THE MORNING OREGONIAN, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 1906.



ers, during which the joint scale committee reported that it had been unable to reach an agreement on any of the principal questions involved, and after F. L. Robbins of Pittsburg, floor leader of the operators, had replied to President Mitchell's question that the operators had no further proposition to lay before the miners, concluded his remarks with the statement that, if there was to be an interruption of the joint agreement, he wished the responsibility for such a sevcrance of relations to be placed upon the miners.

ever known

the operators, which was said to be their ultimatum, provided for the signing for another year of the present wage scale, with certain modifications to reimburse the Illinois operators for expenses incurred under the "shot-firers'" bill now effective in that state.

Provide Huge Strike Fund.

Immediately after the rejection of the operators' proposition the convention set about to provide means for accomulating a strike fund of \$5,000,000 in addition to a like amount now on deposit in the international, district and sub-district treasuries of the miners' organization. To provide for an emergency Secretary Wilson moved that a per capita tax of \$1 a. week be voted and that all districts take care of the dependent miners within their jurisdiction for at least six weeks. He said that after that time he believed the international organization would be in a position to take care of the miners. After the motion had been amended to substitute ten weeks for six as the time during which the districts should care for their dependents, the matter was referred to the international executive board with power to act.

Last Hope This Morning.

Delegates who chose to do so left for their homes tonight. Others remained for the final session of the joint conference in the morning. This will be for the formal adjournment of the interstate conference, the recess of this afternoon having been taken to allow the miners' convention to ratify or reject the reports of the scale

In this last meeting lies the only hope, If hope can exist, for a settlement of the dispute.

Action Means Strike.

Mr. Wilson said:

"According to my understanding, the adoption of this motion means a strike." Mr. Wilson said that the finances of the national organization were not at present in condition to take care of the full memborship in a long strike and for this reaion he moved the assessment per capita of \$1 per week till April 1 and that each district take care of its dependents for the first six weeks.

OPERATORS EXPECT STRIKE

Miners May Start Hardest Labor Struggle in History.

NEW YORK, Feb. 1.-(Special.)-The news from Indianapolis that the break had come between the mineworkers and the coal operators resulted in confer