

The Outlook

A Family Paper

NEW SERIES OF THE CHRISTIAN UNION

Volume 49

For Week ending 12 May, 1894

Number 19



The Week



THE Democratic majority in the United States Senate has at last agreed upon a tariff measure that can be passed without the aid of Populist votes. It is, of course, very conservative, in order to satisfy the Eastern wing of the party. It is understood that Senators Gorman, Brice, McPherson, Smith, and Murphy will all support it, whether or not they succeed in striking out the income-tax clause.* Senator Hill alone refuses to support the party measure. It is believed that two of the Populists—Allen, of Nebraska, and Kyle, of South Dakota—will also vote for the bill in case the income tax is retained. Senator Peffer, of Kansas, will probably oppose it, on the ground that it discriminates against the producers of raw materials. In the House, it will be remembered, every Populist vote, except that of Mr. Newlands, the Nevada millionaire, was in favor of the Wilson Bill. In the Senate the "silver" Republicans have generally declared themselves in favor of the income tax, and there is little probability that it will be taken out of the bill, though it has been materially modified.

The Massachusetts House of Representatives has passed a resolution in favor of giving the General Court power to submit laws to the decision of the voters affected thereby. The resolution was carried by a vote of 154 to 2. It will be remembered that in the last campaign both parties in Massachusetts indorsed the Referendum, and the Republican party indorsed the Initiative also. It is hardly likely that the form of referendum proposed in the resolution will satisfy those who urged the State conventions to accept the Swiss principle that the mass of the people should have the same direct control over State matters that the New England town-meeting gave them over local matters. Nevertheless, the passage of the resolution by such a majority was an important victory for the advocates of direct legislation.—Mayor Matthews, of Boston, has written a strong protest against a bill before the State Legislature giving certain streets in Boston in perpetuity to a private corporation operating a rapid-transit system, and lending them the public credit to an amount perhaps sufficient to build the system. If the proposed system should succeed, the city would get three per cent. interest and the private corporation the rest of the gains. If it should fail, the city would bear the loss.—In re-leasing street railway franchises in Detroit, Michigan, last week, the city succeeded in stipulating that eight tickets should be sold for a quarter. This means a saving of more than ten dollars a year to every person riding to and from his work.

Our readers are aware that a coal strike of extensive proportions is going on, including substantially all the

bituminous coal fields in the United States. Professor Edward W. Bemis, who gives on another page an account of this strike and its causes, is—as, indeed, his article shows—a man of judicial temper; he is also an expert and an acknowledged authority in industrial science. We should be glad if those of our readers who think a strike is never justified would read this article through, weigh its careful statements, and ask themselves the question, and answer it to themselves, What would they do if they were in the situation of these 140,000 miners, whose earnings have been brought down, by dishonorable violation of contract, to starvation rates, injuring the employer and ruining the employed? Unless we are to adopt in this country the somewhat radical doctrine, to which we may yet be driven, that the contents of the mines belong to the community and are not subject to private control, and, therefore, the rate of wages may be fixed by legislation; or the less radical doctrine that in all cases of disagreements with corporations the laborer may compel the submission of his claims to arbitration—a strike appears to be the only remedy in such a condition of affairs as Professor Bemis describes.

All accounts agree that in the rioting which took place last week both in Cleveland and in the Pennsylvania coke regions the mobs of rioters were made up almost wholly of foreign-born laborers. In Cleveland, where labor troubles have been fomenting for years, a crowd of several thousand men (in large proportion Bohemians), armed with clubs, marched through the streets, attacked factory after factory, drove out the workingmen by force, broke windows here and there, and assaulted all who opposed them. Somewhat tardily, the police and military suppressed the disorder. In the coke region much the same course of violence was followed; the mobs were made up mainly of Hungarians and Slavs, and women played a prominent part in the scenes of violence. The main point of attack was the Painter Works, near Scottdale. Here the mine superintendent, Mr. Sanford White, was seriously injured, and several both of the strikers and the defenders of the mine were shot, or hit with stones, or cut with axes. Rioting of the same kind occurred in other places, and though as we write the region is comparatively peaceful, there is great danger of further trouble. How many more recruits for such mobs shall we import before we put an effective and discriminating check on immigration?

The strike on the Great Northern Railroad, which failed of settlement week before last because the men would not consent to the proposed method of selecting the arbitration committee, was last week settled by a committee appointed by the commercial bodies of Minneapolis and St. Paul. The decision reached was that seventy-five per cent. of the reduction in wages made since August 1, 1893, should be restored to the men. The settlement was regarded as a substantial victory for the men, but accepted

in the best spirit by President Hill, of the Great Northern. President Debs, of the Railway Union, after thanking President Hill for the uniform courtesy shown during the strike, said: "I hope that whenever trouble occurs in the future, arbitration may take effect before any radical action begins. I am sure the precedent here established will endure." President Hill in his reply said: "I feel confident in the prospect of approaching all questions peaceably and settling all questions fairly and justly. It is better that they should be settled with all the interests involved, pro and con, fairly presented." In a few hours all signs of the strike which had tied up four thousand five hundred miles of road had disappeared.

The proposed woman-suffrage amendment to the Constitution in New York State has diverted public attention from other and more immediately important matters. We recommend those readers in the State of New York who believe, with us, that the State ought to control all expenditure of State moneys, to sign and circulate for signatures the following petition, to be presented to the approaching Convention. The petition can be forwarded either directly to any delegate to the Convention in sympathy with this movement, or to the Rev. James M. King, D.D., Methodist Book Concern, New York:

"We, the undersigned, citizens of the State of New York, most earnestly and respectfully petition your honorable body to adopt the following Amendment to our State Constitution, and submit the same to the people for their approval. We believe that this Amendment becoming a part of the organic law will avert many perils and contribute to the permanent weal of the Commonwealth:

"Add to Article VIII. of the Constitution of the State of New York, as now in force, at the end thereof, the following:

"Sec. 12. No law shall be passed respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, nor shall the State, or any county, city, town, village, or other civil division, use its property or credit, or any money raised by taxation, or otherwise, or authorize either to be used, for the purpose of founding, maintaining, or aiding, by appropriation, payment for services, expenses, or in any other manner, any church, religious denomination, or religious society, or any institution, society, or undertaking, which is wholly, or in part, under sectarian or ecclesiastical control."

The suffragists of Brooklyn have issued a counter-statement giving reasons for the suffrage, in reply to the ten reasons given by the anti-suffragists against it.—The anti-suffragists of New York City have reinforced their protest against the suffrage by a circular giving reasons against it, somewhat after the fashion of the Brooklyn women.—A meeting of anti-suffragists has been held in Albany, in which prominent society ladies took an active part. The resolutions against the suffrage to be presented to the Convention were drawn and presented to the meeting by Mr. J. V. Pruyn.—A great social meeting for the suffrage was held last week at Sherry's, so crowded as to require an overflow meeting. Addresses in favor of the suffrage were made by Dr. Rainsford, Dr. William H. Draper, and Dr. Arthur Brooks.—A large mass-meeting on the same side was held in Cooper Union Monday night.—Dr. Cuyler, the temperance veteran, does not approve woman suffrage; he does not think it will help the temperance cause. An article of his in the "Evangelist" is reprinted by the anti-suffragists of Brooklyn.—The anti-suffragists of New York have reprinted the editorials of The Outlook.—The Woman Suffrage League makes a call for funds, which may be sent to Mrs. Emilie S. Van Bell, 10 East Fourteenth Street, New York City.—Mr. Thomas C. Platt is said to be working vigorously for woman suffrage. Does this rumor, and the reported adhesion of Chauncey M. Depew, indicate that woman suffrage is to be

a Republican policy?—The anti-suffragists have opened a branch headquarters at 150 West One Hundred and Twenty-fifth Street, where protests may be signed.—We do not learn of any indications that the agitation of this subject has extended to any considerable extent beyond a few of the larger cities. The call of the New York "Evening Post" for information as to rural and village sentiment gets no reply.

The International Bimetallic Conference held in the Mansion House in London last week was attended by so many conservative men of distinction as to encourage the advocates of the joint standard throughout the world. There were present two or three ex-Governors of the Bank of England, the President of the Bank of Netherlands, and many eminent financiers and economists from India, Australia, and the Continent of Europe. The most important address made was that of Mr. Balfour, the Conservative leader in the House of Commons. Mr. Balfour said, in the course of his remarks, that "there were three questions with which bimetallism had to cope. They were these: Was a double standard possible? Was it just? Was it expedient? Scientists and economists answered these questions with an overwhelming 'Yes.'" Mr. Balfour added that he saw signs of a change in English opinion. The leading commercial men had abandoned their former hostility to bimetallism and come to the conclusion that the only way to meet the grave danger was to restore silver to its former place as a circulating medium. A letter was read from Archbishop Walsh, of Dublin, to the effect that the restoration of silver to the currency was indispensable to the welfare of the Irish tenantry, the burden of whose rents was steadily increasing with the increasing value of gold. A telegram was received from Washington, signed by Senators Sherman, Allison, Lodge, Voorhees, Hill, Gorman, Brice, and several other opponents of free coinage, declaring that the American Congress was almost unanimously in favor of remonetizing silver at a ratio to be fixed by international agreement. All of this looked so encouraging to those who have insisted that the supply of gold alone is grossly insufficient to furnish the world with an adequate and honest currency that there is danger that they may exaggerate the unanimity of opinion in their favor. It needs to be stated that the men in England who have spoken so encouragingly are the few who have thought upon this question, and that the London press is almost uniformly against them—the "Times" going so far as to attack Mr. Balfour for becoming an intemperate "apostle of fads." Some of our own Senators named above also favor a change of ratio before silver is restored to the currency. Senator Sherman even speaks of accepting the present market ratio, though the entire silver product at present prices is already absorbed, and the change would add practically nothing to the world's supply of money. There is evidently a long fight ahead before silver is restored to its old place in the currency, and the London Conference can only be regarded as a most encouraging report of progress.

The fact that Castelar has publicly announced that, in his view, the monarchy is, for the time at least, the best attainable form of government for Spain, does not mean that the Spanish leader is a traitor to the cause of free government, and the storm of abuse which has broken upon him is absurd. Castelar has declared for years past that a republic cannot be maintained under existing conditions in Spain. In his view, as in the view of every thought-