

ENGLISH MINERS GO OUT

Three Hundred Thousand Quit Work at Noon.

No Coal Production for Two Weeks—Prices to Be Forced Up to Prevent the Cutting of Wages—The Move Will Affect Millions.

LONDON, March 12.—At noon today the greatest strike of coal miners in the history of this country, or for that matter of the world, will be inaugurated.

Nearly 300,000 men will have their time on their hands on Monday morning.

They are all members of the Miners' Federation of Great Britain, which includes Yorkshire, Leicestershire, North and South Staffordshire, Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Monmouthshire, north Wales and Cumberland.

As a matter of fact the strike is not a strike, but a closure, the miners quitting work for two weeks. Their object in doing this is to bring about a coal famine so that the employers will have no excuse for reducing wages, as they have threatened to do. So far as the famine is concerned it may be said to have already commenced, for coal has gone up to an enormous figure, and factory after factory in the leading trade centers has been compelled to shut down. The poor people who are compelled to buy their coal in small quantities are suffering terribly, while the weather is unusually inclement for this time of year. Moreover, before three days have elapsed there will be an almost entire cessation of labor in most of the great industrial centers, including Bristol, Manchester, Birmingham, Leeds, London and Liverpool.

All the rolling mills and cutlery establishments in Sheffield will shut down on Monday and so will vast engineering establishments, iron foundries, soap manufacturers and cotton and woolen mills by the score. The total number of people that will temporarily be thrown out of employment in the strike, if the closure continues, cannot be estimated, but it will certainly run into the millions. Many of the mine owners have given notice that they will not start up again except at a reduction of 8 1/2 to 10 per cent.

The miners have a reserve fund of several millions of dollars and will not suffer even if the struggle be prolonged beyond the period now designated.

Speculators are taking advantage of existing conditions, and already the price of bread has been advanced in many parts of the country, even where the bakers have stocks of coal on hand. Agents of many big manufacturers in Belgium, France and Germany, but the Longshoremen's union is in accord with the miners, and threats have been made that they will not only refuse to unload any imported coal, but will boycott the lines by which it may be brought in. Public sentiment is largely with the miners, although there is an undercurrent of feeling that it is dangerous for any organization of labor to take a step fraught with suffering and possibly destitution to hundreds of thousands of fellow beings in other trades. Probably the sentiment in their favor is largely due to the fact that it has been demonstrated that the mine owners are already receiving what, in any other business, would be regarded as a very fair profit, and that consequently there is no ground for their allegation that coal is too cheap for profit and that wages must be reduced.

The outcome will be watched with more interest than has ever before attached to a labor movement. At the clubs frequented by the upper ten there is a question of invoking the interference of the government, although just how this can be accomplished none of those pressing it seem to know. A general election is not very far off, and even the tory government would be slow in making a move that would tend toward bringing against it the combined effort of the trade unionists of the entire kingdom. The miners' federation has issued an address to all its members urging them to maintain order and keep the peace in order that there may not be the slightest ground for invoking the interference of the authorities.

SIDETRACKS INCORPORATED

A Scheme Which Evades the Interstate Commerce Law.

CHICAGO, March 12.—When a great shipper sets out to get a cut freight rate there seems to be many ways of accomplishing that object. The Illinois Steel company appears to have found one of these ways, and it is a method so comprehensive that it can be made to apply to every one of the 150,000 to 200,000 cars of freight which that company receives and sends out each year. This plan is not open to the objections against the system of cash rebates which the big grain shippers take advantage of, but which at the same time opens a jail door for them if they can be caught at it. While the method is quite as effective, so far as furnishing means for annulling the provisions of the interstate commerce law, the law in this case completely evaded without being actually violated.

The secretary of state some time ago issued charters to the Calumet and Blue Island Railway company, the Chicago and Southeastern Railway company, the Joliet and Blue Island Railway company, the Milwaukee, Bay View and Chicago Railroad company. These titles read like the names of real railroads. As a matter of fact, they are a choice collection of sidetracks at the various plants of the Illinois Steel company at South Chicago, Joliet, etc. By incorporating their sidetracks and creating all the machinery of distinct railway organizations a way was opened whereby the law can be evaded without actually violating its provisions. The easiest way in which this can be done is for the switching companies to establish a switching tariff which may be absorbed in the through rate and the rate out to that extent. This has been done, and the various

lines publish a tariff sheet showing that a switching charge varying from \$1.50 to \$3 a car has been made. That alone would be an important item, as the company's freight business has run up as high as 200,000 cars a year, but the scheme is capable of making even greater profits than that. It seems to have been the original intention to have a division of rates as if it were a through shipment over two lines and thus get all the railroads to divide the regular tariff, but the Central Traffic association refused to allow such an arrangement. Any such arrangement is in violation of the rulings of that association, but it is understood that one or two roads grant it, nevertheless, and that the division the terminal line gets amounts to 40 cents a ton. As the company received 1,900,000 tons of raw material and shipped 795,000 tons of finished product it is evident that if 40 cents a ton can be saved on the freight of even a small proportion of that the saving might be an important matter.

A GREAT COPPER COMBINE.

The Mine Owners Propose to Limit the Production.

NEW YORK, March 12.—Rumors of a great combine which, if effected, will involve millions of dollars, just now are proving matters of prime interest to manufacturers and dealers in copper and to holders of copper mining stock as well as to mine men generally. For the past two or three weeks the reports that a project was afoot to secure unity of action among the copper producers in all parts of the world have been numerous and have been gradually crystallizing into definite form. For many months copper prices have been very low, and the tension upon most of the copper mining companies in the Lake Superior region, Montana, Arizona and New Mexico to keep things going has been a severe one. It has long been urged by copper men that some combination to limit production should be formed, but only within a very recent time has the matter assumed shape. The negotiations have been carried on very secretly. The course of prices, however, in the Boston market—the chief and in fact the only copper mining market in this country—has shown that things are getting on favorably. The price of the stock of the Calumet and Hecla, Quincy and other big Lake Superior copper mines has steadily improved.

A Boston dispatch says: "The statement is made here on very good authority that the proposed combination of copper mine properties, with the exception of the Quincy company, which declined to join, has been practically effected. It is stated that the annual production of the Anaconda mine is fixed at 70,000,000 pounds, and that of the Calumet and Hecla at 60,000,000."

ENGLISH CAPITAL INVESTING

Options Secured for \$6,000,000 Worth of Land and Water Rights.

DENVER, Colo., March 12.—The Travelers' Insurance company has given an option on all their property in Colorado to John C. Montgomery of this city. The transaction will be closed this week and a new company of gigantic proportions will be formed. So far as can be learned it is the intention of Mr. Montgomery to place this enterprise in England. To it will be added a grant of 100,000 acres of land owned by O. W. Shaw, of Boston, adjoining some of the insurance lands and situated in Colorado and New Mexico.

The options cover all the real estate, irrigating ditches, and canals and water rights owned by the insurance company. Among these are the Grand River, Fort Morgan, Del Norte, Citizen and Uncompahgre Land and Ditch companies. The amount of the option is said to be \$1,000,000. The land put into the scheme by Mr. Shaw is valued at \$4,500,000, which would make the enterprise reach the enormous sum of \$6,000,000.

AN INFLUENTIAL PAPER.

Over a Hundred Congressmen Sign a Petition for Channel Improvement.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Over 100 congressmen have affixed their names in an official capacity to a circular letter addressed to the river and harbor committee, as follows:

I respectfully ask that your committee make a favorable recommendation regarding the further improvement of the channel between Lake Superior and Huron, and Huron and Erie, as proposed in the report of General O. M. Poe, for a twenty and twenty-one foot channel on the lakes and that you authorize in the bill that contemplates may be made for the entire work to cost an estimated \$3,000,000, and incorporate in the bill such amounts as an initial appropriation, as you may in your judgment deem proper.

The signatures show that practically the entire delegations of Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin have signed this recommendation.

EIGHT-HOUR MOVEMENT.

The Labor Organizations of New York Preparing for a Demonstration.

NEW YORK, March 12.—Representatives of most of the labor organizations of this city will unite tomorrow in a conference called by the socialist labor party at Labor Lyceum for the purpose of considering preliminary arrangements for a great eight-hour demonstration. This year that day falls on Sunday and it is proposed to make the demonstration one of the largest of the kind ever seen on this continent. Delegates are to be invited from all the leading industrial circles of the country and England, France, Germany and Switzerland will also be asked to send representatives.

SCOTT TAKES A VACATION.

The Energetic Publisher of the Chicago Herald Sails for Europe.

NEW YORK, March 12.—Among the passengers who sailed for Europe today on the North German Lloyd steamer Fulda, was James W. Scott, publisher of the American Newspaper Publishers' association, and publisher of the Chicago Herald and Evening Post of that city. He was accompanied by his wife. He proposes to visit Italy, France, Germany, and to take a coaching tour into the north of England, returning to this country in about three months. A large number of local newspaper men were at the dock to bid him bon voyage.

THEY SCARED JOHN BULL

The Men Who Beat the Bank of England in Chicago.

The Famous Bidwell Brothers, Who Forged Bills of Exchange for a Million, on Britain's Big Bank, on a Lecturing Tour.

CHICAGO, March 10.—Nearly twenty years ago a thrill of horror ran through the stupid old financiers who sit around the directors' table of the Bank of England. They were placid fellows, these directors, who had gone through life transacting business in the knee-breeches-and-tye-wig fashion of their predecessors. Such a thing as a forgery of any size had not disturbed such minds since the day when forgery was a capital crime and men were taken out and hanged for it before a gin-drinking mob from Whitechapel road. One of the directors, a stout old gentleman who had acquired gout before the Crimean war, became purple in the face and had to be removed when the announcement was made: "Americans have forged bills of exchange for 200,000 pun on the bank."

Two of the men who caused this remarkable scene in the board were in Chicago yesterday. One of them is a rather corpulent man whose naturally sharp face bears lines out in as if by some great misfortune long continued. The second is tall and straight. He has a merry face. This Austin Bidwell which rather disarms one and leaves one at the mercy of the other brother, George Bidwell, who did one of the most remarkable pieces of planning ever evolved.

George Bidwell has been out of prison four years. Austin was released with the help of the Pinkerton agency and through the efforts of his sister, February 13 last. They have come on here to deliver a lecture, which will supplement a book written by George Bidwell. They went to the Grand Pacific first, but were afterward sent to the Palmer house.

They talked about their case freely last night—George Bidwell in a cursory manner, Austin Bidwell with consciousness affected by a nervousness that stamps the convict deeper than the pallor of life in a cell. Both the men and a third brother lived in Chicago. One of them owned a candy shop here before the fire. The other two, George, a grocer, and Austin, his clerk, came here from New York in 1871.

"We went to Europe," said George Bidwell last night. "We took up with George McDonald and Noyes. We believed the Bank of England could be beaten, but we did not know how till we sent a bill of exchange to London, which was cashed by the bank without identification. McDonald got the money. He had been a square fellow; he was a graduate of Harvard, but he had fallen by the wayside. We did not know how to get to the Bank of England, so we put out feelers. I introduced myself to a tailor named Grear as a wealthy American who was about to open a Pullman branch in England. I bought clothes from him and deposited money with him. I left \$1,200 in his keeping. He said that was too much. He would place it in the bank, and he took me over to the western branch of the Bank of England and introduced me."

George Bidwell stopped here to laugh and the sedate brother smiled in a dreamy way. Then George Bidwell went on: "We had procured square bills of exchange from a number of foreign firms. I said: 'We can forge these bills as well as the men can write them.' We forged bills for thousands of pounds, stamped them with stamps we made ourselves and passed them on the unsuspecting bank. We forged acceptances of the Harings, the Rothschilds, the Anglo-Austrian bank and the Russian bank of exchange, and we might have gone on to the extent of millions of pounds if it were not for the fact that we were put on a date had not started an investigation that discovered to the bank our forgeries. That day Noyes came to me and asked for \$1,000. I didn't want to give it to him at first, but he pleaded so hard that I finally sent him back to the bank with a check. As usual, I followed him and as he entered the door and handed in the paper I saw two men leap at him. I knew it was all over. The forgery was detected and I skipped."

George Bidwell was arrested in Scotland. McDonald was taken at New York. Austin Bidwell, with \$100,000 or more in his possession, made his way to America, and, having bought a plantation in Alabama, intended to live his life out as a wealthy planter. He was a handsome fellow, and he had married a pretty girl, the daughter of a brevet-major in the British army. He was routed out of the plantation and fled to Havana, where he was arrested by the Pinkertons, and by consent of the Spanish government, which at that time did not have an extradition treaty with England, was carried back to London.

The trial was most interesting. The stolid British public was waked up to a point of frenzy by the thought that the great bank which was supposed to be impregnable had been cheated out of a fortune, and it was lucky for the Bidwells that the day of hanging for knavery had passed. They had the next thing. When the jury had brought in its verdict of "guilty" Justice Archibald, wigged and gowned, arose, and looking down upon the group of wigged and gowned men at the tables, said:

"The sentence is that each and all of you be kept in penal servitude for life."

George Bidwell picked oakum for fifteen years. Austin Bidwell for nineteen years. Picking oakum was not a congenial occupation for this man. The doctor said he would be released from prison or he must die, and he was sent to America a ticket-of-leave man.

His sister, Mrs. Henrietta C. Mott, of Hartford, went to work for the release of the other brother. She was untiring. She enlisted the sympathy of the Pinkertons; she saw the president of the United States; she talked with James Russell Lowell;

she secured the help of Lady Henry Somerset, who is now in Chicago, and of the late Mr. Spurgeon; she broke into the same old governor's room of the Bank of England that had been shaken by her brother's forgeries; she had a member of parliament arise and question the home secretary; she spent 10 shillings in a bazaar in order to speak to Princess Mary, of Teck; and finally all these energies concentrated, after Austin Bidwell had saved a prisoner from drowning, in his release from prison.

"She is a good woman," said Austin Bidwell, simply, last night.

"Aye, she is that," said George Bidwell. "It is worth one's while to live in a cell and to be malmed by cruel guards to have such love shown as that. We don't deserve it."

"No," said Austin Bidwell. "We deserve everything but that."

McDonald and Noyes are still prisoners, but an attempt will be made to free them.

THE "FLYING ROLL" A FRAUD

One of the Nine Angels Denounces Prince Michael.

TORONTO, Ont., March 10.—"A foul, festering plot upon a Christian community" is the way Mr. Armstrong, who has recently returned from Detroit, describes the colony of "the flying roll" in that city. She ought to know, for she was one of the nine angels who accompanied "Prince Michael" on his recent pilgrimage to England and who have been living in the same house with him in Detroit. She was one of the first who were led by the promises of the prince to desert their homes in this city and join the long-haired fanatics in Detroit. But her eyes have been opened, and she has returned again to her family, but in a weak and pitiful condition. She declares that the Toronto people in the colony are sick and tired of the whole thing, and would gladly return at once were it not for the fact that the "prince" has all their money and intends to keep it. Neither she nor any of the others who have returned will make any definite charges of immorality against Michael. They admit that he lives in a house with his wife and the nine angels, and that two of his mottoes are "Let Nothing Be Hid" and "To the Pure All Things Are Pure."

Beyond this they say nothing except that they believe he is hypnotized and practically made a dupe by the mesmeric influence of one E. H. Durand, who is the Lucifer of the colony, and Lizzie Courts, his "spiritual" wife. Prince Michael is a native of Elgin county, Ontario, and was formerly an almost illiterate molder. When the Mormon elders were in Elgin county some years ago Michael became one of their converts, and he has evidently taken his new scheme from that of Joseph Smith. This disclosure seems to explain why it is that the long-haired prince is so earnest in his endeavor to secure a large number of "spiritual" wives for his colony and why he has the nine angels in his house as well as his wife.

The recent developments have caused trouble in the camp of the Toronto members of the flying roll. The other night a meeting was held in which the "false reports" of Miss Armstrong were denounced. But now a strong anti-Michael faction has arisen. As Michael is not recognized by the English branch of the sect, which was founded in 1837, he may soon be deserted as a false prophet.

A DISASTROUS DEFEAT.

The Fall of Mercer a Great Victory for the Conservatives.

OTTAWA, Ont., March 10.—The elections in Quebec province have resulted in a clean sweep for the conservatives, the stock of that party, already high by reason of its success in the dominion by-elections, is simply beyond quotation now. The liberals were divided among themselves, many of their best men refusing to follow the leadership of ex-Premier Mercer. This is after all the cause of their defeat. The result will probably bring the affairs of the whole liberal party to a crisis. The straight party men from Quebec now in the dominion parliament attribute the division in their ranks to the influence of the Ontario liberals, who denounced Mercer for hooding as bitterly as the conservatives did. There will probably be an open rupture in the party. Leader Laurier is a French Canadian and the representative of Quebec. He is personally a man of unblemished character, but it will be almost impossible for him to lead with the representatives of his own province denouncing their Ontario allies.

Such a political overturning has never been known in Canada's history. It was virtually a clean sweep from one end of the province to the other for the De Boucherville government in condemnation of the methods of government which led to Premier Mercer's dismissal.

Mercer did not attempt to defend the charges which were brought against him, probably because they were indefensible, but raised the cry of Quebec for the French and made an attempt to spread in the country districts the idea that this opposition to and attacks upon him were due to hostility to the Roman Catholic church, of which he has long posed as the champion. The clergy stopped that by denouncing him from the pulpit, and the French habitant, which forms three-quarters of the population, for once saw through the race and religious cry which is usually successful and voted against the deposed premier. The result makes Quebec overwhelmingly conservative, and strengthens the federal government, also conservative, enormously.

WIND IN WASHINGTON.

Mrs. Senator Palmer Dashed to the Ground and Injured.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—A severe rain storm accompanied by a wind that attained tremendous velocity passed over Washington shortly after noon today. The wife of Senator Palmer was approaching the senate wing of the capitol on foot when the storm broke. She was taken off her feet and thrown with considerable force against the steps, suffering a deep cut in her head. Her sister, who was with her, was uninjured. Mrs. Palmer's wound was dressed in the capitol and she was taken to her home.

TO RAISE CARPET PRICES.

Eastern Manufacturers Combining for Larger Profits.

CHICAGO, March 12.—Secrecy veils the proceedings of the eastern manufacturers of carpets, but those conversant with the trade in this city say the manufacturers are combining to lessen the output and increase prices.

J. C. Carroll, of the Chicago Carpet company, said: "The manufacturers of body Brussels carpets have been complaining bitterly that they are not making anything. Philadelphia firms were specially dissatisfied. The Philadelphia and Worcester, Mass., firms have been calling on other firms east to hold meetings in New York. The largest houses in the country have refused to enter any combination. There is certainly an overproduction. The scheme of the 'kickers' is to have all the firms agree to make only a certain amount of carpet and at a specified price. For instance, a factory having 150 looms will be asked to work only 100 looms. It will not work because all will not enter the combination."

E. C. Richardson, of O. W. Richardson & Co., said: "I have heard of the intention among eastern manufacturers to pool their interests, but it will not succeed. A year ago an agreement was made by several large manufacturers to force up prices, but competition was so keen that the rules were soon broken over."

E. James, of Marshall Field & Co.'s carpet department, said: "It is undoubtedly a fact that a scheme is on foot to raise the prices of carpets by combination among the manufacturers. Some of the body Brussels people are going to make a desperate fight. Meetings with strictest secrecy are being held in New York. The scheme is to make each firm sign an agreement to run only a certain number of looms and stick to a schedule of prices."

LADY HENRY SOMERSET.

The Noted English Lady Will Shortly Return to Europe.

CHICAGO, March 12.—Lady Henry Somerset, the noted English aristocrat, whose time and great fortune have for some years been devoted to the temperance movement, and who for several months has been in this country studying the methods of evangelical work pursued by the Women's Christian Temperance union, will shortly sail for Europe, and tonight a great farewell demonstration is to be given in her honor at Central Music hall. At the recent national granger and labor convention at St. Louis, Lady Somerset's name was, by unanimous consent, placed upon the roll of delegates, the compliment being more marked from the fact that she was the only participant in these proceedings that did not represent an organization of voters.

MISS NEVINS' LETTER.

She Will Give It to the Public Sunday If Well Enough.

NEW YORK, March 12.—If the health of Mrs. Mary Nevins Blaine permits her statement in reply to James G. Blaine's letter, published nearly two weeks ago, will probably be given out by Sunday. As matters appear now, however, it is exceedingly doubtful that her condition will be such as to enable her to prepare the statement. Ever since her arrival at the New York hotel last week she has been ill. Wednesday last she was so low that her life was for a time despaired of. During the previous evening she had made an extra effort to do some writing on her statement. Wednesday morning Mrs. Blaine was found in a comatose condition, and her breath came in short, labored gasps. Fortunately there was a physician in the hotel, Dr. Constable, who reached the sick woman's bedside within ten minutes after she had been found. Three other doctors were summoned, and after six or seven hours of incessant labor they brought back the young woman's fleeting vitality, and by midnight she was pronounced almost out of danger.

THE MARKETS.

Live Stock.

ST. LOUIS, March 12.
Hogs—Light, \$4.70@4.75; mixed, \$4.55@4.65; heavy, \$4.55@4.65.
Cattle—Steers, 1,100 to 1,300 pounds, \$3.00@3.80; feeders, \$2.50@3.25; stockers, \$2.10@2.50; cows, common to good, \$1.00@2.75; yearlings, \$2.00@2.75; bulls, \$1.50@2.75; veal calves, \$4.50@4.50.

Chicago.
Chicago, March 12.
Cattle—Choice beefs, \$3.85@3.25; cows, \$1.25@3.75; feeders, \$2.25@3.75; bulls, \$1.25@3.75; Texans, 2.50@3.80.
Hogs—Light, \$4.60@3.65; mixed, \$4.60@4.65; heavy, \$4.55@4.50.
Sheep—Woolens, \$4.00@6.00; westerns, \$3.90@5.75; Texans, \$3.50@5.40.

South Omaha.
SOUTH OMAHA, March 12.
Hogs—Light, \$4.60@4.75; mixed, \$4.60@4.75; heavy, \$4.55@4.50.
Cattle—Stockers and feeders, \$2.40@3.20; cows, \$2.40@3.20; common, \$1.00@1.10.

Kansas City.
KANSAS CITY, March 12.
Cattle—Extra fancy steers, \$3.50@4.20; cows, \$1.50@3.25; stockers, \$2.25@3.20; feeders, \$2.25@3.50.
Hogs—Extreme ranges, \$4.20@4.75.

Produce and Provisions.
CHICAGO, March 12.
Flour—Spring patents, \$4.40@4.75; winter patents, \$4.40@4.75.
Wheat—Cash, 85 1/2c; May, 87 1/2c@87 3/4c.
Corn—Cash, 59 1/2c; May, 41c; new, No. 1, 38 1/2c@39c.
Oats—Cash, 29c; May, 30c. No. 2 white, 31 1/2c@32 1/2c; No. 3 white, 29 1/2c.
Rye—32 1/2c.
Barley—56c.
Brimley—\$1.31.
Flax—Whisky—\$1.13.
Pork—Cash, \$10.75; May, \$10.90.
Lard—Cash, \$6.30; May, \$6.40.
Shoulders—\$4.75@5.50; short clear, \$6.25; short ribs, \$5.75@7.75.
Butter—Creamery, 20@28 1/2c; dairy, 10@9c.
Cheese—Full cream cheddars, 11@12c; flats, 11@12c; Young American, 11@13c.
Eggs—Fresh, 15@13 1/2c.
Hides—Heavy and light green salted, 5c; salted bull, 4 1/2@1 1/4c; dry salted calf, 6@6c; dry flint, 8c; dry salted hides, 6@7c; dry calf, 8@9c; deacons, each, 25c.
Tallow—No. 1 solid, 4c; packed, 2@2 1/2c; sals, 4 1/2c.

MINNEAPOLIS, March 12.
Wheat—Closing: March, 83 1/2c; May, 85c; on track, No. 1 hard, 85 1/2c; No. 1 northern, 83 1/2c; No. 2 northern, 75@80c.

FIFTY-SECOND CONGRESS.

The Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—In the senate today Mr. Squire presented a petition from the chamber of commerce, of Fort Totten, Wash., acting forth that the present condition of the Bering sea fisheries question worked the greatest hardship to American fishermen, and praying that the fisheries of these seas be thrown open. Mr. Squire said he regarded the Bering sea fisheries as of great importance, and asked that it be referred to the committee on foreign relations. It was so ordered.

Mr. Stanford, of California, introduced a bill to make the duty on opium \$5 a pound.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—The pure food bill passed the senate without a division, and an executive session will immediately be called on the Bering sea question. The text of the correspondence was submitted by the president to the senate at 3:30.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—In the senate today Mr. Morgan's resolution instructing the committee on judiciary to report on the legal propositions involved in the Idaho contest was passed.

On motion of Mr. Teller the secretary of the treasury was called upon for information as to what amount of treasury notes had been issued under the act of July 14, 1890, the amount of silver dollars coined, the amount in the treasury and whether silver dollars were being paid out by the treasury in discharge of ordinary indebtedness and whether they were being held for the redemption of treasury notes.

The agricultural deficiency bill appropriating \$150,000 for the bureau of animal industry and \$100,000 for experiments in sugar cultivation was passed.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—In the senate today Mr. Stewart, of Nevada, offered a joint resolution providing for a constitutional amendment that no person who has held the office of president of the United States for a term of four years or any part thereof shall be eligible to that office within four years after the expiration of that time, this amendment to take effect after the 4th of March, 1897. He suggested that the resolution be referred to the committee on civil service reform and retrenchment. It was so ordered.

Mr. Daniel offered a joint resolution confining on the part of the United States the rights granted by the states of South Carolina and Virginia to the French Telegraph company. Referred.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—In the senate today an unusual petition was presented from the Baltimore Methodist Episcopal conference, protesting against further restrictive Chinese legislation, for the reason that it tended to the destruction of missionary work in that country by provoking retaliatory measures.

The judiciary committee reported favorably the house bill placing the secretary of agriculture in the line of the presidential succession. By the provision of the bill, should the president and vice-president both die and all the members of the cabinet also die or become disqualified, down to the secretary of the interior, the last of the list of eligibles, as it is present hands, then the secretary of agriculture should become president of the United States.

The House.

WASHINGTON, March 8.—In his opening prayer in the house today the chaplain, being alluded to the death of Mr. Kendall, of Representative of Kentucky.

Mr. McMillin gave notice that he would call up the free wool bill tomorrow. The ways and means committee had instructed him to ask consideration tomorrow of the tariff question.

On motion of Mr. McCree, of Kentucky, who announced the death of his colleague, John W. Kendall, the house agreed to adjourn in respect to the memory of its late member. The speaker announced as a committee to accompany Mr. Kendall's body to Kentucky, Mr. Paynter of Kentucky; Mr. Mansur, of Missouri; Mr. American, of Pennsylvania; Mr. Baker, of Texas; Mr. Owens, of Ohio; Mr. Wilson, of Kentucky; Mr. Bellnap, of Michigan. The committee will leave at 2 o'clock tomorrow.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—In the house, after some unimportant business had been done, the house went into committee of the whole on the free wool bill. The speaker took the floor and opened the tariff debate. He began by saying that the last congress imposed the highest tax ever levied in this country and made the most extravagant appropriation ever made in time of peace. He said that the present tariff on wool was 2 to 3 cents per pound less on his wool than formerly; laborer's wages have not increased under the McKinley law and he had to pay more for the necessities of life. The McKinley bill had increased the tariff of 1883 15 per cent, and the rate of duty was higher on the necessities than on the luxuries of life. The consumer had not been considered and the manufacturer and trust combinations had been protected. The greed of the seller and not the need of the buyer was the measure of the rate of duty. This only differed from highway robbery in having the sanctity of the law. He alluded to Blaine's reciprocity scheme which he called undemocratic and one-puped and un-American. The president in his discretion could impose or remit certain taxes. Such a power was unprecedented and if exercised in England the queen would lose her crown if not her head.

WASHINGTON, March 10.—The attendance in the house today was small. There seems to be little interest in the tariff debate.

The naval appropriation bill was reported and referred to the committee of the whole. The bill to classify and prescribe the salaries of railway postal clerks was reported; also a bill to protect foreign exhibitors at the world's fair against prosecution under the United States import tax.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—In the house today Mr. McMillin introduced an unusual consent that the private bill day be dispensed with in view of the tariff discussion and that the two hours tomorrow previous to the adjourn at 3 o'clock on Hon. J. R. Gamble, of Dakota, be devoted to the consideration of private bills.

The house then went into committee of the whole on the free wool bill.

Mr. Stevens, democrat, of Massachusetts, spoke from the standpoint of the manufacturer. Reduced wages and lower prices, he said, always increased consumption. Free wool meant lower prices and better goods. The one was equivalent to the other and the American people would have reason to complain if this did not ensue. Quoting from leading manufacturers of this country he showed that the free wool bill was satisfactory to them. If the bill was passed it would result in infinite good to the people.

Mr. Montgomery, democrat, of Kentucky, followed with a long argument in support of the bill.

WASHINGTON, March 14.—In the house today a message from the president transmitting the agreement between the United States commissioners and the Cherokee nation regarding the Cherokee outlet in Indian territory, was referred to the committee on Indian affairs.

A joint resolution was passed authorizing the joint committee on printing to investigate the subject of a site for the public printing office and report to congress. On motion of Mr. Bowen, of Iowa, a bill was passed to make Council Bluffs, Ia., a port of delivery.

The following reports were made: Bill for the settlement of claims of officers and militiamen in the state of Missouri; bill to construct a bridge across the Missouri river at Dewitt, Carroll county, Missouri; bill to enable intermediate ports on the great lakes to obtain official statistics of the amount of business transacted at such ports.