



In preference to a strike among the employes of the textile mills of Lowell, Mass., the owners of seven of the big mills ordered an entire suspension of work for an indefinite period on March 28. This means that 17,000 men will be thrown out of work and business in that line will be paralyzed.

On March 28 the reciprocity treaty between the United States and Cuba was ratified by the Cuban senate by a vote of 12 to 9. Secretary Hay has assured the Cuban senate that President Roosevelt will call a special session of congress prior to December 1, and on this assurance several proposed amendments were dispensed with. It was later reported from Washington that informal exchanges of ratification of this treaty will be made by telegraph so as to meet the requirements that ratification shall be made before March 31, the time limit.

A strike riot in the town of Slatousk, a village situated in the Ural mountains, Russia, and containing a population of about 21,000 persons, caused the death of twenty-eight and the wounding of fifty others. Slatousk is the chief town of a mining district and is the center of the southern imperial mines. 500 laborers went out on strike and a riot followed in which the troops fired upon the crowd with the above result.

An expedition in command of Captain Scott of the British ship Discovery recently made an attempt to reach the South Pole. The men encountered many hardships and perils, and although failing in the object of their search, gained much valuable knowledge concerning the nature of the country in the far southern region.

Interesting statistics as to the number of immigrants coming into this country during the month of March this year show that the number of arrivals at Ellis island, New York, is greatly in excess of the number which came in March of last year. March, 1902, showed 54,000 foreign-born persons passed through the immigration bureau, and it is expected that March, 1903, will show at least 74,000.

It was announced on March 29 from Toronto, Canada, that another transcontinental railroad is to be built in that country. The terminal of the new line is to be at Quebec in the east and Port Simpson, B. C., in the west. It is said that Canada now has one transcontinental line, a second rapidly nearly completion and two, the Grand Trunk Pacific and the Trans-Canada, under promotion.

Gustavus F. Swift, president of one of the greatest packing companies in the United States, died at Chicago, Ill., on March 29 at the age of 63 years. Mr. Swift's fortune is estimated at from \$7,000,000 to \$10,000,000, and he was famous as the originator of the method that has made many large fortunes in the packing industry.

According to an Associated press cablegram from London dated March 30 the St. Petersburg correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says the measures for the relief of the peasants outlined by the czar's recent reform decrees are already being carried out. Arrears of taxes amounting to about \$57,000,000 have been canceled and overdue taxation exceeding \$45,000,000, which the peasants owe to the district

authorities, have been assumed by the central government. Other measures alleviating the burdens on the peasants are expected to be adopted shortly.

On March 30 eighteen men were placed under arrest at Waterbury, Mass., by the police in their endeavor to ascertain the authors of some of the outbreaks of violence which have occurred since the beginning of the strike of motormen and conductors of the railway company eleven weeks ago. Of these eighteen men, only seven are striking street car employes.

A dispatch to the consul of San Domingo in New York city from the governor of the island received on March 30 announces the capture of a vessel manned by the revolutionists together with several of the revolutionary leaders. The trouble now seems to be confined to Santo Domingo city where the rebels are being besieged by the government troops.

It was reported from London on March 30 that final arrangements had been made at Glasgow to amalgamate thirteen Scotch malleable iron firms with a capital of \$6,000,000.

On March 30 at Washington, Del., a monument was unveiled to mark the landing place of the first Swedish settlers in America. The Swedes came into the city April 29, 1638.

It was reported from Stockholm on March 31 that King Oscar had resumed the reins of government, thus terminating the regency of the crown prince Gustave, which commenced January 27, in consequence of the king's ill health.

On March 31 the governor of Texas signed the new anti-trust law, and it immediately became effective. This law differs from all other laws of a similar kind enacted in Texas. It does not specifically exempt any sort of combination from its penalties. An effort was made to prevent the inclusion of a phrase under which it is believed that labor unions can be prosecuted.

Intervention of the United States government was asked for on March 31 in the contest at Chicago over the recount of the Lorimer-Durborrow congressional ballots. It is said that Notary Frederick F. McClory, who is acting under the federal statutes as examining magistrate on the Durborrow petition for a recount of the votes, has appealed to the government for protection, saying that he is threatened with interference in the discharge of his duties.

A cablegram from Bucharest, Roumania, under date of March 31, says that the persistent drouth is causing great anxiety among the farmers of Roumania. The wheat is suffering badly from lack of rain and the colsea crop is almost lost.

It was recently reported from New York city that Ira D. Sankey, the evangelist, has become hopelessly blind.

H. W. Corbett, former United States senator from Oregon, died at his home in Portland, Ore., on March 31 aged 76 years. Mr. Corbett served in the United States senate from 1867 to 1873.

Col. Edmund C. Bainbridge, U. S. A., retired, died in Washington on

April 1. Colonel Bainbridge was born in Virginia and was appointed to the military academy from New York in 1852.

The injunction issued on March 3 by Judge E. B. Adams of the United States district court at St. Louis at the instance of the Wabash railroad officials to restrain the railway trainmen and firemen from ordering a strike on that system, was dissolved on April 1 by Judge Adams after a legal battle on both sides. The judge decided that the allegations of the railway company were not sustained and the employes of the system were not acting in such a manner as to render an injunction necessary.

On April 2 the federal grand jury in session at New York city returned four indictments against some silk importers of that city on the charge of entering silks at the custom house at a value less than that provided by law. The government has begun suits to recover \$2,000,000 alleged to have been lost by underestimated weights.

The prefect of police of Paris and the prefects of all the departments of France are engaged in distributing official notices from Premier Combes to the various teaching orders requiring them to disband. These orders will affect about 1,580 teaching orders with a membership of 15,964 members, and 28 preaching orders having 3,040 members.

It was announced on April 2 that

the Illinois house had passed the convict labor bill. It prohibits the employment of convicts on contracts and provides that the products of the convicts do not enter into competition with the products of free labor.

It is feared that some contention will take place between the operators and miners as to the interpretation of the strike commission's award. The commission adjudged that the men should be paid "on the basis of a nine-hour day" without reduction of wages and with a pro rata increase for overtime. This is interpreted by the operators as not decreeing a nine-hour day, but simply that the miners are to get the old ten hours' wages for nine hours' work and overtime for each hour worked more than nine. At several collieries the men have refused to work more than nine hours and another strike is looked for as a result of the difference in opinion.

It was recently reported that a project is on foot in New York city to form a combine of the leading telephone companies of the United States. It is said that J. Pierpont Morgan is at the head of the scheme and one report says that the gigantic trust will be capitalized at \$1,000,000,000.

On April 4 it was reported from Constantinople that the Bulgarian inhabitants of thirty villages in the Okrida district had risen against the Turks. The rebels who number about 3,000 are supported by the bishop and a number of revolutionary bands.

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