

## THE STRIKE HEARING

President Mitchell Goes Upon the Stand Again

CUMULATIVE EVIDENCE REVIEWED

Lawyer Torrey Engages Mr. Mitchell in a Colloquy and Gets Badly Worsted.

Scranton, Pa., Special.—The greater part of Friday's session of the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission was taken up in presenting cumulative testimony on matters that have already been heard by the commission. This testimony tended to show that there has been excessive docking; that many men were discriminated against because they went on strike rather than do the work of strikers; that they are paid one price for mine cars of all sizes; that they do not get paid for all the coal mined; that they should have the same day because the mines are unhealthily and dangerous, and that they ought to receive higher wages.

Late in the day, President Mitchell was called to the witness stand and presented comparative figures which showed that the men paid by the day receive from 40 to 50 per cent. higher wages in the bituminous regions than they do in the anthracite fields. His figures of the anthracite fields were gathered by his own officers, and a hurried comparison with the figures handed to the commission by the Delaware & Hudson Company, he said, showed that his were generally higher. The Delaware & Hudson's statistics are the only ones officially before the commission.

Chairman Gray asked Mr. Mitchell what was done by the miners to adjust grievances during the interval between the two great strikes, and Mr. Mitchell replied that he did not know of any company refusing to hold conferences with their own men, but he did know that in most cases the attempt to adjust grievances proved a failure. In some instances, notably in the upper fields, company officials have refused to see district officers of the union.

At this point, James Torrey, counsel for the Delaware & Hudson Company, and Mr. Mitchell, entered into a colloquy as to the interpretation of the letters sent by the coal road presidents early last spring, in reply to the union's invitation that the operators meet the miners in conference for the purpose of forming a wage scale.

Mr. Mitchell stated that the operators had refused the proposition for collective bargaining or collective agreements but that Chairman Thomas of the Erie Company, early in 1901, agreed to treat with his employees through a committee or representative. "The men have the same right," he concluded, "to employ a representative to speak for them as the company has to engage you or any other lawyer to speak for them."

"That's all very pretty and bright," retorted Mr. Torrey, "but it does not fit in this case."

### Will Be Arbitrated.

Washington, Special.—A cablegram received at the State Department Friday from Minister Bowen, at Caracas, states that the Venezuelan government has requested him to propose to Great Britain and Germany that the difficulties arising out of the claims for damage and injuries to British and German subjects during the civil war be submitted to arbitration. In conformity with the understanding already reached with the representatives of the British and German governments here, this proposition from President Castro will be duly laid before those governments, the State Department acting merely as a channel of communication.

### Bombardment Threatened.

London, By Cable.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Willemstad, Curacao, dated December 11, says that the foreign residents of Puerto Cabello are taking refuge on board the German cruiser Vineta and the British cruiser Ariadne, and that these vessels are threatening to bombard the port.

### Thirteen Cadets Dismissed.

Lexington, Va., Special.—For further indulging in disorder, 13 cadets, all members of the third class at the Virginia Military Institute were dismissed from the school today and ordered to return to their homes. Among them were the class president and vice president. The remaining members are under arrest, pending the action of Superintendent Shipp, relative to their class.

## VENEZUELAN NAVY SEIZED

British and Germans Adopt Vigorous Measures to Collect Claims.

Washington, Special.—The State Department has been advised that "a peaceful blockade" exists at LaGuaira, which is the port of Caracas, the capital of Venezuela. The difference between this state and a state of war is not very strongly marked, except in the opportunity afforded by the peaceful blockade to effect a settlement without recourse to actual bloodshed. The situation is here regarded as critical.

Minister Bowen, at Caracas, has accepted the trust placed upon him to look after the interests of British and German citizens in Venezuela and it has brought him into conflict with President Castro. He has informed the State Department that a number of these citizens were arrested in Caracas. Mr. Bowen at once addressed himself to President Castro to secure their release. He represented that he had been charged with the care of British and German subjects in Venezuela, but President Castro was unwilling at first to recognize his authority. Finally the minister convinced him that he was acting within his rights and President Castro consented with reluctance to release the principal prisoners. Mr. Bowen will insist upon the release of the remainder. Nothing in his reports to the State Department indicate the reason for the arrest of these foreigners except that they were Germans and British.

The latest report from Minister Bowen to the Department confirmed the press dispatches relative to the seizure of the Venezuelan navy in the port of Caracas Wednesday. It is now expected that the next step will be the announcement of a formal blockade of that part by the British and German warships. It is believed here that this will not stop the entry into the port of American ships, but that if the land their cargoes the British and Germans will insist upon collecting the regular Venezuelan rate of customs duties upon them. Of course this will involve the seizure of the custom house, and in turn it is expected that President Castro, unless he concludes to abandon further resistance, will issue a decree closing the port to entry, and will insist upon collecting duties anew upon the same goods if they are passed into the interior of the country beyond LaGuaira.

It was said at the British and German embassies today that the action of President Castro in ordering the arrest of all subjects of the British and German governments in Caracas was without precedent in the history of civilized countries supposedly at peace with each other, and that such action would be regarded as sufficient ground for a declaration of war. Indeed, by members of the diplomatic corps here it is regarded as being such a declaration in itself.

Minister Bowen's prompt action in demanding of President Castro the release of the German and British subjects arrested in Caracas yesterday is in accordance with the plan agreed upon between the German and British ambassadors and Secretary Hay when the former called at the State Department fully three weeks ago, and, in anticipation of the present ugly situation in Venezuela requested that the United States minister at Caracas be permitted to protect the lives and property of all citizens of the London and Berlin governments in the Southern American republics. It is understood that President Castro was advised of this action.

It was pointed out by an European diplomat of high rank that in forcing Minister Bowen to demand the release of the arrest subjects, President Castro is acting directly contrary to the desire of the Washington government in order to become involved in the international dispute. Both Germany and Great Britain, it was said, fully appreciate the position of the United States and are determined that this country shall not be unnecessarily drawn into the difficulty.

### Gold For Buenos Ayres.

New York, Special.—The local agency of the London and River Plate Bank, limited, will ship \$500,000 gold to Buenos Ayres. The transaction of a special, and makes a total of \$2,000,000 shipped by the bank since August last. The Muller-Schaller Company announce the engagement of \$500,000 gold to Buenos Ayres.

## ANOTHER WAR IS ON

Venezuelan Fortress Bombarded Last Sunday

TWO GUNBOATS OPENED FIRE.

British and German Warships Soon Silenced the Batteries of the Forts and Surrender Followed.

Puerto Cabello, By Cable.—The British cruiser Charybdis and the German cruiser Vineta have bombarded the fortress here. They quickly silenced it. The Charybdis and the Vineta arrived here Sunday morning. The captain of the English merchant steamer Topaz, which was seized by the mob last Wednesday, visited the English commodore on board the Topaz. The populace were greatly agitated and raised the cry, "To arms!" but no incident occurred. The commodore then sent a demand to the authorities for immediate satisfaction for having pulled down the British flag from the Topaz and advised the government that if satisfaction was not forthcoming in two hours, the fortress and the custom house would be bombarded. The authorities on the receipt of this demand sent a message to President Castro asking for instructions. At 5 o'clock the Charybdis and Vineta opened fire on the fortress and the custom house. The fort replied, but was soon silenced. No damage was done to the town. The United States consul went on board the two cruisers and was informed by their commanders that they had come to this port in search of the Venezuelan warships.

The bombardment lasted for 45 minutes. The fortress is composed of Fort Solano and the Castle Libertador. After the firing ceased, the Charybdis sent marines to occupy the castle. The fortress was almost completely demolished. It is probable that only a few persons were injured by the shelling. The commander of Castle Libertador has been taken prisoner. The cruisers are still here. At 7 o'clock this morning the Charybdis and the Vineta arrived, searching for Venezuelan gunboats. The two cruisers sent their boats into the inner port, but finding no gunboats the boats returned. The captain of the British merchant steamer Topaz, which was seized by the mob here on Wednesday, then visited the British commodore, on board the Charybdis and lodged a protest against the violation of his ship. The British captain returned an hour later with a detachment of 50 marines, who took charge of the Topaz.

A committee of the merchants of Puerto Cabello then, approached the American consul here, petitioning him to intervene. The consul accepted this mission and visited the cruisers, but he could obtain no alteration in the decision of the allies.

At a quarter before 5 a reply was received from President Castro, who authorized the chief officer here to give the British commodore ample satisfaction. Before this answer could be communicated to the American consul, the hour stipulated for its receipt had arrived and the cruisers immediately opened fire on the fortress. The fire was returned from the forts, but the Venezuelan guns were soon silenced. While the firing continued there was intense excitement in this port. Every house in town was closed. The people of Puerto Cabello cannot account for this precipitate action on the part of the allies, which they consider to be proof that Great Britain and Germany intended forcing war upon Venezuela. The British marines purpose to make use of the cannon in Castle Libertador.

The entrance to the inside harbor at Puerto Cabello is through a narrow channel, not more than a few hundred feet wide. To the left of this channel, as one enters the harbor, situated on a low sand pit, is the fortress which was bombarded by the German and British cruisers. It is an old-fashioned structure which was rebuilt in the eighteenth century. Its sides are comparatively low and would offer poor resistance to modern shells. It is not probable that the Venezuelan government had any modern cannon there.

The custom house at Puerto Cabello is situated on the right or mainland side of the channel. It is a long, two-story brick building and contains, besides executive offices, large warehouses.

### Indians Dying Out.

Guthrie, O. T., Special.—Dr. Wyman, government physician at the Sac and Fox Indian agency in Oklahoma, announces that a large majority of the tribe are afflicted with tuberculosis, scrofula and other incurable diseases, and adds that the tribe will be extinct within a few years. The latest report says there are left but 479 members of this once-powerful tribe.

## LIVE ITEMS OF NEWS.

Many Matters of General Interest in Short Paragraphs.

### The Sunny South.

Bishop, the man who shot Wilson in the latter's own parlor, at Charlotte, N. C., is still at large. The Governor has offered a reward of \$400 for his apprehension.

In a head-end collision between a passenger train Friday morning at High Point, N. C., a number of people were seriously hurt and two engines completely demolished.

Goldie Tyus, convicted of murdering Jeff Godwin, on October 23, was hanged at Thomasville, Ga. He was perfectly cool and prayed with the minister before the execution. He exonerated Waller, the negro convicted of being his accomplice and sentenced to imprisonment for life.

W. L. Lawrence, of Jonesboro, Ga., was found dead locked in a box car at Camp's saw mill. Lawrence had been shot twice in the back with a revolver. It is believed that the young man was shot while at work.

Matty Matthews, former welterweight champion, and Owen Zeigler met at the Savannah Athletic Club for 20 rounds, for a decision. In the second round Zeigler knocked Matthews to the mat with a right to the point of the jaw. The referee stopped the fight and gave the fight to Matthews.

The Bridgers & McKeithan Lumber Co's store or commissary at Florence, S. C., was destroyed by fire last week. The loss is estimated at about \$500, partly covered by insurance.

The Norwegian steamship Hurrundo was loading last week at Gulfport, Miss., 1,300,000 feet of long-leaf yellow-pine lumber from the L. N. Dantzier mills, and sailed on the 25th for Buenos Ayres.

The Seventh Street Plathing is the name of a new corporation organized at Owensboro, Ky., last week. The capital stock is \$10,000. The incorporators are G. C. Lettelle, J. H. Robertson and J. G. Stuart.

The Citizens' Lumber Co., of Waco, Texas, has been chartered, with a capital stock of \$125,000. The incorporators are L. Simpson, Thomas Watles, John Sentell, H. W. Morris, V. W. Lonkerker, D. D. Fairchilds and W. W. Cameron.

A Knoxville, Tenn., dispatch says: "The National Plumbers' Marble Association will meet in second annual session Tuesday. President W. E. Higbee, of Proctor, Vt., and Secretary John R. Hugg, of Baltimore, were among the arrivals. Other prominent members who are here are Peter Gray and John F. Jacoby, of Philadelphia; Wm. Buess, of New York, and M. D. Flavin, of Chicago. The sessions may continue a week."

A Wilmington, N. C., dispatch says: "Captain Miller, of the schooner Eva A. Danehower, which arrived here Sunday, reports having passed off Frying Pan lightship, about noon, a dismasted schooner, name unknown, in tow of a Savannah Line steamer. The British steamer Rosewood McGregor, which arrived from Villa Reit, reports an extremely rough voyage, and the loss of a man washed overboard."

### At The National Capital.

A two-year-old child of Mr. J. E. Fite, a citizen of Rutherfordton, N. C., fell into the fire at his home and was frightfully burned, and is not expected to live.

Senator Chilton reported to the Senate to executive session the new treaty of amity and commerce between the United States and Spain, which has been under consideration by the committee on foreign relations.

Announcement has been made of the appointment of Janvier Arrangoiz, Director General of Customs, and Pedro M. Del Paso, of Vera Cruz, as representative of Mexico at the congress to meet in the city of New York next month.

The treaty between the United States and Great Britain regarding commercial relations between the United States and Newfoundland, was made public. Under its provisions, raw cotton, cotton yarn and cotton seed oil imported from the United States are admitted to Newfoundland free of duty.

### At The North.

A New York dispatch says: "The report of the coroner's physician made tonight in the case of Mrs. Sarah Ann Waters, who died at the age of nearly 100, and over whose will there is a contest, does not support the theory that the old lady was the victim of foul play. The autopsy revealed conditions which indicate that death resulted from natural causes."

## CONGRESSIONAL PROCEEDINGS

What Our Congress is Doing Day by Day.

### HOUSE.

Ninth Day—After debating the London dock charge bill for almost four hours the House chopped its head off by striking out the enacting clause, 133 to 129. This killed the bill. The debate was spirited on both sides and all day the members were flooded with telegrams. The withdrawal of the support of the lumber and meat packing interests, which originally joined hands with the flour milling interests in pressing the measure, brought about its defeat. The final vote was 133 to 129 in favor of the motion to strike out the enacting clause. Speeches were made in favor of the bill by Mr. Tawney, of Minnesota, and Mr. Richardson, of Alabama, and against it by the Messrs. Adams, of Georgia; Wagner, Adams and Dalzell, of Pennsylvania; Burleson and Burgess, of Texas, and Mann, of Illinois.

Mr. Tawney explained at length the purpose of the bill, which he said applied only to the port of London and was simply designed to relieve the American shipper of the charge made by the transporting companies for delivering goods over the side of the vessel. This charge, he said, was included in the contract of shipment. The bill would prevent such contract.

Mr. Adamson, of Georgia, a member of the committee which reported the bill, opposed it, first on the ground that it sought to prevent the liberty of contract and second, because it was supported practically by a single interest, the millers.

Mr. Mann read many telegrams from firms, which had formerly supported the bill, stating that after investigation they desired to change their position.

Eleventh Day—The House session had the private calendar under consideration all day. Good progress was made.

Twelfth Day—The House devoted the day to the consideration of private pension bills. The calendar was cleared, 173 bills being passed. None of them was of especial interest. The bill to appropriate \$1,000,000 for the eradication of the foot and mouth disease in New England was made a special order for Tuesday, with the understanding that the only legislative features of the bill would be considered and that the appropriation would be reported from the appropriation committee. Mr. Maddox objected to the consideration of the bill, until he had had an opportunity to examine it.

### SENATE.

Ninth Day—The Senate devoted most of the day to the immigration bill and adopted a number of amendments. There was considerable discussion during the day upon an amendment offered by Mr. Burton, of Kansas, to admit Chinese laborers to Hawaii, which met with considerable opposition and finally was laid on the table. The provision in the bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in the capital building caused a little flurry and criticism of the House for putting it in the bill. The provision, however, was not stricken out. During the day the militia bill was discussed. It will be taken up again Thursday.

An amendment to the immigration bill, offered by Mr. Bailey, of Texas, was adopted, providing that skilled labor may be imported if labor of like kind cannot be found in this country.

The amendment prohibiting the sale of liquors in the capitol was taken up and Mr. Berry, of Illinois, declared that the capitol was not the proper place to act in the matter without any law of Congress.

Mr. Tillman said he wanted a little light on the subject. He had been informed, he said, that no liquor was sold in the Senate end of the capitol. "The House is simply playing a hypocritical game before the people," said he, "and endeavoring to make the Senate attend to its morals."

Mr. Penrose, answering him, said the paragraph was stricken out because the committee thought it was not a proper place for it.

Mr. Bailey, of Texas, contended that each house of Congress had authority place to run a saloon.

The amendment was adopted, which has the effect of retaining the clause in the bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in the capitol.

Eleventh Day—The Senate heard committee reports and then went into executive session. At 4:55 it adjourned.

Twelfth Day—The committee heard arguments on the eight hour labor bill. No report was made, as the arguments were not completed when the Senate adjourned.

### Britain's Sunniest Spot.

The sunniest spots in the United Kingdom are the Channel Islands, which enjoy sunshine during 39.9 per cent of the time the sun is above the horizon in the course of a year.