

of preceding news reports was presented. It grew darker as the investigation proceeded. The testimony showed that the strike breakers were confined against their will, furnished with bad food and roughly treated; that they had been gathered up in the big cities, offered tempting wages, and told that there was no strike on; and that they were compelled by threats of shooting to remain and work after discovering that there was a strike on. It was testified also that scores of the strike breakers wished to get away but could not, and this was confirmed on the 27th when 200 walked out under Federal protection. Upon being interviewed they explained that they were given bad food, subjected to cruel treatment, and forced to work when they tried to quit. They said that only 300 remained in the plant. Further sworn testimony was given in the Federal proceedings on the 28th, which confirmed what had been given before as to misrepresentation in employment and cruelty and forcible detention at the plant. The desertions from the plant continued, and the dispatches of the 29th reported that the plant had totally ceased operations.

* *

The Race Question in the South African Federation.

Mail advices show that the passage through second reading in the British House of Commons (p. 803) of the bill for the enactment of the draft Constitution for a federated South Africa, has not failed to arouse protests in Liberal England against the provisions of the Constitution which deny elective rights to the large native population of the South African States. Among the protestants in the House were Sir Charles Dilke and Mr. Ellis Griffith. India (published in London) says:

Regarded from any point of view, the situation is extraordinary. A scheme for South African Union is drawn up by representatives of the four colonies, approved by the Colonial Parliaments, and submitted in the form of a bill to the Imperial legislature. It contains two provisions which embody a principle hitherto unheard of in the British Empire; namely, that persons of color, persons not of European descent, shall be deprived not only of the right to vote in the elections for the Union parliament, but also of the right to sit as elected representatives. The essence of the matter is here. The bill does not leave it to the discretion of South Africa to decide whether Africans or Asiatics shall or shall not, now or in the future, be given the franchise or permitted to sit in the Union parliament. That would be an arguable position, on the theory many times asserted during the debate, that South Africa must be given absolute freedom to manage its own affairs and to find its own solution of racial and other difficulties. What the bill does is to lay down . . . that the colored citizens of the South African Union shall be deprived, apparently for all time, of the elementary rights of citizenship. The embodiment of this principle in an act of Imperial legislation represents a change of the greatest possible moment in the rela-

tions between the colored races and the British Empire.

* *

Progressive China.

Reports of advance in China (pp. 781, 804, 825) are emphasized by the accounts of Professor T. C. Chamberlain and Professor E. D. Burton of the University of Chicago, who have been traveling in little known parts of the Chinese Empire. According to the Chicago papers the two professors have talked in this way of the city of Chentu in western China:

"This city of Chentu simply amazed me," said Professor Chamberlain. "Its streets were cleaner than those of Paris—and I had just come from Paris. They were as clean as those of Berlin, which has been called the cleanest city in the world. The street lighting system is as good as that of the average American city."

"The head of the street cleaning department," put in Dr. Burton, "had organized an efficient corps of sweepers, and once a day the pavements were gone over carefully with brooms. The dust was carted away in bags on the backs of coolies. We got acquainted also with the chief of police and the superintendent of schools. The former had just put into force a law keeping all beggars from the streets. Vagrants who were arrested he sent to a workhouse, and after a few weeks, when they had learned the rudiments of a trade, turned them out to make a living. The superintendent of schools had torn out all the archaic examination cells and had replaced them with modern buildings, in which law, mining, engineering and a wide range of other studies were taught. These Chinese appeared to be strong, efficient, intellectual men, with the interests of their native land at heart. The coolies who come to America are no more representative of the educated Chinese than an ignorant slave of the ante-bellum days would be of the average American."

"Look out for a war with China," added Professor Chamberlain. "China is a country which we should all fear. It is a nation with over four hundred millions of people, and if their ire were to be sufficiently aroused they would be a menace to the combined military forces of the world."

NEWS NOTES

—The American Bar association met at Detroit on the 24th.

—An earthquake did much damage near Siena, Italy, on the 25th.

—The National Conservation Congress opened at the Seattle exposition on the 26th.

—The annual convention of the Association of State and National Food and Dairy Departments at Denver completed its work on the 27th.

—By rearrangement of course, the Mauretania has made the passage from New York to Queenstown in 4 days, 14 hours, and 27 minutes, beating her previous best passage, which held the record, by 2 hours and 53 minutes. By a change of English port of