

work, while in most districts the number of strikers has increased. At the beginning of this week the President of the Miners' Union claimed that 178,000 miners were on strike, and only 12,000 at work. This claim appears to have been substantially correct. The increase in the number of strikers, however, has not been entirely voluntary. For a fortnight past striking miners have marched in bodies upon mines in operation and called upon the men to quit. These bodies of miners, in Indiana, Illinois, and Pennsylvania, have not only threatened violence, but, according to the dispatches, have actually resorted to it. In certain mining districts in Illinois and Indiana they are reported to have established a mob law that no coal should be hauled over the railroads. Governor Altgelt has rightly called out several companies of militia to restore order. In Pennsylvania there was a conflict between the miners and the deputy sheriffs, in which half a dozen men—all miners—were killed and many were wounded. The coroner's jury found that the killing was in self-defense, but the miners have demanded that another jury investigate the conflict. Governor Pattison has visited the mining region and used his influence to secure order. In Alabama and Colorado, as well as in Illinois, the militia has been called out. The strike in Alabama is only indirectly connected with that in the North, and that in Colorado is entirely disconnected. In Alabama the miners struck many weeks ago against a twenty per cent. cut in wages. All mines were closed except those employing convicts. When the operators began to introduce gangs of negroes to take the strikers' places, disorders began, and show no signs of disappearing, except that the resort to terrorism has alienated some of the public sympathy which at first was so strongly on the side of the men. In Colorado the disorders have been at Cripple Creek, the new gold-mining camp. The conflict began as a lockout, the employers demanding nine hours' work instead of eight for the \$3 a day paid the men. Sunday it was reported that the destruction of one of the mines had been attempted. Governor Waite called out the militia, not only to prevent violence on the part of the strikers, but to disperse the armed bodies from other counties who had come to the aid of the operators. Altogether, the industrial situation to-day is more threatening than at any previous time in the history of this country. Indeed, it closely resembles that in Europe during the years of unprecedently low prices which followed the panic of 1847.

The Senate Investigating Committee has reported that Major Buttz, of North Dakota, was guilty of offering bribes to Senators Hunton and Kyle for votes against the Tariff Bill, but that there was no evidence of the existence of the very large fund which Major Buttz claimed to have behind him for the defeat of the measure. The correspondent of the Philadelphia "Press," who was authority for the report that Secretary Carlisle had dictated the new sugar schedules, refused to give his own authority for the highly sensational accusation. It is feared that he cannot be compelled to give the testimony demanded. Secretary Carlisle has not been summoned before the Committee. In the Senate the chief event of the week was the test vote, taken on a motion offered by Senator Teller, that the Tariff Bill be laid upon the table. The three Populists voted with the Democrats against this motion. The Treasury experts have completed their calculations of the *ad valorem* duties levied under the new Senate bill as compared with the House bill and the present law. According to these estimates, the Senate rates are actually a little lower than the House rates in the schedules of chemicals,

metals, and sundries. Taken as a whole, the rates in the Senate bill average $36\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., as against $35\frac{1}{2}$ for the House bill and $49\frac{1}{2}$ for the present law.

⊗

The most important political convention last week was that of the Republicans of Pennsylvania, which nominated General D. H. Hastings—a universally satisfactory candidate for Governor—and readopted the currency plank upon which the State was carried for ex-Congressman Grow by nearly 200,000 majority. This plank is worthy of some notice. It favors at the same time more inflation than Senator Cameron supported when he voted for the free coinage of silver, and more contraction than Senator Quay supported when he voted for the repeal of the Sherman Law. It demands the expansion of our currency until it shall amount to \$40 per capita, and it demands the accumulation of a largely increased gold reserve. The first of these propositions would add \$900,000,000 to our currency, and so inflate prices; while the second would increase the demand for gold, and so depress prices. Both Senators, therefore, may feel that they are enthusiastically indorsed. On the whole, however, it was an inflation programme, and indicates that Senator Quay's inconsistent vote in favor of coining the seigniorage was in response to a strong sentiment among his constituents against contraction. Second in importance to this Convention of Pennsylvania Republicans was that of the Alabama Democrats, which nominated Congressman Oates for Governor. Mr. Oates has supported the financial policy of President Cleveland, except as to the coining of the seigniorage. The Convention adopted a resolution indorsing "the wisdom and patriotism" of President Cleveland's administration, but expressing a unanimous belief in the "free coinage of silver whenever it can be done consistently with the maintenance of a sound and safe currency." The anti-Cleveland wing of the party made a hard fight for the nomination of a candidate pledged to free coinage at the present ratio, but obtained nothing except the indorsement of Senator Morgan for another term in the Senate. Some members of this wing predict that Captain Kolb, the Populist candidate, will carry the State. This seems unlikely, however, especially as Kolb is a protectionist, while most of the free-coinage farmers are also strong supporters of free trade.

⊗

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed to a second reading a bill authorizing any town to establish the Norwegian, or Gothenburg, system of dealing with the liquor traffic. The bill provides that on petition of a certain number of voters any city or town must submit the following question at the annual election at which its license policy is determined: "If licenses for the sale of intoxicating liquor are granted in this city (or town), shall they be granted under the Norwegian system?" The voters of every town have still the option of prohibiting any issue of licenses. But, in case they decide both in favor of license and also in favor of the Norwegian system, the law provides that all licenses shall be issued to a single corporation, the dividends of which are limited to five per cent. on the par value of the stock. This corporation is permitted to accumulate a reserve equal to the par value of the stock, and thereafter is permitted to determine to what charities its surplus profits shall be devoted. The number of saloons in cities is limited to one for every two thousand people—in other words, to about one-half their present number—and each saloon is to be in charge of a salaried manager. As compared with the present high-license system, there would be a lessening of the number of saloons, and a

lessening of the incentive of private profit to increase sales. The element of private profit is not, however, eliminated; for, although Massachusetts, better than any other State, keeps its corporations from issuing stock in excess of capital actually invested, nevertheless the fact that the proposed companies can declare five per cent. dividends on an investment almost as secure as Government bonds, and accumulate surplus profits equal to their capital stock, makes the investment an attractive one for idle capital. As compared with the recent South Carolina system, the proposed Norwegian plan neither prohibits the sale of liquor to be drunk on the premises nor prohibits its sale at night. It is not, therefore, to be regarded as an important step in advance. Mr. Thomas Moran, in an article in the "Charities Review," says that in Sweden the Gothenburg system came to be regarded as a means of revenue rather than of reform. There is danger that the same criticism will apply to the proposed system in Massachusetts. It is true that the law provides that the surplus profits, as in Norway, shall be devoted to charitable purposes not now supported by taxation. Yet the receipt of a large revenue for charities from the liquor traffic will make its suppression as difficult as the receipt of such revenue from lotteries has made their suppression difficult. Temperance reformers must be careful not to take a supposed first step in advance if the taking of this first step will hinder them in their further march. Unless the sale of liquor to be drunk on the premises can be prohibited to the proposed companies, we do not believe that temperance reformers ought to sanction their formation.

⊗

The inheritance-tax measure before the Massachusetts Legislature is hardly what the voters had a right to expect when both political parties pledged themselves in its favor. The rate proposed for direct inheritances is one per cent., and all real estate is exempt, as well as all estates valued at less than \$10,000. This last exemption is sound enough, since the income from \$10,000 is certainly no more than is needed to support a widow or provide for the education of the children. But the tax proposed upon such estates as are admittedly in excess of the demands of the comfort, culture, or character of the inheritors is justly criticised for its timidity by the Springfield "Republican," which contrasts it with the following rates proposed in the new British Budget:

Estates valued at:	Tax.
From \$500 to \$2,500.....	1 per cent.
From \$2,500 to \$5,000.....	2 per cent.
From \$5,000 to \$50,000.....	3 per cent.
From \$50,000 to \$250,000.....	4 per cent.
From \$250,000 to \$500,000.....	4½ to 5½ per cent.
From \$500,000 to \$5,000,000.....	6 to 7½ per cent.
Above \$5,000,000.....	8 per cent.

The rates in force in the Australian Colonies, as Sir William Harcourt pointed out in his Budget speech, are still more progressive than those proposed in Great Britain, and even the conservative English provinces in Canada have made the tax upon hurtfully large inheritances four times as heavy as that proposed in Massachusetts. It seems singular that these members of Greater Britain should have gone further than the United States in limiting the extent to which industrial power shall be hereditary. The protest of the Springfield "Republican" against the "timid and frail" proposition before the Massachusetts Legislature, though guarded, is, nevertheless, significant of the rapidly growing public sentiment which Dr. West's monograph on "The Inheritance Tax" and

Professor Seligman's on "Progressive Taxation" are bringing to the attention of the scientific world.

⊗

The New York Chamber of Commerce Rapid Transit Bill, with the referendum clause of the Trades-Union Bill incorporated, is now law. Governor Flower, in his statement of his reasons for signing the measure, points out that the powers given to the new Commissioners to contract, not only for a thirty-five years' lease of the new system, but for indefinite renewals of this lease, is a dangerous power; yet he urges very justly that the character of the Commissioners named, including such men as President Low, John H. Starin, and William Steinway, is sufficient guarantee that these powers will not be abused. Indeed, we can rely upon some of these men to stand firmly for the principle that the great public franchise involved shall remain the property of the public, to the end that it may confer the greatest possible public benefit rather than the greatest possible private profit. The only danger at this point is that the successors of these Commissioners may not be equally public-spirited. The objection to the new law, that it violates the State Constitution by providing that the proceeds of the city's bonds shall be loaned for thirty-five years to a private corporation, Governor Flower answers by urging that, inasmuch as the city is ultimately to own the road, it really issues its bonds to pay for the construction. This, of course, is a legal question, and, judging from the expressions of Mayor Gilroy, representing Tammany Hall, and Mr. Russell Sage, representing the Manhattan Elevated Railway Company, the courts are likely to be called upon to determine it. The portion of the bill to which the most objection has been raised in some quarters, the clause requiring a vote of the people before any contract is made, Governor Flower commends as not only constitutional but eminently sound. The question of municipal ownership or private ownership of the system which is to carry the people of New York City from their work to their homes is one that profoundly concerns them all, and in no way concerns the people of the rest of the State. It is, therefore, right that the voters of the city should determine it. Any other course would be inconsistent with the principle of local self-government; any other course would also be inconsistent with the principle of popular self-government.

⊗

From present appearances it is probable that the New York Constitutional Convention will need for its work all of the five months to which it is limited by law. The amendments and resolutions already introduced are numbered by the score, and the progress thus far made is small. Twenty-seven committees have been named. Among the most important are these: On the Judiciary (Elihu Root, Chairman); on Finances and Taxation (M. M. Acker, Chairman); on Corporations (C. A. Hawley, Chairman); on Suffrage (W. P. Goodelle, Chairman); on Cities (J. Johnson, Chairman); on Legislative Powers (C. P. Vedder, Chairman); on Railroads (J. C. Davies, Chairman). We believe that all the Chairmen of Committees are Republicans, as well as all the executive officers of the Convention. This organization on a political basis is not unnatural or without precedent. The hostile comment upon it from Democrats, as well as that upon the fact that the rules adopted give the political majority pretty sweeping power, would not have been so outspoken if it were not for some phrases in President Choate's opening address which had a non-partisan sound. It is safe to say that, were the other political party in a majority, precisely the same kind of organization (with a reversal of the partisanship) would