

from 5 to 6 per cent., 8.71 per cent. paid from 6 to 7 per cent., and 6.67 per cent. paid from 7 to 8 per cent. The amount of dividends declared during the year was \$156,735,784, which is equivalent to a dividend of 5.26 per cent. on the amount of stock on which some dividend was declared. The amount of dividends declared in 1900 was \$139,597,972. The amount of mortgage bonds paying no interest was \$198,675,968 or 39.35 per cent.; of miscellaneous obligations, \$78,072,489, or 14.30 per cent., and of income bonds, \$85,156,746, or 38.90 per cent.

For the year ending June 30, 1901, the gross earnings from the operation of the railways in the United States arising from the operation of 195,570 miles of line were \$1,588,526,037, being \$101,481,223 more than for the fiscal year 1900. The operating expenses were \$1,030,397,270, having increased in comparison with the year preceding \$68,968,759. Gross earnings from operation per mile of line were \$401 more than for the year ending June 30, 1900 being \$8,123.

The income from operation, or the amount representing the difference between gross earnings and operating expenses, commonly termed net earnings, was \$558,128,767, this item showing an increase as compared with the previous year of \$32,512,463. The average amount of net earnings per mile of line for the year ending June 30, 1901, was \$2,855, and for 1900, \$2,729. The amount of income received from sources other than operation was \$179,746,449. Included in this amount are the following items: Income from lease of road, \$111,637,907; dividends on stocks owned, \$28,822,788; interest on bonds owned \$12,055,312 and miscellaneous income \$27,220,442. The total income of the railways, \$737,875,215—that is the income from operation increased by income from other sources—is the item from which fixed charges and analogous items are deducted in order to ascertain the amount available for dividends. The total deductions of this character amounted to \$496,363,898, leaving \$241,511,317 as the net income for the year available for dividends or surplus.

The amount of dividends declared during the year (including \$10,752, other payments from net income) was \$156,746,536, leaving as the surplus from the operations of the year ending June 30, 1901, \$84,764,781. The surplus for the year 1900 was \$87,657,933. In the amount stated for deductions from income, \$496,363,898, are embraced the following items: Salaries and maintenance of organization, \$532,299; interest accrued on funded debt \$262,094,838; interest on current liabilities, \$5,526,572; rents paid for lease of road, \$112,644,822; taxes, \$50,944,372; permanent improvements charged to income account, \$31,939,761; other deductions, \$32,681,234.

#### THE MINER'S CASE AND ITS ANSWER.

If the case of the striking miners were truthfully set forth in the plea published in their defence by the strike leader, they would deserve to have the general sympathy of the public. He affirms that he proposed arbitration to the presidents of the coal companies on the 8th May last, but that his proposal "has never been given to the public in the exact form in which he submitted it." This would seem rather a reflection on himself than on the mine owners, for it was his duty to lay such a proposition before the public. He further declares that, "the only response he received was an informal intimation that there was nothing to arbitrate." This is wholly untrue; the proposal and answers to it were furnished the press at the same time, and most of the newspapers published the matter in full, as did an official publication of the American government.

On May 9 a leading mine owner sent a long reply to Mr. Mitchell, offering to place the firm's books for examination by experts in order to verify the operators' claim that it was impracticable to advance wages. The message to Mr. Mitchell entered fully and argumentatively into the whole question; yet he says, "the only response was an informal intimation that there was nothing to arbitrate"! Mr. Mitchell has evidently no respect for the truth or a memory abnormally short, or eccentric. A writer in the "Evening Post" who has made a thorough study of this question says:—

"It is an illustration of the beneficence of the union that numbers of striking miners are now working upon a railroad at \$1.25 per day for ten hours' work. As miners they earned twice as much in half the time. Even in the short hours which the unions permit the miners to work, they earn not less than \$2.50. Their compensation, therefore, is about \$2.50 for a five-hour day, and not, as Mr. Mitchell states, \$1.42 for a ten-hour working day. It should be noted that Mr. Baer has stated the average of the Reading Company at \$1.89 for all employees, including boys. As Mitchell declined to examine into the facts, this statement must be accepted as true. As regards his statement that the men work never to exceed two hundred days in any one year, attention should again be called to the fact that during the last two years there has never been a voluntary suspension of work upon the part of the companies. They have been desirous at all times for constant and steady production. Whatever interruption has taken place has been due to local strikes and voluntary holidays. At the precise time when Mr. Mitchell chose to order the strike, production was going on with all possible activity."

The miners are limited by the unions to six cars and to five hours per day and a non-union man is not allowed to work more than this, to prevent which there have been rioting and murders. All persons, however, who have any respect for personal liberty,