ENGINEERS VOTE FOR STRIKE AND WON'T WAIT

Their Committee Tells Railroads Something Must Be Doing in Less Than Week.

WERE ALMOST UNANIMOUS

Of Whole Vote 93.3 Per Cent. Was for Strike—More Conferences a Possibility.

As was indicated by the count of ballots up to Thursday evening the vote of the engineers on the fifty Eastern railroads which have refused their wage demands is almost unanimously for a strike, the vote in favor of striking being 93.3 per cent. of the whole. Before deciding on any action the committee of engineers authorized Grand Chief Stone yesterday forenoon to send the following letter to J. C. Stuart, chairman of the railroad's committee:

DEAR SIR: In accordance with my letter of March 25 the questions involved have been referred to the individual members employed on the roads represented and the counting of the vote has just been completed. The fifty roads vote 93 3-10 per cent. in favor of supporting those entrusted with the settlement of the question submitted to the conference committee of managers.

While a careful count shows an almost unanimous support of the committee to any extent, yet it is our earnest desire to exhaust every honorable effort to reach a settlement of the questions involved, and we trust the conference committee of managers may have some proposal that will bring about the desired result.

Hoping you will appreciate the seriousness of the situation and thanking you in advance for your reply, I remain,

Yours respectfully,
W. S. STONE, G. C. E.

A meeting of the committee of railroad managers was held, and the following reply, which was authorized by the committee, was sent to Mr. Stone:

DEAR SIR—Your letter of this date received and will submit same to the conference committee of managers for their consideration and action.

It will require several days to get the conference committee together and we doubt whether it can be done before the middle or latter part of next week. Yours truly, J. C. STUART, Chairman.

The committee of engineers apparently wanted quicker action. The reply was declared to be unsatisfactory and the following letter was drafted, and after it had been debated for an hour or two was signed and sent to the committee of managers, addressed to Mr. Stuart:

DEAR SIR—Your letter by special messenger of this date reached me a few minutes ago and was placed before the chairmen's committee, and I am directed to inform you we cannot understand why it is necessary to receive such an indefinite reply. We are firmly of the opinion the seriousness of the situation necessitates more prompt and decisive action on the part of the managers and must insist on a more explicit answer. Yours respectfully,

WARREN S. STONE.

This letter reached the headquarters of the committee of managers too late to be acted on yesterday. Action will be taken on it to-day, it is believed, to the extent of an answer being sent by Mr. Stuart as chairman of the committee. None of the railroad representatives would comment on the matter in the meantime.

After the letter had been sent by Mr. Stone by messenger to Mr. Stuart it was said on behalf of the engineers' committee, that it would not, after a vote had been cast for a strike, remain inactive for a whole week.

"Action will be taken on the strike vote," said a member of the committee, "unless we have a definite reply from the railroads in a reasonable time. They knew the strike vote was being taken and what they intended to do. We notified the committee of managers at the earliest possible moment of the strike vote as a matter of courtesy. Does the managers committee expect our committee to carr around indefinitely the strike vote without action, when it is known that the vote is almost unanimous for a strike, and keep the men at work? It is like carrying dynamite around.

"It is out of the question to suppose it would take a week to get the committee of managers together. The men are ready to quit as soon as they receive permission from Grand Chief Stone, and if the railroads do not want to see the entire eastern territory involved in a strike they will have to act more promptly than is indicated in their letter. The issues are known for many weeks, and it was known that we were taking a strike vote."

BOILER BLOWUP COSTS $200,000.

Fire Following Explosion Destroys Lumber Plant.

EAST HARTFORD, Conn., April 12.—An explosion in the mill of the Henry Cairns Lumber Company early to-day set fire to the plant and before the flames were under control fifteen houses had been destroyed with a loss of $200,000. Many of the occupants escaped in their night clothes with only a few garments in their arms.

The fire, at its height soon after midnight, was not under control until daylight.

Immediately after the explosion, heard for a considerable distance, the Cairns building burst into flames. Several structures adjoining ignited at almost the same moment. Then the houses took fire.

From the dwellings for blocks around, including two hotels, the occupants ran to the street in a panic, shouting that the explosion was an earthquake.

The East Hartford Fire Department was unable to cope with the flames, and a call for help was sent to Hartford. Before aid arrived the Shutter Hotel, the Allen House and the warehouse of G. M. White & Son and the adjoining houses had suffered extensive damage.

Police reserves as well as fire apparatus came from Hartford. Some really heroic work was done by both firemen and policemen. Medical aid was necessary for some of the injured and several women fainted from excitement.

The yard of the Cairns concern and of the Jenks Lumber Company near by was filled with dry timber, which accounts for the almost spontaneous burst of flame. A northwest wind and inadequate water pressure also spread the fire.

The cause of the boiler explosion is a mystery. The police will investigate to see if it was defective or if any carelessness explains it.

Neighbors have extended assistance to the homeless. There is talk of starting a public subscription to buy food and shelter for the homeless, many of whom are very poor.

NEW JERSEY NOTES.

Pietro Calantrio of New York city was held in $5,000 bail for the Federal Grand Jury in Atlantic City yesterday on complaint of four Italian girls from New York, who charged him with being a white slaver.

Daniel Paul, for many years a real estate man in Tenafly, who tried to end his life by asphyxiation some weeks ago, died yesterday in the Hackensack Hospital. After his attempt to kill himself he was committed to the jail in Hackensack. He was very ill and was removed to the hospital.

Supreme Court Judge Bergen at Somerville yesterday named C. C. Pollard and Robert Gissell of Elizabeth and Councilman John Farrell of Rahway as appraisers to condemn the Woodruff Building, which stands in the way of the elevation of the Pennsylvania Railroad in Rahway. The building is occupied by the post office and numerous business concerns.

MONEY, NOT MERIT, THE TEST.

Martin Says Only Rich Men Get in the Diplomatic Service.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Frederick Townsend Martin of New York to-day denounced the practice of sending rich Americans to represent the United States in the diplomatic service abroad before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. Mr. Townsend appeared to urge favorable action on the Sulzer bill providing for the purchase of embassy and legation buildings in foreign capitals.

Mr. Martin said that as affairs are now conducted the American diplomatic service is necessarily composed of rich men. He pointed out that the Government not only fails to house its diplomatic officers, but pays them such meagre salaries that men of ordinary means are unable to enter the service.

Clarence Jones, president of the American Embassy Association, urged favorable action on the bill providing that appointments to and promotions in the consular service shall be based on merit alone.

Representative Sulzer, chairman of the committee, announced that both bills will be reported favorably later in the month.

MRS. GAGE UNDER OBSERVATION.

Recommitted to the Hospital for the Insane—Search for Mrs. Gracie.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—While Government alienists will have Mrs. Mary E. Gage, the widow recently arrested for threatening to kill Charles J. Bell, a Washington banker, under close observation as to her sanity, representatives of the United States District Attorney's office will renew their search in this city and New York for Mrs. Archibald Gracie, said by Mrs. Gage to have been responsible for the "grudge" that Mrs. Gage had against the banker.

Mrs. Gage at the continuation of the hearing in the District Supreme Court to-day, took the stand herself, and after admitting that she had made a mistake in placing too much credence in the statements made to her by Mrs. Gracie, was recommitted to the Government Hospital for the Insane in order to give the alienists additional time to observe her mental condition.

A rumor was current this afternoon to the effect that Mrs. Gracie will voluntarily appeal next Wednesday and at least modify the statements attributed to her. Mr. Bell was at the trial to-day in a front seat. The hearing was adjourned until next Wednesday.

Mrs. Gage said to-day that she had put too much credence in the statements of Mrs. Gracie.

"I know now that I was mistaken about Mr. Bell using his influence against me," she said.

She said that Mrs. Gracie had asked her in a "most insinuating manner," whether or not her daughter was engaged to marry a Japanese. This question worried her very much, she said, and later she found that it had been circulated largely and later had found its way into the pages of a Washington society magazine.

Referring to the threats she is charged with having made against Mr. Bell, Mrs. Gage admitted that she had told her friends she would horsewhip the banker. She denied emphatically, however, that she ever said she would kill him. She also said she modified her threat to horsewhip Mr. Bell by saying she would do it if he did not stop persecuting her family.

DEFENDS THE STEEL TRUST.

Sellwood Says Its Lake Superior Ore Would Be Exhausted in 25 Years.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—John D. Rockefeller and the Steel trust were defended before the House steel committee to-day by Joseph Sellwood, an ore expert of Duluth, Minn. Mr. Sellwood ridiculed the story of Albert and Leonidas Merritt that Mr. Rockefeller had ordered people to stay off the Mesaba ore range and prevented the Merritts from selling their mines. He also declared that the steel corporation is not all powerful in the Lake Superior region and insisted that ore is available for those who may desire to compete with the corporation. Mr. Sellwood testified that in his opinion the corporation's ore resources in the Lake Superior region would be exhausted in twenty-five years.

"The corporation is using 25,000,000 tons of ore annually now and has supplies of only 550,000,000 tons. I do not consider this an enormous reserve supply. The Hill lease would give them an extra supply sufficient for ten year's work, but they have cancelled that lease."

"Would it be hopeless for new people to buy ore in the Lake Superior district and erect a plant to compete with the steel corporation?" Mr. Sellwood was asked by Representative Young of Michigan.

"No; that could be done," Mr. Sellwood answered.

Mr. Sellwood told of trying to buy the Merritt brothers ore property in 1894 for the Minnesota Iron Company. He said the Merritts wanted $1,500,000 and that the deal was called off for lack of funds during the panic. When asked if the Rockefeller "persecution," alleged by the Merritts, thwarted the sale, Mr. Sellwood emphatically answered in the negative.

Mr. Sellwood told of the mammoth ore holdings of the "trust." He said the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company deposits in Utah aggregated 1,000,000,000 tons and that 100,000,000 more tons were in the Sunrise, Wyo., district. In addition he said the corporation owned 54,000,000 tons of low grade ore in Michigan.

Exclusive of the Alabama, Colorado, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia ore beds Mr. Sellwood said there was an available ore supply in this country of 3,400,000,000 tons. He could not estimate how much of this the "trust" controls.

NO BATTLESHIPS AUTHORIZED.

House Bill Cuts the Estimates About $565,000.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The annual bill for the maintenance of the navy has been practically completed by the House Committee on Naval Affairs. The committee has decided to allow to the navy $100,700,000 for the year beginning July 1 next, exclusive of "new building." The building programme, consisting of cruisers and other ships that will be authorized in the bill, will come up for a vote Thursday. No provision will be made for new battleships. The majority of the committee has decided to abide by the decision of the party caucus which went on record in opposition to an authorization for new battleships at this session.

The bill will provide an appropriation of $650,000 to continue work on the defence, at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The sum of $400,000 will be made available for wireless telegraph extensions in the navy. Provision will also be made for 4,000 additional sailors and 2,000 additional marines in accordance with recommendations made by the Secretary of the Navy. The indications are that the measure will carry about $565,000 less than the amount allowed for naval purposes at the last regular session of Congress.

SENATE PASSES MONEY BILLS.

Adds About $7,000,000 to Army Bill and $370,000 to Diplomatic Bill.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The Senate to-day passed two of the important general appropriation bills. The army appropriation bill, which was under consideration when the Senate adjourned yesterday, was completed to-day. As the bill passed the Senate it carried appropriations aggregating $95,314,710, as against $87,777,258 carried by the House bill. Every feature of the army reorganization plan as adopted by the House was stricken from the bill by the Senate. Among the rejected items was the House plan to lengthen the enlistment term from three to five years.

The diplomatic and consular bill, which passed the Senate this afternoon, carried appropriations aggregating $3,427,491, an increase of approximately $370,000 over the House bill. The aggregate of the diplomatic bill is $652,000 below the estimates submitted by the State Department and $560,000 below the aggregate of the bill passed last year.

TERMS OF HARVESTER CO. DISSOLUTION PLAN

It Means Its Absolute Divorce From Control of the Retail Business.

COMPANY MAY NOT ACCEPT

If Not, Then the Government Will at Once File a Dissolution Suit.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The dissolution agreement that has been reported between Attorney-General Wickersham and lawyers representing the International Harvester Company provides for the absolute divorcing of the business of that company from its control over the retail business and the distributing agencies. This, it was learned to-day, is one of the features of a plan which Government officials believe will result in restoring competitive conditions in this industry.

The long drawn out negotiations between the Harvester people and the Department of Justice, it can be said, were due to the insistence by the Attorney-General of a dissolution which would actually restore competitive conditions in the business conducted by this big corporation. It is understood that the lawyers of the Harvester company have finally yielded to the Government on all vital points at issue.

No official statement was made to-day of the terms of the agreement, but it was reported that it contemplated the dissolution of the corporation into five or six companies. It is believed that the plan includes the divorcing of the D. M. Osborne & Co.'s works at Auburn, N. Y., from the corporation. When the Harvester trust was originally formed in 1902 the property of the following agricultural, machinery and manufacturing plants were purchased: The McCormick Harvesting Machinery Company, the Plano Manufacturing Company, the Milwaukee Harvester Company, the Deering Harvester Company and the Warder-Bushnell & Glessner Company. Since then several other plants have been purchased, including the D. M. Osborne Company.

It is by no means certain that the agreement between the Attorney-General and harvester trust lawyers will be acceptable to the directors of the corporation. It was learned to-day that the most stubborn objection to the dissolution plan has come from the stock interests that control the corporation, and when the matter is finally laid before the board of directors it may be regarded as too radical. In that event the Government will immediately file a dissolution suit under the Sherman anti-trust law. The Department of Justice has thought on one or two occasions before that plans for a voluntary dissolution would go through, but they have been blocked by the objections of large stockholders.

FOR RAILROAD IN ALASKA.

Bill Authorizing the Government to Construct and Equip It.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—A bill for the construction and equipment of 1,000 miles of railroad in Alaska by the Government was introduced to-day by Senator Smith of Michigan. The development of natural resources and to secure a supply of coal for the navy are the declared purposes of the bill.

The creation of the Alaskan Railway Commission, composed of five members to be designated by the President, is proposed. The commission will aid the President in determining the route of the road and in having it constructed. A report on progress must be submitted each year by the President.

Provision is made for the condemnation of land in Alaska. Existing lines may be acquired by purchase or lease, but the provision is not mandatory. The Interstate Commerce Commission must determine the reasonableness of rates and handling charges. The Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to issue bonds as a popular loan to cover the expenses of construction. The sum of $1,000,000 is appropriated, to be expended under the direction of the President.

The bill was referred to the Committee on Territories. It is in keeping with the recommendations of the Administration that the United States Government build a trunk line from Seward into the interior of Alaska, opening up the coal fields and the great valleys of Alaska. The Guggenheims, alarmed over the proposition of Uncle Sam entering the railroad field in Alaska, have already offered to sell the Copper River and Northwestern line to the Government.

CUTS FREIGHT RATES ON WOOL.

Interstate Commission Gives Roads Until May 1 to Make Reductions.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—In a decision handed down to-day the Interstate Commerce Commission orders a complete readjustment of rates and regulations for the transportation of wool from Western producing points to practically all Eastern destinations. The railroads are given until May 1 to make the reductions ordered by the commission. The commission also prescribes graded rates and the breaking up of the blanket system of making rates. The action of the commission is based on complaints filed by the Railroad Commission of Oregon, the National Wool Growers Association and others, and it is predicted will have far reaching effect, the decision causing a complete change of conditions which have existed since 1896. The decision of the commission is summarized as follows:

Defendants' rates for the transportation of wool from the far West to Eastern points are found unreasonable, and reasonable rates are prescribed for the future.

The blanket system of making rates on wool from the West to Eastern points should be broken up and graded rates established.

A lower rate on wool in bales should be established than on wool in sacks from those far Western points to the East.

Wool should be classified under the Western classification as second class in less than carloads and fourth class in carloads, with minimum carloads weight of 24,000 pounds in a standard thirty-six foot car.

Transit privileges should be allowed on these shipments of wool at intermediate points under certain restrictions.

Fourth section applications as to transportation of wool from the West to the East considered and relief from operation of that section granted in certain cases.

No order establishing those rates will be made at the present time, but the carriers will be given until May 1 next in which to check rates in substantial accord with this report.

FOR INSPECTION OF HOG MEAT.

President Asks Congress to Provide for Microscopic Examinations.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—President Taft requested an emergency appropriation of $1,000,000 in a message sent to Congress to-day for the purpose of enabling the Department of Agriculture to make a microscopic examination of the flesh of hogs that is to be used for food without cooking. This extension of the meat inspection service, Mr. Taft says, is necessary because of several deaths and serious diseases caused by eating meat products containing trichinæ.

The message says claims are pending against the United States on account of the death of Swiss citizens from eating uncooked hog meat said to be thus infected.

ACCUSED BANKER ARRESTED.

Nesbit, Fugitive From Toronto, Prevented From Destroying Papers.

CHICAGO, April 12.—A sensational attempt by W. Beattie Nesbit, former president of the Farmers National Bank of Toronto, Ont., who was arrested early this morning for alleged forgeries amounting to $300,000 in connection with the failure of the bank two years ago, to destroy important papers while in the custody of detectives was revealed to-day by Assistant Chief Schuettler.

The former banker was overpowered by the detectives before he could carry out his design. A close watch was then set on him in the cell room in the detective bureau.

Nesbit was highly respected in Toronto before his disappearance. Four years ago he ran for Mayor of that city. He is an alumnus of the University of Toronto.

There are three charges against Nesbit, according to advices from Toronto. He is accused of making false returns to the Government under the banking laws of 1907, with conspiring to exchange certificates and conspiracy to steal $300,000 by means of forgeries.

The attempt to destroy the papers was made, according to detectives, while Nesbit was being led from the assistant chief's office to his cell. After leaving the City Hall in custody of Detectives Barden and Cahill Nesbit declared he was feeling faint. "I've got to go somewhere until I feel better," he said weakly to the detectives.

They assented and he asked that he be permitted to go to a saloon. Nesbit then left the detectives in the barroom and started toward a lavatory. As he opened the door he placed his hand in his coat pocket. Detective Cahill noted this action and darted toward him. Nesbit was crumbling a number of papers in his hands preparatory to destroying them when Cahill seized his arm.

A warrant for Nesbit was issued to-day by United States Commissioner Foote at the request of Chicago detectives acting under authority of the Canadian Government.

MUST GIVE CUSTOMERS' NAMES.

The Texas Company Wins a Point in Oil Dispute in Brazil Trade.

The Texas Company, the oil company controlled by the late John W. Gates, won out yesterday before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on a motion to get the names of 700 purchasers of oil in Brazil, although it was alleged that the Texas Company was trying to get the names because it intends to open a sales agency of its own in Brazil, and that the action was not in good faith.

Edgar A. Reinecke is suing the Texas Company as assignee of Fry, Youle & Co., of Rio de Janeiro, which has been handling the petroleum products of the oil company in Brazil, and claims that $64,000 is due on commissions for the sale of the products. When the oil company asked to compel the Brazil firm to furnish a bill of particulars giving the names of all its customers, the plaintiff said that the business with these purchasers had been built up after years of effort and amounted to more than $1,000,000 annually in such merchandise, and to disclose the names would enable the oil company to deal with them directly.

The lower court decided it would be sufficient for the plaintiff to state the date and amount of each sale, but the Appellate Division rules that the names must be furnished.

"Had the plaintiff's assignors desired to ensure the secrecy of their list of customers they should have guarded it by some appropriate provision of their agreement," said the court.

BUSINESS TROUBLES.

Petition in Bankruptcy Against Emanuel Dreifus & Co.

A petition in bankruptcy has been filed here against Emanuel Dreifus & Co., dealers in scrap iron and steel in Philadelphia, as two of the partners reside in this city, Emanuel Dreifus and Henry P. Rees. The other partner, Stanton L. Dreifus, resides in Philadelphia. The petitioning creditors are Joseph Joseph & Bros. Co., $13,298; Morton B. Smith Co., $1,203; and Alfred K. Barker, Inc., $241. It was alleged that they are insolvent, made preferential payments, and permitted a large part of their property to be removed.

Judge Mayer appointed William Blau receiver, under a bond of $120,000. Mr. Blau said that the only assets in this city is an account due them of over $300,000, by a construction company of this city. The business has been established ten years. Liabilities are reported to be $550,000 and nominal assets, $750,000.

The Wright Piano Company, manufacturers of pianos at 485 Greenwich street, has been placed in the hands of a receiver in bankruptcy proceedings begun in New Jersey because it is a New Jersey corporation, but all the assets are in this city. James D. Carpenter, Jr., of Jersey City, has been appointed receiver in both States. He gave a bond in New Jersey for $20,000. The assets here are estimated at $15,000 and liabilities are said to be about $58,000. The company has operated at a loss for some time and has been in the hands of a committee of creditors for five months. It was incorporated in March, 1910, with capital stock, $25,000.

Charles W. Moffatt, resident of Yonkers, who formerly had a general store at Stamford, N. Y., has filed a petition in bankruptcy with liabilities, $23,182, contracted at Stamford, and assets, $10,000 in real estate at Stamford, mortgaged for $8,800. Among the creditors are the National Bank of Stamford, $7,050, secured; Clark, Chapin & Bushnell, New York city, $2,127; and Oneonto Grocery Company, $1,400.

Frederick H. D. Graham, theatrical agent, of 1402 Broadway, has filed a petition in bankruptcy with liabilities $1,634 and nominal assets $1,881, in worthless accounts, for royalties, rent, &c.

Schedules in bankruptcy of Nathan Tenenbaum, furniture, 83 Avenue B, show liabilities $24,842 and assets $9,186.

U. S. STEEL'S EMPLOYEES.

Committee to Report on Charges of Ill Treatment of Its Men.

The special committee of stockholders of the United States Steel Corporation to investigate certain charges made against the corporation's treatment of the men employed in its mills and mines returned to New York from its extensive inspection journey yesterday. The Gary, Illinois Steel and Homestead plants were the chief ones studied. The committee has already completed its report, which will be read at the annual meeting of the corporation in Hoboken on next Monday.

A refutation of printed articles saying that the corporation has maintained a condition of slavery at its properties and has abused its men is expected. The committeemen who got up the report are Stuyvesant Fish, chairman; Charles A. Painter, D. Miller, Charles L. Taylor and De Witt Cuyler.

Sigsbee Lectures on the Maine.

Rear Admiral Charles D. Sigsbee, the Captain of the Maine, when she was destroyed in Havana harbor, told the story of her destruction to an audience which included ten of the sailors who survived last night for the Men's Association of the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. The talk was illustrated by lantern slides. The introduction was by R. H. Johnston, who was a correspondent in Havana at the time of the disaster. He said there was no doubt but that the ship was blown up from the outside.

New Orleans Opera Company Coming Here.

Following the conclusion of the run of "Little Boy Blue," at the Lyric Theatre, Jules Laville's French Grand Opera Company from the French Opera House in New Orleans will appear there, opening on Monday evening, April 22. The company will present "La Boheme," "Manon," and "Mme Butterfly." The succeeding attraction early in May will be the revival of Gilbert and Sullivan's "Patience," under the management of the Shuberts and William A. Brady.

HARD COAL CONFERENCE GETS DOWN TO DEMANDS

Sub-Committee Expects to Continue Sessions Well Into Next Week.

ANOTHER RIOT AT JESSUP

Industrial Workers of the World Drive Workmen Into the Woods.

PHILADELPHIA, April 12.—For six hours to-day the committee of eight miners and operators discussed the situation in the coal fields and finally got down to the demands of the miners.

President White refused to make a statement other than that the committee could report progress. No statement was given by the committee except that they will hold another session to-morrow. According to John T. Dempsey the meetings will continue next week.

The eight hour demand was discussed to-day. It is understood that the operators opposed it. This point is one upon which a compromise is likely to be effected.

SCRANTON, April 12.—One hundred men armed with sticks and stones at 6:30 this morning attacked a dozen pump runners, firemen, engineers and repair men going to the Dolph company colliery and drove them into the woods.

W. G. Robertson, head of the Dolph company, called Sheriff P. F. Connor, who with Deputy Sheriff P. V. Scanlon drove to Jessup. He found a mob marching through the streets singing the "Marseillaise" and hooting and jeering. Windows in the houses of men who have continued to work were broken.

The trouble is attributed by the miners' union, the colliery owners and the Sheriff's men to the Industrial Workers of the World. They are supposed to have dynamited colliery railroad tracks and planted dynamite along the Erie yesterday.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 12.—The votes of 1,011 locals of the United Mine Workers have been received at international headquarters in this city and the results, according to Edwin Perry, secretary-treasurer, show that about 90 per cent. of the soft coal miners would ratify the Cleveland agreement.

ATTACK ON SECY. WILSON.

House Democrat Says His Office Has Been a Scandal and Disgrace.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—A bitter attack on James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture was made in the House to-night by Representative Bathrick of Ohio, a Democrat. He charged that Dr. Harvey W. Wiley was forced out of the Department by Secretary Wilson.

"The last straw that forced the resignation of Dr. Wiley," said Mr. Bathrick, "was the action of Secretary Wilson in complying with the request of the National Grain Dealers Association for the suspension of the Wiley order forbidding the shipment of chemicalized grain. The management of the Agricultural Department has been a scandal and a disgrace."

Continuing, Mr. Bathrick said: "Like the pest of Sinbad, this old man sits astride the shoulders of the people's rights, weighing down justice, obstructing the operation of laws intended to protect the people, and, uncertain in his course of management of the expenditure of $16,000,000 annually, he shifts from one decision to another at the beck and call of big interests of the country.

"Secretary Wilson has been wondrous kind to the food dopers. He was kind to the fruit dealers who sulphurized their products. He was kind to the shippers of mouldy grain, against the advice of his scientist and reversed his own decision in the matter. He was kind to the Everglade interests when he took the scientific information which the people had paid for away from them and turned all the poor home seekers over to the tender mercies of the land sharks."

PARMA'S PUPIL TO ASYLUM.

Doctors Decide That Clara Conners Is Hopelessly Insane.

An application will be made to the Supreme Court to-day for the commitment of Clara Conners, pupil and protege of Louis G. Parma, the music teacher who was found dead in his rooms at 181 Lenox avenue on Monday last, to the State Hospital for the Insane at Central Islip. The woman was found with the body of the dead music teacher. She was taken to the psychopathic ward of Bellevue Hospital last Monday night and since then has been under observation.

Dr. Gregory and his assistant, Dr. Thornton, last night made out affidavits of their findings, stating that in their opinion Miss Conners was hopelessly insane. These affidavits will be presented to the court to-day.

Mme. Nordica's Gyp Is Lost.

Somewhere in New York last night, Mme. Nordica's brown and white collie dog "Gyp" was wandering, lost. In the early evening one of the servants of Mrs. George W. Young, as Mme. Nordica is known in private life, explained to the lieutenant at the Mercer street station that he had taken Gyp out for a walk in the afternoon and that the dog had got away from him. He told the police that the animal was the property of Mrs. George W. Young of Oakwood Hall, Deal, N. J. Mme. Nordica and her husband live at 8 West Ninth street when in town.

Prize Contest for Amateurs

A Prize Contest for Amateurs Only

is about to be opened by THE EVENING SUN. This new department will be edited by **Miss Jeannette L. Gilder** and will be known as THE EVENING SUN'S Amateurs' Page.

Two prizes will be awarded for the best essay, poem and drawing on subjects to be announced on the Amaters' Page of THE EVENING SUN.

Persons of any age may compete, but they must not be professional writers or artists.

The editor of this Amateurs' Page believes that a contest of this sort will develop new writers and will induce those who have an unsatisfied longing to write to try their luck. It is her desire to encourage both writers and artists and give them a start in what may ultimately become their life work.

It is the desire of the editor of this page that the essays shall be brightly written, that wit and humor as well as serious thought shall go into their composition.

The Prizes

TEN DOLLARS will be paid for the best essay, poem or drawing on the subjects chosen by the editor and duly announced.

FIVE DOLLARS will be paid for the second best essay, poem or drawing.

Conditions

The essays must not be more than 500 words in length, for "brevity is the soul of wit."

Poems must in no case be under ten lines or over fifty. Manuscripts and drawings must be received at THE EVENING SUN office not later than Wednesday morning for publication on Saturday of the same week.

Manuscripts and drawings for the opening competition must be received on the morning of Wednesday, the 17th of April, for publication in THE EVENING SUN of April the 20th.

Contributions must be written on one side of the paper only. They should be typewritten when possible. Name and address of the contributor must accompany each paper and must be written on the manuscript, and not on a detached piece of paper, and each competitor must return the coupon at the foot of this page duly filled in.

Contributors who send in papers for each competition must send in three coupons.

Names of successful competitors will be published.

The decision of the Editor is final and irrevocable.

In every case the prize will be given in money immediately upon the publication of the winner's name, &c.

The Editor reserves the right to print any contribution sent in, whether it wins the prize or not. Unsuccessful MSS. cannot be returned.

Competitors are advised to keep copies of their manuscripts, as in no case will they be returned.

Drawings must be on paper or cardboard, not over 18x15 inches in size. Pencil, crayon or ink may be used. If pencil or crayon is used the drawings must be "fixed" before sending.

All drawings must be sent flat with proper stiffening or in tubes. Drawings that are not used will be returned on application if stamps are enclosed.

All manuscripts and drawings for this competition must be addressed to the

Editor,
Amateurs' Page,
The Evening Sun,
New York.

The subject for the essay to be printed in THE EVENING SUN on Saturday, April 20, is

The Boredom of Being Rich

Subject for the poem:

To a Butterfly on Broadway

Subject of the Drawing

"A Book of Verses underneath the bough—
A jug of wine, a loaf of bread and thou
Beside me singing in the wilderness
Oh, Wilderness were Paradise enow."

The illustration may be humorous or serious.

This portion to be cut off and sent with contribution:

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