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Arbitration Commission .....Appointed.

For the present at least the coal strike is settled. A commission of six men has been appointed to consider and report upon the facts in the case and the public will suspend judgment until the report is made. Instead of leaving the appointment of the commission to the president, as Mr. Mitchell on behalf of the miners suggested, the mine owners tried to pack the commission in their own favor by designating the kind of men to be chosen and limiting them to certain occupations. Mr. Gompers, president of the federation of labor, pointed out that the mine owners had so limited the appointments that it would be impossible for the president to select a laboring man or one specially representing them. The mine owners insisted that the commission should consist of, first, an army or navy engineer officer; second, an expert mining engineer, not connected with coal properties; third, one of the federal judges for the eastern district of Pennsylvania; fourth, a man of prominence, eminent as a sociologist, and, fifth, a man familiar with the buying and selling of coal. The minuteness with which the members were described raised the suspicion that the mine owners had some "good man" picked out for each place. The president has announced the appointment of Gen. John M. Wilson, as the army engineer; E. W. Parker of Washington, D. C., chief of the coal division of geological survey, as the mining expert; Judge Gray of Delaware as the United States judge, though not of the eastern district of Pennsylvania; E. E. Clark of Cedar Rapids, Ia., the head of the order of railway conductors, as the eminent sociologist, and Mr. Thomas H. Watkins of Scranton, Pa., as the coal dealer. Bishop Spaulding of Peoria was added to the commission and as he was not included in the proposition of the mine owners, it is fair to assume that he was appointed at the request of the miners and he and Mr. Clark are most likely to be the representatives of the laborers insofar as the members of the commission may be influenced by their sympathies.

It is a great relief to the public to have work resumed at the mines and the danger of a fuel famine averted. The question of recognition of the miners' organization was waived for the time being, but as Mr. Mitchell acted for his organization in agreeing to arbitration, the union was in fact recognized.

The arbitration of this strike does not, however, affect the general questions involved. The miners and the public should insist upon legislation which will kill all the trusts and make strikes unnecessary. The Kansas City platform remedies should be urged upon congress as soon as the next session convenes. They are:

First—A national board of arbitration for the settlement of differences arising between corporations engaged in interstate commerce and their employes.

Second—The abolition of government by injunction.

Third—The removal of the tariff on coal (and on all other articles controlled by a trust).

Fourth—The exclusion of all corporations from interstate commerce until they secure a license from the federal government, such license to be given only when it is shown that there is no water in the stock and that the corporation applying for the license is not trying to monopolize any branch of business.

To these should be added a law prohibiting railroads from engaging in coal mining, or in any other business conflicting with the business of their patrons.

The settlement of this strike is only a temporary relief and steps should be taken to prevent the recurrence of such troubles.

The democrats stand on solid ground; they have effective remedies and they should take advantage of the interest aroused by the coal strike to secure the adoption of these remedies.

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POPULAR ELECTION OF SENATORS.

Thirty-four years ago President Andrew Johnson recommended an amendment to the constitution providing for the popular election of senators; twenty years ago James B. Weaver introduced in congress a resolution submitting such an amendment; ten years ago a democratic house of representatives passed such a resolution for the first time, and since then the house of representatives in three other congresses has sent a similar amendment to the senate, but in each instance the senate has killed the measure. Why? Because the corporations control the senate and do not intend to surrender the advantage which they now enjoy. The senate refuses to be reformed—what can be done?

The constitution wisely provides for amendment by convention called by three-fourths of the states. Now let the state legislatures join in calling such a convention and then the senate can be reformed whether the senators want it reformed or not. The Kansas City platform declares for the popular election of senators and the candidates for the legislature who run on that platform are committed to the reform and it will increase their strength before the public to let that face be known. Among the voters the sentiment in favor of the direct election of senators is practically unanimous. Let democratic candidates appeal to this sentiment and point out the impossibility of securing this reform through republican leaders who are themselves under obligation to the corporations for campaign funds.

Senators must be elected by popular vote and the issue ought to be presented at once.

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Railway Mail Rates.

On another page will be found a very interesting article from the New York World on railway mail rates. In view of the favoritism shown the railroads by congress it behooves the voters to see to it that representatives of the people and not representatives of the corporations be sent to Washington.

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Of course the anthracite coal barons were terribly shocked to discover that some unprincipled scoundrel had smuggled that 67 cents duty into the Dingley law.

Attorney General Knox and the Trusts.

Several months ago when it was announced that the members of Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet would take the stump it was stated that Attorney General Knox would devote his attention to the trust question. Mr. Knox delivered his first speech at Pittsburg on the evening of October 14. It was by far the ablest of all the speeches delivered by Mr. Roosevelt's cabinet officers; and yet it cannot be said that Mr. Knox gave any good reason for the people to cherish the hope that the administration is really determined to make an effective campaign against the trusts.

In the first place it will be well to direct attention to the fact that in all of his carefully prepared address Mr. Knox did not once refer to the criminal clause of the Sherman anti-trust law, nor did he undertake to explain why the administration had failed to enforce that chief feature of the Sherman act.

While Mr. Knox said that new legislation would be advisable and that congress, even in the absence of a constitutional amendment, could enact effective laws, he did not explain how it happens that although the republican party has for nearly six years been in complete control of both branches of the congress as well as in control of the White house, it has failed to provide new legislation on this subject.

Mr. Knox said he proposed "to challenge the proposition that we are hopelessly helpless under our system of government to deal with the serious problems which confront us in respect to our greatest interests;" and having pointed out the power of congress to provide new and effective legislation, in his statement of what the administration had done under existing laws he was led to admit, in effect, that the present laws are considerably more effective than one would believe judging from the way in which they have been enforced by the republican party.

Mr. Knox claimed that the proceedings so far taken by the administration presented "four phases of the attack on combinations in restraint of trade and commerce." He referred to the proceedings brought against the Northern Securities company, the beef trust case, the cotton pool cases and the railroad injunction suits commenced at the instigation of the interstate commerce commission.

The latter cases involved rate cutting on the part of the railroads engaged particularly in shipment of grain. Mr. Knox said that after injunctions had been obtained against certain railroads other railroad officials who were not enjoined had taken advantage of the restraint placed upon their competitors and had been led to seek unlawful earnings by according secret rates to increase their business at the expense of the roads under injunction. Mr. Knox stated: "Several of these officials have been indicted already and more will be if evidence of their misconduct can be procured." It will be observed that the only indictments obtained by the federal authorities were against railroad officials who had engaged in rate cutting. The indictment was resorted to in these cases because it was the effective weapon. Is it not strange, then, that the indictment has not