Committee had not been able to agree. He said the Senate had adopted 103 amendments to the bill. The amendments which the Committee were unable to agree upon were: raising the salaries of the judges; erecting a new State Department building, which includes a proposition to make a splendid park, taking in all the public grounds from the Capitol to the White House, and a proposition to extend the Capitol grounds north and south, at a cost of $500,000, but which would not fall short of $1,000,000; raising the salaries of all the Assistant Secretaries, the Second Comptroller, the Register, all the Auditors, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Librarian, Architect of the Treasury Department, all the Assistant Postmaster-Generals, and the Commissioners of the General Land Office, of Pensions, of Indian Affairs, and of Agriculture to $4,000 a year.

Mr. BANKS (Rep., Mass.) represented the necessity for a percentage of decrease—to a certain limit. When the percentage reaches a certain low point they refuse to take less, no matter how much below the corresponding price per ton the coal may go. They immediately

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Officers for the New House.

WASHINGTON, March 2.—Contrary to the general expectations of a week ago, the business of the session is now likely to be entirely wound up by Saturday.

The High Commission and the Japanese Embassy were in the galleries of both Houses to-day. Both Houses will probably remain in session all to-morrow night in order to enable the bills to be engrossed and signed, and get ready for the President's approval on Saturday morning. So far remarkably few private bills of any kind have been passed, and the House, though somewhat noisy, is running out pretty rigidly under per legislation.

It is generally believed that Speaker Blaine will appoint Judge Kelley, Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and the fact there is no opposition to it from any respectable source, as he is universally conceded to be best fitted for the place of any of the prominent men in the next House.

The House bill to reject the duty on coal will not pass the Senate this session, as it cannot be reached. All the remaining time will be directed to the appropriation bills.

The Republican caucus to-night with great harmony selected the officers of the present for the next House. On Speaker, Cauplain, Clerk, and Doorkeeper there was no opposition. For Sergeant-at-Arms the vote stood: Ordway (incumbent), 76; Stokes, 20; Herron, 22. On Postmaster: King (incumbent), 55; Sherwood, 29; Jones, 15; Hawkins, 17; second ballot—King, 67; Sherwood, 27; Jones, 11; Hawkins, 12.

The Democratic caucus was held this evening in the old Hall of Representatives, Fernando Wood in the chair. A ballot for Speaker resulted in the nomination of Mr. Morgan of Ohio. Mr. Cox of New York and Mr. Getz of Pennsylvania were the other candidates. James G. Barrett was nominated for Clerk; Nicholas Sunburg, Sergeant-at-Arms; Oliver Therne, Doorkeeper; Benton Giles, Postmaster; and Ignatius T. Cooper, Chaplain.

Mrs. Mansfield Lawler's Mother in Trouble.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2.—Considerable scandal has been occasioned by the discovery that the County Clerk was short in his account $6,500. He loaned the funds to the mother of Mrs. Mansfield Lawler, who has attained to notoriety in New York. The money not being returned, the Clerk raised half the amount and paid it over to his bondsmen, who now have a receiver appointed to take charge of the receipts, pending a final adjustment of the affair.

THE PRINCE OF SWINDLERS.

Louis M. Van Eeten again before Judge Hackett—His Extraordinary Detection—He Pleads Guilty—The Honest Recorder Hackett to Fix him To-day.

The elegant forger, Louis M. Van Eeten, whose various exploits have been so fully described in the columns of THE SUN, was again brought up yesterday to be tried, in the General Sessions, on one of the indictments for forgery which was found against him in June last. On the 24 of that month a man named Josiah Ferris sold a $100 United States bond to Messrs. Fisk & Hatch, and received for it, with the accumulated interest, a check payable to the order of J. Robinson for $113. Ferries was suspected and followed by a detective and seen to pass something to Van Eeten, whom he met by appointment a few blocks away. The detective then followed Van Eeten to Barclay street, got into the same car with him, and saw him go into a house in Thirty-Fifth street. For two or three days after, detectives followed him as regularly as his shadow; saw him go to a house in Thompson street into a drug store, and to different places down town. As soon as they thought there would be sufficient proof to obtain a legal conviction, they arrested him and found the identical check given to Ferris, in the lining of his hat, only altered from $113 to $7,000.

His counsel at first suggested his intention to proceed to trial, and with this intention began to interrogate a jury that had been empanelled, to discover whether they had read the papers and formed any opinion of his guilt or innocence. All those on the panel were accepted but one, and he, being a broker, was challenged peremptorily.

The jury was then sworn, and Mr. Fellows briefly stated the facts of the case, as he expected to prove them. The first witness was called, and as he was being sworn Van Eeten's counsel, ex-Judge Stuart, said his client would plead guilty. The plea was entered and the jury withdrawn.

At the earnest request of his counsel, who stated that the distinguished criminal desired a little time to give some directions as to his wife's jewels, sentence was deferred until to-day. The Recorder, as he granted the request, remarked that he thought Van Eeten had abandoned his wife. There are now two indictments to which he has pleaded guilty, thus giving the Court the right to send him to Sing Sing for ten years. The amount realized on one of Van Eeten's forgeries was $77,000; but he says he was only the "broker" in that instance.

THE CROMBEN SKELETON.

Domestic Misery Revealed—The Remarkable Letter that was Read in the Common Pleas—A Divorce or a Term in Jail.

An application was made in the Court of Common Pleas yesterday on an order requiring Rachel Heilbrun and others, the plaintiffs in a suit against James M. Crombert, to show cause why the latter should not be discharged from imprisonment. Crombert is a son-in-law of one of the plaintiffs, and the bitter, as is alleged, took up three notes whose signatures it is alleged are forgeries of the plaintiff's name. They amounted to about $2,800. Since the notes were taken up, it is claimed that Crombert has had a disagreement with his wife, who is the plaintiff's daughter, she having left him and returned to her family and the family now have him arrested on the charge of forgery.

Mr. Fullon, on behalf of Crombert, claimed on the motion that the case of fraud did not come within that class in which arrests may be made. The recovery could be made only as a debt, if at all.

Mr. Charles S. Spencer contended that the proceedings were regular. He said,