

GOAL STRIKERS DEFENDED.

The All-Day Argument of Attorney Clarence Darrow.

ELOQUENT, STRIKING ARGUMENT

In Behalf of the Miners and a Scathing Denunciation

Of the Conduct of the Operators, John Markle in Particular.

Philadelphia, Pa., February 13.—The anthracite strike commission, after being in public session for more than three months, closed its open hearings today with an all-day argument by Clarence S. Darrow in behalf of the miners. The commission will meet in secret in Washington next Thursday and begin the consideration of its awards. It is expected that by the end of this month the arbitrators will be ready to make their announcement. If an increase in wages is determined upon, the increase is to date from the 1st of last November, the commission having decided upon that date on October 31. After the session today the commission held a short conference with the lawyers for the several sides and asked them to hold themselves in readiness in case they are called upon by the commission.

The crowd which heard Mr. Darrow speak today was fully as great as that which listened to Mr. Baer and Mr. Darrow yesterday. He took up the entire time of both sessions—five and one-half hours. He touched upon almost every phase of the strike and when he closed he was greeted with long applause, which Chairman Gray could not suppress. President Mitchell was in Court all day, but did not have anything to say to the commission in parting.

Mr. Darrow first discussed the cause of the strike. The responsibility for the coal famine, he said, rested with those who were responsible for the strike. If the men struck without just reason then they were responsible; but if the men were right and the operators not broad-minded enough to see the justness of their claims, then the latter were responsible for the trouble. He believed the strike was due to the blind, autocratic, stupid spirit of the operators. They believed the issue was who should be the master—the operators or the men. I say neither should be the master of the other."

Taking up Mr. Baer's sliding scale proposition made yesterday, Mr. Darrow said if Mr. Baer believed he made a nice, fair proposition, he proposed to show that it was not. With the assistance of the miners' expert statistician, Mr. Darrow said the 1 per cent. raise on five cents suggested by Mr. Baer would give the operators an increase of 3 1/2 per cent in profits and the miners only 1 1/2 per cent on the \$4.50 basis. Mr. Darrow's remarks on the proposition plainly indicated that the miners flatly rejected the proposition.

Mr. Darrow asserted that the miners resorted to every means to avert a strike. Every appeal and every paper of the men, he said, was contemptuously rejected by the operators. They forced the strike that they might demonstrate to the men and to the generations to come that the owners of capital are the masters of the workmen.

"The people do not believe in such an absolute ownership of the riches of the earth as that which the anthracite coal combination possess. The time will come when the operators' combination will be destroyed, not by the miners' union, but by the people, who will take possession of the riches under the ground and relieve themselves of the tyranny of these men."

Mr. Darrow then launched into a defence of the men who committed crime under passion and said the conduct of the men was due to their condition and environments.

Mr. Darrow said the fact that the operators called the men "criminals, cutthroats and assassins" was enough to exasperate them, and Chairman Gray interrupted to say that "the commission does not believe the mine workers are criminals, cutthroats and assassins."

Mr. Darrow said it was a wonder if the operators had insolently and cruelly rejected the requests of the men that there was not more violence among this population which was reduced to a condition bordering on starvation. He paid a tribute to the foreigners in the coal regions, whom he said were warm-hearted, emotional, sympathetic, religious people.

Mr. Darrow then took up the thirteen victims on the Markle property and with language which was extremely strong he pictured the eviction of a sick wife and of a blind woman, 100 years old. You may roll together all the cruelty and violence committed in the anthracite region," he exclaimed, "and you cannot equal the fiendish cruelty of John Markle when he turned these helpless people into the streets to satisfy his hellish hate."

Brig. Gen. Gobin, who commanded one brigade of the State troops in the field during the strike, came in for severe criticism from the miners' counsel. He read various reports made to Gen. Gobin by his regimental commanders and severely condemned the General's now famous "Shoot to kill" order.

He then spoke of the non-union men, whom he termed "scabs," although, he remarked, he did not like the word, but used it because it is commonly used. These men, he said, have always been hated. Sometimes they are good men; often they act from necessity, but they are traitors to their class. They are men, he continued, who are used by the capitalists to destroy the rights and aspirations and the hopes of the workingman.

Regarding the demand for eight hours Mr. Darrow said: "This is not a demand to shirk work, as is often claimed to be the case. It is a demand for the right of the individual to have a better life, a fuller life, a complete life, and this, like everything else, depends upon your point of view. There is only one standpoint from which you have a right to approach this question, and that it what will make the best man, the best American citizen, to build

NEGRO FOR ARMY OFFICER.

Appointment to be Made by President at Motion of Lily White Leader.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Senator Pritchard has been advised that David J. Gilmer, colored, will be commissioned as lieutenant in the Philippine Scouts. This appointment, which has for several months been pending in the War Department, has attracted attention much out of proportion to the importance of the office involved, owing to the color of the applicant. For some time the feeling has prevailed among the leaders of the negro race that army officials were discriminating against colored applicants who were seeking commissions in the regular army, and in support of this contention the fact was mentioned that out of four regiments of colored soldiers who had been sent to the Philippines no representative of their race had been recognized, although fifty or more commissioned officers in these volunteer regiments had sought permanent service. Several weeks ago the negroes planned to hold a mass meeting to voice their indignation, but conservative counsel prevailed, and the plan was abandoned.

DISPENSARY INVESTIGATION. The Committee Organized and the Examination of Witnesses Begun.

The senate committee on the dispensary met yesterday morning, Messrs. Williams, Evans, Crum and other dispensary officials being present. There was at the first some discussion as to the methods of procedure, Senators Dan and Sharpe insisting on specifications while Senators Standland and Herndon thought the committee should first find if there were anything upon which to base a charge against the management. It was decided by vote to proceed without specifications, and Senator Standland then asked that the following witnesses be summoned: J. B. Donthit of Anderson, H. E. Watts and T. E. Lightfoot of Columbia and John Black of Walterboro. These witnesses are to appear at 10 o'clock today. Senator Standland stated that he made no charge of dishonesty against the commissioner or the board of directors, but that he would criticize their business management of the dispensary. Taking the witness stand, Mr. Standland read the law as to the school fund and the annual report of the directors. The committee then took a recess until 5 p. m.

At the afternoon session the first witness was H. E. Watts, a former employe. He said that in April, 1900, he saw dumped 20 barrels of one X corn and four barrels of three XXX corn, which when drawn off was labeled as two X whiskey. This was done under instruction of Superintendent Dixon. He was connected with the dispensary when J. B. Donthit was commissioner and he saw him raise the labels on eight barrels of whiskey. He was discharged March 3, 1902, the reason not being stated.

T. E. Lightfoot, of Columbia, another former employe, next testified. He said he saw a quantity of one X South Carolina corn dumped in a vat, and when it was drawn off half of it was labeled one X and the other half two XX. He said he was discharged for drunkenness, though that was not an uncommon circumstance among others connected with the dispensary. The committee will resume its sitting this morning at 9.30, and it is said that a witness outside of Columbia and former employe and perhaps others will be brought forward to give testimony along the same line.—The State, Feb. 14.

THE DOG BILL.

Every Canine in South Carolina to be Taxed 50 Cents.

Section 1. That there shall be imposed and assessed on all dogs in this State a capitation tax of 50 cents annually on each dog, the proceeds of which tax shall be expended for school purposes in the several counties in which it is collected.

Sec. 2. That dogs shall be returned in the same manner and at the same time that other property is returned for taxation.

Sec. 3. That the capitation tax on dogs provided for in this act shall be collected at the same time and in the same manner that other taxes are now collected.

Sec. 4. That the capitation tax provided for in this act shall be, and constitute, a first lien in favor of the State of South Carolina on all the property owned by any person who owes any such capitation tax.

Sec. 5. That the collection of the capitation tax provided for in this act may be enforced against any property owned by the debtor of such tax in the same way and manner as if it were a tax assessed on that specific piece of property.

Sec. 6. That a dog which is not returned for taxation as provided in this act shall be held to be property in any of the courts of this State.

Seeking Our Friendship.

Berlin, Feb. 13.—A semi-official answer to the criticisms of the German government "for allowing the United States to have anything to do with the negotiations between the co-operating powers and Venezuela," was issued today, which says: "The United States' participation in the settlement of the Venezuelan controversy is regarded in many quarters as unfortunate and as hindering the result of the negotiations. Certainly we would have reached the object desired more rapidly and better if we had been left alone with Venezuela, but every politician that knows the A. B. C. of this question knew absolutely in advance that we would not have been left alone. Means for eliminating the United States from the controversy of the European powers with Venezuela there were not and there are not now. A statesman who had acted on this assumption would have lost the game from the start. The patriotic publicists who call for treating this question according to the Bismarckian method, can rest assured that this method is being applied. Carefully nursing the friendship of the United States is a Bismarckian tradition, as documents testify. In his relations with the United States he never wore enriasser's boots, as now is so often demanded, and in the Samoa question he was perhaps less exacting than his present superiors.

THE BLOCKADE ENDED.

Powers Withdraw Ships From Venezuela's Coast.

THE POPULACE IS REJOICING.

Castro Takes Prompt Steps to Put Down the Revolution Without Respite to Rebels.

La Guayra, Feb. 15.—The blockade has been officially raised. The commander of the British cruiser Tribune, the only warship here, sent an officer ashore this morning with the announcement that the Tribune would leave this afternoon for Trinidad. The populace is wild with joy.

Caracas, Feb. 15.—Since 8 o'clock yesterday morning the Venezuelans were waiting impatiently the official intimation that the blockade had been raised. They knew that the blockade was to be raised but no notification came during all yesterday. This morning the British man of war Tribune was still at La Guayra enforcing the blockade and preventing the fishermen from leaving the harbor. At half past 9 this morning the government inquired of United States legation whether it had received any advices and received a reply in the negative.

The government was puzzled until 11 o'clock when the news reached Caracas that the captain of the Tribune had notified the authorities at La Guayra that the blockade was raised. At 3 o'clock the Tribune left for Trinidad.

News received from Venezuelan ports except Coro and Higuerote is that the foreign warships sailed away today. The government immediately on receiving the news that the blockade had been raised took military measures and sent troops in all directions to crush the revolution without giving the rebels a moment's respite.

Willemstad, Curacao, Feb. 15.—There is great rejoicing among all classes here at the end of the Venezuelan blockade. Many sailing vessels are lying in this port with cargoes for Venezuelan ports and they will leave tomorrow. A number of steamers are loading for the same destination. A great amount of coffee is awaiting transportation from Venezuela to the United States. No one is apparently more glad at the raising of the blockade than those on board the blockading squadron.

HESTER'S COTTON STATEMENT.

Comparative Receipts--The Mill Takings and the Movement--Stocks and Supply.

New Orleans, Feb. 13.—Secretary Hester's weekly cotton statement issued today shows for the 13 days of February an increase over last year of 140,000 an increase over the same period year before last of 125,000.

For the 186 days of the season that have elapsed the aggregate is ahead of the same days last year 150,000, and ahead of the same time year before last 609,000.

The amount brought into sight during the past week has been 247,141 against 192,828 for the same seven days last year, and 163,334 year before last.

The movement since Sept. 1 shows receipts at all United States ports to be 6,278,498 against 6,122,757 last year; overlaid across the Mississippi, Ohio and Potomac rivers to northern mills and Canada 795,364 against 819,059 last year; interior stocks in excess of those held at the close of the commercial year 232,022 against 420,849 last year; southern mills takings 1,663,500 against 976,368 last year.

The total movement since Sept. 1 is 8,489,324 against 8,339,123 last year and 7,880,774 year before last.

Foreign exports for the week have been 174,157 against 189,754 last year, making the total thus far for the season 4,737,018 against 4,800,792 last year.

The total takings of American mills, north and south and Canada thus far for the season have been 2,618,330 against 2,481,841 last year.

Stocks at the seaboard and the 29 leading southern interior centres have decreased during the week 48,174 bales against a decrease during the corresponding period last season of 72,545.

Including stocks left over at ports and interior towns from the last crop and the number of bales brought into sight thus far for the new crop the supply to date is 8,704,398 against 8,688,850 for the same period last year.

Omnibus Statehood Bill.

Washington, February 13.—The Senate committee on postoffices and postroads today decided to amend the postoffice appropriation bill by adding as an amendment the omnibus Statehood bill. The vote on the motion to amend was 5 to 3. The members who voted for the proposition are: Elkins, Mitchell and Penrose, Republicans, and Clay, Culberson, Dubois, Simmons and Tallaferro, Democrats. Those who voted in the negative were: Beveridge, Deboe, Dooliver, Lodge and Proctor, all Republicans, Senator Mason, chairman of the committee, presided and did not vote.

Cheraw, Feb. 13.—Your correspondent can now announce with certainty that the Bennettsville and Cheraw Railroad will be built. The grading was commenced a few days ago at Kollock's, a station just across the river from here, from which station the Bennettsville Road will branch off of the Seaboard Air Line Railway. The work will be pushed with all possible haste, and the company thinks that the road will be completed and in operation by the first of May. The road starts from the main line of the Seaboard at Kollock's. The trains will be run into Cheraw over the Seaboard tracks.

Richmond, Va., February 13.—The bill to place the Lee statue at the National Capitol was passed today almost unanimously. President Tyler's son spoke for it. There was a rancorous speech against it.

Clarksville, Tenn., February 13.—While endeavoring to protect his father and sister from the attacks of an infuriated brother Charles Davidson shot and instantly killed Al Davidson here last night. Charles Davidson served in the Philippine rebellion as a member of the 1st Tennessee volunteers.

BLIND ORATOR OF THE WEST.

Remarkable Record of a Judge of the Territory of Oklahoma.

THE POPULACE IS REJOICING.

Castro Takes Prompt Steps to Put Down the Revolution Without Respite to Rebels.

One of the most interesting characters in Oklahoma is Judge T. P. Gore, who represents the counties of Caddo and Comanche on the Territorial Legislature, says the Chicago Chronicle. He is known as "the blind orator," having been deprived of his sight early in boyhood, yet there is no man in the territory more learned and of a higher intellect. Gore started in politics in Southern Mississippi when a boy just emerging from his teens and has been a participant ever since. He was originally a Populist coming into his majority just at the time when the populist wave struck the country with full force. In the Southern counties and the country districts, as in many of the other Southern and Western States, that party polled a heavy vote, and in Gore's home county the third party took like wildfire. He is a born orator, and at 21 on the stump in that State encountered the leading politicians of the State, Congressmen, United States Senators and all others of note, challenging them for joint debates and meeting with enthusiastic receptions everywhere. His first speech of this kind is described by one who was resident of the same county (Webster) at that time.

The orator says: "Gore was rather green, so to speak, in appearance at that time. His trousers struck him half way between his ankles and knees and his coat sleeves were midway between his hands and his elbows. He had lived the greater portion of his life in a county through which until recent years no railroad had traversed, yet he was brilliant even at this age. The Democratic speaker who opposed Gore made the first talk, glorifying the party and ending with a quotation from the old hymn. 'We have landed many thousands and we will land many more.' It was Gore's turn next, and he took advantage of this last sentence of the Democrat to catch his audience. In a singing voice, imitating the tune by which the hymn is sung and by which it was known by every person in the immense audience, he repeated: 'We have landed many thousands and we will land many more.' 'Yes,' he said, 'but where have you landed them?' And then came the answer from the blind boy: 'In hell.' The words caught the crowd, and he was cheered enthusiastically. He launched forth into a speech, skimming his opponents and holding every man in his audience until the last words were uttered. Henceforward there were calls for Gore all over the State, and his popularity was a wonder.

Gore still retains his powers as an orator and during the recent campaign was considered the most eloquent man on the Oklahoma stump. He was elected to the Territorial Senate by a big majority. He is a learned lawyer, knows Latin and Greek like his alphabet, never lacks for classics to use in his speeches, and always is interesting. He is even talked of thus early in the game as a candidate for United States Senator when Oklahoma shall have been admitted.

Whereas, the following preamble and resolutions were adopted by the last Democratic Convention: Whereas, it has pleased God, in His providence, to call to His eternal rest our illustrious fellow-citizen, Wade Hampton; and, whereas, we the representatives of South Carolina, in Convention assembled, recalling his glorious example in war and in peace, and especially, mindful of his incalculable service to the State as her great leader and counselor in 1876, would put on record our sense of his noble career and our appreciation of his loss; therefore, be it

Resolved, That in the death of General Wade Hampton, South Carolina laments the loss of one of her greatest citizens and most distinguished soldier, and a leader and counselor in her direst necessity, to whom she owes a debt of lasting veneration and love. His name and fame are a heritage of which any people might be proud. And we further recommend that a suitable statue be erected by the State and placed in the State Capitol. Therefore, be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina: Section 1. That the sum of twenty dollars be appropriated, to be used in connection with ten thousand dollars to be raised by voluntary contribution. Said twenty thousand dollars shall not become available until the sum of ten thousand dollars shall be raised by voluntary contributions, and the same shall have been deposited in some bank within the State, to the credit of the commission to be appointed by the Governor, as is provided for in Section 2 hereof. The total amount shall be used for the purpose of erecting upon the Capitol grounds, an equestrian statue to the memory of Wade Hampton.

Sec. 2. That a commission of five citizens be appointed by the Governor to take charge of the funds appropriated in Section 1, when available, and also of all voluntary contributions which may be committed to them, and they shall take charge of the location, inscription and erection of the monument.

A Big Freshet.

Lynch's river is booming and is dangerous to cross over most of the bridges. Lawrence's, Lynch's and Anderson's bridges are impassable. A gentleman from below Lynch's river says that it is higher now than it has been in a number of years. The water is very nearly running over Welsh's bridge which is the highest bridge over Lynch's river in this section and is the only bridge that can be crossed. —Florence Times.

A fresh lot of Dennisons crepe paper just received—10c. per roll. Osteen's Book Store Feb. 3.

A large and attractive assortment of valentines is now open for inspection at Osteen's book store.

GREAT STORMS THROUGHOUT THE SOUTH.

Terrible Winds, Flood of Rain and Snow and Sleet.

ALL RIVERS FLOODED.

It is Feared That Intense Cold Will Prevail Far South to the Serious Injury of Fruit and Truck.

Louisville, Feb. 16.—Rain, snow and sleet combined in many places with high winds are prevailing conditions throughout the south tonight. Railroad traffic is delayed and in many cities the street railway service is almost at a standstill.

Reports from Tennessee, Arkansas, Mississippi, northern Texas, Alabama, Georgia and all parts of Kentucky tell of damages done by the blizzard: of swollen streams and suffering on the part of man and beast; of traffic of all kinds delayed and in some instances of loss of life.

In Louisville though the snow is only 4.1 inches deep, the snow has drifted so badly that several of the trolley lines have been abandoned, snow plows proving powerless.

The rise in the Alabama river continues and considerable damage is anticipated while the streams in the southern part of Kentucky are out of their banks. The Tennessee and Cumberland rivers are also rising. Tonight there was a general drop in the temperature throughout the south and southwest and intensely cold weather is feared.

ALARMING NEWS FROM GEORGIA.

Atlanta, Feb. 16.—A special to The Constitution from Royston, Ga., a station on the Southern railway, states that a furious wind storm passed over the town of Bowman, in Elbert county this afternoon demolishing several houses and killing and injuring a number of people. The wires are down and further particulars cannot be obtained.

STORM BEYOND THE MISSISSIPPI.

Memphis, Tenn., Feb. 16.—One of the worst sleet and snow storms that have visited this section for years prevailed today, causing serious delay to railway and street car traffic and interfering to some extent with telegraphic and telephonic communication in all directions. Trains are arriving from three to eight hours late. A steady rain all day Sunday turned into sleet last night. This was followed by a snow storm which during the day assumed the proportions of a blizzard. At 6 o'clock there was a decided drop in the temperature and the snow ceased falling. Reports from Arkansas, Mississippi and northern Texas tell of similar conditions. At Fort Worth and Dallas the snowfall was the heaviest in years. Trains are running on belated schedules and in many instances are annulled. Tonight it is clear and cold throughout the southwest.

HIGH WIND AT SAVANNAH.

Savannah, Ga., Feb. 16.—The heaviest windstorm ever experienced in this section prevailed this afternoon and tonight. The wind blew at the rate of 52 miles an hour from the west at 7.45 o'clock. No serious damage is reported. Freezing conditions are predicted for Tuesday night, and the fruit crop is in great danger of serious damage. The wind now has a velocity of 30 miles an hour.

STORMS AND BLIZZARDS OUT WEST.

A Norther Blows Throughout Texas for Nearly Twenty-four Hours.

Dallas, Tex., February 15.—Severe storms are reported from Amarillo and Hereford, Texas, and from the Indian Territory and Oklahoma. In the Territories considerable loss of stock is expected. A norther, accompanied by rain, has been blowing throughout the greater portion of Texas for the past twenty-four hours.

A STORM IN OKLAHOMA.

Guthrie, O. T., February 15.—The worst storm of the winter struck Oklahoma about midnight and has been raising with terrific ferocity ever since. Sleet and rain was followed today by a driving snow storm, a cold norther accompanying. On account of their good condition no damage to cattle or wheat is expected. The rain was preceded by a dense fog, the only one known to present residents of the Territory.

INDIAN TERRITORY VISITED.

Ardmore, I. T., February 15.—One of the worst sleet storms in years prevails throughout this section of the Indian Territory. Everything in this part of the Territory is covered with ice and it is believed that cattle men will suffer the loss of much stock.

SNOW IN MISSOURI.

Kansas City, Mo., February 15.—Snow has been falling in Kansas City and Western Missouri at intervals during the last thirty hours and it now covers the ground to a depth of seven inches, making it the heaviest fall of the winter. Through trains are generally late and street car traffic in this city is hampered.

A BLIZZARD IN KANSAS.

Topeka, Kansas, February 15.—The worst blizzard of the winter prevails over Kansas tonight. Snow, accompanied by a strong north wind, has been falling all day and tonight the temperature is near the zero mark. Cattle on the western ranges doubtless will suffer. Railroad traffic is retarded.

Roosevelt Insists on Crum.

Washington, Feb. 16.—President Roosevelt today expressed to those senators who called on him the hope that the senate would confirm the nomination of Dr. Crum to be collector of the port of Charleston, S. C. The president has no intention of withdrawing the nomination and desires that the senate take definite action on it.