The Sun.

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THE MINERS' CONVENTION.

ORGANIZING AN ASSOCIATION FOR MUTUAL PROTECTION.

Advocating a Combination of all Workingmen Against the Grasping Greed of Monopolies—Disclaiming any Purpose of Beginning a Strike—Equal and Just Wages.

SCRANTON, March 18.—The Convention of delegates from the mine operatives in this valley, between Nanticoke and Carbondale, assembled to-day in Pittston. The meeting was not so large as had been expected. Men are afraid to show themselves openly in a labor movement of any kind, for fear of ostracism by their employers. This fact was understood as likely to militate against finding leaders for the actual work of organization, but it was not expected to affect to so great a degree this preliminary meeting. Out of over two hundred delegates that were expected, only about fifty appeared, but fortunately they were actually representative of many more than that number of colliers.

Mr. W. G. Thomas, ex-Master Workman of the Knights of Labor, under whose control that order accomplished the election of a labor ticket in Luzerne and Lackawanna Counties in 1877 by 16,000 majority, was the Chairman. A telegraphic message came asking the Convention to adopt a strong resolution endorsing the anti-Chinese Emigration bill, and to send it to Representative Scranton in Washington. In discussing it a delegate protested that he considered the Chinese as entitled to the same rights as himself, and thousands of others like him who had come here from other countries—the right to live and to work.

While the Convention was waiting for the report of a Committee on Credentials, and all seemed shy of saying or doing anything, one of the delegates called upon another to sing a song, and a third demanded that it should be a comic one. The song was sung, but was very far from being comic, as may be imagined from its title, "The Poor Blind Miner's Appeal." No better illustration could be afforded of the simplicity and impracticability of these poor fellows than their stopping in the midst of a meeting called to consider the grave question of redress of such grievous wrongs as theirs to listen to a song, and seeming to give themselves up wholly for the time to its enjoyment. At about the seventh verse the majority of the delegates caught the doleful air and joined in the chorus.

Mr. Thomas spoke briefly of the necessity for organization among laboring men—not simply of miners, or any other class alone, but of all together, for mutual sustenance and support against the encroachments of capital. He earnestly deprecated strikes, especially when laborers men enter upon them without thorough organization and years of preparation. A reference to the Knights of Labor, which association he lauded in enthusiastic terms, evoking a burst of applause. He related as an instance how employers recede and treat working men when, without organization, they dare to ask for their rights. In 1875, when coal was selling for $14 per ton in New York, a committee of miners waited upon Sam Sloan to ask an advance of wages. They based their request on the ruling high price of coal in the market. "What has the price of coal to do with you?" demanded Sloan. But when the price of coal is down, said Mr. Thomas, that fact is made a ground for crushing the miners.

Llewellyn Morgan of Wilkesbarre also spoke of the necessity for organization as the miners' only protection against the ever-grasping greed of monopolies. Every ton of coal that goes to market, he said, goes with a man's blood upon it.

A delegate said that he had made $60 in twenty days mining lately. This averment waked up a storm of indignant denial. The delegate said that if he earned $60 by twenty days' work he would not be here, and would have no complaints to make, but that he very well knew the majority of the best miners in the anthracite coal fields could not at present rates earn $2 per diem. [Applause and cries of "No they can't."] Another delegate declared that he did not believe that any other man present than the one who had claimed to earn so much received as much as $40 for twenty days' work.

An effort was made to have the Convention after recess made permanent, but it was defeated by a vote in which all the Welch delegates voted affirmatively, and the Irish came out solidly in the negative, arguing that they wanted the aid of the press to let the world know the truth about their condition, and what they were striving for. After recess the resolutions endorsing the Anti-Chinese bill was adopted and ordered telegraphed to the Hon. Mr. Scranton.

The Hon. Jno. Parker of Schuylkill County addressed the Convention. He said for years the workingmen have been told: "Trust your employers and everything will do right by you." Ever since 1875 they have been waiting and hoping to see what the employers would do for them, waiting and hoping in vain. There is not in this meeting any purpose of inaugurating a strike. There is not a man here who wants a strike. [Cries of "No! no! not one!"] What they want is simply a due share of the benefits accruing from the good times others are said to enjoy—a share which they are desirous of honestly earning. He would be the last man to advise a strike, for his experience extended over many years, and he well knew the evils of a strike, how much the strikers and their families suffer upon such occasions; but he was in favor of organization among workingmen, in favor of their being so united that they could stand up before their employers and tell them, "We have rights as well as you. We have a right to just recompense for our labor. Look at the misery that must come upon us if you crush us down so cruelly, and remember that yours will be the blame if you force us to a strike." He urged his hearers to resort to no extreme measures, to make no unjust demands, and not let themselves be carried away by excitement to the doing of things they would afterward regret; to remember that it took a long time to build up a union of workingmen, but a very short time to tear it down. He warned them against the insidious influences of capitalists for the undermining and destruction of their organizations by the spreading among them of distrust in their officers and leaders, and persuading them that they should have none but miners in their societies, instead of allowing their sons to take in all interested in defence of the rights of labor. With reference to the introduction of a low class of foreign labor, he said that workingmen should be, by organized association, in a position to say to employers: "Give work to every man you employ, and pay each equal and just wages according to their earnings, if they can do the work satisfactorily; but you must not fill the places of good men with laborers of that class simply because their work can be got more cheaply." These emigrants are not themselves to blame. They flee from European despotism and pauperism, hoping to find freedom and employment, and in many cases are undoubtedly induced to come here by the representations of capitalists. They do not want to work for lower wages than anybody else, especially the Hungarians, who are now coming in such numbers into this section.

The statement of the delegate who made $60 in twenty days again stirred up the ire of the delegates. A member from Pittston said: "The man who said that is an impostor. I have as good a place as any man in this vicinity, and I don't make $2 a day. That man must be a favorite of the bosses, or he would not make such a statement." A delegate from Pleasant Valley said: "I have known men to work a whole month and then have to borrow money to pay their butties. A man in our mines does not earn $2 a day." Another from Painesville said: "Among us, seven cars constitute a day's work, making $4.90 for miner, laborer, and expenses, the latter about a dollar a day." Several members chorused that an allowance of $1.25 per diem for expenses would be much nearer right. An employee of the Pennsylvania Coal Company said that there all coal is weighed, and the miner is paid by the ton. Four men, two miners and two laborers, working together in a chamber, expect to take out fifteen tons a day and get fifty-six cents per ton. Out of that they must pay $2.75 for expenses, leaving an average of $1.41 per man. Other delegates made similar reports.

A committee appointed to draw up some form of plan toward organization reported:

We recommend this organization to be known as the Miners' Protective Association.

ARTICLE 1.—The object of the society shall be to promote the interests of the miners and laborers, and all in and about the mines, morally, socially and financially; for the protection of their rights and their lives; to spread intelligence among them, to remove as far as possible the cause for all strikes, adopt wherever and whenever, when it is practicable, the principle of arbitration, and to urge on all miners the necessity of becoming members of said association; also to protect all branches and members when unjustly dealt with by their employers.

The report was accepted and its recommendation adopted. A committee of five was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the new organization, and then the Convention adjourned to meet again on April 13. No mention whatever was made of the subject of a demand for increase of wages, a question which will now doubtless be deferred until the new organization is perfected. Three of the coal companies' detectives were present in the hall during the entire meeting. It was said they were "spotting" men for the purpose of marking them for discharge.

PITTSBURGH, March 18.—The difficulties existing between the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers and the Bessemer Steel Company, at Homestead, Pa., were amicably settled this evening by the association agreeing to the proposition of the Bessemer company to accept "one turn without the doubling up" proviso, provided the association was allowed to name the men who shall take places on the "turn." This was conceded by the company, and a portion of the strikers will resume work on Monday, while the remainder will be supplied with situations as fast as vacancies occur. No more trouble is anticipated.

THE STRIKE IN LAWRENCE.

Weavers Joining the Spinners, and the Closing of the Mills Inevitable.

LAWRENCE, Mass., March 18.—Three hundred weavers in the worsted department of the Central Pacific Mills struck this afternoon, stopping 900 looms. The strike of the weavers puts a more alarming aspect upon affairs. There are now 97,000 spindles vacated by the ring spinners and 900 looms inoperative, besides the entire carding and picker departments. The number of strikers is now swollen to over 700, and the other weavers at the Central Pacific, numbering 400, declare to-night their intention not to resume work on Monday. The strike of the weavers was unexpected at this time, as the reduction in their wages will not take effect before the 27th; but such strong pressure has been brought to bear upon them that they would not continue at their looms.

The situation to-night is one of conflicting tendencies among the strikers, with the breach between capital and labor still widening. The ranks of the strikers have been so far augmented that there is no longer a doubt that the mills must shut down on Monday. The corporation officers to-night admit that a shut-down is inevitable unless a majority of the strikers return. At one time this afternoon it seemed that a compromise might be reached, but the action of the strikers' meeting this afternoon makes such a result at present impossible. The advice of the leaders, however, has to-day been almost unanimously in favor of a temporary acceptance of the reduction. This change in their policy was caused by their learning the fact intimated in THE SUN this morning that the corporation would not be discommoded by a strike, but that it would really be money in the mill owners' pockets. The long-headed ones therefore urged their fellows to keep out of the trap. Furthermore, the calculating leaders emphasize the fact that they are not prepared for a long idleness, and that there are not roots enough in Lawrence to cover the strikers where they are out of the corporation houses.

About 1,150, or one-fifth of the total number of operatives, were to-day out of the mills, but their presence is absolutely necessary to a continuance of work. The meeting this afternoon was attended by nearly 2,500 operatives, all of whom endorsed their proceedings, and thereby made it evident that the strike will become general if the corporation maintains its present position. Mayor Breen presided at the meeting, which was held by his invitation in the City Hall. He expressed the fullest sympathy with the strikers, but advised moderation in speech and action. He guaranteed the support of the citizens of Lawrence. With a single exception, the succeeding speakers advised a return to work on Monday for the reason outlined above. If the strike had not actually begun, it is quite probable that the disaffected operatives would have been persuaded to stick to their spindles and looms for the present. But they were in no mood to recede from action already taken, and the rank and file manifested the fullest determination to starve rather than work at reduced wages. There was much indignation, too, against the corporation for refusing to confer with the operatives' committee appointed yesterday. It was finally decided to appoint a committee of arbitration, consisting of twenty strikers and operatives from other mills and ten citizens of Lawrence, who shall send delegates to Boston on Monday, and present the case of the operatives to the directors of the corporation. It is safe to predict that there will be no concession.

The strikers declare they will not return to work unless their wages are restored. Everything is quiet in the city, but Monday's developments are awaited with anxiety; for, if the strikers do not return, the entire Pacific Mills will shut down, stopping 200,000 spindles and throwing between 5,500 and 6,000 persons out of employment.

FALL RIVER, March 18.—The operatives here watch with absorbing interest the progress of the Lawrence strike. No action has yet been taken by the Spinners' Union, nor is any likely unless the strike extends to the mule spinners. Letters received here from Lawrence give reasons for supposing that the mule spinners may strike on Tuesday.

Robert Howard, Secretary of the Spinners' Union, is also Secretary of the Mule Spinners' Association. He says but few of the Pacific mill spinners are members of the union, while most of the spinners of the other mills in Lawrence are union men. The operatives here would undoubtedly render aid in case the Lawrence operatives request it. The union would only assess union men, but others would receive aid by voluntary contributions.

LABOR TROUBLES IN TROY.

TROY, March 18.—A few days ago a committee from the Moulders' Union, which numbers over 800 members, visited the several manufacturers and demanded an advance of about 25 per cent. on certain grades of work, asserting that three firms were paying the advance, and arguing that if they could afford do so all the Lansingh strikers ought to be able to do likewise. The employers refused to accede to the request. A meeting of the moulders was called for last night, but, as only about one-half of them could be accommodated in the union's rooms, the men resolved not to work to-day, but to hold a meeting instead. This morning over 800 moulders assembled in the audience room of the City Hall, and remained in session until after 2 P. M. They decided to return to work on Monday, and leave the matters in dispute with the shop committees to report at a meeting to be held next week.

WANTS TO GO TO BOSTON.

An Oddly Acting Man who Says he Knows Harriet Bell's Murderer.

Policeman Judson Golden of the Mulberry street station was accosted in Centre street last evening by a young man who asked to be directed to Inspector Byrnes, saying that he had business of importance with him. Officer Golden contrived to get an admission from the man that his business related to the mysterious Bell murder in Boston, and then showed him to the station house, where Sergeant Cahill endeavored to find out what he knew about the murder. He talked glibly enough about the case, though he said nothing new, but he said that if taken to Boston he could point out the man who committed the crime. After hearing all the man had to say, Sergeant Cahill turned upon him suddenly and said: "You are the man who murdered that woman."

The man started up and exclaimed, "Who told you so." Springing to his feet, he strode in apparent excitement up and down the room, puffing at his hat as he walked, but saying nothing except "I won't acknowledge anything."

It was decided to hold him until morning as a suspicious person. He described himself as Walter H. Perrin, 23 years old, and an engraver. He declined to give his residence, but said he had come from Boston yesterday. He does not even remotely resemble the description of the Bell murderer, and is thought to be a "crank."

BOSTON, March 18.—The police are fully convinced that the murderer of Mrs. Bell is the lunatic whose peculiar actions yesterday were described in THE SUN this morning. A barber who saw the fellow talking with the lady, and whose attention was particularly drawn to his strange appearance, corroborates the description given in every particular. The police say they have now another only real clue to the murderer they have had.

After killing Mrs. Bell the murderer went in the direction of the place where yesterday's incident occurred, the distance being about half a mile. There is little doubt that he lives at the South End. He is probably some person supposed to be harmlessly insane. A score of men are working night and day to hunt him down.

Palmer Sentenced to Twenty Years.

When ex-City Auditor Frederick A. Palmer, who embezzled $220,000, entered Judge Depue's court in Newark, yesterday, he let his gaze fall, and only raised it while the Judge was speaking. Judge Depue said that Newark's finances would be inquired into by the next Grand Jury, and if Palmer's testimony should then be needed he could be brought from Trenton. Mr. Palmer had personally entreated the Court to deal mercifully with him, but it was impossible, the Judge said, to comply with her request. The sentence must stands with infamy the crime committed. Palmer should have thought of his family before beginning his career of crime. He had committed a deliberate wrong for personal gain.

The prisoner was then conducted to State prison for twenty years. He made no show of feeling. He was allowed to see his family in a private room, and in the afternoon he was taken to Trenton.

Vogel Brothers

Manufacture all they sell, and, as their business is strictly retail, their clothing receives the utmost care in their construction as to their style, fit, and durability. The advantages in dealing with Vogel Brothers are that you receive your clothing direct from the manufacturer, saving all intermediate profits, and every garment you buy is made to give perfect satisfaction in every instance. Vogel Brothers, Broadway, corner Houston street, and Eighth avenue, corner Forty-second street, open this spring season with the largest and handsomest stock of spring clothing for men, youths, boys, and children, at lower prices than at any previous season.—*adv.*

THE FLOOD WATERS RISING.

MORE BREAKS IN THE LEVEES ALONG THE LOWER MISSISSIPPI.

Four Hundred Miles of River from 40 to 60 Miles in Width—People and their Stock Rescued from Mounds and the Ends of Levees—A Scene of Desolation and Distress

NEW ORLEANS, March 18.—A résumé of the week shows a large increase of area covered by the flood waters from Helena to the mouth of the Mississippi River. In the Yazoo valley the water is reported to be rising rapidly. Four steamers of the Parisot line are continuously traversing that section, carrying supplies and bringing out people and stock. In the Yazoo delta, from Vicksburg to Coldwater, a distance by river of over 400 miles, and from the hills on the east to the Mississippi River, forty to sixty miles in width, the greater part of the low lands is submerged, including Coldwater, Tallahatchie, Yazoo, Sunflower, and Deer Creek. Some loss of life is reported. The Government steamer Anita left Vicksburg yesterday for this section to distribute rations and render assistance to the sufferers from the overflow. Her commander, Capt. Lee, U. S. A., telegraphed Gen. Beckwith at St. Louis: "The greatest destitution and destruction of property prevails in the back counties. Seventy thousand rations per week should be sent to the State agent at Vicksburg for the back counties until the flood subsides, and 100,000 rations per week to the State agent at Memphis for Mississippi counties or river points; also tents for both places."

Great stretches of Milliken's Bend levee in Madison Parish, La., gave way yesterday, the crevasses aggregating some two miles in length. The water from these will cover the greater part of Madison Parish, join the waters of the crevasses in Tensas and Concordia, flow into Bayou Macon and the Black, Ouachita, and Tensas Rivers, and thence through the Red and Atchafalaya Rivers. The damage from these breaks will be very great, adding the entire parish to the area overflowed, and possibly causing additional damage by overflowing the streams above mentioned. The whole country about Eagle Bend is under water. The town of Delta is submerged, but the houses have not been carried off.

There are now reported thirty-three breaks between Bushpuckana and Greenville, and terrible suffering is experienced from the disaster. A despatch from Greenville says: "Half a mile inland has submerged the town of Duck Port, and houses are floating for miles into the country. The steamer Cannon arrived at Vicksburg yesterday. Capt. Campbell says he rescued over 200 head of cattle, mules, &c., and a number of families from the roofs of the houses, and at one place went out into the swamp about a mile and a half for thirty people who were literally starving to death. The Captain reports a terrible condition of affairs below, and says that in many instances there is not only a lack of provisions, but of every property. The pilots of the Cannon report five feet of water over Newtown, Miss. Below Newtown the whole country, with the exception of Natchez, Miss., is submerged. On the Louisiana side Browland Plantation, at Pointe Coupee, Hall's Landing, Bayou Sarah, Port Hudson, Gibson Place, sixteen miles from Natchez; and Coleman Plantation, about two miles above Waterproof, are the only sites where land can be seen at all. All other portions of the country on either side of the river were submerged, either from the river or from the back waters. Above there Brunswick, Albemarle, Ingomar, Burleigh, Dunbarton, Magna Vista, Shiloh, Hays's Landing, and Moore's Landing are entirely under water on the Mississippi side, while on the Louisiana side the whole country, from Vidalia down, is one vast inland sea. Much suffering is reported in the overflowed section from Camden, Ark., to the mouth of the Bayou Bartholomew, and from twenty-five miles below Monroe to the mouth of the Black River. Government rations for fifteen days have been sent to the sufferers.

The water along the lower Ouachita River is six inches higher than in 1874. The recent crevasse on the west side of the Mississippi will probably carry the water there still higher, though the Ouachita is reported falling slowly at Monroe. The levee on the east is holding. Considerable damage was caused by the Pointe Coupee crevasse, which is now a quarter of a mile wide; but thus far the damage is not as great as was expected. It is believed that the break at the Landry place, in Ascension Parish, will take the place of that at Bayou Sarah as the Live Oak Grove, will be closed. Thus far the damage to the sugar-producing section of Louisiana has been comparatively light. Two hundred and sixty thousand Government rations have been distributed in this State, besides those distributed in Mississippi. Gov. McEnery has received applications for rations for 70,000 persons, the people of Madison Parish having added 12,000 to the first applications.

In response to a telegram from Gov. McEnery, earnestly urging the commercial bodies of New Orleans to systematize a common broadcast immediate relief of the destitute people, the Cotton Exchange to-day held a meeting and resolved to place lists in the hands of a committee and request the members to contribute to the full extent of their ability. The commissioners appointed by the Governors of the different Government stations will distribute other donations.

Mr. H. F. Wilson, clerk of the steamer Natchez, says that matters have not changed any for the better since his last trip, but, on the contrary, are a good deal worse; that stock is in a terrible condition, and that not an inch of knoll anywhere in the overflowed district you can see thirty or forty head of cattle, and sometimes several dead ones are lying beside their living companions. On one part of the levee, on his down trip, there was a pile of wood about half submerged, and on top of it were twenty sheep and a large number of hogs, which had taken refuge there from the water. He says that they were out of danger from the water, but in the course of time they would starve. The river here is stationary, and marks eight inches below the rise of 1874.

ST. LOUIS, March 18.—The flooded district on both sides of the Mississippi in this neighborhood comprehends not less than 20,000 square miles. The water is from one to thirty feet deep. The boat coming up from Vicksburg to-day, when eight miles from this city, had a Cape Girardeau pilot. The boat went entirely and ran over what was three months ago a forest, but on which to-day only the tops of trees projecting here and there are to be seen. To a stranger it seems as though he was sailing in the middle of Lake Michigan, for for hours at a time with no land visible in any direction.

The total population of the eleven Mississippi counties now inundated was placed by the last census at 162,442. Of these at least 100,000 are colored laborers, who are made absolutely destitute by the flood. The sight seen from the deck of a steamer is desolation beyond description. Whole villages are submerged, the water coming to the roofs of many houses. The old Indian mounds are extremely useful in affording a place of safety to the sufferers. A death and a birth is reported among the refugees. The only protection the occupants have from sun and storm is such as they can construct from tarpaulins.

The levees have become so weakened that steamers in passing have to slacken speed, lest the waves break the down-river levee. The loss of human life will never be known. One man in the Tallahatchie, who had his family on the roof of his cottage, put them in a skiff and sent them in charge of another man to the nearest point, which was several miles away, while he tried to save some of the property in his house. The man in the skiff was to return for him, but nothing has been heard from either the skiff or the family, and the husband has gone mad over the supposed drowning of his wife and children.

The Yazoo River is still rising, and people who imagine themselves secure now will have to move again before to-morrow night. Yazoo City is crowded with refugees, who eat and sleep in the streets. On the Sunflower River every town has been abandoned.

ARKANSAS CITY, Ark., March 18.—There are not less than 3,000 people on the verge of starvation in Desha County, this State. The White River district is inundated for a distance of fully 100 miles. Across the river, on the Mississippi side, the situation of the people is deplorable. The flood extends back a distance of thirty or forty miles, and thousands are in distress.

The river here is 75 miles wide. A skiff can be navigated for that distance in a straight line east and west for 200 or 300 miles above and below this town. Lincoln, Saline, U. S. A., and his party were lost in swamps a few nights ago, and their boat was drifted about by a furious storm. They finally lashed their craft to a cottonwood floater, and kept themselves above water. They traversed scores of miles, and found hundreds of people living on rafts with their mules and cattle. The people had little to eat, and their stock less. Many of the animals have been standing in the water so long that their hoofs are falling off. When they arrive at that condition they are killed, or else turn mad and die. Gnats, buffalo flies, and other insects have appeared in clouds recently, and are tormenting the stock and people almost beyond endurance. In ten days more there will be little or no stock left in the flooded district.

The levees in this vicinity have proved of no service whatever. One result of this overflow has been to prove to the satisfaction of the negroes that the levee system is a failure. Millions of money from the national Treasury may be spent in repairing the damage already done, but in the opinion of intelligent men it will be thrown away. Arkansas City is all afloat. The houses are half under water. The lamp posts are nearly buried from sight. Business is either done in second stories or on platforms. Several buildings have fallen. A widow and seven children clinging to the roof of an uprooted house was among the sensational scenes witnessed here. They were rescued.

VICKSBURG, March 18.—The river rose two inches in the last twenty-four hours. Gov. Lowry and Commissioner Hemingway were in the city to-day giving attention to the needs of persons in the overflowed sections. Judging from the telegrams received by them, the whole country above and below here is submerged and great destitution prevails in all quarters. The officers of the steamer Paris C. Brown report passing three floaters below here.

Business in the levee district here has been entirely suspended, and everything in the way of floating property has been brought into requisition for the benefit of the sufferers. Commissioner Hemingway says that the whole country from Ellis Cliff to Fort Adams is submerged. The Parisot line boat Deer Creek left this evening for Big Deer Creek with a large amount of supplies for the needy on that stream.

A CONVICT'S DESPERATE BLOW.

A Plot to Effect Becker's Escape—Twenty-four Days in the Dungeon.

When Patrick Flynn, who is under a ten years' sentence in the Kings County Penitentiary for attempted robbery, and has been in the prison since Dec. 11, 1878, was served with a cup of coffee, yesterday morning, he threw it away because the cup was not full. He was rebuked by Keeper Michael Connor, to whom he said: "You go to ——. I don't care about you." He was ordered to go to his cell, but he refused. Warden Green, who was sent for, ordered Flynn to be put in the dark cell, and, taking hold of him, started to push him back toward the cell, but he resisted, and struck the Warden a stinging blow in the eye, followed by a blow on the forehead. In the struggle that ensued the Warden's wrist was wrenched, but with the aid of Connor and William Morris, a counterfeiter, he forced Flynn into the cell.

On Feb. 17 the Warden discovered that there was a plot to escape, in which he think Charles Becker, the noted forger, who is under sentence for making plates for the thousand-franc notes of the Bank of France, John Kelly, John Clifford, and Flynn were all concerned, but proof pointed directly to Kelly. The latter was seen acting suspiciously about a closet at the end of the corridor, which contained the key of an iron inner door. The key was missed soon afterwards, and it was discovered in the ventilator in Kelly's cell. In the search another key was found which locked the wooden outer door. The lock to this door is peculiar, and is made by but one dealer. It was afterward learned that a lock similar to it had been recently purchased from the dealer with a key. It was the only one that had been sold since the penitentiary was furnished with them. The man who bought the lock said that he wanted it as a sample, as he had a customer for several of the locks. This key had been received to the prisoner, but it did not exactly fit the lock, owing to some alterations in the pattern. It had been filed some, but still it did not fit it perfectly. The supposition is that it was introduced into the penitentiary with a view mainly to assist Becker to escape. Brockway, a famous counterfeiter, and Shang Draper both visited the prison a short time before the discovery. Warden Green, hoping to force a confession from some of the suspected prisoners, had Flynn, Kelly, and Clifford put into dark cells. He connects Flynn's revolt yesterday with a recent visit from Chaplain Bass, who, after a talk with the inmates in the dark cells, complained of their being punished to Keeper Conners, and Conners referred him to Warden Green, but he went out of the prison without speaking to him. The Warden claims that Mr. Bass is unfriendly toward him. He has informed the Commissioners of Charities and Correction of the facts in the present instance, and has suggested a reprimand for the Chaplain or an order stopping his visits.

Chaplain Bass said yesterday that he never dreamed of inciting a revolt. He had been in his position for fifteen years, and had never had trouble before. He had not spoken to Warden Green since July 24 last, because at that time the Warden insulted him in the presence of Commissioner Shipman in a manner that was all the more galling because of his age and of his profession, which forbids him to resent insults.

"The truth was," said Chaplain Bass, "that John Kelly was kept in the dungeon for twenty-four days and nights on bread and water without a visit from a physician, and that when he was taken out he was half paralyzed, dark and half speechless. Clifford was also locked up in the dungeon, but after some days he was taken out, and supplied with beef tea and stimulants, and reconfined until, as I have been informed, he became a howling maniac, and could be heard all over the prison."

Flynn, by order of the Commissioners, has been placed in a dark cell, and if he is pronounced physically capable of standing the imprisonment by the prison physician he will be kept there for ten days at least.

FATHER MORRIS CRITICISED.

Some of his Congregation at Plainfield Think him a Bad Bookkeeper.

A committee of seven members of St. Mary's Church, the only Catholic church in Plainfield, N. J., lately waited upon Bishop Wigger at Newark, and asked for the removal of the Rev. John P. Morris, the pastor. Father Morris visited the Bishop on Wednesday, and left the books of the church with him.

Father Morris is a native of Paterson, where his father, a wealthy man, yet resides. He has been the pastor of the church for seven years. The new church, which has been occupied two years, is on the corner of Liberty street and Sixth street. The congregation numbers 1,500.

The new church has been years in building, and, like the cathedral in this city, it was built in sections. The foundation was first put down and paid for, and then the walls were erected by loans secured by mortgages. It cost $90,000, it is claimed, to complete the church and parsonage. All the moneys have been managed by Father Morris alone. In the winter of 1879 $5,500 was netted by a fair, and this was paid over to Father Morris by Mr. Harburger, the treasurer of the fair. Bishop Wigger lately suggested to Father Morris that he should organize a church-debt society, the members of which should pay a regular monthly or weekly sum into the fund. A meeting was held on March 5, and the society was organized. Some consternation was created when Father Morris announced that the church was mortgaged for $35,000—that is to say, $5,000 more than its supposed cost.

A committee called on the priest and said they desired a distinct and particular report of the expenditure of the church. They desired to know how he had disposed of the fair money, of the large yearly income, about $6,000, and of the additional $5,000 in mortgages. The information they got failed to satisfy them, and their next step was to request his removal.

Father Morris said to a reporter of THE SUN that about seventy-five members of his congregation were dissatisfied with his management, and because they could not run things in the church to suit themselves. He did not understand that they had accused him of any dishonesty, but they had asked him to make a complete accounting of all the moneys he had received in his seven years' pastorate. This he had naturally refused to do, and had referred them to the yearly reports of the church's condition, which had been regularly made to the Bishop. As for the money from the fair, that had been absorbed in paying the old indebtedness of the church. No other funds had been raised except for furnishing the parsonage and the regular expenses of the church. Of the mortgages, $25,000 was held by the Mutual Life Insurance Company and $10,000 by an individual. Father Morris gave the reporter to understand that the church had cost $85,000.

Richard Perkins said the trouble with Father Morris is that he was a bad bookkeeper, and he made mistakes. They wanted to put the finances of the church in the hands of a committee, and he would not allow it. No charge of dishonesty whatever was made. It was simply poor management.

Another church member said she was tired of raising money for the church, and seeing it disappear without knowing what became of it. Another church member said he would like to know what had become of all the money, but he would let the members who had taken the matter up fight it out alone.

Other members were confident that Father Morris was right in everything he had done and would come out of this ordeal unscathed.

The Trescott-Baimaseda Protocol.

LONDON, March 18.—Advices from Buenos Ayres to Feb. 24 say that Mr. Walker Blaine was about to resign his mission, and would return to the United States with Mr. Trescott. A new American envoy is expected. A protocol has been signed at Santiago, wherein Chili declares that she meant no offence to the United States by the arrest of Señor Calderon. Mr. Trescott intimates Mr. Blaine's action was offensive to Chili. The Chilian government declares that it will not treat with Señor Calderon, and will make peace only on the following conditions: The cession of Tarapaca in perpetuity, the occupation of Peru as far as Moquegua until an indemnity of $20,000,000 is paid, and the possession of half of the guano islands of Peru. Mr. Trescott agreed to these conditions, and has sent a copy of them to Washington.

THE REFORMATORY ABUSES.

BEGINNING THE INVESTIGATION OF THE ELMIRA INSTITUTION.

An Inmate Making His Complaint in a Letter to the Committee—Dr. Weythe Explaining the Cause of the Three Suicides.

ELMIRA, March 18.—The sub-committee of the Assembly Committee on State Prisons, appointed to investigate the charges against the Elmira Reformatory, arrived here this morning from Albany. The sub-committee is composed of E. R. Keys of Westchester, Chairman; John McDonough of Albany, J. Higgins of Erie, E. O. Farr of Onondaga, B. D. Clapp of Clinton, and J. F. Sheldon of Monroe. Robert A. Livingston of Putnam, the mover of the original resolution ordering the investigation, came on by invitation of the committee, and acted as their lawyer in the examination of witnesses. Sergeant-at-Arms Henry Wheeler was also present. The committee visited the Reformatory at about 11 A. M., and until 1 P. M. they were engaged in making a personal examination of the different buildings and the various quarters of the men, where they worked, ate, and slept. The visit had been expected by the inmates, and when the committee appeared in the general work rooms it was speedily known who they were. Many of the inmates of all grades voluntarily asked to be called to testify as to the condition of things in the institution, and a number of them handed letters to some members of the committee as they passed through. One of these letters, a fair sample of all, written in a clear, fair hand, but bearing no signature, is as follows:

The inmates of this prison wish to impress upon his Honor the Judge and the other members of the committee the unjust manner in which the majority are treated here, namely, the second and third grade, and especially the latter. The system of working, making it impossible for some to obtain a "mine," necessitates their doing all their time in these two grades, which many have done and are still doing. We all know that the first grade men are treated on about a par with the prisoners at other jails—no better; and for us to be compelled to go through more severe punishment, when we all expected more mercy, is a hard point, considering the extra time we are doing. We are all in the power of one man here, whose word is law, and from it there is no redress, no appeal. A word from him, and the poor fellow has only too well of the uselessness of taking their complaints before it. He who does is looked upon with suspicion. The Superintendent is king and supreme ruler, and, not being a judge, condemns a man for every day. There is hardly a man paroled from here who does not feel that injustice has been done him, and the records show that many are not able to obtain paroles, very few obtaining their absolute release. If the investigation is to be thorough, pardon us for suggesting that these inter-views should be granted to men who are discovered in the lower grades, those longest here. If the Superintendent makes up his mind to keep a man, which he does on the smallest provocation, nothing that that man can do, no exertions on his part can change his mind. We can say truthfully that we are undergoing the severity of this place. Take any sentenced man, or one transferred from other prisons to fill up, he will be purposely placed in the dark cell, without cause, for five years—and cannot even make his short time, as he could have done from whence he came. The discipline is so severe, and the solitude and constant disappointment so great, that the effect is to destroy the rights its nature, instead of being reformatory. The boys feel that they are being deceived, defrauded of their rights. The inmates are young men, many sentenced for the first crime, which should condemn them to a short imprisonment, and many are the victims of circumstances. Once fairly within the fallen under the ban of the Superintendent there is no hope. He is a man of violent temper, and many can testify to being struck in the face and booted by him when shackled and helpless. Numerous contempts, and blows are very common, and will not be caught easily. Many changes have been going on in view of this investigation. The food is better, the cells are being cleaned, whitewashed, and even the food is a little better, but the boys still go to bed every other night without supper, and the bugs and rats can't be endured. If we could only look forward to a release, or any reasonable time the place itself is all right, and the outside appearance is rather favorable to the management, but you will hear nothing of the inside when you come to examine. This is beyond the age allowed, being 35, and discharged to send to another prison, as death is preferable to what is in store. We feel confident that should the Superintendent get to hear of this note to the committee. Others, again, have nothing to do, and, being unable to earn a single cent, they take the old inmates—was the passive instrument in the hands of the man here) he refused emphasis and seemed a slave in this spirit of despair. Here, we are other machines for the opening products that the Reformatory invites to come in duty free. No country can bring the product of its looms and workshops to compete with ours in home markets, but China can send her labor, at twelve cents a day American wages, while the products of capital can come no nearer ours than a fifty per cent. tariff will allow. He favored the bill, in the interest of labor.

Apaches on the War Path.

SANTA FE, March 18.—A despatch received today by Gov. Sheldon from the Captain of the Shakespeare Guards, dated at Lordsburg, a station of the Southern Pacific Railroad, about thirty miles from the Gila River, says: "Yesterday seventy mountain Apaches, coming out route to Tucson, attacked a ranch on the Gila River and killed Michael Connell. Assistance is asked him dately from the Government to help us. Will start with a squad of my company to-day." Gov. Sheldon immediately responded with Gen. Sackett, and the latter ordered Gen. James W. Forsyth, in charge of the operations in southern New Mexico, to prepare a combined of six companies of the Thirteenth Infantry and two companies of the Thirteenth Infantry to take the field at a moment's notice and scouts were immediately dispatched to ascertain the truth of the report. Gen. Sheldon has ordered the militia companies in the southern part of the Territory to get ready, and a warning has been sent to exposed mining camps and settlements.

Base Ball at Prospect Park.

About a thousand persons gathered on the parade ground at Prospect Park, Brooklyn, yesterday, to witness the third and last Saturday game among the professional players of the March series at the Park. The contest was marked by scientific fielding on both sides, especially in the pitching and catching, as will be seen by the appended score:

Barnie's side	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	—1
Holdsworth's side	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	1		—4

Base hits—Barnie's side, 4; Holdsworth's side, 8.
Earned runs—Barnie's side, 1; Holdsworth's side, 3.
Errors—Barnie's side, 2; Holdsworth's side, 4.

M. Corcoran pitched and Barnie caught on one side, and Deacon pitched and McNamee caught on the other, the latter winning the prize ball for his fine play behind the bat.

Brotherhood of Telegraphers.

CINCINNATI, March 18.—The National Convention of Telegraphers has formed an organization to be known as the Brotherhood of Telegraphers, composed of divisions to be known as councils. Every person over the age of 14 engaged in any department of the business of telegraphy is eligible to membership. The eight hour system for day work and twelve for night work was agreed upon. As eight work days are contained in a month, are to constitute a month's work. The raised compensation for extra work is to be mutually agreed upon by the local councils and employers.

Lynched in the Presence of Authorities.

PENSACOLA, Fla., March 18.—At Tampa a young Englishman, C. B. Owens, attacked a young woman and stabbed her nearly to death. He was captured and placed in jail, but within an hour he was taken out by a mob and hanged to a sign post in the Court House yard, where the United States Court was in session at the time. The Mayor and Sheriff protested, and Lieut. Burt of the Fifth United States Artillery ordered out the garrison to rescue the prisoner, but before the troops arrived Owens was a dead man.

Sullivan's Challengers.

Billy Madden, John L. Sullivan's trainer, in addition to the Boston offers George Rooke to stand up before Sullivan for four rounds. Mayor O. Gurnsberg, John at the Aberdeen Institute, offers to bet $100 to $50 that Sullivan can't last six rounds. At the time Sullivan will make a sudden trip to Europe with whichever offer seems the best. He has received a letter from Bob Lees, saying he will fight Sullivan for $1,000 a side, or a match of a mile and a half, or a 10-mile walk, or a 100-mile walk, or a 24-hour walk, or any other thing in the walking line, and a match of that kind he would prefer. Lees says he will be ready to run in summer.

A New Comet.

ALBANY, March 18.—At about 4 o'clock this morning Charles S. Wills of the Dudley Observatory here discovered a bright comet in Hydra—right ascension, 17 hours 40 minutes; north declination, 8° 40'. The comet has a tail about five minutes in length, and a nucleus of about the eighth magnitude.

SPARKS FROM THE TELEGRAPH.

M. Pelletier de Streny, the Paris financier, is dead.

H. B. Hillman