

OPINION OF E. V. DEBS

Reviews the Strike Before the Labor Commission.

HE DID NOT ORDER THE STRIKE.

The Announcement Made That There is Now on Foot a Movement to Form a United and Grand Railway Organization—An Earnest Recital.

CHICAGO, August 21.—President E. V. Debs of the American Railway Union was a witness before the Strike Commission to-day. The courtroom was crowded from bench to doorway. "Now tell us in your own way, Mr. Debs," said Commissioner Wright, "what you know of the Pullman strike and results."

Leaning forward in his seat, the tall leader of the great strike began in a low, clear voice a recital which gradually became more earnest and forcible as he proceeded until it developed into almost an oration. He told of having received word that a strike in Pullman was imminent and of his coming to Chicago to investigate. "I found," he said, "the men were working for the Pullman Company at wages upon which they could not live. I found salaries had been cut and again, under the pretext of economy, they were working their lives away for wages not sufficient for day laborers; that the town of Pullman was so schemed that every penny the workman made found its way back to the company. In fact, I found the workmen of Pullman in a pitiable condition, and I determined to do all in my power as president of the American Railway Union to improve the condition of these men. The strike followed, ordered by the men themselves. Then came the boycott ordered by the duly elected delegates to our convention, and then followed the railroad strike ordered by the various local unions, each of which had a grievance of its own."

"Would the railroad strike have occurred if there had been no Pullman trouble," asked Commissioner Wright. "No," the Pullman strike was the prime cause. We desired to stop the man's cars and shut off his income, thus forcing him to arbitrate, but the railroad men had grievances of their own. The General Managers' Association had been organized with the avowed intention of giving assistance to the railroads in labor troubles. Its evident aim was to organize and control the railroads. No sooner had this association been formed than a systematic reduction of railroad wages all over the country began. The men were ready to strike, and felt they had cause, but the trouble would not have come when it did had it not been for the Pullman strike. The same was unpropitious. I did not order the strike; I had not the power. The men did that themselves. But I do not wish to shrink any responsibility, and an unwillingly I heartily concurred in and approved of the action taken by the men. As to the strike, I have written and spoken against it, believing and knowing a strike cannot be won by violence. As to the telegrams sent from our office counseling violence I know of no such epistles."

"What about the 'Buy a gun' telegram?" asked a Commissioner. "That is easily explained. The telegram was sent by the private secretary to a friend in Butte, and was merely a playful expression. It was sent as such and so understood."

Debs then said that within five days after the strike he declared the union had the railroads beaten. "They were paralyzed," he said. "But injunctions were soon broadcast, and shortly afterward the officials of the American Railway Union were arrested for contempt of court. That beat us. About this time General Managers' Association called on the General Managers' Association, and the next day was quoted in an interview as saying he had broken the backbone of the strike. Now I consider that call of General Mills as vulgarly out of place. He had no more right to consult with the 'General Managers' Association than he had to consult with our unions. I might say, too, it seems strange that all our letters and telegrams were made public property, while not a line of the railroads' correspondence was published. If it had been, I think we could prove the defendants called the American Railway Union would stamp the American Railway Union out of existence."

In reply to a question Debs said the union had taken every possible means to prevent riot and disorder, and added: "We objected to the presence of Federal troops, and I remember rightly, no serious outbreak occurred until Federal troops arrived, as their presence inflamed the men."

MEETING OF MASONS.

Royal Arch Triennial Conclave at Topeka.

ORDER'S PHENOMENAL GROWTH

All the Past Grand Priests to Take Part at the Topeka Convocation—Unusual Nature of the Deliberations—International Questions.

TOPEKA, Kan., August 21.—All eyes of the Free Masons of the country will be turned toward this city during this week, beginning to-morrow. The occasion is one which occurs only once every three years—the Triennial Convocation of the Grand Chapter of the United States. It is the Royal Arch Masons who will thus assemble, and as that degree is one to which the members of the sublime fraternity most aspire, the proceedings will have an interest, and an importance commensurate with the elevation of that dignity and with the comparative rarity of their enactment. Apart from these considerations, moreover, the unusual nature of the deliberations will lend interest to what is said and done by these 300 odd delegates in the name and by the authority of the 100,000 Royal Arch Masons whom they represent and the innumerable others who in time will be promoted to the degree.

All the Past Grand High Priests will take part at the Topeka gathering. In addition to them there will be a representation of every Grand Chapter in the Republic, comprising the three constituent degrees of every one of them. This council does not meet frequently, and as such a concourse of Masonic dignity is not witnessed oftener than once every three years, the interest of the fraternity it may be understood.

The State of Maryland will have the honor of sending the most exalted member of the convocation, Captain George L. McChesney, who, in addition to being the Deputy Grand Master, acts as General Grand High Priest, and in that capacity will preside over the deliberations of the assembly. Ohio is represented by General Grand High Priest Reuben C. Lemmon, a Mason whose name is almost a household word in the fraternity membership. From Georgia come General Grand High Priest James W. Taylor and from Michigan General Grand High Priest Daniel Striker. Nor is there a dearth of distinguished membership from the East, not to speak of the members who owe their pre-eminence to what has been accomplished by them in the lower ranks of the Masonic hierarchy. There are, for instance, David F. Hay, Past General Grand High Priest; William J. McDonald, who is deemed the most popular Mason personally among the Royal Arch members; Thomas C. Cassidy, Richard H. Parker of Syracuse, N. Y., and Jas. D. Hallard, Frederick E. Barnes will also attend, and he as a special delegate as a delegate in view of the prospect of his election by the convocation to the office of General Grand Master of the First Vail.

Nevertheless the Eastern delegations will not have all the prominent members, for Washington sends George E. Corson and Kentucky Bernard G. White. There is also a delegate from the Second Vail, but who is to be promoted to the third in room of Nathan Kingsley of Minnesota, a prominent delegate and Mason, whose next dignity will be General Grand High Priest.

The convocation will have to deal with matters connected with the ritual. This subject has grown in importance with the passing of years since the meeting of the last body until various veiling deviations have become noticeable throughout the Grand Chapters. These deviations require a revision of the ritual, and it is the intention of the General Grand Chapter to establish uniformity in the ritual and ceremonies. It is needless to point out that these matters are never entirely made public, but as there have been differences of opinion for over a century, regard to the insignia and their proper use—Eastern members asserting, indeed, that some Western States have not understood the purport of much of the Masonic code—action has become imperative. All differences of view will be reconciled, and the conviction will appoint a special commission to investigate and report. In the course of a few months all the deviations from orthodox Masonry which have displeased some of the brethren, who prefer regularity, will have become things of the past.

The final adjournment will take place on the 28th or 27th of this month. The Mayor of Topeka is to address the delegates, and the usual banquet in the Masonic Temple will bring the exercises to a close. The next convocation does not meet until 1897, and its place may precipitate a struggle between the representatives of the East and the South.

THE FUTURE OF EZETA

Much Speculation as to the Course to be Pursued.

THE ORDERS ISSUED TO THOMAS.

The Salvadorian Refugee May Have His Day in Our Courts, or He May be Transferred From the Bennington to Sea-Night of Asylum.

WASHINGTON, August 18.—The State Department has finally decided that the Salvadorian refugees now on the Bennington, lying beyond the three-mile limit off San Francisco, shall have full and fair opportunity to come into court and show, if they can, that they are not subject to extradition. Orders have been issued to Commander Thomas of the Bennington, which were communicated to him by tugboat, to keep his vessel beyond the three-mile limit until the extradition papers arrive at San Francisco. These papers were handed to the San Salvador Minister at 5 o'clock last Sunday evening, and should reach San Francisco to-night or to-morrow morning. When they arrive they will be placed in the hands of the United States Marshal, the Bennington will steam to the harbor and the refugees will be taken into custody and produced before the United States Court. They are General Ezeta, late Vice-President of San Salvador; General Catacheco, General Kolomes and Lieutenant-Colonel Cienfuegos, all of Ezeta's staff. Before the court they will be represented by Gonzalo de Nussado and Hon. Horatio Rubens of New York as counsel. While this counsel may invoke the spirit of habeas corpus, it will be unnecessary, as they will have their opportunity when the refugees are brought before the court, in pursuance of extradition proceedings, to show that extradition is sought on political grounds and that the offenses charged are not criminal in character.

THE RIGHT OF ASYLUM. WASHINGTON, August 18.—In the quietest manner that official methods will permit the Navy Department has amended the naval regulations in such fashion as to entirely reverse the policy regulating the right of asylum as laid down by Secretary Tracy in the case of General Barrundia, when Commander Reiter of the Ranger received his reprimand. The new regulation appears to completely justify that unfortunate officer in his refusal to protect Barrundia from extradition. It is a regulation which will be of great benefit to the general public, and in conformity with international law, then he could not have offered to take the General from a merchant vessel. The department has been induced by the question to make this new regulation, restricting the granting of asylum by the great trouble it has been put in harboring the Salvadorian refugees on the cruiser Bennington. The old naval regulation reads as follows: "In reference to the granting of asylum in the territorial waters of a foreign State the ships of the United States shall not be made a refuge for criminals. In the case of persons other than criminals they shall be afforded shelter whenever it may be needed to United States citizens first of all and to others, including political refugees, as the claims of humanity may require and the service upon which the ships are engaged will permit."

VALUE OF THE ENEMY. The Chinese Offer Rewards for the Destruction of Japanese. LONDON, August 18.—A Shanghai correspondent says that the Governor of Formosa offers 6,000 taels for the destruction of any big Japanese warship, 4,000 for a small warship, 200 for the head of a Japanese officer and 100 for the head of a private.

WAR FEELING INTENSE IN JAPAN. LONDON, August 18.—The Shanghai correspondent of the Times says 50,000 Japanese troops are already in Corea, and others are constantly landing. The Chinese fleet is passive. The correspondent adds: "The war fever in Japan is intense. The press and popular orators are advocating schemes for the conquest of Manchuria. There is a strict censorship over the news. Everything reported concerning the war is extremely partisan."

THE RAILROADS. An Effort Being Made to Reorganize the Transcontinental Association. CHICAGO, August 20.—Invitations have been issued to all interested lines, asking them to be represented at a meeting to be held in Chicago August 27 for the purpose of reviving the Transcontinental Association. It is understood the Canadian Pacific, Northern Pacific and Great Northern are agreeable to the resurrection of the association, but it is doubtful whether the Southern Pacific will be in it, although it has agreed to send a representative. The association can scarcely be formed inside of three months, unless the other lines are willing to leave the Atchison and Topeka and the Union Pacific on the outside, which is not probable.

GREAT NORTHERN'S GENERAL MANAGER. CHICAGO, August 20.—Charles H. Warren has been appointed General Manager of the Great Northern, succeeding C. W. Case, whose resignation, it is stated, was the result of a difference of opinion in the coal-laden ships that come to Oakland to discharge portions of their cargoes after most of the coal has been unloaded at San Francisco. Engaged in this local coal trade are the Yosemite, the Raphael and the Louis Walsh. Inspectors are on duty here only in the daytime, and there is nothing to prevent the smugglers from carrying on their work at night. From here to San Francisco the opium has been sent on the early morning boats concealed in other ordure, boxes of vegetables and other ordure shipments. Gee Dong declares that during the strike in July, while the city wharf at the foot of Franklin street was covered with officers,

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ABOUT THE TARIFF.

What the Substitution of a Semi-Colon for a Colon Means.

WASHINGTON, August 20.—The copy of the tariff bill in possession of the Chairman of the House Enrolling Committee, with which the bill sent to the President was compared and verified, contains the following paragraph in the free list: "Free list, 467—Diamonds; miners', glaziers' and engravers' diamonds not set, and diamond dust to be used in the manufacture of watches and clocks."

Senator Jones of Arkansas says the intention was to have the word diamonds a sub-st, and the mistake of a semi-colon instead of a colon will not be allowed to admit diamonds free, especially when construed with the jewelry schedule which especially provides, "uncut precious gems of all kinds, 10 per cent ad valorem." The Senator added: "The words taken in connection with the intention to make the word 'diamonds' in the free list is a subhead will be construed to make diamonds subject to the duty on precious stones. Secretary Carlisle is too good a lawyer to construe the act in any other way."

THE STATE OF MARYLAND WILL HAVE THE HONOR OF SENDING THE MOST EXALTED MEMBER OF THE CONVOCATION, CAPTAIN GEORGE L. MCCHESENEY, WHO, IN ADDITION TO BEING THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, ACTS AS GENERAL GRAND HIGH PRIEST, AND IN THAT CAPACITY WILL PRESIDE OVER THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE ASSEMBLY.

CHICAGO, August 20.—The movement of the whisky trust to take as much as possible of its product out of bond before the new tariff law, with the internal revenue tax on spirits, goes in effect was extended to Chicago to-day. Within the next twenty-four hours, unless the trust changes its mind, not less than 40,000 barrels of whisky will be taken out of bond here and the tax paid.

ENGLAND ALREADY BENEFITED. LONDON, August 20.—The Daily News in its financial article says there has been a great activity in all the markets since the passage of the American tariff bill. Metal, copper and tin are especially active in anticipation of a large American demand for tin plates.

LOUISIANA'S PRINCIPAL PRODUCT. NEW ORLEANS, August 20.—The passage of the tariff bill has thrown a damper on commercial dealings in New Orleans. At least two-thirds of her population look to the sugar industry for support, and any legislation unfavorable to sugar has a decidedly bad effect on all other commerce out of sympathy for Louisiana's principal product. The Sugar Exchange yesterday was in a turmoil, the members declaring that the industry would be ruined by the bill.

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WELLMAN'S STORY.

He is Determined to Test the Spitzbergen Route Again.

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THE POSTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat Market.

The local wheat market was reported inactive and unchanged. Dealers give as nominal values the following quotations: Walla Walla, 65¢/bushel; Cascade, 65¢/bushel; Oregon, 65¢/bushel.

PRODUCE MARKET. Flour—Standard brands are quoted as follows: Baga, \$3.75/65.00; Dayton, \$2.55 per barrel; Walla Walla, \$2.90; Snowflake, \$2.70; Graham, \$2.30; superfine, \$2.10.

MEATS—Wheat at 32¢ per bushel for white and 31¢ for gray. Rolled oats are quoted as follows: Baga, \$3.75/65.00; Dayton, \$2.55 per barrel; Walla Walla, \$2.90; Snowflake, \$2.70; Graham, \$2.30; superfine, \$2.10.

FRUIT—Oregon, 1 1/2¢/12¢; young America, 1 1/4¢/14¢; Swiss, imported, 30¢/32¢; domestic, 16¢/18¢.

VEGETABLES—Oregon cabbage, 1¢ per dozen; California cabbage, 1.60 per cental; cauliflower, \$2.60 per crate, \$1.00 per dozen; parsley, 40¢ per dozen; string and wax beans, 1 1/2¢/2¢ per pound; peas, 3¢/4¢ per pound; cucumbers, 10¢/15¢ per dozen; California tomatoes, 85¢/1.00 per 25-pound crate; corn, 10¢/12¢ per dozen; egg plant, 10¢ per pound; green peppers, 8¢ per pound; garlic, 6¢.

MELONS—Watermelons, \$2.00/2.25 per dozen; cantelopes, 1.75¢/2.00; nutmeg, \$1.50 per crate.

FRUIT—California lemons, \$4.50; common, \$2.83; Sicily, 60¢; Havana seedlings, 43.25; bananas, \$2.50/3.50 per bunch; Honolu, 1.75/2.50; seedlings, \$3.00/3.25; pineapples, Honolulu, \$3.00/3.50; sugar loaf, 45¢.

MEATS—Blackberries scarce, 45¢ per pound. Fresh Fruit—Nectarines, 1.25 per box; Oregon cherries, \$5.00/6.00 per box; apricots, 80¢/90¢ per 25-pound box; California apples, 1.25 per 60-pound box, 75¢ per 25-pound box; Oregon peach plants, 25¢/30¢ per box; Bartlett pears, 80¢ per box; grapes, 1.25 per 60-pound crate; Oregon peaches, 85¢ per box; California Crawford's, 75¢/85¢ per box.

DIETED FRUITS—183¢ pack, Petite prunes, 6¢/8¢; silver, 10¢/12¢; Italian, 8¢/10¢; German, 6¢/8¢; plums, 6¢/10¢; evaporated apples, 8¢/10¢; evaporated apricots, 15¢/16¢; peaches, 12¢/14¢; pears, 7¢/11¢ per pound.

PROVISIONS—Eastern hams, medium, 15¢/16¢ per pound; large, —, hams, picnic, 11¢/12¢; breakfast bacon 14¢/15¢; short clear sides, 9¢/11¢; dry salt sides, 9¢/10¢; dried beef hams, 12¢/13¢; lard, compound, 8¢/10¢; lard, pure, in tins, 10¢/12¢; pigs' feet, 80¢, 85¢; pigs' tallow, 40¢, 45¢; tallow, 11¢, 12¢.

WHEAT—Valley, 8¢/10¢, according to quality; Umpqua, 9¢/9¢; Eastern Oregon, 6¢/8¢.

MEAT MARKET. BEEF—Top steers, \$2.25/2.50; fair to good steers, \$2.00/2.25; cows, 1.75/2.00; dressed beef, 4¢/5¢ per pound. Lamb—Best sheep, 1.75/2.00; ewes, 1.50/1.75.

HOGS—Choice, heavy, \$4.00; light and feeders, \$4.00; dressed, 5¢ per pound. VEAL—Small, choice, 45¢; large 3¢/4¢ per pound.

SAN FRANCISCO MARKETS. HOPE—Nominal at 8¢/10¢ per pound for crop of 1893. Growers are asking 9¢/10¢ for new crop. POTATOES—Early Rose, 20¢/35¢ in sacks; whites, 20¢/30¢ in sacks and 40¢/70¢ in boxes; sweets, 1.2¢ per pound.