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Cream of the Week's News.

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New York, Oct. 11—"What do you mean by politicians? I want you and all operators to understand I am governor of New York, chosen to represent seven millions of people. I am here in this matter solely in that capacity, to believe, if possible, the intolerable situation, and, what is more, I intend to use every power at my command to do it."

Mr. Baer was not in the best of humor when accompanied by E. B. Thomas, chairman of the board of directors of the Erie railroad he entered Senator Platt's office.

The conference began by a statement made by Senator Platt that the situation was becoming so serious that some solution must be found at once. He suggested that the operators should incline to some concessions toward settlement.

"If you mean by that," said President Baer, "that we are to recognize the existence of the labor union, I tell you right now that the operators will consider no such proposition."

Governor Odell was on his feet in an instant, white with excitement, and said "Are we to understand that no kind of conciliatory proposition would receive attention at hands of the operators?"

"I did not say that," answered Mr. Baer. "But I do say we will not accept political advice or allow the interference of politicians in this affair."

Then it was that Governor Odell made the statement attributed to him at the beginning of this article.

President Baer, evidently appreciating the fact that he had gone too far, bowed to Governor Odell, and said: "Governor, I beg your pardon. No personal was affront intended, we will listen to any suggestions you may have to make. But again I repeat that we must refuse to recognize the union represented by Mr. Mitchell."

"I believe," said the governor, "that your position, from the public view, is absolutely untenable. If the coal operators and railroad men and other business men can combine for mutual profit or protection there is no reason why laboring men should not."

New York, Oct. 11—The fact developed this morning that the basis of the coal strike conferences Thursday and Friday was an affidavit sworn to by Mitchell, getting forth the miners' demands, the efforts to arbitrate, and the operators, refused.

He reports that miners' annual earnings were \$368, making an average of about \$1.00 per day of 10 hours. He says if a

20 percent increase be granted the cost of anthracite coal to the consumer need be increased only 10 cents per ton.

Secretary of war Elihu Root arrived in New York this morning. It is reported that he brings a message from President Roosevelt to J. Pierpont Morgan bearing on the coal strike.

Root declined to give any information or the reason of his hurried visit and evades the reporters.



PRESIDENT GEO. F. BAER

He is said to be holding a conference this morning on Morgan's yacht the Corsair.

Root and Morgan came ashore after a five hours conference.

A big crowd of reporters was in waiting, but got no information, both men declining to talk. Half a dozen times, while the conference was on, launches brought ashore, who hurried away. All the reporters could learn was that they would leave for Washington to meet Roosevelt tonight.

Washington Oct. 11—The President had another conference with Labor Commissioner Wright today. Strike settlement plans are still kept secret.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 11—President Mitchell arrived from New York this morning. He declined to discuss the New York conference by saying the best interest of all concerned would be considered by saying nothing.

Regarding the effort to have President Roosevelt take action against the miners union, he said it was organized along the same lines as other unions, and he believed it to be perfect legally.

President George F. Baer of the Philadelphia and Reading railway controls more than half of all the anthracite coal produced in this country. He is a native of Pennsylvania and is sixty years old. Mr. Baer is a veteran of the civil war and by profession a lawyer. Through his generalship a year ago the purchase of the Jersey Central was consummated. By securing

ing this road the reading now owns and controls about 63 per cent of the unmined anthracite coal in the state of Pennsylvania.

Cincinnati, O., Oct. 11—A Post correspondent who has been investigating the condition of the miners and their families in the coal regions, telegraphs as follows "Poverty and desolation stalk abroad in the first anthracite district. The most cruel feature of the battle being waged between the strikers and operators are the hardships forced on the women and children."

Thinly clad women, many in no condition for work, are struggling bravely at the hardest sort of work, with chapped hands and bleeding feet. Women and children, some only two years old dig in the culm banks for bits of coal overlooked by the miners.

Their principal food consists of bread made from unbolted wheat and spread with a layer of nauseous, unsalted lard.

Reading, Oct. 11—At midnight the home of Albert Dry, deputy at Miner ville, was dynamited and wrecked. His daughter was badly cut and bruised, but Dry was absent on duty.

A detail of militia today arrested three Hungarians, charged with the crime.

New York, Oct. 11—All the presidents except Baer, were in conference this morning, at the Delaware & Hudson Company's office.

Just before entering, President Truesdale said: I believe that important results will come from this meeting, which is for the purpose of discussing the strike. Beyond this I can say nothing except that we do not contemplate granting an increase in wages.

Philadelphia, Oct. 13—Coal roads President Baer has been conferring with President Cassatt of the Pennsylvania Railway this morning at the latter's office. General Louis Wagner, president of the city board of trustees, was also present.

New York, Oct. 13—The operators concluded their conference at noon, all are reticent regarding the conclusions reached. It is almost certain that the meeting was a result of Root and Morgan's talk Saturday.

New York, Oct. 13—At 4 o'clock it was stated by those in connection with Morgan's firm that an important statement would be given out tonight or tomorrow as a result of Morgan's meeting with various operators, and others interested in settling the strike.

Washington, Oct. 13—It is understood that regardless of the New York conference, President Roosevelt will appoint a commission to investigate conditions in the anthracite fields, and then present its findings to congress, with the hope that legislation will be enacted to pre-

vent further trouble.

Wilkesbarre, Pa., Oct. 13—Reports from the Hazelton district say the miners are starving, and are in dire need of immediate assistance. The news was brought by an enfeebled man, who walked 30 miles to make an appeal for the wives and families.

Tamaqua, Oct. 13—Although troops lined the roads leading to the collieries this morning few additional men returned to work. There is no disorder.

The strikers are apparently maintaining a firm attitude.

Hazelton, Oct. 13—The Lattimer colliery resumed work this morning.

The operators claimed that applications have been received from at least half of their old employees, desiring to return to work.

Two companies of soldiers are guarding the collieries.

Determined efforts will be made this week to the end that the other collieries in the Lehigh region may open. The slopes are being cleaned and put in condition for work.

Washington, Oct. 14—The coal mine operators have agreed to the appointment of a commission, to be appointed by the president of the United States, to whom shall be referred all questions at issue between the companies and employees, whether they belong to the union or not. The decision of the commission shall be accepted by the oper-

ators.

The committee is to consist of an army and navy engineer officer, an expert mining engineer not connected with coal mining properties, one of the judges of the United States courts of an eastern district of Pennsylvania, a man of prominence as a sociologist and a man who by active participation in mining and selling coal, and familiar with physical commercial business.

The operators also make it a part of the proposition that the miners shall return to work as soon as the commission be constituted, and cease all interference with non-union men.

The commission is to name a date when its findings shall be effective, to govern the conditions of employment between the companies and their employees for at least three years.

The statement was read to the president, as a courtesy, before being given to the press.

The sole topic of discussions today is the probable personnel of the inquiry commission, as it is almost certain that President Mitchell will accept the operators' terms.

President Roosevelt has received a list

The general opinion is that it will be Admiral Melville or General Gillespie, the latter chief of the army engineering corps, for the first member; Second, Frank Klepetko, who has charge of the amalgamated copper mines, or Professor Chas. Treadwell be chosen; Third,

(Concluded on Fifth page)

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