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The Problem Unsolved.

President Roosevelt failed yesterday to persuade the coal operators and the strikers to sink their differences to avert public suffering. But his failure reflects in no wise upon his judgment in calling the conference, or upon his ability in the presentation of the people's case. He did his full and evident duty in a manner to win for him the praise of the country. He succeeded at least in concentrating the responsibility upon the contending parties and in narrowing the issues between them to an appreciable degree.

The net result of the conference is an offer by the miners to submit their case to him and a board of co-arbitrators of his choosing, and an alternative offer by the coal operators to allow their employes, as individuals, to submit their grievances to the judges of the court of common pleas in their respective districts. But between these two proposals still yawns the chasm which constitutes the real issue of the coal conflict, the recognition of the miners in association, namely, the union.

Although plainly apparent before, yesterday's conference accentuated the inconsistency of the corporations which both mine coal and transport it in the matter of dealing with union labor. With the exception of Mr. Markle every coal mining interest yesterday represented by the "operators" is in constant communication with at least four great labor unions, that of the trainmen, that of the engineers, that of the firemen and that of the telegraphers. Their whole body of railroad workers are organized and are dealt with through their organizations. The operators seek to establish the difference between tweedledee and tweedledum by declaring that one union is fit for recognition and another unfit. If a great principle is involved, as Mr. Baer has frequently declared, why is it not broadly applied by the railroad-mining companies? Why is the public made to suffer because in the eyes of these corporations one union is regarded as unworthy of confidence?

In another regard the operators weakened their case yesterday by their impudent demand that the President solve the problem himself by dispatching federal troops into Pennsylvania. No law or condition exists which will permit such a radical invasion of Pennsylvania's rights. If more troops are so imperatively required, and if more troops will guarantee the mining of the full supply of coal, why have not the corporations made the same concentrated demand upon the governor of Pennsylvania? He has not yet exhausted his military resources, and has thus far been asked for aid only by the sheriffs of the counties where violence has actually reached the point of overwhelming the local constabulary.

The strike leader, John Mitchell, missed the chance of his life yesterday, when he failed to guarantee the resumption of mining for the public weal. Had he risen in his place in the conference room and promised the close of the strike, for the sake of the people, he would have been hailed today as having patriotically met a serious emergency. Next spring he could, if necessary, have resumed his efforts to secure a redress of grievances for the miners with infinitely better prospects for success than he had last May, for he would have enlisted public sympathy as never before.

The outlook is black indeed. The unyielding obstinacy of both the operators and the strikers, as disclosed at yesterday's conference, permits no present hope of surrender by either side. The present meager product of the mines is barely sufficient to supply the city of Philadelphia. The rate of gain at the collieries is so slow that it will inevitably be many weeks before the normal output is reached, unless the men decide suddenly to yield despite the attitude of their leaders. In New England fires are already needed in residences. In New York this necessity will be severely felt shortly. In this region four weeks more will bring pinching weather. Eight weeks will precipitate conditions of the gravest danger to the public health.

Certified miners who are willing to work are entitled to be protected in working. Until the state of Pennsylvania so requests, the federal government cannot enter the commonwealth with troops. The issue therefore is now squarely up to Governor Stone, who has already seriously incurred the charge of neglect of duty. The public interests demand that he waive all considerations of policy, and ignoring the fact that a sharp political campaign is in progress, concentrate all available state troops at the mines when requested by the county authorities and summon the state legislature in extra session to seek the remedy for a desperate situation. The Pennsylvania legislature can apply heavy pressure, as The Star has pointed out, both to mine operators and to miners.

The people must have coal!

That there would be a large attendance at the G. A. R. encampment was a foregone conclusion. That the veterans will be finely entertained is an equally easy matter of prophecy.

Mr. Platt has not ventured a coal prediction in some time, and the present state of affairs does not offer him much encouragement.

The Tariff in Massachusetts.

Mr. Lodge, from the republican point of view, was fully justified in the successful fight he made yesterday against a revision of the tariff which would put coal, iron, steel and hides on the free list. It would have been remarkable indeed had the Massachusetts republicans adopted for their shibboleth in this campaign the policy which Mr. Cleveland proclaimed eight years ago in his contest with Mr. Gorman. The republicans have always taunted the democrats with following along and occupying their abandoned camps. The laugh therefore would have been on them had they spread their tents where the ashes of the opposition's fires have long been dead.

Mr. Lodge's remarks, however, suggest some very interesting things. He says the tariff, whenever revised, must not be revised on sectional lines. But sectionalism plays a very important part now in the tariff question. New England has long enjoyed great prosperity as the result of tariff protection for her finished products. She was for many years without competition at home in many lines of industry. Competition has now begun, and the south and the middle states are developing their manufacturing possibilities. Those possibilities are very great, and are made so by the raw materials possessed by those two sections. New England is lacking in those things, and consequently at a disadvantage in the race as the pace has now been set.

We find there many New Englanders clamoring for free raw materials, with coal and hides especially in view. The south and west oppose this. They want protection for their unfinished as well as for their finished products. The Virginias, Tennessee, Alabama and other states are thinking about their coal and iron ore. Texas is thinking about her wool. The whole west counts her cattle and wants the duty retained on hides. This feeling was freely exhibited in the contest over the Gorman-Wilson bill, and as plainly, though in smaller measure, when the Dingley bill was in course of preparation.

Mr. Lodge is himself in favor of free hides, but he sees the peril of an appeal which, as he thinks, would bring out the local aspect of the matter in too strong a light. He doesn't want Massachusetts to range herself alongside of Louisiana. The latter will help to organize the House on free trade lines, but insists on protection for sugar. The former, Mr. Lodge feels, should not, while insisting on protection for her finished products, figure too aggressively in favor of free trade against the interests of other sections.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial Association will meet in Philadelphia on the 18th instant for the purpose of forwarding its purpose to erect in this city a suitable "national memorial to the author of the Declaration of Independence." An appeal is to be made to the country, and the response, it is to be hoped, may be both prompt and liberal.

The name of Jefferson, like that of Washington, of Jackson, of Lincoln, is one with which Americans of all parties now conjure. His services were so great and his talents so luminous, all of his countrymen today cherish his memory with admiration and affection. Lord Macaulay hesitated about expressing an opinion as to Mr. Jefferson's place in history. But he did so only because of his doubt about the stability of American institutions. He thought they had not been sufficiently tested. That was nearly half a century ago; and since that time those institutions have emerged stronger than ever from one of the fiercest civil wars in all history. And strengthening with their strength is the bond which binds the American people to the men who first conceived and established the American form of government.

And yet it must be admitted that, much as the people admire him, many of them might know Mr. Jefferson better. He was so many-sided, he knew so much and was so active in so many directions, that his character and performances lend themselves to misconception and exaggeration. As The Star mentioned only the other day, the demagogues draft him for service in their harangues, and picture him as a hog-and-hominy patriot, leaning toward the log cabin as a place of residence and the coonskin cap with dangling tail as the regulation headgear. "Jeffersonian simplicity" is used as a protest against all comfortable living, against all stately observances of important state occasions, against all decorations of whatsoever description and, most absurdly of all, against all polite connection with foreigners in their own countries on terms prescribed by local conventions. There was of course a simplicity about Mr. Jefferson, but it was that attaching to a great man, and altogether free from grotesqueness or affectation.

One very happy result of this most meritorious movement therefore will be an awakening of interest in this great American personality, and a reading which will take many people into the details of the life of one of the most interesting and useful and patriotic men of modern times.

Tammany and Congress.

The usual complaint is heard in New York about the caliber of the congressional nominees. In a way, it is justified. The metropolis of the country should be represented in the national legislature by men of national consequence. Instead of that Tammany sends men of only local reputations and schooled only in local politics. They suit the purposes of the organization better. Besides, the Tammany leaders, if unrecognized in the distribution of higher places, might lose the fine edge of their activity. Men of the Devery and Sullivan kind may not be expected to see themselves as others see them. They work hard and roll up the majorities, and in a human sort of way then demand recognition. It seems to be not unlikely that in a few years we shall see Mr. Devery in Congress. Why not? John Morrissy served a term or two, and there have been others. And it must be admitted in all candor that, bad as they are, such men are not bad substitutes for mere millionaires.

St. Louis boodlers who handled thousands are far more ready to "peach" on their pals than the artful dodgers who filch pocket handkerchiefs. The higher you go in crime, the further you seem to get from a code of honor.

A large number of Shakespearean revivals are to be made this season. They will be sandwiched in between dizzy blonde farce comedies and the buzz saw melodramas in a way that would make the bard of Avon shudder.

General Fred. Funston, having participated in army maneuvers in Kansas, will no doubt seek to avoid trouble by maintaining an absolute silence concerning their efficacy or any credit that may be due.

William Hooper Young's lawyers have a duty to perform by their client; but theirs is one of those unenviable tasks that lawyers are sometimes obliged to undertake.

If J. Pierpont Morgan could arrange to release coal as easily as he releases money, a great deal of trouble could be averted.

Mr. Bill Devery is among those who are still smarting over a big losing at Saratoga.

The Universal Language.

The universal language idea breaks upon the world again. There is nothing to prove that this thought travels in cycles or recurs in periods, but its periodicity may be suspected. This thought of a tongue common to all men, or to most men, has come before the human mind so often, though it does not always come in the same form. Like a comet its appearance or reappearance is announced from some distant land; the public takes up the theme and discusses its practicability or its impracticability; then interest wanes and another topic supplants it. The subject, like a comet, comes out of the night, grows bright, fascinates for a time, and then fades.

The need of a common speech has been felt by some men since the confusion of tongues at Babel. A "Philosophical Language" was constructed about three centuries ago by John Wilkins, bishop of Chester and brother-in-law to Oliver Cromwell. The new language was published in 1668 by the Royal Society of London, though it is said that no person succeeded in learning it. It was said of Wilkins' "Philosophical Language" by Max Muller that it was "the best solution of a problem which, if of no practical importance, is of great interest from a scientific point of view."

Leibnitz was also the constructor of a common tongue which he styled "Specieuse Generale," but very few persons took an interest in it and it is said that nobody succeeded in speaking or writing it. Among other men who have sought to invent or devise a universal language were Don Sinibaldo de Mas in 1863 and Stephen Pearl Andrews in 1871. The Volapuk invention of the Rev. Johann Martin Schleyer is still fresh in the public mind.

The latest suggestion comes from Sir Frederick Bramwell at Belfast. His plan proposes "to establish a union of tongues between Great Britain, France, Germany and the United States for purposes of commerce and travel." His suggestion is that we shall all learn the Italian speech, and that "every official, from premier to policeman, shall be compelled to pass an examination in this soft southern speech."

Sir Frederick Bramwell's reasons are a little weak. Italian may be gracious, graceful and grateful, but it is not the language of the present and will not be the language of the future. Statistics may show, as is alleged, that while this language was spoken in 1801 by only fifteen millions it is now spoken by over forty millions. But this proves nothing. The conquering language is the English. It has driven French from its pre-eminence. It is the language of business and it is business that rules and will rule the world. The French is still, though in a less degree than half a century ago, the language of diplomacy, but diplomacy, once an art, has now become a business. The English-speaking people of Great Britain and Ireland, the United States, Canada and Australia are teaching their tongue to all the other people of the world. When the uncounted millions of Asiatics and Africans learn a language other than their own it will be the language of trade and commerce.

The report has gone out that W. H. Truesdale, one of the coal operators, has no coal in the cellar of his house and is unable to purchase any in his town. Under ordinary circumstances Mr. Truesdale might hope for some sympathy.

Coal consumers, or rather would-be coal consumers, should not be expected to warm themselves by their own indignation. The experiment would be an eminently dangerous one.

General Corbin, while in Berlin, was mistaken for one of the Boer generals. General Botha will hunt up a mirror and take another look at himself.

The New York man who after shooting his wife ran for a police station must have shared the popular lack of confidence in the detectives.

It is thought that the present war in Venezuela is near enough to an end to warrant preparations for the next one.

The polar explorer's entire life is spent in starting expeditions and trying to get back home.

There is no doubt about it; the coal trust is one of the naughty ones.

SHOOTING STARS.

Insufficient Wisdom.

He is a great geologist,
And yet—we much regret it—
Although he knows how coal was made
He can't tell how to get it.

Among Sportsmen.

"Did Biggs have any luck hunting lions in Africa?"
"Yes. Great luck."
"How?"
"Didn't meet any lions."

Melancholy Mutation.

The place where fuel once was kept
Is sorrowful, I vow—
It was a coal bin long ago
But it's a has-been now.

Protecting a Home Industry.

"Do you mean to say that you don't want a railway through Crimson Gulch?" asked the astonished surveyor.

"That's exactly what I mean to say, young feller," answered Bronco Bob. "Cactusville got a railroad, didn't it? And they hadn't had it two weeks before a couple of men won half the money in camp, got cold feet, took the train, and was gone for ever and ever. Crimson Gulch ain't takin' any such chances."

Deficiencies.

This world, with its failures compels us to sigh
What a state of enjoyment, where cares now enslave,
'Twould be brought to,
If flying machines could be built that would fly
And automobiles could be made to behave
As they ought to.

Appreciative of the Unique.

"That young oman has some very original ideas," said the susceptible young man.

"Yes," answered Miss Cayenne, "she must have. Otherwise she couldn't possibly derive so much enjoyment from listening to her own piano-playing."

During the Coal Famine.

Oh, what care I for diamonds,
And rubies rich and rare,
And rosy cheeks and laughing eyes
And wavy chestnut hair?
What care I for the beauties
Which poets may discern?
They're well enough when wanted,
But they aren't good to burn.

And what care I for reasons,
Propounded with much care,
To show just why we cannot cook
Tomorrow's bill of fare.
For statesmanlike deductions
My spirit does not yearn—
They are mentally inspiring,
But they aren't good to burn.

Receivership for Mines.

From the Boston Advertiser.

The courts have not hesitated to take charge of public service corporations and carry them on by means of receivers. This is a form of temporary application of socialistic principles, only so often employed that the public is used to the method. Unless the owners of the anthracite mines are able to run them, why not in the public interest apply this power of the government, leaving the quarrel between the mine workers to be settled out of court, after the public needs have been satisfied?

Impudence of Operators.

From the Chicago Inter-Ocean.

As between the two bodies of men (operators and employes) in question, the legal presumption is in favor of the miners' organization. The right of men to organize for their common benefit and protection is imbedded in our laws and affirmed by hundreds of court decisions. This monopoly assumes its own right to exist and presumes to deny the right of the miners' union to exist. It scouts the union of miners, refuses to deal with them on any terms as an organization, and yet insists that they, and the whole American people and their President shall deal with it as if its own legal status were absolutely unquestionable.

Lynchings.

From the Philadelphia Record.

There is no defense that justifies lynch law. The accompanying cruelties are an abomination. The appeal of colored citizens for the suppression of lynching is altogether right; but it could be made doubly effective if it were aimed at the cause as well as the consequence of lawless outbreaks.

Recovery of Carmack.

From the Dallas News.

Senator Carmack has analyzed the Dave Henderson episode and predicts the downfall of the republican party. This is the first time that the senator's prediction department has been open since the Maine election.

A Logical Sequence.

From the Omaha Bee.

After having burned another poor negro at the stake, the good people of Mississippi will go out and adopt resolutions denouncing the cruelty and inhumanity of the water cure in the Philippines.