The Sun.

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DEMANDS OF WORKINGMEN.

8,000 KNIGHTS QUIT WORK ON THE GOULD SOUTHWESTERN ROADS.

Passenger Trains Running, but Freight Traffic Largely Suspended—The Strikers Side Track Freight Locomotives—Great Strike of Bituminous Coal Miners in Several States—Prospects of a Soft Coal Famine.

ST. LOUIS, March 8.—The strike of a part of the Knights of Labor on the Gould Southwestern system of railways on Saturday was followed yesterday by a general suspension of work by Knights until the number reached between 8,000 and 10,000, and included shopmen, switchmen, trainmen, brakemen, and firemen. The engineers, who have not joined the strike formally, are prevented from working by lack of assistance upon their engines. Another general order is expected from the Executive Board calling out all the Knights now left on the roads. The Knights have been holding meetings in their hall, while their Executive Committee is in waiting to hear from the railroad authorities. The strikers take great care that no delays of the mails shall be due to them. They have appointed delegates to prepare the mail cars for their trips, switch them into position, and attach them to the engines. This precaution makes it impossible for the Government to prepare charges against them of delaying the mails. Mr. Townsend, the general passenger agent, announces that no interference with the passenger trains of the Gould system of railroads is expected, and that the roads will take good care of their passengers and see that they are sent through to their destinations without detention or delay.

It was with the greatest difficulty that any of the Missouri Pacific trains could be moved this morning. Assistant Superintendent Stillwell of the Union Depot, assisted by three yardmasters, however, succeeded in starting all the passenger trains on time. Not a freight car on the Missouri Pacific has been moved from this city since Saturday night. Chairman T. V. Powderly of the General Executive Committee of the Knights of Labor is expected to arrive here at any hour, and the Knights feel confident that his efforts will result in a settlement of the difficulties. The Brakemen's Brotherhood met yesterday afternoon in Thiel's Hall on South Fourth street. Their grievance is that their wages are too small. They receive $60 per month, but want $70, or Chicago prices, together with extra pay for extra work. A committee of the Knights of Labor called on the brakemen yesterday afternoon. The outcome seems to be that a committee of the brakemen will call upon Mr. A. W. Dickson and notify him that no Missouri Pacific or Bridge and Tunnel Company's cars will be handled until the present strike is over.

The Knights of Labor employed by the St. Louis Bridge Company are still at work, and trains to and from East St. Louis are running regularly. It is said by the Knights that the stoppage of this traffic will be the next move ordered by the strikers.

All the men employed at Carondelet, or South St. Louis, six miles below, have quit work this morning. This is an important point, as it is the river terminus of the Kirkwood branch of the Missouri Pacific road, and large quantities of freight, live stock, and grain destined for the East are transferred across the river there. The Iron Mountain road also passes through the place, and the yards of the two roads are quite extensive. Now everything is still, the transfer boats are tied up, and the yards and shops are deserted. Over 500 freight cars, many of them laden, stand on the tracks.

The men are holding meetings and discussing the situation. The Brotherhood of Brakemen have notified Superintendent Dickinson of the Union Depot and Tunnel Company that they are willing to continue work if they are not required to handle cars belonging to the Missouri Pacific road. Many of this order are also Knights of Labor, and all those employed on the Missouri Pacific went out with the other men.

Superintendent Dickinson accepted their services on the condition named. It has been said, in reference to the transportation of the mails, that the Knights would permit only an engine, a postal car, and one coach to be run, but it is now said that they have abandoned this position, and will allow full passenger trains to run.

A despatch from Sedalia says there are 200 cars laden with perishable freight in the yards there, and that there are several hundred car loads of California oranges side tracked along the road between there and Fort Worth.

The switchmen of the Bridge and Tunnel Company went out at 8 o'clock to-night. This will greatly disturb traffic between the Union Depot in this city and the Relay Depot in East St. Louis, across the bridge.

SEDALIA, March 8.—The strikers side-tracked all freight locomotives here and let the water out of them. There seems no disposition on the part of the company to resist any move made by the strikers. The accommodation train due here from Pleasant Hill at 9:40 o'clock this morning did not arrive, on account of the impossibility of procuring an engine. The policemen on the Council committee of the Knights of Labor will order that after to-day all members of that organization employed on passenger trains of the Missouri Pacific Railroad cease work, but that the mail cars must not be interfered with. A notice was posted at the Missouri Pacific depot this morning suspending all brakemen and conductors on the St. Louis and Kansas and the Lawrence and Kansas branches of that road.

MARSHALL, Tex., March 8.—No work is being done by the mechanics of the Texas Pacific Railroad in the shops here. A special guard has been appointed by Knights to guard the company's property from acts of violence. The fight at this point now consists of the demand by the Knights of Labor that that organization be recognized by the railroad officials. All other grievances have been practically settled.

KANSAS CITY, March 8.—No freight trains are arriving on the Missouri Pacific here, but the passenger trains are not interrupted. About seventy-five Missouri Pacific freight handlers employed here have been laid off on account of the suspension of business.

ATCHISON, Kan., March 8.—The Missouri Pacific shopmen employed here, 250 in number, went out to-day on orders from Sedalia. All Central branch freight trains were stopped, though a train of live stock was permitted to come through. Patrol committees guard the tracks and permit only passenger trains to run. The strikers have prepared a schedule of grievances this morning, which simply incorporated the demands made by the Texas strikers. They make no local demand for themselves, but set forth that the company is discriminating in grain rates against Atchison and demand that the same rates be given to all Missouri River points. Gov. Martin has been in the city all day endeavoring to adjust the trouble, but the men refuse to act except on orders from Sedalia.

DALLAS, March 8.—There is a rumor that the officials of the Texas and Pacific road have received a telegram from Judge Pardee of the United States Circuit Court saying that the strikers should not be allowed to interfere with the traffic of that road, as it was in the hands of the United States Circuit Court, which means the Government.

The Knights of Labor and the strikers are very orderly. It is believed that the military will be called out if necessary, and it is certain that Receiver Brown and his associates contemplate some determined movement backed by Federal authority.

GREAT STRIKE OF MINERS.

PITTSBURGH, March 8.—Unless the strike of the 10,000 coal miners under the auspices of the Inter-State Alliance is settled within the next ten days, the Atlantic seaboard from New York to Norfolk will be in danger of a soft coal famine. At all the mines in the federation, which embraces four States—Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia, and Maryland—the men quit work to-day and posted a demand for an advance of ten cents for mining and a proportionate advance for drivers and boys. In the Meyersdale district there are 500 men employed; Irwin, 2,200; Genges Creek, 2,800; Elk Garden, 2,500; and Pocahontas, Va., about 1,800. Richard Davis, the State Secretary of the Miners' Association, says that the conditions are such that the men are bound to win. The Beech Creek, Pennsylvania, and Baltimore and Ohio Railroads are the leading lines affected in freight traffic by the strike, and the miners say they will shut down Eastern mills and manufactories that are dependent upon them for fuel before they give in. This afternoon an immense mass meeting was held in Irwin. Nearly 2,000 men were in attendance. A special despatch to-night says:

The Westmoreland and Pennsylvania Gas Coal Company miners, in mass convention, unanimously endorse the action of the Convention at Cumberland, to cease work on all districts and to cease shipping coal to Eastern markets until an advance of ten cents per ton is granted. Drivers, laborers, and all others will stand by the miners until the advance is secured.

The miners are well organized and in earnest. The mine superintendents have notified the Commissioner of Railroads that the men from the Cumberland district are in the same vein. The mines at Irwin, controlled by the Westmoreland Coal Company, supply the Philadelphia Gas Works and some of the largest manufactories in that city. Many points in New Jersey are reached by this product, while New York city gets a share of the Clearfield district and Pennsylvania coal also. Pittsburgh is not affected.

The strike is in a territory that embraces a radius of 250 miles from this city. The Pocahontas, Cumberland, and Salisbury region is tributary to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Washington and Baltimore, and cities and towns south of them, are supplied from these districts. Ocean steamers, sugar refineries, manufacturing establishments, and private families depend almost wholly on this output, and a famine would be a serious matter. In an interview to-night State Secretary Davis says:

"Throughout Clearfield and Centre counties and George's Creek the store order system is in full force. A check weighman is a rare sight in any of the districts named. In the Meyersdale district there are check weighmen, but as each mine only employs thirty or forty men the miners grudge the heavy tax which the payment of them would involve, so that but few are employed."

The present strike is especially noteworthy as being the first general demand by all the districts competing in the Eastern market for an advance of wages and also as the first effort to carry out the principle laid down by the joint conventions of operators and miners for the establishment of relatively uniform rates in competing districts.

PHILADELPHIA, March 8.—Yerkes & Plumb, manufacturers of edge tools in Frankford, this morning locked out all their employees, as an initial step in a contest with the Knights of Labor. The firm made objection to the men joining the Knights of Labor, and on Saturday posted up a notice requiring all their men to renounce the Knights. This morning the employees held a meeting, and decided to ask the firm to take the discharged men back. A committee was appointed, who waited on Mr. Yerkes at the office of the firm. Mr. Yerkes at first told the men that all hands could go to work to-morrow, but after they had gone he and his partner, Mr. Plumb, held a consultation, and decided to shut down the works for an indefinite period. The firm say they will sell the works before they will submit to the interference of the workingmen's organization. The men held a meeting this afternoon, but no action was taken.

GIRLS START A STRIKE IN A SHOE FACTORY.

RACINE, Wis., March 8.—On Sunday evening the fifty girls employed in A. Miller & Co.'s shoe factory met and appointed a committee to wait upon the proprietors to demand that their wages be raised fifteen per cent. Mr. Miller told the committee that he would take the demand under consideration. This morning when the employees went to work they found nailed across the doorway a board on which was written, "Factory closed." The girls held a meeting and decided that they would not go to work unless their wages were advanced 25 per cent. The men employed in the factory, learning of the action of the proprietors, held a meeting and decided to demand an increase of wages in accordance with the new scale recently adopted by the Milwaukee shoemakers. A committee waited on the members of the firm and announced their decision. No answer was returned, and a strike was declared.

CHICAGO, March 8.—A number of business men, representing the Seventh, Eighth, and Ninth wards of this city, assembled yesterday for the purpose of organizing a mixed assembly of the Knights of Labor. The Chairman said that, at the request of business men and others who were suffering from the results of the poor compensation that labor received, it had been decided that business men should make common cause with the laboring class, on whom they relied for support, by thoroughly organizing and coöperating with the working people in their various localities. A committee appointed at a former meeting to secure a charter reported that the request had been granted by the district assembly, and a charter would be issued to them some time during the present week.

A NEW POLITICAL PARTY.

DECATUR, Ill., March 8.—The action of the Knights of Labor of this section in forming a new political party is attracting much attention. They declare in their platform:

We have formed a new national political party, to be known as the United Labor Party of America, for the purpose of organizing and directing the great political power of the industrial masses as a political organization; and we will make our ballots for no one who will not pledge himself to stand firmly by our principles.

They call upon all voters to unite in the effort to emancipate the wage workers of the country from "the iron hand of the capitalist." They declare that the alarming development and aggressiveness of great capitalists and corporations, unless checked, will inevitably lead to the pauperization and hopeless degradation of the toiling masses.

BOYCOTTING A NEWSPAPER.

SHAMOKIN, Pa., March 8.—A committee representing the different labor organizations in this region to-day called on J. W. Kurtz, a leading newsdealer, and ordered him to immediately stop selling the Philadelphia *Press*, a paper which has a large circulation in the coal region. The visitors proved to be intelligent miners. Mr. Kurtz pleasantly received his instructions, and for a time thought it a joke, but subsequent developments proved that the men are in earnest. It is alleged that the boycotted paper recently published something that the miners disapproved in regard to labor, and advocated the employment of non-union men. Mr. Kurtz said to-night that he would pay no attention to the warning, and would continue to sell the *Press* as heretofore. The miners all through this region are assuming an independent attitude, and an uprising of the present army of coal miners at any moment would not be a surprise.

LOUISVILLE, March 8.—Four out of the five companies of soldiers who are at the Greenwood mines, in Pulaski county, to protect State property and the convicts against the threatened onslaught of armed free miners, left for home to-day. The free miners have promised not to molest the convicts for two weeks. They say they will give the Legislature that time to pass laws removing the convicts from the mines. The free miners are orderly but determined, as the question is one of bread to them.

VICTORY FOR THE KNIGHTS IN WOBURN, MASS.

BOSTON, March 8.—The Knights of Labor won another important victory to-night in Woburn, which is a large shoe town. By joint organization the Knights have acquired a membership of 2,500 in the town, and on Saturday they made their first request for a new wage schedule, selecting the factory of James Skinner & Co. The manufacturers had a consultation, and this afternoon the members of the firm applied to and agreed to submit the matter to a board of arbitration, one member to be named by the Knights, the second by the firm, and the third to be the choice of the first two. A schedule will doubtless be agreed upon in a day or two, and then all the factories in town will be asked to adopt it. There is very little doubt that all will yield.

The Knights of Labor are extending their organization to new trades very rapidly. A union of pattern makers, with 300 charter members, was formed yesterday afternoon. The barbers also perfected their organization. The first of April they make war upon five-cent shaves and fifteen-cent hair cuts. Then they intend to cut off Sunday work by securing strict enforcement of the Sunday laws.

At Manchester, N. H., the Amoskeag Mills are now running regularly again, with little change in the old staff of employees. Some minor concessions were made by the corporation, but the strike was practically a failure, because the Knights of Labor refused to recognize the movement or extend aid to the strikers.

OTHER LABOR MOVEMENTS.

HARTFORD, March 8.—The New York and New Haven Railroad Company has, without solicitation, decided to raise the pay of laborers on all divisions of their road from $1.35 to $1.50 a day, beginning April 1.

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 8.—The local differences between the Knights of Labor and their employers on the Southern Pacific Railway have been settled, and the strike here is at an end.

MILWAUKEE, March 8.—The boot and shoe makers' strike, begun two weeks ago, is practically at an end. To-day the Page Company signed the strikers' scale. The remaining two firms, it is believed, will sign within a few days.

CARPENTERS GET WHAT THEY WANT.

Only 100 Strikers Left at the End of the First Day's Strike.

For three successive years the journeymen carpenters of New York have agreed upon $3.50 for a day's work of nine hours. Lately many bosses, it is alleged, have endeavored to cut down the scale of wages, paying some of them as low as $2 for ten hours' work, because they say the men are not first-class workmen, and do not earn the standard wages.

Last Saturday night delegates from the United Order of American Joiners, and the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners met and decided that the bosses must agree on Monday to the standard of $3.50, nine hours a day for five days and eight hours for Saturday, besides agreeing to pay the men employed on jobs at a distance from the shops for the time spent in reporting at the shops. About 3,000 men held themselves ready to go on strike yesterday morning if these terms were not acceded to. The committee chose Saturday in order that the bosses might have a day to consider the demands. In many shops the full wages were being paid. Yesterday morning the threatened trouble melted down to small proportions, and all day the bosses kept yielding, until at night not more than 100 men were on strike.

The striking carpenters held a mass meeting in the afternoon in the Central Labor Union rooms, and then the reports were made. As fast as a firm agreed to the "code" the men were ordered back to work. Among the 86 shops that yielded yesterday were:

Gressler & Tassel in East Seventieth street, Mahoney Bros., New Bowery; S. McMillan, Forty-second street; Graham & Son in Forty-third street, Mr. Wilson in West Tenth street, Elwood Smith in Grand street.

At J. C. Miller's shop in Fifteenth street the men were promised $3.25 for ten hours' work. They agreed to it and went in, but an order from the Executive Committee sent them all out again. The bitterest fight seems likely to be with Mr. Herrman, boss carpenter on the new Emigrant Savings Bank, in Chambers street, near Broadway. He positively refused to accede to the strikers' demands. The Executive Committee yesterday not only withdrew all the carpenters from the bank, but all the other tradesmen. Work was entirely suspended and the place was picketed. The only shops holding out are the small ones.

FIGHT OF THE STEAM MEN AND THE ENGINEERS.

The Swedes from Castle Garden who are hauling coal for the New York Steam Company set to work yesterday with six hired carts. Two policemen tramped to and fro with each cart. The strikers found out where the carts were hired, and induced the owners of them to call them in. The company immediately bought carts and horses. Policemen lounged on Pier 3 and about the company's plant at Cortlandt and Greenwich streets. The company needs about 180 tons of coal a day to keep the steam up to 80 pounds, and the strikers declare that it is not getting in more than 100 tons. One of the officers of the company was asked what the result would be if the strikers succeeded in drawing off the tugs that are used in towing the coal barges over from Jersey City.

"Then we will buy tugs and put our own men on board to run them," he replied. "We have coal enough on hand to last us ten days, and the Delaware and Hudson Coal Company has sent us word that its contract with us will be filled at all hazards. If the strikers succeed in inducing the railroad men and the miners to back them up in their fight with us we will take precisely the same steps as we would take in the matter of the tugs." This means apparently that the company will buy a railroad and a coal mine and man them. Walking Delegate Dougherty said that if the attempt to prevent the company from getting coal across the river fails the strikers will see what can be done with the railroad employees, and if this doesn't work they will ask the miners to stop work. He said further that a letter will be sent to Secretary Manning asking him to remove Manager Emery of the company from his office as a marine boiler inspector, on the ground that he is in private employ. They will also try the virtues of boycotting the company's customers. Mr. Dougherty said that the strikers meditate no violence, and that the police may as well go home and get some sleep.

LOCAL LABOR NOTES.

The Brassworkers' Protective Union say that the rule now annulled requiring employees of the Lane Brass Company to change their clothes before and after work was intended to insure security but was practically a search under suspicion of theft. The difficulty between Statts & Dillmeier and their moulders has been amicably settled by a committee of the union.

The Defiance cigar manufactory has decided to require all its employees to join the Knights of Labor. Manufacturer Mathias says: "We deem it essential and beneficial to our business and a protection to our working people."

The Canal Boat Owners' Association has pledged its members to advance the wages of grain shovellers fifty cents a thousand bushels in case the Elevator bill passes at the Legislature.

The Female Bookkeepers that Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Texas the age of consent is 10 years. I therefore ask, first of all, that the protection of the person be put on the same level as the protection of property. [Applause.] In all those States there is a law that, though a man may not marry a young woman without permission of her parents or guardians until she is 18 years old, yet for eight years previous to that age she has not protection of her person. Our laws on this subject are worthy only of the dark ages. They must be remodelled. Under the pagan life of the Roman and Italian races, Our German forefathers were monogamists, as Tacitus tells us. With them the adulterer was buried in mud, and the adulteress whipped in public. [Applause.] There is in the unpolluted German-British heart a great tidal wave of chivalry toward women, and if we could cause that to float this reform we should carry it on to triumph. [Applause.] I do not think Englishmen worse in this respect than Americans or Germans. There is a vein of brutality in the Anglo-Saxon nature, and when corrupted by strong drink it becomes a social monster. The corruption has been found in the charmed circles. They have been accused, and no reply has been made, except that the dignity of the respectable portion of society has been assailed. I hope the day will come when some pure American actress will refuse to take dinner to the invitation of the Prince of Wales."

The applause which followed this allusion was punctuated by a distinct hiss from the gallery. Mr. Cook turned with an expression of fury in that direction and shouted:

"Who is it here that defends the position of a spaniel of aristocracy? Who is it here that expresses himself in language belonging to one of the shallowest of creatures and opposes an effort to pluck innocent maidenhood out of the jaws of that minotaur of respectability which is rotten to the core? If any Englishman hisses here—"

A middle-aged Englishman suddenly rose, and, pointing his finger at the lecturer, said: "Mr. Cook, I am here to protest." But he got no further, for the audience broke into a round of applause. The man made two or three attempts to say a word, but he was not allowed to proceed, and he finally sat down.

"If any Englishman hisses here," continued Mr. Cook in his severest manner, "let him go home and tell his aristocrats that we want nothing in America with their contagious diseases acts [applause], and that we mean to join hands with all friends of genuine reform in putting the laws concerning person and property on the same level. [Applause.] I ask for such reforms in religious and scientific instruction as shall favor the pledge of the White Cross League. I ask, in the field of social custom, for early marriages and for equal social penalties for men and women. [Applause.] I ask, lastly, for the execution of all the laws now on the statute book, whether they affect men or women, and I ask that the gilded saloon and the brothel, and the liquor traffic on the one hand and the social evil on the other, be attacked as the two sides of the chief hell gate of our time."

VICTIMS OF FIRE DAMP.

Fourteen Men Killed and Wounded by Explosions in a Mine.

CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., March 8.—Shortly after noon to-day a series of explosions took place in the Uniondale mine, at Dunbar, four miles from here, by which two men were killed and twelve others received injuries which will prove fatal in almost every case. The cause of the explosion was fire damp. There were 23 men in the pit, nine of whom managed to escape uninjured.

The first explosion occurred about 12:30 this afternoon. It was a terrific shock, and was followed by two others in quick succession a few minutes later. The first explosion caused the death of the two men and injured three.

The rest ran toward the mouth of the pit, but before they reached it the other explosions occurred. There was an upheaval of earth, coal dust, and other débris. The lights were blown out, the dust blinded the men, and the passageways were blocked up and cut off escape. The pit was on fire, and a horrible death awaited the imprisoned miners. Nine of them, who had been working in another entry, managed to make their way out before the mouth of the pit was choked up.

The shock caused the men in the mines of Morrell, Calvin & Wheeler adjoining to drop their tools and rush panic stricken to the top, imagining that the pits were being lifted heavenward. The ground rolled and quaked so that many fell down, and three or four in the Morrell mine, which connects with the Uniondale, were violently thrown against the walls and seriously injured. Everybody rushed toward the Uniondale mine.

Columbus Shay of the Mahoning works and James Henderson of the Cabin mine headed a rescuing party and went to work with picks and shovels to force an entrance to their ill-fated companions. In a few minutes an opening was made and several rushed forward to enter the mine, but were repelled by a volume of flame. It took several minutes for the smoke and fire to clear away and the rescuers were compelled to wait. The moans of the injured were pitiable. They were lying in every direction, buried under masses of débris. Several of them were horribly burned. Twelve of them were found in a dying condition and two others were dead. The names are:

Killed—John Williams, trackman, aged 45 years, married, wife and four children; Joseph Cope, miner, aged 50 years, wife and 9 children.

Injured—Jacob Cope, Jr., aged 15, burned, cannot live; Cal Martin, aged 18, fatally burned; Wm. Harding, colored, burned, will probably die; Smally Martin, leg broken; Wm. Shaw, aged 70 years, dangerously burned; Isaac Frey, Peter Blunt, colored; Hiram Hughes, Wm. Ross, Thomas Owen, pitt boss, Mall Hannan, and Peter Kearns.

The Actors in the Hick Tragedy.

COBLESKILL, March 8.—It was reported today that Dr. Gale was seen on a farm near Cobleskill yesterday. The report cannot be substantiated. The body of Rich arrived this morning, and is in Odd Fellows' Hall. It will be buried to-morrow. McDowell left here yesterday.

Knocked Out in the Sixth Round.

BANGOR, Me., March 8.—At Daley's Athletic Hall this evening, Meehan of Chicago knocked out Jameson of Bangor in the sixth round of a glove contest.

A Cold Wave Coming.

CHICAGO, March 8.—At 7 P. M. the United States Signal officer here reports a cold wave coming. The temperature will fall about 15 or 20 degrees within the next twenty-four hours.

JOS. COOK ON IMMORALITY.

DEMANDING EQUAL SOCIAL PENALTIES FOR MEN AND WOMEN.

The London Expose Described as an Explosion Under the Chief Hell Gates of the World—A Protest by an Angry Englishman.

BOSTON, March 8.—Joseph Cook's Monday lectures have been rapidly waning in popularity of late, and his audiences now hardly more than half fill Tremont Temple. He evidently feels the necessity for resorting to some new method to attract public attention. To-day he talked about social morality so plain and denunciatory that it created a scene. First he described the *Pall Mall Gazette* exposé as an explosion under one of the chief hell gates of the world. "The chief mischief," he said, "is in the silt, the slime of civilization, which settles on the rock of law and custom. What are the facts of the agitation in England? In the first place, a distinguished committee has endorsed the chief revelations as substantially true. We know that innumerable crimes, springing from nameless vice, flourish in London; that crime of the most abominable description is constantly practised in that city. It is a fact that there is in full operation a system of which the ruin of young women is one of the ordinary incidents. Arrangements are made for buying and selling victims with a simplicity and an efficiency that are appalling. Girls are simply snared, gagged, trapped, drugged, and the result is that London is, in certain quarters, a minotaur swallowing human flesh. The result has been an agitation. The age of consent has been raised from 13 to 16 years.

"Now, I am not going further than the reformers of England in this matter," he continued, "but I must note that a girl cannot be married or dispose of her property until she is 18 without the consent of her parents or guardians. It is for a reform of these evils that the White Cross Leagues have been formed. What is a White Cross League? The member of that League makes this pledge: 'I, A. B., promise, by the help of God, to treat all women with respect, and endeavor to preserve them from wrong and degradation; to endeavor to put down all indecent language and coarse jests, to maintain the law of purity as equally binding on men and women, to endeavor to spread these principles among my companions, and to try to help my younger brothers, and loyally to take every possible means to fulfil the command, Keep thyself pure.' What remedies for these evils in America? What is the legal age in the different parts of this country? Let me call the roll, and let the States one by one appear blushing before us. In Delaware the age of consent is 7 years. [Sensation.] In Alabama, Connecticut, Dakota, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Maryland, Minnesota, Montana, Wyoming, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Wisconsin, and Texas the age of consent is 10 years. I therefore ask, first of all, that the protection of the person be put on the same level as the protection of property. [Applause.] In all those States there is a law that, though a man may not marry a young woman without permission of her parents or guardians until she is 18 years old, yet for eight years previous to that age she has not protection of her person. Our laws on this subject are worthy only of the dark ages. They must be remodelled. Under the pagan life of the Roman and Italian races, Our German forefathers were monogamists, as Tacitus tells us. With them the adulterer was buried in mud, and the adulteress whipped in public. [Applause.] There is in the unpolluted German-British heart a great tidal wave of chivalry toward women, and if we could cause that to float this reform we should carry it on to triumph. [Applause.] I do not think Englishmen worse in this respect than Americans or Germans. There is a vein of brutality in the Anglo-Saxon nature, and when corrupted by strong drink it becomes a social monster. The corruption has been found in the charmed circles. They have been accused, and no reply has been made, except that the dignity of the respectable portion of society has been assailed. I hope the day will come when some pure American actress will refuse to take dinner to the invitation of the Prince of Wales."

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CONNELLSVILLE, Pa., March 8.—Shortly after noon to-day a series of explosions took place in the Uniondale mine, at Dunbar, four miles from here, by which two men were killed and twelve others received injuries which will prove fatal in almost every case. The cause of the explosion was fire damp. There were 23 men in the pit, nine of whom managed to escape uninjured.

The first explosion occurred about 12:30 this afternoon. It was a terrific shock, and was followed by two others in quick succession a few minutes later. The first explosion caused the death of the two men and injured three.

The rest ran toward the mouth of the pit, but before they reached it the other explosions occurred. There was an upheaval of earth, coal dust, and other débris. The lights were blown out, the dust blinded the men, and the passageways were blocked up and cut off escape. The pit was on fire, and a horrible death awaited the imprisoned miners. Nine of them, who had been working in another entry, managed to make their way out before the mouth of the pit was choked up.

The shock caused the men in the mines of Morrell, Calvin & Wheeler adjoining to drop their tools and rush panic stricken to the top, imagining that the pits were being lifted heavenward. The ground rolled and quaked so that many fell down, and three or four in the Morrell mine, which connects with the Uniondale, were violently thrown against the walls and seriously injured. Everybody rushed toward the Uniondale mine.

Columbus Shay of the Mahoning works and James Henderson of the Cabin mine headed a rescuing party and went to work with picks and shovels to force an entrance to their ill-fated companions. In a few minutes an opening was made and several rushed forward to enter the mine, but were repelled by a volume of flame. It took several minutes for the smoke and fire to clear away and the rescuers were compelled to wait. The moans of the injured were pitiable. They were lying in every direction, buried under masses of débris. Several of them were horribly burned. Twelve of them were found in a dying condition and two others were dead. The names are:

Killed—John Williams, trackman, aged 45 years, married, wife and four children; Joseph Cope, miner, aged 50 years, wife and 9 children.

Injured—Jacob Cope, Jr., aged 15, burned, cannot live; Cal Martin, aged 18, fatally burned; Wm. Harding, colored, burned, will probably die; Smally Martin, leg broken; Wm. Shaw, aged 70 years, dangerously burned; Isaac Frey, Peter Blunt, colored; Hiram Hughes, Wm. Ross, Thomas Owen, pitt boss, Mall Hannan, and Peter Kearns.

The Actors in the Hick Tragedy.

COBLESKILL, March 8.—It was reported today that Dr. Gale was seen on a farm near Cobleskill yesterday. The report cannot be substantiated. The body of Rich arrived this morning, and is in Odd Fellows' Hall. It will be buried to-morrow. McDowell left here yesterday.

Knocked Out in the Sixth Round.

BANGOR, Me., March 8.—At Daley's Athletic Hall this evening, Meehan of Chicago knocked out Jameson of Bangor in the sixth round of a glove contest.

A Cold Wave Coming.

CHICAGO, March 8.—At 7 P. M. the United States Signal officer here reports a cold wave coming. The temperature will fall about 15 or 20 degrees within the next twenty-four hours.

JAKE SHARP'S CHARTER.

The Bill Mr. Conkling has Prepared to Annul the Franchise.

ALBANY, March 8.—The Senate Railroad Committee that is investigating the means by which Jacob Sharp got his Broadway charter is to-night considering its preliminary report and the two bills that will accompany it if it meets with approval. Ex-Senator Roscoe Conkling drew up both the reports and the bills, and what they contain is known only in a general way to the committeemen, some of whom will hear the documents read to-night for the first time. They have been pressed by some newspapers to accept them blindly, but they prefer to go slowly. The report is understood to set forth the results of the investigation thus far and to recommend the passage of the accompanying bills, one of which is to annul the franchise of the Broadway Railroad, while the other is to provide for the protection of innocent stockholders.

There has never been a moment's disagreement among the committeemen, but it may be that this discussion will develop some, for the measures proposed are very radical and extraordinary, and members are not all certain that they ought to be approved. For instance, some are of the opinion that the fact that Jacob Sharp no longer owns the Broadway charter may make it unfair to deprive the new owners of their property. Others are debating whether, if the charter is put up at public auction, the property would not fall easily and cheaply into the hands of the Cable Railroad Company. One plan suggested for protecting the innocent stockholders is to first discover what the horse railroad managers estimate the value of the franchise to be, and then to offer it at about that price.

This same committee will report for consideration by the Senate to-morrow Mr. Cantor's bill providing for the sale of railroad franchises by auction. The committee are of the opinion that the bill is not a thorough one. It is an amendment to the general Surface Railroad act, and does not cover the cable railway, for instance, which was incorporated under the Rapid Transit act.

The Broadway investigating committee broke up their meeting at 12¼ o'clock to-night, after a very earnest discussion of the report and the bills. Mr. Low, the Chairman, after reading the report and the bills, spoke earnestly in favor of their adoption. It was soon perceived that all were virtually of one mind as to the general tenor of the proposed action, and the differences that arose were as to details. It was once enough to annul the charter of the Broadway road, and all had proof that the Legislature had the power to take the action. But the question what to do with the property, the tracks and the appurtenances, was a troublesome one. Whether, for instance, they were to go to the city, or to other stockholders, or theirs to bondholders.

One Senator at the outset raised the argument that to annul the charter was to punish both guilty and innocent at once. However, it was resolved to introduce the report and the bills as they were originally drawn, and this will be done to-morrow morning. The bill for the protection of the stockholders, as it is called, provides for the sale of the franchise and the division of the proceeds among the investors. It is quite likely that one or more of these bills may be divided, so that no one of them shall provide for more than one operation. So that the original two may to-morrow take the form of three bills, and one Senator says possibly a fourth. The bills will in all probability be presented with a request that they be sent back to the committee for further discussion and possible alteration as to details.

The members of the committee say they will not stop until the last stone is overturned, and not, if possible, until the guilty are brought to justice.

FILIBUSTERS STRAGGLE BACK.

Picked Up on Turk's Island by the Fram—Halliday One of Them.

The little steamship Fram, which sailed from New York on Feb. 5 with Gatling guns and ammunition bound for San Andres, a Nicaraguan island, got back to this port at 9 o'clock yesterday morning. She had not succeeded in conveying the arms to the filibusters on the now captive City of Mexico. She brought back with her as cabin passengers five of the New Yorkers who went filibustering on the San Domingo, were left on Turk's Island, and have since been unable to upset the Government of Honduras to oblige Mr. Marco Aurelio Soto of Fifth avenue.

Seven of the gang were picked up by the Fram at Turk's Island, where the steamer stopped for a couple of hours on her way south. The Fram didn't find the City of Mexico at San Andres, and went to Kingston, Jamaica, where she left two of the adventurers, Tommy Loftus and David Wallace, the lover of Marion Ray. She left the arms there, too, with the assistance of the British Government, which had heard of them before. The five filibusters who remained on board were landed yesterday on Fuech, Edye & Co.'s pier, foot of West Twenty-third street, where the Fram now lies.

THE SUN reporter could not get the list from Capt. Berneldson or the agents. Aboard the steamer Mate Peter Gunnison, who speaks a little less Norwegian than the rest of the ship's company, said that Tommy Loftus and David Wallace were the two left at Kingston. The mate had learned Wallace's name from reading it in THE SUN at Kingston, and Tommy Loftus was an old acquaintance. Loftus, the mate said, shipped at Kingston on a brigantine bound to Cape Haytien. Halliday was the only name among the five filibusters that the Fram brought back that the mate could remember. He got to know Halliday because Halliday was a sort of boss over the others. The filibusters, he said, occupied the cabin, and did not go about with the crew. They did no work, and nobody knew a sailor's duties.

The filibusters who arrived on the Fram do not belong in the Fourth ward. The boys who left their homes there to descend on Honduras are still missing. None of them has written home. Halliday could not be found at any of his old haunts in the ward last night. He is not very popular there just now.

Suicide or Accident?

ROWZERVILLE, Pa., March 8.—G. W. Goldsmith and wife, who lived near Conoscheque Creek in 1881, had not lived peacefully together for some time. One day in that year they had a bitter quarrel. A foot bridge crossed the creek near where the Goldsmiths lived. A few hours after the quarrel between Goldsmith and his wife the latter was found drowned in the creek. The railing on one side of the bridge was broken. Goldsmith asserted that his wife was crossing the bridge, and the railing was so insecure that in leaning on it she broke it with her weight, and fell in the creek and was drowned. He brought suit against the township to recover $3,000 for the loss of his wife.

The township defended the suit on the ground that Mrs. Goldsmith had committed suicide on account of her domestic troubles. The case has just been tried, and the jury, after being out forty-eight hours, were unable to agree, standing six for the plaintiff and six for the defendant. This was the second trial of the case, and a third has been ordered.

Alleged Strikers in the Legislature.

TRENTON, March 8.—The Assembly to-night appointed a committee of five to investigate charges made at a meeting on Wednesday evening last of the Citizens' Association of Jersey City, that is pushing the Jersey City Bridge bill, that "ten or fifteen members of the Assembly are strikers," and specifying the members from Sussex, Warren, Hunterdon, Cape May, Cumberland, and Gloucester as using this manœuvre. Senators Seymour, Pelouhet, and McDonald of Hudson county were also indirectly referred to as members open to influences.

Mr. Gladstone Ill.

LONDON, March 8.—Mr. Gladstone is suffering from a severe cold. The announcement is coupled with the statements that the physicians do not look upon the Premier's ailment as serious and that his throat is not affected. Mr. Gladstone has been confined to his room, and has spent all his time since Saturday in bed. The Ministers who have been required by the exigencies of the State's business to call upon the Premier during that time have been received by him in his bedroom. He attends to his necessary correspondence by dictating from his couch.

Accusing M. Clemenceau.

PARIS, March 8.—M. Clemenceau has been assailed from a new and unexpected quarter. A Deputy of the Extreme Left has charged that through the connivance of Gen. Boulanger, Minister of War, M. Clemenceau obtained a contract with the Government by the terms of which he received 1,500,000 francs more than several responsible contractors offered to perform the work for. M. Clemenceau has made no answer to the accusation.

Agitating for Home Rule in England.

LONDON, March 8.—Upon the advice of Mr. Michael Davitt, who has long urged the necessity for such a movement, the Irish leaders are organizing agitation in England and Scotland in favor of home rule. Mr. Joseph Arch, M. P., and other English Radicals will coöperate in the