

which were the lowest points during these two years of low prices. In December of 1884 wheat also declined to 40 below 70c per bushel. To find another instance of prices having dropped below 70c, we have to go back as far as 1862, in January of which year prices touched 60c per bushel. In August of the same year, however, the price was up to 92 1/2c.

THE GREAT STRIKE.

The strike in the United States which has almost absorbed public attention of late, in this country as well as in the republic, is perhaps the most remarkable labor disturbance which has ever occurred on this continent. Indeed it may be described as the most important struggle between labor and capital of modern times which has taken place in any part of the world. It is fitly spoken of as "the great strike" by the press of the day. The strike originated over two months ago, or rather, the disturbing feature which led to the present widespread trouble occurred about that time. The strike started among the employees of the Pullman car company, and involved at the beginning about 2,000 persons only. The cause was a reduction in wages. In order to try and force a settlement of the dispute, the American Railway Union undertook a boycott of the Pullmans. This involved nothing less than the ordering of the railways to discontinue moving Pullman cars. This order was refused and the strike began on the railways. Thus a dispute which at first concerned only a comparatively limited number of employees in the Pullman car works, was extended to the vast field of railway transportation. The Illinois Central was the first road to which the strike was extended, and it spread rapidly from one road to another handling Pullman cars, until between twenty and thirty roads were involved in the contest, including a mileage of over 50,000 miles. The strike extended to Winnipeg on the north, tying up the Northern Pacific and its Manitoba connections and branches. Westward it extended to the Pacific coast and eastward as far as Cincinnati. Chicago has all along been the central point in the great struggle, and in that city for a time violence held sway. Hundreds of cars were burned by a riotous mob, and a good deal of railway and other property was destroyed. Order was only restored after the city had been practically placed in the hands of a large military force and the mob had been given a taste of leaden bullets from the arms of the military.

The strikers may not have been directly responsible for the mob violence. Indeed, it seems probable that the mob was largely composed of persons not directly connected with the strike. Indirectly, however, the rioting, bloodshed and destruction of property connected therewith is a part of the strike. There is also the vast loss of goods, including perishable products, which have been detained in transit until destroyed. The loss of this nature is enormous. There is also a great loss through the closing of factories, owing to the inability to obtain supplies. Labor suffers proportionately quite as severely as capital. There is not only the loss of wages of the men directly connected with the struggle, but there is also the loss of wages to the large

number of industrial and other workers who have been temporarily thrown out of employment as a result of the strike, by the enforced closing of factories and the stoppage of business. The railway interest is one of such vast importance, that an interference with the railways very speedily affects every other interest. The stoppage of the railways simply paralyzes every other interest, and speedily spreads ruin and even starvation throughout the land. If the labor organizations could tie up all the railways of the country, even for a brief time, the effect upon the country would be beyond comprehension.

Many are outspoken in condemning the extending of the strike to the railways. They point to the fact that the railways had no disputes with their employees, and it was unjust to the railways to injure them in order to strike at the Pullmans. At the same time it must be remembered that labor has no other weapons at its command than the strike and the boycott. Organized labor as a whole is bound to stand together and uphold its individual interests, just the same as the state is bound to protect each individual citizen, otherwise it loses its principal power as a general organization. At the same time, the ill effects of strikes, even upon labor itself, cannot be disregarded. Labor suffers equally with capital in about every strike and even where labor wins, the gain seldom is equal to the loss from the strike. In arbitration undoubtedly rests the true solution of labor difficulties, and labor organizations should work to secure the official recognition of this principle. While organized labor is certainly a powerful factor to deal with, its power is only sufficient to inflict great loss upon corporations and sometimes the public in general, including labor itself, without accomplishing the desired end. It is evident that some recognized tribunal must be established, before which labor disputes can be taken for settlement, in order to prevent the continuous recurrence of these disastrous strikes, which as a rule only result in loss to all concerned.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

FARMERS who have not secured their binder twine in some sections of the United States, where harvest will soon be starting, are greatly alarmed owing to the fact that the great strike is preventing the delivery of supplies.

It is a hopeful sign to hear of new creameries starting in various sections of the country this year. A number of new creameries and cheese factories have been established in Manitoba this season, and at many other points the settlers are moving to secure a butter or cheese factory. The travelling dairies which are now operating in the country, under the direction of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, should accomplish a good work, not only in stirring up an interest in dairying matters, but also in educating the farmers into the way of making good butter. There is nothing which will give greater stability to a country than a large dairy interest. It is a never failing source of wealth, and a great preventative against hard times. The greater development of dairying we have in Manitoba, the greater will be the solidity and stability of the country.

THE time is drawing near for the opening of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, which takes place during the week beginning on July 23. The exhibition will remain open during the entire week, but the opening and closing days will be mainly for the convenience of exhibitors in placing their exhibits at the opening, and removing them on the closing day. So far as the general public is concerned, this arrangement gives visitors four full days to enjoy the exhibition. This change will be a great convenience to exhibitors from a distance, who will not be compelled to remain so long away from home. Arrangements are progressing favorably, and the promise is for a very successful exhibition. In the attractions department there will be plenty of amusement provided for the visitors. About 230 entries have been made for the horse races, which is said to be the largest number ever made for any races in the province.

THE bill to ratify the French treaty received its second reading at Ottawa on Tuesday, which virtually means that the bill has been passed. It was carried on second reading by a vote of 120 to 41. Mr. Foster said there had been doubt as to two points, as to what was meant by fish "in their natural form" and whether soap in the treaty included common soaps. It had been decided that the first phrase covered canned fish and the latter castile soap only. Mr. McGregor, representing the native wine interest, which is opposed to the treaty, gave figures of production of grapes in Canada in the wine districts. There were 13,000 acres planted with 4,000,000 vines, producing 47,000,000 pounds of grapes. Of this 15,000,000 pounds went into producing 2,000,000 gallons, which with the plant used was of the value of nearly \$2,000,000. There was no advantage of freight to the native wine grower, he said, because wine was carried cheaper from France to Montreal than it is from Windsor, Ontario, to Montreal.

Silver.

Bradstreets, of New York, says:—While the eastern demand for silver is quiet, the supply of silver both here and in London has been limited, and quotations have consequently been firm and unchanged. Silver prices—London, July 5, 28 11 16d; New York, 63 1/2c.

Insurance and Financial Note.

Alex. Macdonald, of Winnipeg, returned yesterday from an eastern trip connected with the founding of new agencies in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick for the Great West Life Assurance company. Mr. Brock went over the same ground in a previous journey, but left his work unfinished to return and discuss with the board the taking over of a small insurance company in St. John's, New Brunswick, called "The Dominion Savings Association of St. John's," and absorbing the same into the Great West. This has practically been done and Mr. Macdonald reports a very successful business trip. He parted from Mr. Brock at Halifax, leaving the latter to continue the opening up of the new agencies in all the principal towns of the eastern provinces. R. T. Riley, who was east at the same time, partly in the interest of the Great West Life, is expected to return Saturday, July 14.