

## RALPH HARDELLOT'S MEDIATION

BY WILLIAM MINTO.

### CHAPTER V—CONTINUED.

Such was Wycliffe's scheme for the purification of the Church, and, though it seemed to affect the Church alone, it is not difficult to see how it brought him at once into contact and conflict with the political system. It is possible that it was the political problem of the relation of the kingdom to the papacy, on which he was consulted as a learned doctor, that started Wycliffe on his career as a reformer. But he was as it may be, his theories, when fully developed and pushed ardent into practice, had much more wide-reaching political consequences. All the servants of Christ, he held, all ministers of religion, all teachers and exemplars of the teaching of Holy Writ, should submit on voluntary alms: worldly possessions stifled and choked their spiritual usefulness. Now in his time a fourth, or even a third, of all the land of England was held by the Church and religious orders. What was to be done with it if its present holders were dispossessed? Wycliffe proved by elaborate argument that secular authority not only might lawfully take possession of all this wealth, but was bound in duty to do so, men of religion holding it contrary to the rule of Christ. But for whose use should it be appropriated? On this point also Wycliffe's teaching was clear and emphatic. All the worldly wealth of the Church and the orders, beyond what sufficed for a simple maintenance, belonged of right to the poor; the men of religion were but the protectors of the poor in their tenure of it, and were acting as fraudulent trustees when they spent it on sumptuous buildings, rich fare, large retinues, or coarse sensuality, while the poor wandered homeless, ate and slept with the swine, tottered about with naked sides and shaking lips and hands. He specified two uses to which the wealth of "worldly clerks and feigned religious" might be turned. Partly it should be given to secular lords, who should in return give to the poor protection and equitable government, and partly it should be used to meet the expenses of just and necessary wars. Wycliffe did not hesitate to urge that for this national purpose shrines should be stripped, and the waste treasure hung on stocks and stones used for the defence of the realm.

It was this last doctrine that brought Wycliffe and the poor priests, whom he sent forth as models of a true Christian priesthood, into vital contact with the practical politics of a time when all classes of the laity were groaning under the burden of unprecedentedly heavy taxation. Especially the poorest, who had hitherto escaped direct taxation, were likely to receive this new gospel with gladness. Wycliffe's sermons on excommunication and transubstantiation, and other points of church doctrine might interest theologians only; here was a doctrine that the poorest understanding could grasp—a basis from which his disciples could act with powerful effect on the masses of the people.

It must not be supposed that all the agitators of the time, whose teaching corresponded more or less with Wycliffe's, were direct disciples of his. The heresy was in the air; what he chiefly did was to furnish it with a reasoned foundation in Scripture and the dicta of the fathers and doctors of the Church.

Ralph Hardeholt, as we have said, joined the merchants' party as they rode out of Sudbury, waiting for them and cantering up to meet them.

The merchant looked narrowly at his eager features, as if to divine what strength and temper lay behind.

"You have left off your priest's dress," said the merchant with a smile, as an excuse for the closeness of his inspection, "unless I was deceived by the twilight last night."

"Oh," replied Ralph, "we poor priests set little store by the fashion of our clothing. I put on our russet habit only because without it I could not so readily get an audience. The people are not used to preaching from any one in an ordinary layman's dress. I shall put it on again when I have need of it."

As they rode along, the merchant, who was apparently inclined to be disputations as well as inquisitive, resumed one of the topics they had been discussing in the Friars' meadow.

"You spoke last night," he began, "in strong contempt and reprehension of the purely contemplative life, and quoted the opinion that the man who withdraws from the world and gives himself entirely to prayer and devout meditation is guilty of the loss of as many souls as he might have saved if he had remained in the world and taught erring men the truth."

"I am of that opinion," said Ralph.

"You know Master Roger Chowley of the Archbishop's college?"

"I know him well," said Ralph.

"But he was not in my mind as a pattern of the life contemplative."

"It is not of that I would speak," said the merchant. "I grant him swinish, a foul traitor to his profession, like many more who live by feigned religion. But I had talk with him yesterday, and he tells me that your preaching had the effect of making the good women of Sudbury attack and cruelly maltreat the tax farmer."

"My preaching!" cried Ralph, taken aback at this accusation.

"Did you not, as he says, teach them that the poor commons should not be oppressed with taxes for foreign wars

while so much wealth, that should be used for the relief of the poor, is wasted by worldly clerks on their own carnal pleasures?"

"Yes," cried Ralph, "but I counselled no outrage. On the contrary, I brought the people to have patience, and told them that conscience and justice were at last awake and active in high places, and with God's help would soon bring them amendment of their wrongs. I counselled them to endurance and hope."

The merchant smiled and shook his head. "And they remembered a part of your preaching and forgot the other part. But tell me, if these poor people should be punished for their violence, would the guilt of that punishment not lie on you?"

"In that case," said Ralph, sadly, "I should have much to answer for. But this painful thought moves me all the more to work for the amendment of their wrongs."

"How?" asked the merchant, abruptly.

"The great and powerful," answered Ralph, "do not know how the poor live, nor what they suffer. I live among them and learn, and when my knowledge is complete I trust that God will give me strength to stir the heart and conscience of power."

"Words alone will not do it," said the merchant, gravely. "Your Master Wycliffe says also," he resumed after a pause, "that tithes should not be paid to clerks of irreligious and unprofitable life; that it is lawful to withhold tithes from such men. But what poor man in these ravening times can keep lands or goods or life, if he stand by himself? I heard, when last I was in England, of a case in Lincolnshire, where a poor man whom one of your master's priests had persuaded to resist the extortion of an unworthy clerk, was seized and thrown, heavily fettered and manacled, into a strong prison underground, where his feet and hands were gnawed by rats."

"I know," said Ralph, with a pained expression. "Dominus Wycliffe wept tears of pity and righteous anger when he heard of it, and since then has warned us never to stir men to such resistance till they can find a protector. He has strong hopes of moving the great lords to take the matter in hand."

"Therein," cried Simon, with more energy than he had yet shown, "he is in error. Put not your trust in princes. They but play with the simple doctor. They but use him to serve their own ends. Let him assail the temporal dominion of the pope, as he hath done in his excellent tract De Dominio, let him denounce the employment of prelates in secular affairs, and they tar him on to the battle. But for restoring the true order of Christ and his apostles, by the bowels of Judas, they have no more thought of that than this dumb beast that bears me! Nay, nay; the poor commons must help themselves. I see there is no help to be hoped for from this crazy, silly dupe of a subtle doctor."

Ralph stood aghast at this impeachment of his master. "Dominus Wycliffe," he said, after a pause, in which he tried to subdue his anger, "puts no trust in subtle disputation in this matter. It is not by his own words that he hopes to bring the great lords to the side of truth and pure religion. He knows full well that if a greater Lord than they does not touch their hearts, his reasoning is in vain."

"Yes," returned Simon, in the same bitter tone, "but Christ sometimes chooses humbler instruments than great clerks of Oxford, great masters of logic and rhetoric."

Their road now lay over a wild heath, which had once been roughly cleared on both sides, as the law directed, to the extent of 20 paces, to destroy the cover for lurking robbers. Roads were not so safe then, we need hardly remind the reader, as they are now; any thick copse or cluster of hawthorn bushes might conceal a band of lawless desperadoes, and at this time of the year many such bands lay in wait for travelers to Stourbridge Fair.

The prudent merchant looked so earnestly ahead that Ralph imagined him to be on the watch for signs of such unpleasant neighbors. Looking ahead himself, he saw nothing but a ragged beggar hobbling along towards them in the distance.

"Do you see that beggar?" cried the merchant. "What would you say if I were to tell you that he is one of the instruments that will do more for the reformation of England than all the poor priests of your Master Wycliffe? Such men as he are my poor priests."

Ralph stared at him in mute astonishment.

"Listen to what I say to him," said the merchant, giving a signal to the waggoners to stop.

Ralph listened, but what he heard considerably increased his bewilderment.

The following was the conversation that passed, after the merchant had tossed a small coin to the beggar in response to his salutation.

Simon—"Are you ready for the pagan?"

Beggar—"Why do you ask, master?"

Simon—"Because I mean to be there. Do you find many willing to play?"

Beggar—"Have no fear. The peasant will proceed."

Simon—"God be with you. Here, return me that coin, and I will give you a better. John Treman and his fellows will all be there."

The beggar went on his way. "You

heard what passed?" said the merchant to Ralph.

"Yes," answered Ralph, coldly, "but I do not understand. What is the pagan?"

"Our pagan," said the merchant, "is the deliverance of Israel from Egypt. It will be played by the Hammermen. Will you take part in it?"

Ralph supposed him to refer to one of those rude dramatizations of Scripture known as mysteries, which all over England at that time were performed on holidays by various guilds of craftsmen. Ralph was astonished at his companion's question, and bewildered by his mysterious manner. He answered, coldly.

"I have no taste for such profane mummeries."

They rode on for some distance in constrained silence, each busy with his own thoughts. The elder traveler had the air of a man who weighed some important matter in his mind, and found it hard to come to a conclusion. Every now and then a shade of vexation crossed his face, and he twitched his reins impatiently.

Soon after they joined the Roman road at Wixoe there appeared a castle some half a mile to the right, situated on a mound in the middle of a marsh. The merchant observed his companion start when it came in sight; and remembering the tale of the previous evening, at once drew his own conclusions.

"That is Sir Richard Rainham's castle of Sturme, is it not?" he asked.

"You seem to know the country well," Ralph answered.

"I have heard of this knight," returned the merchant. "What hope has your master Wycliffe of bringing such as he to a sense of their duty? How can he be persuaded to protect where he has been used to plunder? As soon might you hope to tame an old wolf or a tiger."

"He must be controlled by the stronger."

"But who at court dares control him in these distracted times? There is but one power that can control him, and such as he. Our pagan is designed to make that power manifest."

"You speak in riddles," said Ralph, coldly.

"Then I will speak more plainly. The power I mean is the power of the poor commons. Singly they are nothing; united they would be irresistible. I and my friends aim at uniting them. The hour is at hand when they will appear in union. That is the pagan to which you are bidden. You may not come, but I know you will not betray me."

"I know nothing to betray. But if your pagan is a repetition of the bloody rebellion of the Jacquerie, let me implore you to pause. What can an unarmed rabble do against trained and mail-clad men-at-arms?"

"What can your preaching do against the stupendous power of the church? You preach singly; we propose to act in union."

"In civil war?" cried Ralph. "You cannot be so desperate!"

"There need be no war. The poor commons will only demand their rights; they will ask only to be relieved from unjust extortion, high-handed robbery, cruel and wanton imprisonment, stripes, maiming and murder. They will not want leaders among the good nobles: it is only the worthless and godless that are their enemies; from them there is but one deliverance possible—Delectantur ex libro vivientium. Expunge them from the book of the living."

(To be continued.)

### Thought the Doctor Knew.

At the last annual meeting of the Association of Military Surgeons of the United States Major John Van R. Hoff, in the course of his speech accepting the presidency of the association, told the following story: "A lady was passing through the wards of an overcrowded military hospital when she suddenly encountered two men sitting and hammering on some boards. She looked at them in some surprise and wonderingly asked: 'What are you doing there, my men?' They looked up at her and one of them said: 'What are we doing? Why, we are making a coffin, that's what we are doing.' 'A coffin?' she asked. 'For whom are you making a coffin?' 'For that fellow over there in that bed. Don't you see him?' The lady looked in the direction indicated and saw a man apparently in good condition and watching the operation with great interest. 'Why, that man is not dead, and, indeed, he does not look as if he were going to die. Can't you postpone this work?' 'No,' the men said, 'we can't postpone it.' The doctor told us to make the coffin, and he knows what he gave him.'"

### Swords Made From 1,000 Bits of Steel.

The Japanese are the manufacturers of a wonderful sword. The blades of these sabers are made from magnetic iron ores. The steel is produced in small, very thin sheets and the workman begins by fixing one of them to the end of an iron rod which serves as a handle. To this are soldered other small sheets until the mass has a length of about 8 inches, a width of about 2 inches and a thickness of a little more than a quarter of an inch. This bar is brought to a white heat, doubled on itself and hammered until it is down to its original dimensions. This process is repeated 15 times. Four similar bars are then soldered together, doubled upon themselves, resoldered and heated, the operation being repeated five times. This process makes the superposed layers so thin that a saber contains at least 1,000 sheets of metal.

### Estimates on Unmined Anthracite.

A Philadelphia banking firm has calculated that there still remain unmined 5,073,775,000 tons of coal in the anthracite regions. The same calculators estimate the tonnage for the present year at 50,000,000.

## EVENTS OF THE DAY

### FROM THE FOUR QUARTERS OF THE WORLD.

**A Comprehensive Review of the Important Happenings of the Past Week, Presented in a Condensed Form, Which is Most Likely to Prove of Interest to Our Many Readers.**

Prince Henry has started on his homeward journey.

A compromise on the Cuban reciprocity question is probable in the senate.

A hurricane which struck Omaha, Neb., caused an immense loss of property.

Eight thousand men are on strike at Boston as a result of the freight handlers' trouble.

The British have suffered a crushing defeat at the hands of the Boers. General Methuen was captured.

Secretary of the Navy Long has resigned. He will be succeeded by Representative W. H. Moody, of Massachusetts.

The American cup defender Columbia will cross the ocean to race if any yacht can be found on the other side whose owner is willing to make a match.

The postal bill has been passed by the house. By this measure carriers are not only continued under the salary system, but the maximum wage is increased.

Prince Henry sent a wreath to be placed on General Grant's tomb.

The president has signed the Philippine tariff bill.

A message is expected from the president on the Cuban question.

All arrangements are completed for the homeward journey of Prince Henry.

Russia has taken advantage of the bandit trouble in China and sent troops there.

England will reorganize her army and place it on the same plan as that of the United States.

Two boats collided on the Canton river and 150 Chinese drowned.

Queen Alexandra launched an English battleship.

Taft says that in two years, at the most, the Filipinos will be able to maintain a permanent government of their own.

The revolutionary movement in Russia is spreading.

Prince Henry visited the military academy at West Point.

Fifteen persons were killed and many injured in a train wreck in Texas.

The Spanish regency may be proceeeded, owing to the incapacity of King Alfonso.

The president will not permit his daughter to attend the coronation of King Edward.

Five men were killed and several injured in a coal mine explosion in Pennsylvania.

The steamer on which Prince Henry will return home is being fitted up for the royal party.

Six firemen were seriously injured by coming in contact with live wires at a fire in Beatrice, Neb.

The street car strike at Norfolk, Va., remains unbroken.

The Eastern states are in the midst of another snow storm.

A candy trust, with a capital of \$5,000,000, is the latest combine.

Miss Alice Roosevelt will go to Cuba to visit General and Mrs. Wood.

Boer envoys called on the president, but were told by him that he was unable to help them.

Canada will pass a Chinese exclusion law similar to that before the United States senate at present.

The house is considering a bill authorizing the purchase of the Giant Tree tract in California for a national park.

Rear Admiral J. A. Howell will be retired the 16th inst. Next to Admiral Dewey, he is the ranking officer of the navy.

Prince Henry visited Niagara Falls and crossed over to the Canadian side, where he was welcomed by representatives of Lord Minto.

A number of the leaders in the Barcelona, Spain, riots have been executed.

Thomas J. Humes, Republican, was elected to succeed himself as mayor of Seattle.

Santos-Dumont will visit the United States and give an exhibition of his flying machine.

The difficulties between the National Cash Register Company and its employees have been settled.

William H. Moody, of Massachusetts, has been mentioned as a successor for Secretary of the Navy Long.

## 8,000 MEN GO ON STRIKE.

### Boston Freight Handlers Making Hard Fight for Unionism.

Boston, March 12.—War between the organized teamsters, freight and express handlers of Boston and two great railroad corporations, the New York, New Haven & Hartford and the New York Central & Hudson River Railroads, the latter locally known as the Boston & Albany, broke out today. The strike, which is a sympathetic one, already involves 8,000 men in and about Boston.

Stopping work because of the discharge of union men who have refused to handle non-union moved freight, the various organizations now on strike made every effort today to extend their sphere of influence to affiliated bodies, while the corporations energetically tried to fill the strikers' places and to receive and dispatch goods offered them. Both met with some measure of success. Tomorrow the local employees of the great express companies, the Adams and the New York & Boston, two companies which handle practically all of the fast freight in Southern New England, will refuse to work, while several smaller bodies of organized labor, such as the brewery teamsters and the piano movers, as well as freight handlers in East Boston, will be idle. On the other hand, the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad, after succeeding today in moving considerable freight by Italian labor, will augment the force tomorrow, and the Boston & Albany expects to have a large number of men at work in its freight sheds.

The action of the express men in joining the freight handlers will quickly affect the freight business with nearby business centers like Worcester, Springfield, Hartford, New Haven, Providence, Fall River and New Bedford.

### LONG STEPS OUT.

#### Secretary of the Navy Hands His Resignation to the President.

Washington, March 12.—The third change in the cabinet of President Roosevelt occurred when Secretary Long submitted his resignation in a beautiful letter, it being accompanied by one equally felicitous by the president. The change was made complete by the selection of Representative William Henry Moody, of the Sixth congressional district of Massachusetts, as Mr. Long's successor in the navy department.

This change has been expected for a long time. Mr. Long had intended to retire at the beginning of the late President McKinley's second term, but he consented to remain until certain lines of policy in which he was involved were more satisfactorily arranged. Then when President Roosevelt succeeded, though anxious to return to private life—for Secretary Long will never again enter public life—a strong feeling of loyalty toward Mr. Roosevelt induced the secretary to defer his retirement until it was convenient for the president to make a change. Recently Mr. Long has been in Massachusetts effecting arrangements with his old legal connections to re-enter the practice of law, and he has had his house at Hingham put in order for his occupation. When Mr. Long entered the cabinet originally he was an active member of the firm of Hemingway & Long, a well known legal firm of Boston. He has always maintained a silent connection with the concern, and will again become an active partner.

### IMMENSE ICE FLOES REPORTED OFF THE COAST OF JAPAN—EARLY SPRING IN THE NORTH.

Port Townsend, Wash., March 12.—The British ship Bann, the last of the storm-bound fleet off the entrance to the Straits of Juan de Fuca, has arrived, 98 days from Iquique, 34 days of which she was storm-bound off the straits. Seven times the Bann got inside of Cape Flattery, and as no tug was there to pick her up, she was compelled to put back to sea. The Bann reports no other vessels off the Cape.

### PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 65@65½c; bluestem, 66½@67c; Valley, 65@65½c; Barley—Feed, \$20@21c; brewing, \$21@21.50 per ton.

Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.15@1.25; gray, \$1.10@1.20.

Flour—Best grades, \$2.80@3.40 per barrel; Graham, \$2.50@2.80.

Millstuffs—Bran, \$19 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$21.50; chop, \$17.50.

Hay—Timothy, \$12@13; clover, \$7.50@8; Oregon wild hay, 45@6 per ton.

Potatoes—Best Burbanks, \$1.10@1.25 per cental; ordinary, 70@80c per cental, growers' prices; sweets, \$2@2.25 per cental.

Butter—Creamery, 25@30c; dairy, 18@22c; store, 13@15c.

Eggs—13½@14c for Oregon.

Cheese—Full cream, twin, 13@13½c; Young America, 14@15c; factory prices, 1@1½c less.

Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$4.00@4.50; hens, \$5.00@5.50 per dozen, 10@12c per pound; springs, 11c per pound, \$3@4 per dozen; ducks, \$5@6 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12@12½c; dressed, 14@15c per pound; geese, \$6 per dozen.

Mutton—Gross, 4c per pound; dressed, 7@7½c per pound.

Hogs—Gross, 5½c; dressed, 6½@7c per pound.

Veal—8@8½c for small; 7@7½c for large.

Beef—Gross, cows, 3½@4c; steers, 4@4½c; dressed, 6½@7½c per pound.

Hops—12@13c per pound.

Wool—Valley, 13@15c; Eastern Oregon, 8@12c; mohair, 21@21½c per pound.

### DANGER TO SHIPPING.

Immense Ice Floes Reported Off the Coast of Japan—Early Spring in the North.

Port Townsend, Wash., March 12.—The British ship Bann, the last of the storm-bound fleet off the entrance to the Straits of Juan de Fuca, has arrived, 98 days from Iquique, 34 days of which she was storm-bound off the straits. Seven times the Bann got inside of Cape Flattery, and as no tug was there to pick her up, she was compelled to put back to sea. The Bann reports no other vessels off the Cape.

The British steamship Oceano reports to the local United States hydrographic office as having encountered an immense ice floe about 200 miles off the Japanese coast, abreast the entrance to Sugar straits. So extensive was the ice floe that the steamer was compelled to change her course and steam for several hours to avoid collision with the ice. The ice floe is in the direct path of vessels sailing to the Orient, and as it is quite extensive, it is dangerous to navigation. The captain of the Oceano says the ice is from four to six feet out of the water, and some of the bergs are many feet across, and cannot be seen until the vessel is among them. This is the first time ice has been seen off the Japanese coast in that vicinity. It is thought that the floe came from Behring Straits and the Arctic ocean, and that through some unknown cause the ice pack in the Arctic has broken earlier and that it indicates an early spring in the north.

### Large Fire at Paris.

Paris, March 12.—The biggest blaze seen in Paris since the burning of the Opera Comique, in 1897, broke out last night in the corner of a block of warehouses in the Rue Montmartre. The warehouses were occupied by 10 firms, and the lower floors of the building were filled with silk, velvet and woolen goods. These materials caused the fire to rage furiously and the flames spread rapidly to the upper portions of the buildings, used as residences.

## NEWS OF THE STATE

### ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS OF OREGON.

**Commercial and Financial Happenings of Importance—A Brief Review of the Growth and Improvements of the Many Industries Throughout Our Thriving Commonwealth—Latest Market Report.**

Agitation has been started in La Grande for a \$25,000 public building.

The first ticket in the field in Coos county was that of the Socialist party.

Twenty-six homestead entries were filed at the Oregon City land office during February.

The Clackamas county Socialists held their convention in Oregon City March 8 and nominated a full ticket.

From six to twelve contracts for 1902 hops are filed in Salem every day. Prices range from 11½ to 12½ cents.

Forty thousand pounds of hops, owned by G. W. Perkins, of North Yamhill, sold at 14½ cents per pound a few days ago.

The Sumpter city council has passed an ordinance authorizing the mayor and recorder to borrow money for the city to pay its outstanding indebtedness and to issue warrants therefor.

Since the Washington county tax rolls opened March 1, the sheriff has collected \$40,000 of the \$100,000 levy. Everybody wants to get the benefit of the 3 per cent rebate for prompt payment.

The Wasco county Republican convention, held in The Dalles March 8, was one of the shapeliest political fights the county has ever known. One hundred and seven delegates were in attendance. The meeting was held in the courthouse and delegates to the state and congressional district conventions and candidates for the various county offices named. The principal issue lay between the two aspirants for congressional honors, Malcolm A. Moody, the present incumbent, and State Senator J. N. Williamson. The first ballot showed the Moody forces to be in possession, 70 to 37.

A large cold storage building and ice plant will be erected at The Dalles.

Bandon, in Coos county, has raised its quarantine against places outside of the city.

During February 32,800 acres of state land was sold. Most of it was in the eastern part of the state.

Complete returns from Wasco county Republican primaries show that Moody supporters received 72 votes and Williamson 34.

Fish Warden Van Dusen says the legislature will be obliged to make some provision at its next session for increasing the revenues of the fisheries department if the proposed work in connection with artificial propagation is continued.

The new tax law is having a good effect in Linn county on payment of taxes. There is a universal desire among taxpayers to secure the 3 per cent reduction. A large force in the sheriff's office is kept busy day and night. At the close of the first five days of collections almost \$25,000 was taken in.

### PHENOMENAL ADVANCE AT THE UNION IRON WORKS IN CONSTRUCTION.

Washington, March 11.—Apparently phenomenal advance in the work on some of the war vessels building at the Union Iron Works, San Francisco, is the feature of the monthly progress report issued by Admiral Bowles, chief of the bureau of construction and repair. The report shows a gain during the month of February of 12 per cent on the battleship Ohio, 20 per cent on the protected cruiser Tacoma, and 5 per cent on the monitor Wyoming. Moreover, 1 per cent of the work on the armored cruiser California, which vessel had formerly been the only one of that class of vessels, showing no start, was completed.

It is explained at the navy department that during the prevalence of the strike at San Francisco a great mass of material had accumulated and made ready for placement, and with the ending of the strike and the return of the men to work, it had been possible within the last month to make a great change in the status of the work on the vessels.

### Freight Handlers Strike.

Boston, March 11.—Four hundred and fifty freight handlers employed in the freight houses of the Haven & Hartford Railroad at South Boston struck tonight because of the refusal of the company to reinstate several men who had been discharged for refusing to handle freight delivered by the R. S. Brine Transportation Company, against whom the union teamsters are on strike. Although a strike of freight handlers had been threatened for the past two or three weeks, it was from an entirely unexpected quarter that it finally came. The strike is expected to be far-reaching in its effects.

### Priest Captured by Bandits.

Peking, March 10.—Bandit soldiery have captured a priest at Jehol, about 100 miles northeast of Peking. Both the French and Russians are anxious to send troops to rescue the priest, but an English minister at Jehol, the court has ordered General Malynwan to hurry and release the prisoner, in order to forestall the entry of foreign troops into the district.

### Results of Shamaka Earthquake.

Bank, Russian Trans-Caucasia, March 11.—The official report of the committee which has been investigating the recent earthquake at Shamaka shows that 126 villages, with a total of 9,084 houses, were included in the area of the disturbance; that 3,406 houses were destroyed and 3,943 damaged. Besides the dwellings 4,163 farm buildings, 11 churches, 41 mosques, 11 factories and three schools were seriously damaged.

### Australia has, proportionately, more churches than any other country, the number being 6,018, or 210 churches to every 100,000 people. England has 144 churches to every 100,000; Russia only 55 to the same number.

## OF NO CONSEQUENCE.

### Trouble in Morong Province is not Serious—Chaffee and Wright Report.

Washington, March 11.—Desiring to ascertain the facts as to conditions in the province of Morong, Luzon, Secretary Root recently cabled inquiries to Commissioner Wright and General Chaffee, which have brought the following replies:

"With reference to your telegram of the 6th inst., the facts from Morong are: About a week ago the president of Cainta was kidnapped. The perpetrators of this act was a new organization gathered in Morong province about 60 strong. They were vigorously searched for and driven to hiding and will probably be captured in a day or two. They have inflicted no material damage. No special significance need or should attach to this event."

### "CHAFFEE."

"There is no foundation for the statement of insurrection in