

The News of the Week.

Affairs in Ireland are again attracting the attention of England and it is said that the condition there is causing "considerable anxiety." The landlords have refused to attend the proposed land conference and this is taken as a bad sign for the peace of Ireland. The nationalists continue their anti-government campaign, and the government retaliates by enforcing the crimes act and interesting complications are expected.

A California report has it that J. Pierpont Morgan is about to identify himself with the oil interests of that state. A company having a capitalization of \$5,000,000 has been organized and this money is to be devoted to the construction of lines, pumping stations, storage tanks, and the like. It is stated that Mr. Morgan and his associates have also formed a separate company, capitalized at \$20,000,000, half of which will be invested in improving ground and the other half turned into a reserve fund. It is stated that the Morgan syndicate will be prepared to handle 2,000,000 barrels the first year and will increase that amount at the rate of 1,000,000 a year until the whole demand for the market is met.

Advices from Rome, under date of September 27, give an account of a terrific storm that devastated portions of Sicily, causing the death of hundreds of persons and the destruction of an immense amount of property. The cyclone was followed by heavy rains, which have aggravated the disaster.

Military maneuvers have been in progress at Fort Riley, Kansas, in which United States troops of Kansas, Nebraska, and other states in the middle portion of the country have taken part.

It was reported from London on September 27 that the tobacco war which has been in progress for some time has been settled by the amalgamation of the American and British interests. The negotiations have been pending since August 19, and the combination effected is expected to afford larger fields for general Anglo-American commercial returns.

An Associated press London cablegram of September 27 says: A special from Rome, after confirming the reports from Rome that Stromboli has been in full eruption for some time, says: The night scene was grand, but terrifying. Lava streamed down the mountain sides seaward, while huge boulders were hurled from the crater to a great height, falling into the sea fully two and a half miles from the mount. The director of the observatory at Mount Etna says there has been no earthquake in Sicily, but that probably there has been a submarine eruption between Stromboli and Sicily. One hundred and fifty corpses have been reported at Mardica. One hundred victims were drowned in the open country.

The progress of the coal strike continues on aggressive lines. On September 28 President Mitchell issued a frank statement as to the demands of the coal miners as follows: First, an increase in wages for men employed on piece work. Second, a reduction in the hours of labor for men employed by the day. Third, payment for a legal ton of coal. Fourth, that the coal we mine shall be honestly weighed and correctly recorded, and, fifth, we favor incorporating in the form of an

agreement the wages that shall be paid and the conditions of employment that shall obtain for a specific period. President Mitchell contends that heretofore the public has been misinformed as to the facts in the struggle and also makes the claim that the miners are and have been willing to arbitrate all of the questions raised. He also presented facts and figures tending to show that the statement of Mr. Baer, one of the coal operators, that "the wages paid in the anthracite coal regions are, compared with the wages paid in like employment, fair and just," is incorrect, and the whole report has excited a great deal of comment and discussion.

A Des Moines, Ia., dispatch of September 27, relates that Judge A. H. McVey rendered an opinion that chapter 29, acts of the Twenty-eighth general assembly, authorizing trust companies to go into voluntary liquidation, is void because unconstitutional. The appeal of certain stockholders of the Home Savings and Trust company from the appointment of a trustee in accordance with this statute, is sustained, Trustee Bremner being removed and a receiver being substituted.

A committee of Boston citizens sought relief in the courts from the present coal shortage and high prices on September 27 by asking for a receiver for the coal companies and coal carrying roads. The Associated press report says: "A bill in equity was filed in the supreme court against the following named corporations: The Philadelphia & Reading Railroad company, the Central Railroad of New Jersey, the Lehigh Valley Railroad company, the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad company, the Delaware & Hudson company, the New York, Ontario & Western railroad, the Erie Railroad company, the Pennsylvania Coal company, and the Philadelphia & Reading Iron & Coal company. The petitioners ask that a receiver be appointed for the benefit of all concerned upon such terms and in such manner, and with such agents and servants, and with such rates of wages and other conditions of employment and at such prices for goods produced and sold, as the court shall from time to time adjudge proper. The bill is based upon the legal theory of the coal situation given by H. W. Chaplin, a lawyer. Mr. Chaplin says in support of his position: "Since the public has a right in the mines, a right to have coal forthwith mined for immediate consumption, and have a right to have that coal immediately transported out of the mine regions, by the coal carrying roads, a court of equity, if no other solution of the difficulty is open, has authority to, and upon the application of a representative portion of the people undoubtedly would appoint a receiver or receivers to take into his or their hands the whole business now in the hands of the anthracite combine, and to run it in their place." A subpoenae to serve on the defendants, giving notice of the bringing of the suit, is to be taken out on Monday by the plaintiffs' lawyer, and it will probably be returnable in November.

A life size statue of the Hungarian patriot, Louis Kossuth, was unveiled in Cleveland, O., on September 28. Addresses were made by Mayor Johnson, Senator Hanna, Congressman Burton and Governor Nash.

Vice President George G. Ward of the Commercial Cable company makes

the assertion that the United States will be able to open up cable communication with Manila, P. I., by July 4, 1903. Mr. Ward says that the cable is being made in London at the rate of fifty miles a day, or 300 miles a week, and will be finished in March. "Three ships will lay the cable," said Mr. Ward. "The Silverton, Colonia and Anglia. Two of them will begin from Manila and one from San Francisco. Then they meet in midocean, the ends will be spliced. Already one of the ships has started for the Philippine islands by way of the Suez canal. The ship to lay the San Francisco end of the cable will go from London through the straits of Magellan and then up the Pacific coast."

Fifteen hundred employees of the New Orleans Street Railway company struck on September 28 because of the refusal of the company to grant their demands for higher wages and shorter hours, and as a result not a car was operated in that city on the day in question. The company has advertised for 900 men and asked the mayor for two policemen for each car, and though it is hoped that these radical measures may not be taken, preparations are being made on both sides for trouble. A later report also gives notice of the intention of the linemen of the light company to strike.

Reports from Salina Cruz, the Pacific terminus of the Tehauntepec National railway in Mexico, confirm the rumor of seventy earthquakes on September 23. To add to the disaster a huge tidal wave swept in from the sea, invading part of the town, destroying houses and damaging the port works. The dispatch says in conclusion: The case was one absolutely impossible to foresee and provide against, its occurrence being one that scarcely happens in a generation. The loss from the breaking down of the new sea wall and the sweeping away of the huge crane will be \$500,000.

The death of Emile Zola, the novelist, was reported from Paris on September 29. It is said that his death was accidental and was caused by asphyxiation. Emile Zola was one of the most celebrated Frenchmen of the age. He was born in 1840, and although a noted novelist and writer, he gained much of his fame by his defense of Dreyfus, a letter of his on the case causing it to be reopened and the eventual release of the prisoner.

Secretary of the Treasury Shaw is making every effort to co-operate with the banks of the country to obtain the necessary credit to supply the great amount of business that is taxing railroads and steamship lines to the utmost. His plan is to allow securities instead of cash to be deposited with the treasury hereafter, and this plan will increase the money circulation about \$30,000,000. The new plan may be summed up as follows: First, the release of practically \$30,000,000 reserve, which will permit the banks to increase their volume of business \$130,000,000. Second, the substitution of other security for consols now held by the government on condition that the same shall be used as a basis for increased circulation, which, if accepted by the banks, will immediately increase the volume \$20,000,000 or \$25,000,000 and will add thereto if needed. Third, continuation of deposits to the limit allowed by law, accepting, if necessary, security other than government bonds.

United States Minister Bowen stationed at Caracas, on September 28 sent the following cablegram to Washington: "Have been reliably informed that the government will probably cut

all the cable lines this week. Therefore I suggest the dispatch to this point of warships in case communication is interrupted." This is interpreted in official quarters to mean that conditions are very unfavorable with respect to the government in Venezuela.

Another Washington dispatch gives an estimate of the expense of rural free mail delivery for the next fiscal year as being \$12,655,800, which is a net increase of \$5,126,400 over the appropriation made for this year.

A cablegram from San Juan, Porto Rico, under date of September 29, says: Twelve hundred public schools were opened over the entire island this morning. The attendance totalled over 50,000.

Advices from Manila report that cholera threatens to depopulate the island of Samar. It is reported that the total number of cases in the islands is 70,222 and 48,402 deaths, and owing to the difficulty of obtaining correct reports, it is feared that the actual facts in the case will show about 100,000 cases with deaths in proportion.

During a typhoon that raged on September 29 in Japan, a tidal wave swept the Odawara district and five hundred people are reported drowned.

An organization known as the People's Coal league, was launched at Springfield, Mass., on September 29. The platform in brief is as follows: "We demand that the federal government own the coal mines and administer them in the interests of the whole people." The league will have headquarters in Chicago, New York and Springfield, and the promoters of the plan hope to meet with great success.

It is reported from London that Sir Marcus Sempel was elected lord mayor of the city for the ensuing year, succeeding Sir Joseph C. Dimsdale. The election took place on September 29.

A Washington report says that estimates of the postmaster general of the appropriations required for all the postmasters in the United States during the next fiscal year aggregate \$46,925,220, which is an increase of \$3,614,700 over the appropriation made for the current year.

The proposed ship combine was incorporated at Trenton, N. J., on October 1 by the filing of papers amending the certificates of incorporation of the International Navigation company which were filed in June, 1893, with an authorized capital of \$15,000,000. The amended certificate changes the name of the company and also increased the capital stock to \$120,000,000.

A special dispatch from Waterloo, Ia., under date of October 1, says: The Black Hawk county grand jury today created a sensation by returning indictments against the Illinois Central, Chicago & Great Western and Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific railroads, charging them with conspiracy. The action is brought under the state law forbidding corporations to combine for the fixing of the price of commodities. It was instituted to test the new demurrage rules, which the three companies put in force here August 1, by which they established a charge to shippers of \$1 a day for every day a car was held for unloading in excess of forty-eight hours. Townsend & Merrill, lumber and coal dealers of Cedar Falls, were charged \$5 for a car held five days beyond the time limit and they took the matter before the grand jury.