

## The News of the Week.

It was recently reported that Attorney General E. R. Hicks had rendered an opinion that women in Wisconsin are eligible to vote on the constitutional amendment relating to the term of the state superintendent of schools.

On October 18 it was reported from Venezuela that after seven days of terrible fighting the revolutionary troops had abandoned the field. The number of killed and wounded is estimated at 3,000. In conclusion the report says: The victory of the government troops, which is said to be due to the personal courage of President Castro, who twice, with a Mauser rifle in his hand, charged at the head of his soldiers, is considered a serious setback to the cause of the revolutionists.

As regards the insurrection in Hayti a dispatch from Kingston under date of October 18 says: Word has been received here confirming previous reports that the provisional government of Hayti has crushed the Firmist revolution and adding that the election of Senoque . . . erre to the presidency is assured. Hundreds of refugees are expected here during the course of the coming week.

The tenth annual congress of the Free Labor association opened in Leeds, England, on October 20. The delegates present represented 400,000 workmen. In the course of his address President John Chandler attacked trades unionism, declaring that such organizations were a disgrace to the country, and denouncing the offer of aid which was recently voted in England for the benefit of the striking miners in America.

On October 20 a nationalist leader introduced a bill in the chamber of deputies in Paris providing for the separation of church and state, the abolition of the budget of public worship and the suppression of the French embassy at the vatican. It is said that this bill was presented as a challenge to the government to carry out its radical program and although the chamber rejected this bill it has referred all such bills to a special commission.

A London report of October 20 says: Negotiations looking to the combination of British, German and American companies owning linotype patents are afoot, but have not been completed.

The opening of the first convention of the United Irish league in Boston, Mass., on October 20, was made memorable by the presence of such noted Irish leaders as John E. Redmond, M. P., Michael Davitt and John Dillon, M. P., envoys from Ireland, Hon. Edward Blake, Irish M. P., United States Senator Smith of New Jersey, Patrick Egan, former United States minister to Chili, and Patrick Ford of the Irish World. Some interesting statistics as to Ireland were contained in President John Finerty's speech. He declared: "English rule stands self-condemned by the official representatives of its own servants, which show that Ireland has today a smaller population than she had in 1801, and that within the last sixty years 1,250,000 of her people starved to death; more than 2,000,000 were evicted from their holdings and 4,000,000 at least sought refuge from British tyranny in this and other free countries."

The interstate commerce commission on October 20 made public the complaint of the railroad commission of

Kentucky against several railroads of that portion of the country alleging unlawful combination. The charge is made that this combination was effected for the purpose of benefiting a few men as against the general public.

The object," the complaint continues, "is to place all the railways under the control of a single firm or of a few individuals; to control and manipulate railroad traffic and practically pool all the business of all the railroads in all this territory, to produce enormous profits, etc., and to place all the business and products of over 16,000,000 people in 422,000 square miles of territory under the control and domination of a single individual." The combination, the commission charges, is in violation of both the letter and spirit of the laws of the United States and of the several states involved. The interstate commerce commission will immediately notify all concerned of the complaint and probably will arrange for a hearing not earlier than December.

On October 18 delegates were elected by the miners to attend the conference on October 20 in regard to terminating the coal strike. It was generally conceded that the offer of arbitration will be accepted. It is also given out that the soldiers in the field will be recalled and this action will prove of benefit to the state as it costs about \$30,000 a day to keep the national guard in the coal fields.

A serious accident was narrowly averted on October 19 at Omaha, Neb., only by the coolness of Rev. Harry G. Hill of the First Christian church. As already mentioned the Christian church convention was in session and a meeting was in progress at the church with an audience of 800 people. The church edifice is old and proved to be unequal to the strain and it was soon seen that the floor was about to give way. Rev. Hill came to the front and by his presence of mind succeeded in averting a panic and led the people out of the church in safety.

It was reported from London on October 19 that the foreign office had received a dispatch from Colonel Cobb who is in command of a British force operating against the Mad Mullah in Somaliland. A battle had been fought in which the English lost 50 men killed and 100 were wounded. The natives were beaten off, but the situation is perilous to the British troops and reinforcements have been asked for.

On October 21 it was reported that the second Bombay grenadiers stationed at Mhow (Central India) have been ordered to Somaliland and that other troops will probably follow.

A cablegram from London, dated October 21, says: Trafalgar Day (or the anniversary of the battle Trafalgar fought October 21, 1805), was celebrated today in the customary manner. The Nelson Column of Trafalgar Square was decked with wreaths sent from various parts of the world.

An Associated press dispatch from New York under date of October 22 says: Advice received from Dr. George D. Marsh, an American board missionary at Philipopolis, Bulgaria, says that he and his wife have been threatened with death by dynamite unless the sum of \$2,400 each is paid at an early date. The threat was made in a letter dated September 16. The threatening letter gave a detailed ac-

count of the Marsh family's doings for several weeks, thus showing perfect espionage. The family is keeping indoors after nightfall and the house is guarded by police. There are thirty other American board missionaries in the Bulgarian field. The Marshes have been engaged in mission work there for thirty years.

As a result of the miners' convention held at Wilkesbarre, Pa., on October 21 the strike has been declared off and this action was taken by a unanimous vote. It is said that work in the mines will be resumed October 23, but that the men needed to repair the mines will begin work immediately. President Mitchell will represent the miners before the arbitration board.

The strike in France is still under way. It was reported on October 18 that the general confederation of labor was considering the question of a strike of all the trades unions in favor of eight hours work per day and old age pensions, etc. The leaders of the miners' strike declare that 160,000 men are out.

Recent reports from Constantinople confirm the rumors of trouble with the Bulgarian troops in the Kresna valley. A battle occurred along the Kara Sur river and it is said that several hundred men have been killed or wounded.

On October 21 it was reported from Manila by the Associated press that the United States Philippine commission has decided to enact a land registry bill, drafted by Commissioner Ide. The bill adapts the Torrens registry system with modifications to fit the local conditions, and creates a land titles court. Land titles throughout the islands are at present clouded to such an extent that sales of land and its improvement are retarded. An enormous task is involved in the labor of clearing titles. Government lands, which were sold under authorities of the Philippine act after that act passed the American congress, will be recorded under the Torrens system. The commission has passed a bill defining the terms under which the Manila street railway franchise is to be granted. This bill provides for the award of the franchise by competition. Bids will be opened next March, after advertisement here and in the United States.

A cablegram from Colon, Colombia, under date of October 21, says: It is believed in certain quarters of the isthmus that the Colombian government is negotiating for the purchase of the Chilean cruiser, *Presidente Pinto*, which reached Panama October 17, from Chili. If this vessel is bought by Colombia, it is thought she will put an end to the operations of the revolutionary fleet under General Herrera, as she is considered capable of sweeping it from the seas.

On October 21 it was reported from Chicago, Ill., that Northwestern university installed Edmund Janes James as president of that institution, the ceremonies being witnessed by a large number of the most prominent educators of the United States, while many delegates were present from leading institutions of learning of foreign lands.

The result of the investigation as to the accident in which President Roosevelt and Secretary Cortelyou were injured and the president's bodyguard, William Craig, was killed at Pittsfield, Mass., last month was given out on October 22 and the blame is placed on the motorman of the electric car which ran into the president's carriage. The report also says: "The motorman had good reason to believe that the effort

which he was plainly making to reach the Country club before the carriage, met with the approval of passengers, including a prominent director of the company."

A Topeka, Kas., dispatch of October 22 says: J. B. Billard, a wealthy miller of this city, has brought suit against the board of education to compel the removal of the Bible reading from the public schools. Billard's son was expelled from school because he refused to give proper attention during the opening exercises when the Bible was being read. Leading attorneys are on both sides of the case, and it is causing much interest in legal circles.

Charles S. Lobinger of Omaha has been appointed commissioner of the Nebraska supreme court to fill a vacancy caused by the resignation of former Commissioner George A. Day of Omaha, who resigned in order to accept an appointment as judge of the district court.

On October 22 it was reported from Shenandoah, Pa., that when the miners came to the mines that morning to go to work they were told to report at the company's store and sign a contract before being reinstated. This contract was to the effect that they should not in any way interfere with non-union men or with the men already at work. Many of the miners refused to sign this contract and returned home.

It was announced from Copenhagen on October 22 that the landsting had rejected the second reading of the bill providing for the ratification of the treaty ceding the Danish West Indies to the United States. The vote was taken without any debate and the result was unexpected. The dispatch says, however, that the public sentiment in Denmark is undoubtedly against the proposed sale and it is also reported that the home government will take steps to help the people of the islands to a better economic condition.

A rumor was in circulation recently to the effect that the international association of stationary engineers and firemen would be ordered to refuse to handle any anthracite coal until every member affected by the anthracite strike be reinstated on the basis on which the miners returned to work. As this brotherhood has a membership of 14,000 and has local unions in all prominent cities of the United States a strike on their part might be a serious affair.

An important bit of railroad news was contained in the announcement that Edward Dickinson, the general manager of the Union Pacific railroad at Omaha, Neb., will shortly leave that place and take a position as general manager of the Orient line with headquarters at Kansas City.

### A Republican Scarecrow.

In an interview printed in the Chicago Record-Herald Governor Cummins, republican of Iowa, referring to the prediction that terrible results would come from tariff agitation, said: "That is a scare-crow set up in the corn fields. It is a device always resorted to by those who want the tariff treated as a sacred fetish. The menace to this country today is not tariff change, but the temptations to reckless stock watering, which avaricious men find in their ability to create monopolies in production. We cannot avert disaster by falling on our knees and worshipping a tariff schedule. The truth is that men who are enjoying the fruits of monopoly are daily laughing in their sleeves at the fatuity with which the people permit them to plunder under the form of law."