The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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To Work or Not to Work.

When, in last July in the *American Federationist*, the official magazine of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. SAMUEL GOMPERS maintained the right of the anthracite miners to refrain from mining at their pleasure, THE SUN unqualifiedly sustained his view. That the right of one man to cease work was not as absolute as that of another to labor seemed to us monstrous in any aspect. To-day a document that raises the same issue, namely, Mr. JOHN MITCHELL'S reply to the recent appeal of President ROOSEVELT, reporting the refusal of the members of his union to begin mining again, is entitled to the same popular respect, particularly as temporary distress seems in some quarters to have overshadowed the principle of which for the moment Mr. MITCHELL has become the champion. We quote here the essential points of his letter to the President:

"OFFICE NATIONAL PRESIDENT, UNITED MINE WORKERS OF AMERICA.

"JOHN MITCHELL, National President; Second Vice-President American Federation of Labor.

"HOTEL HART,
"WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Oct. 8, 1902.

"To the Hon. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, *President of the United States, Washington, D. C.:*

"DEAR SIR: * * * We desire to assure you again that we feel keenly the responsibility of our position and the gravity of the situation, and it would give us great pleasure to take any action which would bring this coal strike to an end in a manner that would safeguard the interests of our constituents.

"* * * We respectfully decline to advise our people to return to work simply upon the hope that the coal operators might be induced or forced to comply with the recommendation of your commission. I am, respectfully,

"JOHN MITCHELL,
"President United Mine Workers of America."

Fancy the condition of affairs in which, under pressure of laws that some impulsive people would establish, or of the public clamor which the same influences are now endeavoring to make imperative, JOHN MITCHELL and his associates should be unable to say "No" to the President's demand!

Fancy putting it into the power of men's neighbors to force them to accept conditions of labor which they regard as unsatisfactory!

Under those circumstances the cornerstone of the republic would be pulled out of its place, and liberty would be dead.

Compulsion in its shadowy and incipient form was last week resisted by MITCHELL and the operators in unison. Now MITCHELL repudiates it again, and in so doing he and his former colleagues in independence are entitled to universal public support. It will be an unfortunate day when the American people sell their birthright, even for coal.

The Gaelic Movement.

A very remarkable convention opened its sessions at Philadelphia on Monday. The National Gaelic League then assembled for its fifth annual convention at the Academy of Music, with a large attendance of delegates, representative of more than eighteen thousand members of the league in America, and many visitors from all parts of this country. The Philadelphia hotel registers contained a large number of names signed in Gaelic, wholly novel characters to the clerks in charge, and a spirit of fervid Irish patriotism pervaded the town.

Unfortunately, the convention had hardly been organized before signs of serious discord appeared. It grew out of a report of the Committee of Credentials to unseat the delegates from California on the ground of irregularity. The decision was unfavorably received by a great part of the convention, for these California delegates represented a membership of between three thousand and four thousand, by far the largest in any State of the Union. Major E. T. McCRYSTAL, the vice-president of the league, presided in the absence of the president, Father RICHARD HENEBRY of Baltimore, and when he declared the convention adjourned before the question was settled there was rebellion. Major McCRYSTAL having retired, together with several other delegates, including most of those from New York, Mr. P. C. B. O'DONOVAN of Philadelphia was elected chairman in his place. The report against the California delegates was rejected, and at the session next day they were duly seated. The opposition to them, it was said by some members of the convention, "was aroused by New York politicians who were apprehensive of Western supremacy in the convention;" but the explanation seems to be far-fetched. The trouble was composed, however, so that the convention adjourned finally on Wednesday, after a harmonious concluding session.

The Gaelic movement, or the movement to revive the Gaelic language as a means of keeping even more actively alive the spirit of Irish patriotism, has already had results so important that it has attracted serious attention in high English quarters. Dr. DOUGLAS HYDE, the president of the Gaelic League of Ireland, in a communication to this Philadelphia convention, reported that now the Gaelic language is taught in 1,400 Irish schools, though two years ago the number was only 139. In Ireland itself there are 430 branches of the Gaelic League, and nearly two million of the people now speak "the language of their fathers." Meantime the Irish people are contributing freely to the support of every project which has for its purpose the restoration of Irish art and industries. Only recently, $1,000 was raised in Dublin for the league, in a single week, by a penny collection.

The Gaelic movement, it will be seen, therefore, is of great social and political significance, and it is so recognized in England. We gave the other day a description of a wedding in the Gaelic language at a London Catholic church. In this country there is a magazine devoted to the furtherance of the movement, called the *Gael*, a periodical of great and curious interest, and its apparent prosperity indicates how enthusiastically the movement is supported here. Many schools for teaching Gaelic have been established in the United States.

The Philadelphia convention expressed regret that a vacancy in the Gaelic chair in the Catholic University at Washington had not yet been filled and asked the board of directors to fill it as soon as possible. It also applauded the Gaelic League of San Francisco for driving the "stage Irishman" from the theatres of that town, and urged on all State leagues the duty of having Irish history, language and literature taught in schools, public and parochial.

Whom Democratic Socialism Attracts.

A letter we print to-day from Mr. EUGENE V. BREWSTER of Brooklyn is of much significance. Mr. BREWSTER was known in 1896 as the close friend and ardent advocate and supporter of Mr. BRYAN. In 1900, however, to use his own words, "I felt it to be my duty to sever political relations with Mr. BRYAN and the Democracy," his good sense and his patriotism compelling him to support the Republican party on the issue of expansion. Since that time he has been Republican in his political sympathies, but now, he announces, he is "with and for the Democracy."

Why does Mr. BREWSTER return to Democracy at this particular time? It is because he has been converted from Republicanism by the "Government ownership and operation" plank of the New York Democratic platform. If that plank "is to be taken seriously," he says, that party "is forming a theory and sentiment more nearly in accord with my own convictions." Now, as it would be an insult to the New York Democratic Convention to assume that it propounded a doctrine of an importance so vital in any other than a spirit of serious conviction and intention, Mr. BREWSTER is fully justified in going to the Democracy. The Democratic party is now representative of his Socialist views.

That we do not misrepresent Mr. BREWSTER in describing him as a Socialist is proved by the frank declaration of his letter that between 1896 and 1900 he was inclined to support the Social Democratic party as being then more nearly representative of his views. That party, as its platform adopted in 1900 demonstrates, is distinctively Socialistic, for it called for "the public ownership of all railroads, telegraphs and telephones; all means of transportation and communication; all water works, gas and electric plants and other public utilities; all gold, silver, copper, lead, iron, coal and other mines and all oil and gas wells;" in fine, "the abolition of wage slavery by the establishment of a national system of coöperative industry, based on the social or common ownership of the means of production and distribution, to be administered by society in the common interest of all its members." The great end for which this party is striving it declares to be "international Socialism."

As Mr. BREWSTER'S views accord generally with this platform he now is quick to extend his support to the Democratic party, and his accession suggests a source from which, unquestionably, the Democracy may now draw a few recruits. The number possibly obtainable is so small relatively that it is somewhat surprising that so sharp a politician as Mr. HILL is reputed to be should have gone out of his way to attract them by surrendering the Democracy of New York to their doctrine.

In 1900, out of the total of 13,959,441 votes cast in the Presidential election, the Social Democratic party polled in the Union only 86,686 votes and the Social Labor party, of similar principles, only 39,759 votes. In the State of New York at that election these two parties together polled only 25,491 votes, out of a total poll of 1,547,912. This Socialist body is in this city chiefly and, almost wholly, on the East Side of the town, among recent or comparatively recent immigrants who have become citizens.

To this little crowd, this party of political eccentricity, the Democratic party in the State of New York, the pivotal State of the Union politically, has now been surrendered by false leaders; for, of course, by demanding "Government ownership and operation of the anthracite mines" they have committed it, logically, to the Socialistic principle of Government ownership generally. If the Government should take one industry it should take all.

Mr. BREWSTER'S conversion to the Democratic party because in New York it has put itself, practically, on the Social Democratic ground, indicates that philosophic Socialists generally will now be attracted to the Democracy, and as they are inordinately fond of talking we shall be sure to hear much from them when the campaign begins to warm up. It is not probable that the organized Socialists on the East Side will make common cause with the Democrats, for they are a very cranky lot of people, the most of whom seem to prefer to keep their crowd small, so that every one in it may stand out the more prominently. But the philosophical and theoretical Socialists like Mr. BREWSTER may safely be counted on to support Mr. HILL'S platform. They are to be found in some pulpits, in some collegiate chairs and in some clubs, and, probably, number several hundred in the State.

These are the possible gains which may be made by the New York Democratic party because of its Socialization by a false and purblind leadership, but to offset them the party must lose every intelligent Democrat who is a Democrat in conviction and is not prepared to go with Mr. BREWSTER and the Democratic platform in regarding Jeffersonianism as "no longer adequate or applicable to present conditions," and is not ready to vote for a Socialistic reorganization, even on Mr. BREWSTER'S plan of "private ownership and operation under Government control and dictation, including compulsory profit sharing with employees."

Theory and Fact.

Seeing that the subjoined communication keeps the issue it raises within the domain of theory, where it unquestionably belongs, a reply cannot be harmful:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Although not always agreeing with your views, I am nevertheless a constant reader of THE SUN, and an admirer of the tone of fairness, logic and consistency with which your editorials are written. I am anxious to know what your ideas would be if the following situation were to exist:

"The entire body of men engaged in mining coal, both anthracite and bituminous, quit work upon certain demands being refused by their employers. Both parties are acting entirely within their Constitutional rights. There is no violence or violation of law. Both sides are determined. Both are able to hold out for an indefinite time.

"What remedy, if any, would the public have?
"OCT., 6. T. S. WILLIAMS."

We must decline to consider Mr. WILLIAMS'S supposition, for the reason that discussion of it elsewhere as though it was an actual fact has done more toward encouraging riotous opposition to the mining of coal than any other single influence.

The day the strike was declared the evidence was afforded that the United Mine Workers had no such monopoly in mine labor as constitutes one side of the case presented by Mr. WILLIAMS, and the strenuous effort of the operators to produce coal, of which they have mined nearly a million tons, shows that there is no present basis for the other.

That the frequent demand that the operators consent to arbitration, based on the imaginary condition of affairs described by Mr. WILLIAMS, has been of powerful effect in sustaining Pennsylvania's reign of lawlessness there can be no question.

It would be better for the public if the philosophers put away their theories and demanded that the legal defences of life and property be again established around the mines.

Gen. Booth and the Salvation Army.

A correspondent suggested in THE SUN, on Monday, that Gen. BOOTH, the autocrat of the Salvation Army, should improve the opportunity of his arrival in this country "to answer questions which have arisen as to the disposition of the enormous sums of money which are believed to pass through his hands."

It was a pertinent suggestion, but, so far, Gen. BOOTH has paid no heed to it. The questioning, too, seems to have justification in the withdrawal from association with him in the Salvation Army of the three members of his family who are now in this country; and the reason for the doubt seems to be strengthened by the continued refusal of that beautiful spirit, Mrs. BALLINGTON BOOTH, to serve under him, though she had abandoned everything usually deemed most desirable in life to enlist in the Salvation Army and marry his son.

Why happened this estrangement from the old man? If he deserves the laudation bestowed on him by Mayor Low at Carnegie Hall, on Monday, as "the Angel of the submerged of men," why is it that his own children, those closest to him and most familiar with his methods, should have felt compelled to separate from him?

What is the matter with Gen. BOOTH and the Salvation Army? This is a question which he must answer and answer specifically if he expects to gain anything from his present visit to this country. Something must have been very wrong to cause the withdrawal of so good a woman as Mrs. BALLINGTON BOOTH. The inference from the secession of Gen. BOOTH'S own children and nearest and ablest lieutenants is unhappy.

It is reported that Gen. BOOTH'S mission to this country is to compose these difficulties with his children and bring about their return to the Salvation Army; but the public will not have confidence in any combination between the Salvation Army and the Volunteers of America, as BALLINGTON BOOTH'S organization is called, unless they are informed exactly as to the causes of the split and have assurances worthy of their acceptance that the methods objectionable to the Booth children have been reformed.

If Gen. BOOTH is the "Angel" Mayor Low calls him he will be an angel of light and will not continue to sit in the darkness which now surrounds his throne as the autocrat of the Salvation Army.

We have never seen occasion to question the sincerity of the tariff reformers of these days, nor have we ever associated their economic prejudices with a lack of patriotism. Yet, that is suggested by the speech of the new tariff reformer of Massachusetts, Mr. EUGENE N. FOSS, Republican nominee in the Eleventh district. Mr. FOSS'S remarks are found in the Boston *Evening Transcript:*

"Senator LODGE sets a fine example now in saying that until the boundary line of Alaska is settled there can be no reciprocal treaty. As if anybody cared for a little strip of that barren far-away territory, when we have such crying needs right here at home."

So Mr. FOSS would give away American territory at the demand of a foreign country. We doubt if the mother of tariff reform, the Star-Eyed Goddess of Kentucky, will own her Massachusetts offspring.

As a defence of the automobile an organ of the "motorists" in this city has made a list of the accidents reported in different parts of the United States during the week ending Sept. 30 which were *not* caused by automobiles, and the summary is as follows: Railroad accidents, 11 killed and 24 injured; trolley accidents, 5 killed and 45 injured; accidents caused by horses, 4 killed and 15 injured; by bicycles, none killed and 1 injured. Total, 20 killed and 85 injured. For obvious reasons, this compilation is confined to the several means of transportation on land, where the automobile is one.

THE SUN has endeavored to report, impartially, the numerous casualties which have resulted from the operation of motor vehicles, and it is not of those who regard these vehicles as "deadly juggernauts." On the other hand, it aims to encourage the automobile's use and development, and would burden its drivers with such restrictions only as are dictated by experience and common sense. It is no more than fair, however, to point out that the foregoing list, even if it were twice or thrice as long as it is, would still fall far short of proving what its author seeks to demonstrate, namely, that the horseless vehicle is to-day comparatively harmless.

Estimating that we have 20,000 "autos" in use and that they will carry, on an average, three persons each, we have 60,000 people riding daily in automobiles. The steam railroads of this country transport about 600,000,000 passengers annually, or an average of over 10,000,000 per week, and the street cars carry several times that number. Bicycles are almost as numerous as horses, and both carry many hundred times the number of people carried in automobiles. Hence, if the accidents caused by motor vehicles in the week referred to were no more than two, the percentage of safety would still weigh heavily against these modern conveyances.

But comparisons of this sort amount to little at the present time. As the automobile is a newcomer, it should be treated as such. After it, or rather, its operators, have been well "broke in," it will be time enough to hunt up and compare statistics of mortality.

BRYANITE FOR THE DEMOCRATS

A Very Suggestive Explanation by a Former Advocate of Mr. Bryan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Two and one-half years ago I felt it my duty to sever political affiliations with my friend Mr. Bryan and the Democracy for the reason that it appeared that I and that party believed in two schools of economic philosophy diametrically opposed to each other. Mr. Bryan was assailing trusts and all combinations of capital on the ground that they destroyed the rights of the individual. The Republican and Socialist parties welcomed and favored the trust—the one unadmittedly and the other openly—while the Democracy bitterly opposed it. The Republican party was the collectivist party, the Democracy the individualist party. The one believed in and encouraged combination, coöperation, concentration and centralization of power—unconsciously perhaps; the other believed in and encouraged home rule, individualism (every man for himself) and anti-combination, anti-coöperation, anti-centralization.

At that time the Social Democratic party appeared to more nearly represent my views, and for a short time I was inclined to support that party; but when the next campaign (1900) opened and the issue of expansion was made paramount, I took sides with the Republican party and have ever since been so inclined, on general principles. But now a new situation is present. I find the Democratic party changing color—if the Government-ownership plank in the State platform is to be taken seriously, and there appears to be forming in the party a theory and a sentiment more nearly in accord with my own convictions.

Several years ago I remarked that the philosophy of Jefferson was no longer adequate or applicable to present conditions, and the Democracy's late desertion of Jeffersonian doctrine would indicate that the idea is now shared by others. While I do not believe in collective ownership in its entirety, and rather favor private ownership and operation under Governmental control and dictation, including a system of compulsory profit-sharing with employees, the Democratic party has to my mind taken a step in the right direction, and its present attitude on nearly all questions strongly appeals to me. I cannot overlook the inconsistency of attacking the trust principle in one breath and advocating the Government-ownership principle in the next, yet after the present crisis is past I have no doubt that the Democracy will readjust itself on a firm, scientific basis. I admire the courage it exhibits in its proclaimed willingness to adopt heroic measures to relieve the threatened coal famine. Either our present form of government and Constitution can meet the present situation and relieve the threatening distress, else they are antiquated and a failure.

When a man is drowning he does not stop to consider property rights, &c., and when a whole nation is threatened with famine and starvation it should not balk at Constitutions. The Government is or is supposed to be the whole people collectively. If the theory of republican government known as majority rule is not obsolete, it is obvious that the nation can do about anything it wishes for the public welfare and protection, even to seizing the private property of some of its members. I am not sure that even if the Government were operating the mines, the miners might not make demands with which the Government officials could not properly comply, thus prolonging or provoking a strike; yet the answer to this appears to be in the fact that the analagous post office system is operated by the Government without a suggestion of discontent.

But whatever be the final solution of this embarrassing situation, I am now with and for the Democratic party.

EUGENE V. BREWSTER.

BROOKLYN, Oct. 6.

Guide to Registering.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It may be of interest to your readers to bring to their attention chapter 89 of the laws of 1902 amending the election laws in relation to registration.

Under the Election law, as amended by this chapter, much of the difficulty heretofore experienced by an elector in ascertaining the place to register is avoided. If he will go into any place in his vicinity where he sees the sign "Board of Registration meets Here," he will find posted there a map of the Assembly district in which he resides. Referring to this map he can readily find the number of the election district in which he resides, and attached to the map he will find a list of the polling places in the Assembly district numbered to correspond with the Election district numbers. For example, if he lives in the Fifth Election district he will find in the list of polling places opposite the number five the exact location of the polling place where he can register. All this is but the work of a moment, and will, I think, save a great deal of annoyance both to voters and inspectors of election.

WILLIAM S. BENNET,
Member of Assembly, Twenty-first District.

The Oiled Brick for Cooking.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The oiled brick as a cooking stove, described in THE SUN, is extremely interesting and perhaps invaluable; but people should be warned of its danger. As the flame from an entire brick mounts up a couple of feet, I suggest that smaller portions of brick, only, be used. X.

NEW YORK, Oct. 9.

Pensions for Fire Horses.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We have been a constant reader of your paper for years, but nothing has pleased us as much as your articles on the police and fire horses, and your article in yesterday's SUN especially appealed to our sympathies. We are heartily in accord with what you say in reference to them. It certainly does seem a shame that these noble animals, that have done such good service, should be "knocked down" for peddling purposes. We think it would be a noble act for a person or several persons to negotiate for the purchase of a farm to be devoted to the care of these faithful creatures in their declining years.

We believe that two or three persons have already agreed to contribute something toward the maintenance of Pug, and, as you have already started the good work, how do you think it would be to start an "endless chain" for the purchase of a farm and the maintenance of same by making THE SUN the bank, i. e., we shall start the chain and as fast as we receive remittances shall forward in sums of say $50 each to you for deposit, and in this way a great many persons may be enabled to contribute their mite of 10 cents who are not able to give $5 or $10. We shall be pleased to hear from you on this and if agreeable shall start the good work at once. CONSTANT READER.

HACKENSACK, N. J., Oct. 6.

The danger of a "chain" subscription is that a good deal of money might be raised and still be insufficient for the purpose. The scheme would fail, and then it would be difficult or impossible properly to redistribute the subscriptions. The only sound way in which to pension Pug or other fire horses is for some man to buy him outright and then receive what money is necessary to repay himself. For that THE SUN will very gladly act as the intermediary.

The New Postal Card.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It was doubtless very thoughtful of Uncle Sam to vary a painful monotony by providing a new design for postal cards, but why did not he provide room enough to write the average address? The space designed for this purpose on the new postals is one and five-eighths inches; the space on the usual envelope is two and a half inches. Just try to cram a Washington address, for instance, into the little blank designated and see where you are at. TRIED IT.

NEW YORK, Oct. 8.

Three Smith Boys Wanted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I want to know the whereabouts of my three sons. I have not seen them for twenty-seven years. I left them in Orange, N. J. Their names are John Michael Edwin, Patrick, and Michael Joseph Smith.

MICHAEL SMITH.

814 FOX ST., South Saginaw, Mich., Oct. 6.

THE ISSUE AT THE MINES.

Law and Liberty.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The industrial conflict that has been waged for months throughout the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania has been the cause of incalculable injury to both persons and property. It has occasioned great bitterness of feeling between the contending parties. The full extent of the misery it has wrought may never be known. Human life has been counted very cheap in that region during the past five months. Murders have been frequent. Scores of willing workers have been clubbed unmercifully, and some have been maimed for life. Wounds have been inflicted that time will scarcely heal. Hordes of lawless and brutal strikers gathered in groups and intercepted the bands of honest and manly miners who were on their way to work in the mines. They insulted them and intimidated them, and not infrequently they treated them with brutal violence. Moreover, and more unmanly still, the wives and children of miners who ignored the miners' union were grossly abused; and, in some cases their homes were wrecked by dynamite. These are some of the methods to which these lawless mobs of striking miners resorted in order to make their strike a success. These are facts well known in the coal regions, but they ought to be known everywhere.

Is there a single American citizen with a spark of patriotism who will say that the coal operators and former employers of these lawless persons should yield to their demands in such circumstances as these?

There are multitudes in our land who are crying out for peace in this region who need to be told that peace is not only undesirable but impossible while righteous liberty is being strangled and choked to death.

Next to the right to live is the right of a man to earn an honest living. Nay, more, it is not only the right, but the duty of every man to do honest work when and where he can. An inspired apostle says: "If any would not work, neither should he eat." Under the American flag, surely liberty to work should be as highly prized and as sacredly guarded as liberty not to work. And yet thousands of men in the anthracite coal fields have been deprived of this liberty. They have been intimidated and terrorized and clubbed into submission, not only to their own injury and to the injury of the community, but to the great disgrace of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is amazing that such lawlessness should be tolerated even for a day, and yet it has been allowed to go on for months.

It is not difficult to fix the responsibility for this state of affairs.

Neither the owners nor the operators of the coal mines have been guilty of the outrages which have shocked the community. All these crimes against person and against property and against liberty have been committed by "striking" miners. They have dealt the deadly blows. They are directly responsible.

A still greater responsibility rests upon their unwise leaders, who induced them to "strike." But, for the majority of these shocking crimes, the heaviest weight of responsibility rests upon the Governor of the State of Pennsylvania, for he could have prevented them. He resisted, at first, all appeals for troops to put down the rebellion. Then, for weeks, he wavered and hesitated. But, at last, he concluded that, perhaps, it would be a wise thing to send a few soldiers into the disturbed district, even though they should arrive too late to do much good; thus suggesting that old and familiar proverb about locking the stable door after the horse was stolen.

Nobody doubts either the courage or the patriotism of Theodore Roosevelt, the President of the United States, but the defence of our liberties is far more important than the mining of anthracite coal. Our national life does not depend upon anthracite coal—valuable though that commodity is—but our national life would be only a living death if we were deprived of our liberty. There are multitudes of citizens, who, being ignorant of the reign of terror that has existed in the coal region, seem willing to purchase peace between the contending parties at any price, in order that they may get an abundance of coal at a low price. These good citizens need to be told that whoever is to blame for the origin of this conflict, the owners and operators of the coal mines are now contending for two great and fundamental principles of this free Government, namely, the right of business men to manage their own affairs, and the right of every citizen of the United States to exercise that liberty guaranteed unto him by the Constitution.

These are the questions at issue, and they are not academic questions. They involve tremendous issues. The coal operators believe in Americanism and not in Eugene Debsism or in John Mitchellism, and hence they are standing a solid rock when they refuse to sacrifice law and liberty on the altar of anarchy. For taking this firm stand they deserve the thanks of every patriotic citizen.

SCRANTON, Pa., Oct. 8. JAMES McLEOD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Whether the strike be lost or won there will be at least one benefit derived from these five months of turmoil and agitation, for the sleeping cur of anarchy has been coaxed from his hiding place by John Mitchell and stands unmasked in the open, an object lesson, at least to us who live neighbors to it, and has shown this section of our glorious Commonwealth the liberties of a free (and easy) country, the possibilities of a republican form of government, and, above all, the virtues of "domestic tranquility" when circumscribed by timidity and selfishness.

Conferences may go on, sympathetic meetings be held and the public continue to demand coal, but a greater question than that of the mining of coal is being fought out in this region and not only the operators but the good American citizens of this community need and deserve the assistance of the public throughout the country.

It is not the time to temporize and pass resolutions; what is needed is the enforcement of respect for the law and the protection of personal liberty, and not the encouraging of anarchy by mass meetings, conferences and newspaper support.

The doctrine of "personal greed" is fast becoming American. It is paramount to-day more than ever before. It is being taught the ignorant to-day in this community by newspapers who pander to this anarchistic element because it increases their revenues; it has made cowards of those who should be good citizens. The "easy-going" Americans who are now cursing the operator because he pays $15 a ton for coal should take care of his sympathies and do some thinking in the cold if necessary, remembering that the good citizens here who are better able to judge the conditions are not holding mass meetings nor "demanding" that the operators "mine coal."

In yesterday's *Wilkes-Barre Record* (Oct. 7) John Mitchell calls for meetings to be held to-day throughout the anthracite district by the various "locals" of the United Mine Workers to pass resolutions, "in order to demonstrate to the people of our country that the statements of the operators are unfounded and that the mine workers are law-abiding citizens."

In the adjoining column is a long account of a meeting of the Town Council of the borough of Plymouth, held in the town hall "that was packed to suffocation" with striking miners, at which meeting it was voted, with but one dissenting vote, "to censure the people responsible for bringing the troops to Plymouth, a peaceable community."

In this very town within the past ten days the following outrages have been committed, viz.:

James Saunders stabbed to death.

One man shot by a colored cook in order to save his life from a mob who had surrounded him when he ventured outside a colliery stockade.

A man named Gallagher on his way to work was arrested by the borough officers, taken before the Burgess and fined $7.50, for no other offence than that he wanted to work.

The house of a man named Harrison was stoned because he is and has been for years employed by a coal company as blacksmith.

Two farmer boys named Benton were dragged from the street car, stood up against a telegraph pole, where they were hammered upon their heads with stones until blood streamed over their faces, then handcuffed by the borough policeman and marched to the office of the Burgess. Upon the way one policeman struck one of the prisoners in the face several times with his clenched fist. The Burgess fined the prisoners $7.50 apiece, in default of which they were kept in the town lock-up over night, until the fines were paid by a coal company. The offence was that of being on their way to work in the Nottingham stockade.

At least two "school strikes" by United Mine Workers' children because their teachers were related to non-union men.

On the same page upon which the protest from this "peaceable community" appears we find as evidences of law and order the following headlines:

"Train Crew Shot At," "Charged With Rioting" and last, but not least, a section given to "Socialist Notes."

On another page, in the transactions of the Plymouth Council, is this: "The Borough Attorney offered a resolution that the borough proceed by injunction against the Sterling Coal Company and the North American Coal Company at once for nuisances and a motion to that effect was carried."

The offence of these companies is that they are preparing coal for market. And Plymouth is not a "mining hamlet" but a modern city of fifteen thousand inhabitants.

This is indicative of the law and lawlessness of this entire region. Murders have been committed not only in Plymouth, but in Nanticoke, Maltby, Duryea, Shenandoah, Scranton, and God knows where it will end if still encouraged. And only yesterday morning, after the entire National Guard of the State had been ordered into the field, John Mitchell publishes his statement that this region is law-abiding, and in the same statement, for the first time since this strike began, calls for the assistance of his locals to "preserve law and order" in a signed statement. A rather tardy paradox, I think.

There is, Mr. Editor, a humanitarian view to be taken of the situation. There are four sides to the question, as you say, and if it is to be settled for humanity let the people bear in mind the man who stays in the mines now because he wants to work rather than the individual who lies in wait to stone, club, shoot him or dynamite his home under cover of darkness. These men occupy a dangerous position and they, too, have claims upon humanity, for it takes a brave man to be a "scab" nowadays. LAW AND ORDER.

WILKES-BARRE, Pa., Oct. 8.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The policy is strongly advocated by some that the National Government should become owners of and operate the coal mines. What will it do then? Accede to the demands of the miners, entering into the present controversy between them and the operators? If the establishment of martial law at the mines fails to bring about a restoration of mining through inability to get licensed men according to law, and the Federal Government perchance takes forcible possession, must it grant all that the miners ask for? How else can there be a solution of the question now brought home to every man?

NEW YORK, Oct. 7. A. P. BRAUN.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Would that there were more luminaries like you! Your intelligence goes straight to the inmost corners of the dark motives for this infamous strike. The utterances of Mitchell and his congeners are like those mentioned in the Bible: "Workers of iniquity; which speak peace to their neighbors but mischief is in their hearts." Does he hope to "fool all the people all the time?" How can he lie so? I should think even his hysterical clerical admirers could see what awful lies he tells when he denies the outrages that occur all the time. Does he think the public blind or insensate?

The utterances and attitude of the operators are true. If the operators were to murder, dynamite and beat the miners who wanted to work, as their fellow miners do, what a howl there would be! R. BESON.

SCRANTON, Pa., Oct. 8.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Keep on giving the people of this entire country the exact truth about the coal strike. There is great need of enlightenment. Let law and order be restored at once.

MERRITT L. BROWN.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., Oct. 8.

N. Y. UNIVERSITY SENIORS SPLIT

Two Sets of Class Officers Elected and Neither Willing to Step Aside.

At the annual meeting of the senior class of New York University yesterday, the men divided into two factions, each calling itself the "class of '03." The trouble was caused by disagreement concerning the conduct of the elections. E. V. Anderson and D. F. Barnett were put up for president and received an equal number of votes. On the re-ballot 3 additional votes were cast for Barnett, although no more men had entered the meeting.

After a vain protest all the fraternity men with a number of others who were in favor of Anderson left the hall and held a new election out on the "bleachers" at Ohio Field. Here Anderson was elected president and Twidy vice-president, and other class-day offices filled. The other faction went on with their elections and the class now has two sets of officers.

CLAMOR FOR COCOANUT SHELLS.

They're Good for Fuel—Price Jumps From 5 Cents a Bag to 15.

On the East Side, where candy factories and bake shops abound, cocoanut shells have long been a popular article of fuel among the poor. Bags of fifty or sixty pounds have sold for five cents, and as the shells give good heat because of the oil they contain, the demand for them has been great. Since coal went up the demand for cocoanut shells has been abnormal. Crowds hang around the candy factories where wagonloads of cocoanuts are used every week clamoring for the shells. The result has been an advance in the price. Yesterday they were selling at 15 cents a bag, and there were rumors that the price might go up to-day.

COLUMBIA HAS 3,281 STUDENTS

And There Are 2,000 More in the Summer and Music Schools.

Primary registration at Columbia University was completed yesterday. It shows a total of 3,281 students in the university, exclusive of the music and extension students and those in the experimental and summer schools, who number fully 2,000 more. In Columbia College there are 440; in the law school, 442; in the college of physicians and surgeons, 735; in the schools of applied science, 640; in the graduate schools, 215; in the auditors', 11; in teachers' college, 452, and in Barnard College, 325. It is expected that the numbers will be considerably augmented before Thanksgiving Day.

Water as Fuel.

The problem of finding a practical substitute for hard coal, which, in view of the scarcity of the latter is commanding the thought of a great many people in this country, has had several interesting solutions; but it is doubtful if any of them has been more novel or curious than that of a Boston gentleman, Mr. A. C. Carey.

Mr. Carey, who is described in the *Boston Globe* as a skilled mechanic and the patentee of nearly one hundred inventions of his own, proposes to use water, unmixed with any other substance, as a fuel. In demonstrating his idea Mr. Carey employs the Bunsen burner, invented many years ago by Prof. Bunsen of Heidelberg, and by means of this burner he is able, it is claimed, to get a flame as large as a bushel basket from a single drop of water. Some such tubular arrangement as the Bunsen burner is necessary in order to generate heat sufficiently intense to produce the desired result. By allowing the water to drip through the tiny flame arising from this tube onto a piece of platinum the gases contained in the water are released and combustion follows. Any kind of water will do, whether fresh or salt, pure or impure. All that is necessary, it appears, is to disintegrate the water, and nature does the rest.

Although thoroughly confident that his scheme for burning water is, in every way, feasible and full of immense possibilities of development, Mr. Carey, who is now an old man, says that he feels hardly able to undertake the task of continuing his experiments and of carrying them to a successful termination. He is willing, however, to give the benefit of his discovery to science and to assist, so far as possible, in developing and perfecting the idea involved.

It should be said that the fuel which this Boston inventor would produce, and also his method of making it, would bear no real relation to the product and manufacture of what are known as gas water and water gas, whose uses are well known, and which are, moreover, relatively unimportant when compared with the utility of the fuel which, it is claimed, can be made from water by following the principle outlined above.

Suicide and Gas Explosions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read in this morning's edition of your paper the statement made by Coroner Jackson in which he protests against the police opening the windows of an apartment in which a person has committed suicide by inhaling gas. This is a most ridiculous objection, as the safety of the occupants of the house demands that all gas shall be permitted to escape, to guard against the possibility of an explosion.

I would suggest to the Hon. Coroner Jackson if he denies the existence of danger in a room full of gas to attempt to hold an investigation in said gas filled room with the assistance of a light. I am sure his feelings would be somewhat jarred if he went out through the roof. He probably does not realize what the result would be if such explosion took place; probably it would result in the killing of a number of people.

I submit these facts as one who has seen an explosion caused by the accumulation of gas in a room.

NEW YORK, Oct. 8. C. H. S.

HEIR OF SIAM HERE TO-DAY.

Crown Prince an Oxford Man—To Be Entertained at the Capital and Here.

His Royal Highness the Crown Prince Maha Vajiravudh of Siam will arrive here to-day on the Fuerst Bismarck, and will call on President Roosevelt at Washington to-morrow. His proposed six weeks' tour in the United States is taken to add the finishing touches to his education by travel and study abroad.

It is ten years since he left home. He has been at the British Royal Military College at Sandhurst and at Oxford, and he has served a year in the British army. At Oxford he was president of the Students' International Club. Historical investigation and international law were his specialties. He wrote a treatise on "The War of the Polish Succession," which the Oxford authorities published. He has spent all his school vacations in the ten years in travelling in Europe and Egypt.

The Crown Prince is 21 years old. He was proclaimed heir to the throne in 1895. He is the grandson of the great Mongkut. His father, King Chulalongara, is a pious ruler and has made the only complete collection of Buddhist scriptures.

The members of the Crown Prince's party who will arrive with him to-day are his brother, Prince Chakrabongse, Col. Phya Rajavallobh, Major Luang Sarasiddhi, Luang Smayndh and Mom Anuvatra, the Crown Prince's private secretary.

They will be met on the arrival of the ship by Mr. Herbert H. D. Peirce, third Assistant Secretary of State, as the representative of President Roosevelt; his Excellency the Siamese Minister, Prof. J. H. Gore of the Columbian University and Mr. E. H. Loftus, secretary of the Siamese legation. Mr. Peirce, as official entertainer of his Royal Highness, will be assisted in his duties by Mr. David B. Sickels and Mr. Edwin Morgan. Headquarters in this city will be the state apartments in the Waldorf.

The entire Siamese party, accompanied by Mr. Peirce, will leave here to-night on a special Pennsylvania Railroad train for Washington, where its headquarters are to be at the Arlington Hotel, the home of the Siamese legation. While at the Capital the Prince will have a detail of United States cavalry as an escort. He is to call on President Roosevelt at 11 o'clock to-morrow morning. To-morrow night Secretary of State Hay is to give a dinner in honor of the Crown Prince. On Sunday the Siamese Minister is to entertain. Monday the Crown Prince will spend at the Naval Academy at Annapolis. On Tuesday he will go to Mount Vernon on the President's yacht Sylph and later he will be the guest of Prof. Gore.

The next week he will spend at Philadelphia as the guest of his friend, the Hon. William Potter, former Minister to Italy. He is to return to this city on Tuesday, Oct. 21, and will be here a week. Most of that time is to be spent in sightseeing. On Thursday he will go up to West Point on the Dolphin. Mayor Low will give a dinner at his house the next day, and on Tuesday, Oct. 28, on the eve of his departure, the Crown Prince will play the host himself at a dinner at the Waldorf.

The next five days will be spent in Boston. From there he is to travel incognito through the West on the special train and he will leave Vancouver for Japan on Dec. 1. The car which he and his brother, Prince Chakrabongse, will travel in is the Columbia, the one used by Prince Henry.

NO MONEY FOR GUAM'S RELIEF.

Enough Available, However, to Rebuild Naval Building Destroyed by Earthquake.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—A conference was held at the Navy Department to-day, between acting Secretary Darling and Capt. William Swift of the Naval General Board, for the purpose of devising some means for affording relief to the people in Guam, left destitute by the destructive earthquake of Sept. 22.

Mr. Darling and Capt. Swift found that while there was enough money available to rebuild the buildings on the naval reservation in the island, there was not a cent authorized for relief measures, and it will probably be necessary to await an appropriation by Congress to aid the destitute.

The inability to afford relief is particularly embarrassing to the naval authorities on account of the contrast it presents to the promptness with which the United States sent food, clothing and other supplies to the sufferers of the Martinique earthquake. The contrast is made greater by the fact that Guam is a possession of the United States, while Martinique is owned by France. The inability of the Navy Department to do anything will be brought to the attention of the President, in the hope that he may be able to make an allotment from the contingent fund at his disposal.

COLLEGE OF CLARK UNIVERSITY.

Department Opened and President Carroll D. Wright Inaugurated.

WORCESTER, Mass., Oct. 9.—The new collegiate department of Clark University was started to-day with dedicatory exercises and the inauguration of the first president of the college, Carroll D. Wright, United States Commissioner of Labor and Statistics. The three speakers were Senator Hoar, Senator Lodge and President G. Stanley Hall of the university.

The students of Holy Cross and Worcester Polytechnic Institute attended in a body and the three high schools of the city were closed in order that the students might accept the invitation of President Wright to be present. Senator Hoar delivered the opening address, closing with a glowing tribute to Senator Lodge, whom he introduced as the next speaker. Senator Lodge's short address was followed by the inaugural of President Wright, after which President Hall extended the right hand of fellowship. The exercises closed with the benediction by the Rev. Calvin Stebbins of Framingham.

After the exercises in the gymnasium a reception was held for a large number of invited guests at the home of President Hall.

SCHOOLTEACHER CAN'T GET PAY.

An Employee Is Expected to Be Able to Work at Appointed Hours.

Justice Gildersleeve dismissed the complaint of Miss Margaret Murphy, a teacher in Public School 2, yesterday, in her suit against the Board of Education for pay, at her regular salary rate of $1,060 a year, for sixty-eight days in 1901-02, when she was absent, under excuse, on account of sickness.

Justice Gildersleeve said: "The position of a schoolteacher is not that of an officer, but one of an employee, whose employment is contractual. A contract for personal services is subject to the implied condition that the person employed shall be able to perform the services at the time appointed therefor."

The President Out for a Drive.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—The President, accompanied by Mrs. Roosevelt, went out for a drive to-day in the northwest suburbs of the city and Rock Creek Park. The weather was like that of yesterday, warm and fair, and the physicians were so much pleased with the good effects of yesterday's outing on the President that they readily assented to his taking another drive to-day. The President's wound is healing rapidly, but he is not yet permitted to bear any weight on the injured leg.

To Enforce Blockade of Haytian Ports.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9.—William L. Powell, United States Minister at Port au Prince, Hayti, telegraphed the State Department to-day that the Haytian Government announced that the blockade of its ports would be made effective on Oct. 12. The blockade was declared several weeks ago. The United States Government questioned its effectiveness and declined to recognize it until it was made effective.