

RALPH HARDELOT'S MEDIATION

BY WILLIAM MINTO.

CHAPTER XX—Continued.

The first half of the Fourteenth century, putting it broadly, was a crucial stage in the history of villainage in England, the natural tendencies to express for virtual emancipation being helped by the intervention of the ministers religion, who urged upon masters that the manumission of slaves was a pious and a meritorious act before God and man. Then came a variety of causes tending unfavorably upon all who had either themselves been, or whose ancestors had been, in a state of serfdom, and who could not produce documentary evidence of their freedom. First, there was the terrible calamity of the Black Plague, which enormously increased the value of labor. Masters were thereby tempted not only to exact the utmost possible from such serfs as remained to them, but also to reclaim many who had been using the privileges of freemen. Foreign wars and court splendor increased the number of absentee lords; a general rise in the sale of living augmented their demands upon their estates, and stimulated the sharpness of unscrupulous bailiffs. The substitution of leasehold farms for demesne farms told in the same direction of aggravating the condition of the bond man. Their services were often part of the lease, and were more sharply seen to than they had been under the customary lord. Similarly with estates that were sold to commercial investors eager to make the most out of the soil.

Many causes thus combined to exacerbate the agrarian population. In every parish the machinery of the law was in action under the plea of technical rights to thrust them back into the base servitude from which they had gradually freed themselves. Thousands who had tasted the sweets of freedom found themselves in danger. They had no chance in the courts of law against superiors who claimed rights of service over them. Apart from chicanery and corruption the law naturally laid stress on formal documents, and the value of these was only now becoming apparent to the poor and ignorant. Some villains who had purchased their freedom met to carouse over the happy event. The carousal was prolonged into the night; their lights failed them; and they used the wax seals of their deeds of manumission for candles. Their lord, hearing of this, reclaimed them, and the law sustained his claim. In another case, a wealthy farmer, of servile origin, was called upon to pay an exorbitant rent. He refused. The abbot, who was his superior lord, sent a force of men to his house, who broke it open, beat him and his servants, and carried off as much of his stock as they pleased. The farmer brought an action against the abbot, but the abbot simply pleaded that the man was his native, his born serf, and no serf could sue his owner in a court of law. There were hundreds of such cases. Old court rolls were produced with the names of tenants or their ancestors in them as bondmen; if no formal deed could be produced on the other side, the case was at an end. Forgeries were freely made, and still more freely suspected; legal learning and skill were all on the side of the rich. This was how "the craft of clerks" became hateful to the peasantry, so that among the more ignorant, ability to read and write was regarded as a criminal accomplishment.

Of course there was another side to the quarrel between master and bondman. The master could make out a good enough case to justify his conscience in pressing for his legal rights. It was he that was the ill-used man in his own eyes; the serf that was ungrateful and unreasonable. It was for the kindness and indulgence of himself and his fathers that he was now made to suffer. In effect, it came to this, that he was like a big brother, who should allow the use of his toys to a younger when he did not want them himself, or when he chanced to be in a generous mood. The day comes when the big brother wants to have them back, and he finds to his anger that a new right of property has been established, and that they are no longer regarded as his. If he tries to reclaim them, bickering and heart-burnings arise. With children of a larger growth the resentment on both sides is proportionately fierce.

To such outrageous lengths were technical rights, real or spurious, pushed by the lords of the soil, and such pitiless cruelty was used in enforcing them, that the champions of the enraged peasantry saw no hope of relief except in the total abolition of serfdom by the issue of wholesale charters of manumission direct from the king. They still had a touching faith in him as the foundation of justice, the supreme source of law and order. To him they still looked for protection against pillage and extortion, if only his ear could be disabused of the false persuasions of evil counsellors.

The leaders whom we have seen at work organizing combination among the discontented peasants knew the value of a definite demand, the justice of which was widely felt, in binding scattered units together. A novel and unpopular tax to which every adult was liable gave them additional leverage.

The time was now ripe for formulating their demands and supporting them by what is known in international politics as a "moral demonstration"; the demonstration being made in this case not with ironclads, but by a great rising of the poor commons with arms in their hands. It was hoped that the mere show of strength would suffice. That their professions on this head were sincere was abundantly proved by their subsequent conduct.

But first the young king—from whom personally they were to demand emancipation, and of whom they had more hope than of older men hardened in their iniquities—must be clearly informed as to their objects and assured of their loyalty to his person. No show of strength could be made till midsummer, when the days were long and the nights were warm, and there was little work to be done in the fields; but meantime the king's mind might be prepared for their demands.

And for this mission, John Kirby, who passed under the name of Simon d'Ypres and other aliases, thought of Ralph Hardelet, it was a mission not without danger, as Kirby well knew. But Ralph was of the stuff of which martyrs are made. There was no reason why he should be denied his destiny. At any rate, somebody must be had for the service, and Ralph was at hand.

His liberation from Cambridge Castle was easy enough. It was a simple matter of bribery. With an inconsistency which perhaps he was not conscious of, Kirby did not hesitate to make use of the corruption that it was his aim to uproot. If it did cross his mind that there was any harm in bribing Ralph's jailers, the end doubtless justified the means.

There was greater difficulty in persuading Ralph to take the liberty offered him. He clung obstinately to the idea that escape would look like guilt; but at last when all that Lawrence had learned was made known to him, he was brought to see that in escape lay his only chance of clearing his character.

About a fortnight after Clara's interview with Lawrence, Kirby's nephew, a little bit of stick planned one of its faces was put into her hands by a beggar as she came out of St. Paul's in the train of the princess. This rude tablet had written on it the single word—FREE.

CHAPTER XXI.

February and March had passed, and the warm rains of April had begun before the princess was called upon to redeem her promise to procure an interview with the king. Lawrence Kirby more than once saw Clara, and brought her news of Ralph's welfare. The excuse he gave for the delay was that Ralph had suffered so much from his three months' imprisonment in Cambridge Castle that it would take him some time to recover his strength. There was another reason, but of this Clara was not informed. Simon d'Ypres was in no hurry. The champions of the commons did not consider it advisable to approach the king too long before the peasants were ready for action.

One day during the Portuguese ambassador's stay at Westminster, the king called at the wardrobe, where the princess was lodged, and was told that Ralph Hardelet was in waiting to see him. The princess was most unwilling to encourage her son, who was not yet quite fifteen, to do any blacker or more seditious thing than to approach the king on behalf of his appointed guardians and counsellors, but she held herself bound by her promise to Clara, and thought no harm could come of giving the young man an opportunity of clearing himself.

Richard looked displeased at first, but catching Clara in the act of stealing an anxious look at his countenance, he turned to her and began to speak on another subject. "Ah, Mistress Clara," he said, "I have tidings for you about your doughty husband. He has come back with my uncle of Buckingham, not a scratch the worse, and gone down to Sturmer to settle accounts with his tenants. Three shiplads of good men were cast away and perished on the voyage homeward; pity he was not among them, but Satan is kind to his own. Well, well, if Father Neptune refuses to rid you of your encumbrance, we must put our trust in the pope. I trust, dear madam," he added, turning to his mother, "that Clara's suit to the Holy Father has been more favored by fortune than our armies in France?"

"The boy had a boy's love of teasing. But the princess, seeing Clara's blank dismay, good-naturedly came to the rescue.

"But you will not, my dear son," she said, "reject poor Clara's supplication that you will see her champion?"

The king turned to Clara. "It is not for my own sake," he faltered. "But he has been slandered to your royal grace."

"Did he not see from his accusers?" asked the king.

"Not," said the princess, "it appears, till long after you were told that he had fled. And he would not take freedom when it was offered to him, lest flight should look like guilt in his eyes."

"This was more fully explained to the king. But still he hesitated and looked uneasy. "What can the traitor say?" he asked, petulantly. "He can only deny what the others have said. However," he added, after a pause, during which Clara felt her heart beating with anxious excitement, "I suppose I must see him."

Haste was made to bring Ralph into his prepossession in his favor re-born. There was little change in Ralph's appearance, except that he looked thinner and his face had a more steadfast expression. He bore himself with courteous humility in the royal presence, but his figure still had the lithe, alert grace when he spoke strength, and the frankness and fearlessness which had won the confidence of the chivalrous boy-king at their first meeting.

The king received him with gracious dignity. "Are you not," he said,

"afraid to show your face in our presence?"

"I have no cause, sire," answered Ralph. "I labored honestly to acquit myself of your majesty's gracious instructions."

"We have heard otherwise," said the king and was silent and thoughtful for a space. "But," he resumed, "that the movers of the common people are slandered also. Did not the church say that our professor of inquiry into their grievances was a traitor?"

"Nay, sire," answered Ralph. "On the contrary, they were right joyful of it, and I was myself called for in their assembly as one who had had the honor of hearing your merciful disposition from your own lips, to assure the people that they might trust in your clemency."

"This is strangely unlike what we heard," said the king, turning to his mother with a perplexed air. "Who am I to believe?"

"You should question him further, dear son," said the princess, meeting his looks of doubt and mistrust with a benign smile.

Richard shook his head and muttered inaudibly to himself. After a pause he asked: "You say they were content to have an inquiry?"

"They were content, sire," answered Ralph. "But I pray your grace to hold me excused if I say that this would not content them, now. It is of this principally that I am charged to speak to you, sire."

"Charged to speak to me," cried the king in surprise. "Do you come, then, as a commissary from them?" He turned to the princess excitedly. "My gracious mother," he said, "is not this a trick that you have played on me? I understood that it was of himself that this gentleman desired to speak, and now he addresses me as the messenger of discontented subjects whom inquiry will not content?"

Before the princess, who was indeed as much surprised as the king himself, could frame a reply, Ralph thrust himself on his knees.

"I pray you, sire, to pardon me if my devotion to your grace and my zeal for the contentment of the realm carry me too far. I do not come as a commissary; I come of my own motive."

This was strictly true; for Simon d'Ypres had so managed that Ralph had volunteered to speak to the king. "I know these men," Ralph continued; "I know what they feel and what they say among themselves; I know how loyal and true in their hearts they are to you, and how they look to you as they did before to your noble father for comfort and redress; and I beseech you of your grace to hear me."

The king was partly appeased, but still doubtful whether he ought not to terminate the interview. He looked doubtfully towards the princess, and said to her: "If this matter concerns the realm, I ought not to hear it except in the presence of my council." But it was evident from his manner that curiosity was tempting him strongly.

"You can inform your council afterwards," said the princess, softly. She also was interested in the ominous statement that mere inquiry would no longer give satisfaction.

"I ought, sire to say," added Ralph, "that the commons put little trust in your present council."

"Say on, then," said the king, hastily. "Tell me plainly what they want." Then, authorized by Ralph, he proceeded in carefully respectful language, and with repeated protestations of the firm loyalty of his clients, to lay before the king a statement of what they considered necessary to the satisfaction of discontent.

It needed all the grace and temperance of speech that Ralph could command to obtain a patient hearing. For the facts were startling enough. It had come to this, that nothing short of the abolition of villainage and other forms of bondage would suffice.

This was what Ralph had charged himself to make known to the king as best he could; and as he discoursed with respectful gravity of the high duties of rulers set by God over the people to shield the weak against the tyranny of the strong, he was warmed into unconscious eloquence by the answering glow in the eyes of the generous youth. The seed had not fallen on barren ground; if disinterested youth could have had its way, much bloodshed might have been averted.

(To be continued.)

SENATOR FRYE CAUGHT A DUCK.

But the Distinguished Statesman Was Fly-Fishing at the Time.

There was a session of the Congressional Fishing Club in the coat rooms. "Did you ever hear," said Senator Blackburn, "of the time Senator Frye caught the duck? It was this way: His specialty is fly fishing, and casting from a moving canoe. Well, one day in the fall we were fishing up above, anchored under the lee of a projecting point of land.

"Just watch me cast a minnow," said the senator, as he sent the bait whizzing far out into the river. Hardly had the minnow struck the water until the line paid out and the reel began to sing.

"It's a five pounder!" cried the boatman. "Let him run, senator, let him run!"

"Well there was some excitement. The reel kept singing the sweetest music in the world to a fisherman. At length the line was all run out, and much to the senator's surprise the rod was pointed straight up in the air, instead of toward the water.

"The old boatman nearly fell in a fit in the bottom of the boat with laughter, for there, up in the sky, soared a wild duck, with the senator's minnow.

"Pull up," said the senator, in disgust, "and let's go back to the club house." I'll fish in the rain barrel off the porch with Uncle Joe Cannon and Dave Henderson for the rest of this trip."

Lavender Counties in Texas.

There are 40 counties in Texas which have to seek legal advice outside their limits, as they have not a single attorney of their own.

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.

The house has passed the anti-anarchy bill.

Ten persons were killed and many injured in a Chicago hospital fire.

Mexican troops and Yaqui Indians met in a battle which resulted disastrously to the Indians.

The floods in Kansas have not entirely subsided. The Moshos and Cottonwood rivers have again left their banks.

The May postal receipts at 50 of the largest offices in the United States show an increase of 50 per cent over May, 1901.

Three business blocks at Saratoga, N. Y., were destroyed. Five persons lost their lives. The property loss is estimated at \$300,000.

Two convicts at the Oregon Penitentiary slayed three guards and wounded a life prisoner and escaped. They are well armed with rifles and revolvers and have plenty of ammunition.

The forming of the new French cabinet has been completed.

Mitchell denounced the Panama canal route in a speech before the senate.

A plot has been discovered at Pretoria to blow up the government buildings.

Twelve trainloads of Mystic Shriners arrived at San Francisco to attend the imperial council.

Coal miners in West Virginia have gone out. A larger number quit work than was anticipated.

The officers of the cruiser Chicago who caused the disturbances in Venice will not be court-martialed.

An excursion train on a Michigan road was wrecked, killing one person and injuring 33, three fatally.

The relief supplies sent by the United States to the Martinique sufferers were not properly distributed and did not go where they would do the most good.

Kruger will not be required to acknowledge British sovereignty in South Africa.

The president is being urged to send a message to congress on the Cuban question.

Fire in Denver destroyed a grocery store, rooming house and several other business concerns.

June 8 and 9 have been declared thanksgiving days and holidays throughout Cape Colony.

A boat containing eight Spanish artillery officers was run down by a steamer at Gijon, Spain, and five drowned.

Retabuen, a town in Guatemala, Central America, has been destroyed by a volcano. One thousand people lost their lives.

Governor Geer may call an extra session of the Oregon legislature for the purpose of fixing flat salaries for the state officials.

The pavilion in the horticultural gardens, Toronto, the second largest auditorium in that city, has been entirely destroyed by fire.

The American Federation wants to take farmers into its organization.

Three men were shot in a riot between union and non union iron moulders at Granite City, Ill.

Some of the mines in the anthracite coal region are filling with water because of the firemen and pumpmen joining the strikers.

Lord Kitchener was created a viscount and promoted to be general and given 50,000 pounds for his services in the South African war.

The Chicago teamsters strike has been settled. It was a compromise, the strikers not getting the advance in wages they asked, but will receive more than before they went out.

Almost every street car in Rhode Island is tied up. The last general assembly of that state passed a 10-hour law, and when the street car companies started to test it in the courts the street railway employes quit.

The senate has passed the Philippine bill.

The house is considering the anarchy bill.

The entire French cabinet has resigned.

The senate is considering the Nicaragua canal bill.

The rebellion in Southern China has been practically suppressed.

The Idaho state Republican convention will be held in Boise August 20.

Two villages were destroyed and 75 people killed by a volcano in Bolivia.

Germany has appealed to the United States to assist in preventing monopoly in wireless telegraphy.

The status of liberty torch in New York harbor is to be dark hereafter because congress refused a \$50,000 appropriation for lighting it.

The refusal of the Manitoba government to allow the Northern Pacific railroad to extend its lines across the border is taken as notice to all American railroads to keep out.

A LACK OF SYSTEM.

Supplies Sent by the Dixie Were Not Distributed With Dispatch.

Washington, June 11.—Professor Robert T. Hill, of the geological survey, who was one of the scientists on the expedition of investigation sent out by this government following the Martinique disaster, arrived in this city today from New York. Professor Hill says:

"The Dixie expedition was a great success. It was organized in less than four days with a complete equipment. The endeavor which the United States made to relieve the distress, and the large representation of naval vessels and newspapermen has made a deep impression on the people of the island, to whom we were a constant marvel and source of astonishment. The negroes of Martinique were laboring under a misapprehension that American enterprise was going to rebuild St. Pierre, and when told that it was on French territory, they could not understand why a little matter of international complication should be permitted to interfere in the work."

"Too much cannot be said of the enterprise and labor of United States Consul Ayme, who rushed to the scene of action from his station at Guadeloupe with hardly a stitch of clothing or a cent in his pocket, and intelligently did everything in his power to assist the people of the island and the American relief party. It is feared that his health, which was already precarious, is seriously shattered by his labors."

"The only criticisms that could be made concerning the outcome of the expedition would be concerning the manner in which the relief was distributed on the island. Notwithstanding the reports to the contrary, there was much distress on Martinique, and had our supplies been distributed with the same generosity by the local officers as that with which they were given, much more good would have been done, the governor and many of the prominent island officials having been killed in the disaster. The slowness of the relief was no doubt due to the disorganized condition of affairs."

TO SETTLE STRIKE.

Public Opinion Demands Arbitration of Portland Labor Troubles.

Portland, June 11.—The public call for an arbitration of the difficulties between the planing mill owners and their employes is the general topic of conversation among those interested in the strike situation, and the general sentiment expressed was that the welfare of the community demands that such a course should be pursued. The employers declare that they have nothing to arbitrate, and that the question involved is as to whether they shall be permitted to run their own business or whether they must be dictated to by the union. The sentiment expressed by many of the prominent men of the city, is to the effect that the loss incurred by any concession that might be made to the union would be insignificant when compared to that incurred by any continuance of the strike, and that so long as the union people are disposed to stand by the decision of an unbiased committee, the employers should be willing to terminate the trouble in this way. The sentiment is not undivided, however, and there are many who think the question of union standing and union power is the one involved, and that it should be fought out and decided now. They say that the trouble is between the planing mill men and the union, and should be left to them for settlement; that if the employers say they have nothing to arbitrate, they are running their own business, and should be allowed to take any stand they see fit; that if the employes do not like their terms, they should quit, but that men who wish to work at these terms should be allowed to do so, and that the union should not attempt to force the mill-owners into subjection.

Liberty Bell Leaves Charleston.

Charleston, S. C., June 11.—The Liberty bell left here today for Philadelphia on a special truck attached to a passenger train and accompanied by an escort of a committee of councilors of Philadelphia.

Caught in a Squall.

Boston, June 11.—The Harbor Master's office and the police stations along the water front were besieged today by anxious men and women, making inquiries for friends who went out in small boats yesterday and had not returned when a heavy squall swept over the harbor between 7 and 8 o'clock last night. More than 20 persons are missing. The squall came up very quickly and was unusually strong, and it is feared that small boats, heavily laden, could not have survived.

War in Colombia.

Colon, Colombia, June 11.—All the government troops were stationed here, numbering over 1,200 men, left for Panama today. At Panama they will join forces with the government troops at that port, who number several thousand, and the combined army will start immediately to attack the insurgents by land and sea. Some of the troops embarked at Panama today. Previous to going on board the soldiers were addressed by General Bert.

CONVICTS ESCAPE

SHOOT THREE OREGON PENITENTIARY GUARDS.

A Life Prisoner Intervenes and is Shot in the Leg—Both Men Are Desperate Criminals—They Are Well Armed With Rifles and Revolvers and Have Plenty of Ammunition—Large Posses in Pursuit.

Salom, June 10.—Harry Tracy and David Merrill, convicts, escaped from the Penitentiary at 7 o'clock yesterday morning and made their way to liberty, leaving murdered behind them Guards F. B. Ferrell, S. R. T. Jones and R. F. Tiffany, while Frank Inghram, a convict, who tried to bar their road, was shot in the knee which was so badly shattered as to require amputation. He is now resting easily, and strong hopes are entertained for his recovery. Clad in their prison garb, well armed and provided with ammunition, the men are now lurking in the woods not far from town, and, although hundreds of citizens have recruited the posses that are searching for them, they have thus far eluded pursuit.

The convicts, who are professional criminals of the most dangerous type, had secured rifles and revolvers Saturday or Sunday, probably from some confederate previously released from the Penitentiary who had smuggled the weapons in. The men working in the stove foundry, among whom were Tracy and Merrill, had just been marched in from the chapel and were about to report to work to Ferrell, when Frank Girard, another guard, heard a rifle shot, and, looking quickly in the direction from which it came, saw Ferrell dead and the two thugs, both armed with new rifles, approaching him. Girard, like all shop guards, was unarmed, and he instantly took to flight, running for his life down the center aisle of the building, while his pursuers gained on him at every step. Suddenly Frank Inghram, a life prisoner from Linn county, seeing the peril in which the guard was placed, stepped out and endeavored to stop the highwaymen. Tracy stopped long enough to fire a shot at him.

Before reaching the yard Tracy and Merrill again brought their murderous rifles into play. First they rid the extreme southwest and northwest guard posts, but fortunately did not kill a man. Then, with a single shot at a distance of 150 yards, one of them brought down Jones, who was on the wall in charge of the north post. As the guard fell dead they turned and took several shots at Tiffany and Ross, guards on the north wall.

Then, believing that they had sufficiently cowed their keepers, they coolly proceeded to take a ladder from one of the shop buildings, placed it against the east wall and mounted it while bullets from guards on more remote parts of the wall flew thick about their heads. Tiffany, who had not lost his nerve at any time during the fusillade, sent shots repeatedly after them, but none of them hit its mark, and the escaping men in another instant had jumped from the wall and disappeared.

Running along to the spot where the men had crossed, Tiffany and Ross leaped after them and followed them around an angle in the wall, where they met them face to face. Instantly the guards were covered and commanded to give up their rifles and cartridges. With the memory of the murder that had already been done fresh in their minds, the guards complied and threw their guns and ammunition on the ground. They were then ordered to stand forth and were marched ahead of the convicts for 100 yards, when a guard from one of the posts fired at the fugitives. They instantly returned the fire, and Tiffany, whom one of them had selected for a target, fell dead with a bullet through his right breast. Ross immediately dropped, and his presence of mind saved his life, for the men, believing that he, too, had been killed, paid no further attention to the shots behind them and ran for cover.

Cuban Minister Coming.

New York, June 11.—Gonzalo Quesada, Cuban Minister to Washington, and his family have sailed for New York, says a Tribune dispatch from Havana. Mr. Quesada will go immediately to Washington and open the legation at the Hotel Raleigh until he secures a house. He is the bearer of the good wishes of President Palma to President Roosevelt.

To Favor American Ships.

Washington, June 11.—Senator Perkins today introduced a bill directing the Secretary of War to favor American built ships in transporting supplies for the Government to the Philippines.

Collisions in Colorado.

Denver, Col., June 11.—Four men, members of the train crew, were injured today, none fatally, however, in a head-on collision on the South Park branch of the Colorado and Southern Railroad, two miles north of Valverde, between the fishermen's train returning from Platte Canyon, and the west-bound passenger train. Railway officials attribute the collision to the failure of Engineer Latham to follow orders.

SEA DREDGE FOR BAR,

Columbia River Likely to Have One at Once—Funds On Hand to be Used.

Washington, June 10.—As soon as the river and harbor bill has been signed by the president, the chief of engineers will appoint a board of engineers, in accordance with the provisions of the bill agreed to by the conference committee, to visit the Columbia river and make an examination and estimate to determine whether a canal for overcoming the obstructions between The Dalles and Celilo can be built for less than the estimate made by Captain Harts two years ago, approximately \$4,000,000. The first action taken under the new bill will be the appointment of special boards. If this board shall report the Harts estimate a reasonable and safe one, and that the work cannot be done for any considerably less amount, the chief of engineers intends to authorize the commencement of work without further delay. While there is nothing additional in the department on which to base an opinion, engineer officials here incline to the opinion that Captain Harts will be sustained by the board.

Work at the mouth of the Columbia river will be taken up as soon as the local engineers submit projects, upon which contracts are to be invited. The preliminary work done under the last appropriation has placed the jetty and approaches in such condition that the work of extension can be carried on without delay. In this connection the chief of engineers is considering the advisability of taking a part of the funds on hand for the mouth of the river for building or purchasing a sea dredge for maintaining a deep channel across the bar until the jetty is completed. He is of the opinion that he already has authority to make this expenditure, and has informed Mr. Tongue that he is very favorably impressed with the proposition, realizing the necessity for immediate relief. Other works will be taken up as soon as plans can be prepared.

TIE-UP IN WEST VIRGINIA.

More Miners Obeyed the Strike Order Than was Anticipated.

Wheeling, W. Va., June 10.—The strike ordered by the United Mineworkers of America, to take effect in West Virginia today, was much more complete in some districts than expected and less effective in others. The incomplete reports are conflicting, but on the whole several thousand more men went out than was anticipated. The strike affects not only the industries of this state, but also the railways and river navigation. All of the local coal railroads suffer. Among the trunk lines, the Norfolk & Western suffered most today, but very many miners were also idle along the Baltimore & Ohio and the Chesapeake & Ohio.

As a rule the miners quit work without much demonstration, but in some places they were marching with bands. It was ascertained that the operators in some places had secured many armed guards in anticipation of a protracted struggle, if not of violence. In a few places the striking miners were served with notices to vacate the houses belonging to the coal companies.

While the strike in this state is generally regarded as sympathetic with that of Pennsylvania, there is a general impression that the bituminous coal interests of other states have had their influence in bringing on a crisis in West Virginia. There is a strong organization of miners in this state independent of the United Mineworkers of America, and the members of the state union have continued when the United Mineworkers have ordered strikes in bordering states and in Indiana, Illinois and other states.

RIVERS ARE SUBSIDING.

Worst of the Flood in Kansas is Over—Less will be a Million or More.

Emporia, Kan., June 10.—Both the Neosho and Cottonwood rivers are subsiding. The former estimated loss of \$1,000,000 is still adhered to, and it is now believed that it may even go above this. The Neosho has subsided enough to clear some of the fields, but all over the flooded country a sediment was left that will, it is believed, kill all crops, including alfalfa. The Santa Fe today ran trains over the main lines. The Cottonwood river, which was at its height last night, has fallen three feet. The farmers along the Cottonwood are in as bad a state as those on the Neosho. The crops are totally lost and many hundred cords of wood piled in the timber have been carried away.

King of Saxony Dying.

Berlin, June 10.—The king of Saxony's condition is evidently worse than official bulletins indicate. Private dispatches from Sibyllenort represent his majesty's condition as well nigh hopeless. The Saxony ministry assembled in permanence this morning to await the end.

Mrs. Vanderbilt's Gift.

New York, June 10.—In memory of her late husband, Mrs. Cornelius Vanderbilt has arranged to present to St. Bartholomew's Protestant Episcopal church a new front and four bronze doors. It was the original intention of Mrs. Vanderbilt to give only the doors, but she decided a better effect could be obtained by remodeling the entire front of the edifice. The improvement will cost \$300,000.