

party would receive much of the credit, that the fact that the president initiated the matter and forced it upon congress would make him one of the greatest of our presidents, and that his place in history would be secure." The surrender of the president to the railroad influences in the senate coupled with the fact, that up to this time, he has not been able to secure favorable action in congress or on any of his pet measures makes a very bad showing, and his friends fear a fatal one, so far as his future popularity is concerned.

The public has already begun to contrast the success of Attorney Hughes in New York in uncovering the insurance scandals and practically breaking up the most colossal system of graft of modern times, and the success of Attorney Hadley representing the state of Missouri in putting to rout Standard Oil, to the great professions of trust busting made by the administration and the long series of failures and disappointments that it has to show for results.

The republican members of the house of representatives are greatly disturbed over the prospects of the coming election. Many of them, however, say that much good will result from the president yielding to Senators Aldrich and Elkins on the rate bill, as there is now a prospect that the bill will pass, receiving practically the full republican vote in the senate, so that the republicans can claim the credit, and make a showing that has the appearance of party harmony. The next thing they want is an early adjournment, because they realize that their inability to do any of the things that the country is demanding will become more apparent to the average man each day that congress is in session, much more so than after adjournment.

It is now thought that there is a chance for the free alcohol bill to pass, and for the two houses to come together on the statehood bill, allowing Oklahoma and Indian Territory to form a state, and referring the question of joint statehood back to the voters of New Mexico and Arizona, respectively.

The question of campaign funds is disturbing the members whose elections depend upon the expenditure of large sums of money. There are a number of republican seats that are only held by large expenditures. It is feared that many of these will be lost in the coming election as the life insurance companies will not be likely to contribute anything this year, and the rate bill contains a section forbidding the railroads from making political contribution, leaving the national banks as the only available source of supply. Many think the banks will refuse to contribute at all, or at most make only small contributions on the ground that they alone cannot be expected to put up sufficient to produce much in the way of results. The prospects are now that the rate bill will reach a vote inside of ten days. It is not thought that Aldrich, now that he has gained his point on the court review amendment, will unnecessarily delay a vote being reached on the bill.

LAFOLLETTE AND TILLMAN

LaFollette Prevents Railroads From Stealing Coal Lands Under Cover of Lease.

Washington—The coal lands owned by the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians are worth \$4,377,000,000, according to a computation submitted today by Senator LaFollette. It is proposed to lease or sell these lands.

A conference report on the bill to conclude the affairs of the five civilized tribes brought out Mr. LaFollette's statement. The proposition to sell or lease had been eliminated by the senate when the bill passed. A clause was inserted by the conferees permitting the secretary of the interior to ascertain what could be accomplished in the way of leasing the

coal lands, and this was construed by many senators as authorizing him to lease the lands.

"I believe," said Mr. LaFollette, "that if the senate can come to any understanding as to the real value of these lands it will call a halt until an investigation can be made. Coal is sold for \$1.90 and \$2 a ton at the mine. Taking \$2 per ton as the basis for computation, it means there is a value of coal averaging \$10,000 per acre. This makes a total value for the tract of \$4,377,000. Leasing the lands is equivalent to their sale. The present leases run for thirty years. In that time the supply of coal might be exhausted. Before congress again convenes every case may be disposed of by the secretary of the interior. Of the 113 existing leases covering 104,000 acres of these lands fifty-three are under control of the five railroads passing through Indian Territory."

Mr. LaFollette said that none of the railroads observed the stipulations in its charter requiring the same charges to be made as in adjacent states. Rates are invariably higher in the territory.

"The government should now indicate its position toward permitting railroads to own or control the commodities they transport over their own lines. If the lands are leased or sold it should be made impossible for the railroads to secure control of them. Every lease should become void when assigned to a railroad."

Senator Tillman said the railroads have practically monopolized the fuel supply of the country. All the coal mined is almost under their control. They fix the price. They are seeking to extend their holdings and obtain whatever coal lands remain unoccupied. He believed the United States should retain ownership of these coal lands paying the Indians for their interest and hold them for the benefit of posterity. He estimated that the leases already given represent 635,000,000 tons of coal.

Mr. Tillman added: "If an anthracite coal strike occurs next winter, making it impossible for the millions living in the eastern portion of the country properly to warm their families, there will be something doing in the United States."

The conference report was withdrawn and the objectionable clause will be eliminated.

Hamilton Raps Perkins

Albany—After several days of silence, Andrew Hamilton gave another little "chapter" of revelations last night, this time involving George W. Perkins. The occasion of the speech was the presentation to Hamilton of a loving cup by friends who had just elected him president of the Albany club. Hamilton, in explaining his absence in Europe during the Armstrong investigation, said that while in Paris he had been visited by an officer high in the councils of the New York Life, who did not advise him to return. His friends at once explained the allusion as applying to George W. Perkins, who, it will be recalled, went abroad during the session of the Armstrong committee, but on his return denied publicly that he had met Hamilton.

A Level Head.

A farmer went into a hardware store and while purchasing some tools was asked by the proprietor if he did not want to buy a bicycle.

"Abicycle won't eat its head off," said the man, "and you can ride around your farm on it. They're cheap now and I can let you have one for \$35.00."

"I'd rather put the \$35.00 in a cow," replied the farmer.

"Oh, well," said the hardware man, sarcastically, "you'd look almighty foolish riding round your farm on a cow; now, wouldn't you?"

"No more foolish, perhaps," said the farmer, "than I would milking a bicycle."

THE COAL MINERS STRIKE

Half Million Men Involved—Men Are Instructed to Refrain From Rioting or Damaging Property.

Following the breaking off of negotiations for a wage scale, 509,500 men in the anthracite and bituminous fields went out on strike Saturday night.

There is in the national and local treasuries of the miners' union \$2,500,000.

The executive board of the United Mine Workers of America will meet at Indianapolis today to take up details of managing the strike.

District officers are authorized to sign a wage agreement with any operator who will agree to pay the scale of 1903 for a period of two years. This would be an advance of 5.55 per cent in most of the territory affected.

John Mitchell says he believes that one-half of the tonnage of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and western Pennsylvania will sign the scale very soon.

The miners' convention declined to submit the matter of wage differences to arbitration.

President Roosevelt is non-committal as to what action he will take, if any, regarding the coal strike.

The national executive board of the United Mine Workers of America held a session at Indianapolis to take up in detail the management of the strike which will be begun in the anthracite and bituminous coal mining districts of the country at the close of work today.

Men numbering 509,500 will leave the mines will not return until their employers have signed the wage scale demanded by the miners in national convention. In the central competitive district composed of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and western Pennsylvania, Monday, will be the eighth anniversary of the eight-hour concession and will be observed as usual as a holiday.

It was anticipated by members of the national executive board today that the scale would be signed in all probability by some of the operators of western Pennsylvania either this evening or Monday.

Before the board went into executive session at the national headquarters of the mine workers, members said a formal strike order would not be issued, but at the close of work today the men would leave the mines with their tools and would not return until the scale had been signed by the operators and they had been so notified by the district officials.

Members of the board said that every step possible would be taken to prevent violence and a formal declaration to the miners forbidding rioting or destruction of property and urging them to properly conduct themselves probably would be issued.

SUMMARY OF NEWS

March death rate in Chicago is far below average, despite weather.

Important reform measures nearly all shelved by the session of the Iowa legislature.

Deaf persons hear the sermons at All Soul's church in Chicago by means of telephones in the pews.

New York coroner sees a coincidence in the deaths of two widows and suspects a suicide pact.

New York judge, as a modern Solomon, decides the claims of two women to possession of a baby boy.

Crank disturbs J. D. Rockefeller Jr.'s Bible class while leader is giving his excuses for Sunday golf.

T. P. Shouts has been re-elected president of the Panama railroad at the annual meeting in New York.

Speeding automobiles kill a child and fatally injure two women in accidents in New York and its suburbs.

Aged Indian who charges a land

swindle of \$27,000 causes the arrest of two men in Chicago, one 83 years old.

Earl Grey, governor general of Canada, and Countess Grey are guests of former Ambassador Joseph H. Choate at New York.

Dr. John Rudolph, the "marrying parson" of Hoboken, N. J., sums up his work, finding that he has wedded 2,731 couples.

Governor Winthrop of Porto Rico says the chief demands of the islanders are American citizenship and an elective senate.

Isaac Winder, a negro, executed at Towson, Md., makes a desperate fight for life on the gallows while a crowd of 2,000 looks on.

Officials of wireless telegraph system claim to have transmitted 572 words across the Atlantic ocean, a distance of 3,200.

Two Iowa boys, aged 12 and 9, edit a newspaper in the kitchen of their home, setting the type and running a press of their own.

Chicago teachers repudiate the Cleveland jury verdict which declared a young woman incompetent to teach school because she was in love.

Representative Byrd of Mississippi introduces a bill placing meats on the free list, believing that this would reduce the price to the consumer.

Wholesale graft charges are made against officials and business men of Green Bay, Wis., as the result of a long fight against corrupt rule in the city.

E. H. Harriman has retired as chairman of the Illinois Central finance committee and a new committee is formed, with Walter Lutgen as chairman.

Free treatment of consumption is assured by the Chicago Tuberculosis institute, which will erect a dispensary at Winchester avenue and Polk street.

House naval committee votes an appropriation of \$6,000,000 for the construction of a 20,000-ton battleship, which shall lead the navies of the world.

Speaker Cannon breaks the precedents of the house by turning on Representative Shaskelford of Missouri when the latter attacks the presiding officer.

George W. Perkins of J. P. Morgan & Co., is under arrest, charged with larceny in giving \$50,000 of life insurance funds to the republican national committee.

Oak Park, Chicago, pastor declares if Christ should visit that suburb, followed by the publicans and sinners of all nations, the millionaires would be scandalized.

Massachusetts congressmen has asked the Wisconsin delegation to join in a fight for tariff revision, but it is not thought any action will be taken by the house.

William E. Curtis writes of the beauties of the old City of Puebla, Mexico, which was built as the result of a priest's vision on a plain hemmed by volcanoes.

Norman Haggood, editor of Collier's Weekly, arrives in Chicago to look into municipal conditions, watch the aldermanic election and study the municipal ownership issue.

Rich New York merchants are said to be interested in a plan for a revolution in Venezuela, by which it is hoped to overthrow Castro and open the country to American capital.

Fight for cheaper gas and better street care service is taken up in Galesburg, Ill., each political party in the campaign promising, if victorious at the polls, to compel changes.

Mutual Life investigating committee reports that abuses in the management of the company were due to the desire to become a great money power and outstrip rivals. Many reforms urged.

Independent bituminous coal operators in the Pittsburg district will yield to the demands of the miners today. Great army of union miners quits work throughout the mining regions of the country.

Recorder Goff, in instructing the regular April grand jury in New York City, tells the members they must in-