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The Miner's Demands. The commission appointed to settle the differences between the mine workers and the mine owners have taken hold of the matter in good earnest. They spent a week in visiting the mines to see for themselves the conditions under which the miners are compelled to do their work. President Mitchell in behalf of the Miner's Association has presented a statement to the commission of what the miners demand. 1. "An increase of 20 per cent. upon the prices paid during the year 1901 to employees performing contract or piece work. 2. A reduction of 20 per cent. in hours of labor, without any reduction of earnings, for all employees paid by the hour, day or week. 3. The adoption of a system by which coal shall be weighed and paid for by weight wherever practicable, the minimum rate per ton to be 60 cents for a legal ton of 2242 lbs. The differentials now existing at the various mines to be maintained. 4. The incorporation in an agreement between the United mine workers of America and the Anthracite coal companies, of the wages which shall be paid, and the conditions of employment which shall obtain, together with satisfactory methods of adjustment of grievances which may arise from time to time to the end that strikes and lock-outs may be unnecessary." The coal operators will make a formal reply to these demands and present their side of the question.

United States Elections. The elections in the United States have resulted favorably to the Republican party. The House of Representatives is Republican though with a smaller majority. The Senate will remain Republican. The contest in New York and Pennsylvania was very keen. In the former state both parties expected to win by a large plurality of votes. The result of the polling confirmed Odell as Governor for another term. The Democrats made large gains in New York City and Greater New York. These were not sufficient to overcome the large vote against the party throughout the State. In Pennsylvania the interest was heightened because of the great coal strike in that state. The part the President played in the settlement of that industrial conflict had something to do in securing the triumph of the party of which he is the honored head. The result of the elections seem to indicate the retention of power by the present party when an appeal shall be made to the electorate. But a united Democracy with an honest leader may surprise some of the knowing ones. It will be hard to stem the growing popularity of the President should he be nominated for a second term.

Baffin Land. This is an island north of Labrador, which has just been explored, under the direction of the Geological Survey of Canada by De Robert Bell of Ontario. It appears to be the third largest island in the world, having an area of 300,000 square miles, and exceeded in extent only by Australia and Greenland. It has a wonderful system of inland waters and is the possessor of enormous glaciers. Twelve harbors were discovered roomy enough for large vessels. What further investigation and exploration may make known it is hard to say. It would not be improbable if valuable minerals lie concealed awaiting the advent of the adventurous in search of wealth.

German Enterprise. One of the most important factors in the development of Asia Minor, is the construction of the railway from Constantinople to Bassorah, near the head of the Persian

gulf. It is to be built by a German company, is 2000 miles in length, and runs through Anatolia, Mesopotamia, and the middle Euphrates region. About one-fifth is already completed. The country through which the road passes has long been shut out from the commercial world and would continue to be so were it not for the enterprise of nations seeking new avenues for trade—it may be with other ends in view. When this line is in operation with some tributaries already in possession of the company, Germany, with preferential rates will control the chief markets of Asia Minor and countries farther East. Already the two great distributing centres, Constantinople and Smyrna, are controlled by the Germans. By means of this railway German goods will be able to pass eastward over the Bosphorus in German freight cars and thence over German controlled roads with through rates in through cars to India and Persia, while goods from other countries will have to be transferred either at Constantinople or Syria. The advantage to German manufacturers is obvious.

The Doukhobors. A deep interest centres upon this people at the present time, because of the strange conduct of some among them. Through the efforts of Count Tolstoi they were aided to emigrate from their homes in Russia to Western Manitoba. They have an aversion to the shedding of blood and consequently to military duty, which was their reason for leaving Russia. In their new home they were permitted to choose their own diet, from which they excluded only meat, and then all animal products, such as milk, butter, cheese, eggs, etc. Later they refused to use leather for harness, boots, etc., and from this there was only a step to the abandonment of woollen clothing. But this did not satisfy. They came to the conclusion that it was a heinous offense to use one of God's creatures as a beast of burden or for any other purpose. This led to the cultivation of their farms by hand labor only. The result has been neglected farms and their occupants threatened with starvation. Their clothing is exclusively cotton, and for their feet rubber boots or knit shoes. Their food consists of bread and water, such vegetables as they can raise by hand labor and wild berries and herbs. To face the rigors of a Manitoba winter with such clothing and such food must result in much suffering and many deaths. It appears that a number of these peoples are on their way East, it is said to Winnipeg, looking for 'the coming Christ.' A very grave problem before the Manitoba and Dominion Governments is awaiting solution. It matters little how these people were brought here. They are here and fellow citizens. It looks as if they may become charges on the Government. To each family 160 acres of land was given, and each immigrant a bonus of \$6 and shelter through the winter. It must be remembered however, that this crusade on the part of this people is by no means general. There are 8,000 of them in the country, and the crusaders so called, number only about 600. It is hoped that they may be led to see the folly of their course and return to their homes wiser, if sadder men.

The Persian Lamb and Russian Bear. The relation of Persia to Europe is of great importance. The visit of the Shah to the European courts was an event of some significance. Both Russia and Great Britain are deeply interested in this country and perhaps for the same reasons. It is a "buffer state" between Russia and British Asia. In one of the Russian newspapers some time ago, immediate action was urged upon the Government to offset British and German activity in Persia, say-

ing: "It is through Persia only that Russia can outflank the Germans in Mesopotamia and the British in Beluchistan and India. The influence of Russia in Persia is on the increase, her trade has taken possession of Persian markets, she has obtained railroad concessions and has loaned money, and in doing so has exacted a pledge from Persia never to borrow from any other country. And the fact that Russia has been negotiating for the lease of a port on the Persian gulf or on the Gulf of Oman has not had a very soothing effect upon British statesmen." The air is by no means clear.

Liquor Bills on the Increase. The report of the Inland Revenue department shows that the consumption of liquor per capita for Canada was 796 gallons, the largest since 1885; of beer 5102 gallons, the largest since confederation; of wine .090 gallons, the largest since 1895; of tobacco 2404 pounds, the largest since 1885. The quantity of spirits produced in the year was 3,234,147 gallons, as compared with 2,652,708 gallons the year before. The quantity on which duty was paid was 3,123,430 gallons, the largest the country ever knew. This may be good news for some people, but it is anything but cheering to moral reformers—to men and women having the highest good of the community at heart. Certain it is, that this is no time to slacken effort for restraining the sale and manufacture and use of intoxicating liquors.

Decay of the Sphinx. The great Egyptian Sphinx is said to be rapidly decaying. This appears to be due to a change in the temperature produced by irrigation works. Now there are fifteen to twenty days of rain in Egypt annually, when formerly there was only a modest shower of an hour's length. But the rains have so damaged this colossus of stone, that its crumbling away is considered only a question of years,—after it has withstood for centuries, the attrition of wind and storm. The Sphinx stands at Gizeh about a quarter of a mile southeast of the Great Pyramid. It is much older than the pyramids and was originally built as an emblem of the Egyptian Sun-god. It has a representation of a human head, with a lion's body, hewn from the natural rock. The body is 140 ft. long. The head measures 30 ft. from the top to end of chin and is 14 ft. wide. The body has for ages been buried in the sand, the head and shoulders only being exposed. Recent excavations have shown a long, rock cut passage composed of an inclined plain and steps leading down in front to the extended fore paws of the Sphinx which are 50 feet long. Between the paws were found an altar, a crouching lion with fragments of others and three large inscribed tablets, one fourteen feet high against the Sphinx' breast, and two others extending from it on each side, thus forming a sort of shrine. No interior chamber has been discovered.

The Coffee Plant in Mexico. The coffee plant though indigenous to Asia and Africa is now cultivated to a greater extent in America than in all the rest of the world. Mexico is the most northern and Paraguay the most southern of the countries in America that pursue this industry with profit. Brazil is the greatest coffee producing country on the globe. The cultivation of coffee was first carried on in Java by the Dutch between the years 1680 and 1690. The industry was introduced to America at Martinique by the French in 1817 and a year later the Dutch engaged in it at Surinam. It was not until 1818 that the plant was cultivated in Mexico. It is said that certain parts of this country are admirably adapted to its culture, where the yield in quality at least, is equal to the best varieties of Arabia. The plant thrives only between the parallels 15 degrees north and 15 degrees south of the equator. Its cultivation requires a moist atmosphere, loamy soil, easy to drain, shelter from strong winds and partial shade from the sun, as excessive heat is almost as hurtful as extreme cold. The industry in North America is yet in its infancy, but is capable of indefinite expansion with profit to the cultivator.