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DEBS AND GOMPERS

They Appear Before the Strike Commission.

THE LABOR LEADERS' TESTIMONY

The President of the Federated Trades Gives His Opinion of Strikes in General.

CHICAGO, Aug. 25.—President Debs was called again today by the strike commission. In reply to questions, he stated he did not favor compulsory arbitration in settling labor troubles. He did not believe such a method would prove universally satisfactory. Debs said before the strike he had been among the telegraphers, and the statement that there were not more than 200 American Railway Union men on the Rock Island road witness said was absurd.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was the next witness. He prefaced his testimony with an outline of the aims and principles of the federation and gave figures showing the membership. Gompers reviewed the proceedings of the conference. President Cleveland, he said, had paid not the slightest attention to a message asking his aid in a settlement of the strike.

Gompers told of the conference of the heads of labor organizations in Chicago. He said that after deliberations they decided to request President Cleveland to settle the strike.

"We thought," Mr. Gompers said, "that if Mr. Gladstone could do so in the English strike, such an attempt would not be beneath the dignity of the president of the United States. Accordingly, a telegram was sent to Mr. Cleveland asking his aid. To that he did not deign to reply. In fact, he took not the slightest notice of it."

"We considered the strike carefully, and finally decided that we could not order a general strike; that it would be an usurpation of power, and would for many reasons be unwise. The delegates expressed their sympathies with the movement, and we soon afterward adjourned."

Mr. Gompers then read from the secretary's report a detailed statement of the proceedings of the conference. Gompers implied that in the event of a general strike of all unions, all must agree on the action, and he said it would have been impossible for the conference to have declared a sympathetic strike. He was asked his opinion as to the methods of preventing strikes.

"I do not condemn strikes, heartily as do some men, he said. 'I believe that so long as the present conditions exist they are necessary, and I believe that all strikes do good in calling attention to the fact that the laboring men will not be driven further down into poverty. I think the action of the strikers in paralyzing the railroads of the country was justifiable.'

The witness rather frank and uncompromisingly regarding the strike commission.

"I think this thing is rather late in the day," he said. This examination by the commissioners is rather in the nature of an inquest on a dead body. I do not anticipate good from the present investigation."

The witness had something he wanted to say about the injunctions issued by the court. He held these injunctions were not rightly based on the interstate commerce law; that the law was not intended to apply to labor organizations. He said the injunctions were based upon court made laws, upon decisions given in the absence of law. When Gompers finished, the commission adjourned until Monday.

An error crept into last night's report of the proceedings before the commission investigating the Pullman strike. The statement was made that Mr. St. John, general manager of the Rock Island, testified that a list of names had been prepared for the General Managers' Association containing the names of the most active strikers. Mr. St. John made no such statement, but testified that neither the Rock Island or the association had ever kept a blacklist, or had such at the present time.

Fighting at Bluefields.

New York, Aug. 26.—The World's special from Managua, August 25th says: The bandits grow hourly more bold. There is fighting near the city. Firing can be heard. The government volunteers have been forced back. The bandits are burning houses on the outskirts of the city. A number of armed men were captured near the city and brought in. Some were publicly whipped and others were imprisoned.

New York, Aug. 25.—A dispatch from Panama says: Refugees from Bluefields, who have reached Colon, say the Nicaraguan officials there have been guilty of infamous brutalities. Indians have been driven into the forest and shot on sight, and the Nicaraguan soldiers have been assaulting the helpless Mosquito women and "braiding infants" in their charge. Advice from Greytown are that the British warship Mohawk has offered to take the Mosquitoes to Belize, and that another British man-of-war is expected soon at that station. From Managua it is reported that British capitalists have secured the contract of the Nicaraguan will ask England to protect Central American states against a Mexican invasion.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—Neither the state or navy department is informed officially of the stirring events said to have occurred at Bluefields, resulting in the arrest of British Consul Hatch and American residents by the Nicaraguan authorities. They are anxiously awaiting official news, but meanwhile are satisfied that the American naval commander is fully equal to the task of protecting all Americans in Bluefields who are entitled to protection.

New York, Aug. 25.—A special from Port Limon says: The United States warship Columbia arrived here Friday, and is taking on coal. She reports that the Nicaraguan authorities have sent fourteen prisoners from Bluefields to Nicaragua City for trial. Two Americans and the acting British consul are among them.

Discussing Fusion in Nebraska.

OMAHA, Aug. 25.—Nebraska democrats held a conference in Omaha today to discuss fusion with the populists. The question uppermost was whether the party can consistently indorse the nomination Judge Holcomb. There is a strong sentiment among the Jacksonian wing of the local democracy favoring such a course, but the idea is being strongly opposed by many prominent democrats, who urge the nomination of a straight democratic ticket. Those who look with favor upon Holcomb contend that a straight ticket if put up, would mean the election of the republican ticket. No decision was reached, and another meeting will be held next week.

Opening Gun by Reed.

OLD ORCHARD, Me., Aug. 25.—Ex-Speaker Thomas B. Reed opened the republican campaign here this afternoon with a speech which called forth the heartiest cheers from the thousands present. Reed's main effort was to prove that "the democratic party had shown itself incapable of ruling the country satisfactorily not only to the republicans but to a large minority which help to compose the party."

Worden Soundly Thrashed.

WOODLAND, Cal., Aug. 25.—It has leaked out that Worden and Hatch, the alleged train-wreckers, had another fight in jail yesterday. Worden was soundly thrashed. Worden has prepared a complaint charging J. F. Dooty, secretary of local union No. 285, American Railway Union, of Sacramento, with embezzeling \$1300 and a gold watch.

May Start Up Monday.

NEW BEDFORD, Mass., Aug. 25.—It was learned this evening that an attempt would be made by the Bristol corporation to start its mill Monday, and that the officials have requested the operatives to report for work. The Weavers' Association will make an effort to keep the operatives from going to work.

A Reduction in Wages.

ELWOOD, Ind., Aug. 25.—The window-glass manufacturers in 30 towns and cities in the gas belt have decided to demand a reduction in wages of three percent. The glass-workers declare they will never submit to this reduction, and will stay out rather than accept it.

Killed by His Father.

BOISE, Idaho, Aug. 25.—A distressing gunning accident was reported from near Paris in this state. Phil Margetts and his 18-year-old son Henry were out shooting grouse. The boy was some 30 yards in advance of his father. The latter was putting a cartridge in his gun. When he closed the breech the cartridge exploded and the charge struck the boy in the stomach. "Father you have shot me," Henry cried. "Can't you do something for me." When his father reached him he was vomiting blood and in a few moments he was dead.

Hobos Sent to Jail.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Aug. 25.—In the police court this morning Gustave Lang, chief factotum of the hobo army, was sentenced to six months' imprisonment. The eight wounded hobos from yesterday's riot who were transferred from the hospital to the police headquarters were also sent down for three months. They were a sorry-looking lot with bandaged heads, but received little sympathy from the police justice, who made short work in disposing of them.

Swept By A Hurricane.

ODessa, Aug. 25.—A terrible hurricane has swept over the sea of Azof. The force of the wind raised heavy waves, which have swept many of the sea coast villages, not leaving a house standing, and drowning a large number of people. In addition several steamers have been lost during the hurricane and the entire crews have been drowned.

STONE THAT BENDS.

Peculiar Formation of Itacolomite or Flexile Sandstone.

Geologists tell us that "one of the most marked and well-known characteristics of stones and rocks in general is their extreme rigidity," but there are really some specimens that are more flexible than wood, bending under the slightest pressure without breaking. The best known and most abundant of these flexile stones, says the St. Louis Republic, is itacolomite, an elastic sedimentary deposit found chiefly in South America, but not unknown in the United States, being frequently found in large quantities in the mountains of North and South Carolina, and occasionally in Georgia. The flexibility of itacolomite is readily understood when the stone is subjected to a microscopic examination. All ordinary sandstones are rigid and brittle, but in itacolomite the grains are cemented by mica and sericite, which confer the flexible property to the stone as a whole. Viewed by a strong polarized light it is plain to be seen that each separate grain of sand in a slab of itacolomite is surrounded by a cement of the flexile mica and sericite, and that veins of the same cement ramify in every direction, imparting to it a peculiar elasticity, a flake of such stone two feet in length and two inches thick "sagging" five inches in the middle when both ends are held up by some support.

Origin of the Menhaden Industry.

Mr. Robert F. Walsh, in the Popular Science Monthly, thus recalls the origin of the present menhaden industry: It was in 1850 when an old lady, Mrs. John Bartlett, of Bluefields, Me., boiling some fish for her chickens, observed a thin seam of oil upon the surface of the water. Some of this she bottled, and when on a visit to Boston soon after, carried samples to a leading oil merchant, who encouraged her to bring more. The following year the Bartlett family industriously applied their gill nets and sent to market thirteen barrels of oil, for which they were paid at the rate of eleven dollars per barrel. In the following year this family made one hundred barrels. Then the value of menhaden oil having become recognized, many oil presses—of a more or less imperfect construction—were established along the coast, and the industry developed so rapidly that within twenty years the yield of menhaden oil exceeded that of the whale from the American fisheries.

Australian Natives Dying.

The aborigines of Australia are steadily dying out, although the colonial government spends a considerable sum on their support. Victoria and New South Wales have very few blacks left at all, and the number lessens every year.

Nero had bulging eyes and was very near-sighted. Julius Caesar had weak digestion and was subject to epileptic fits.

General Deficiency Bill Signed.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—The president today signed the general deficiency bill, the last of the appropriation bills.

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