

WILSON CALLS HALT ON R. R. STRIKE

Will Treat With Shopmen if Strike is Called Off

THE SITUATION IS CLARIFIED

Effect Of Executive Decision, It is Believed, Will Be To Put A Sudden End To Transportation Disturbances.

Washington.—President Wilson notified Director General Hines that he was authorized to take up the demands of railroad shop employes for higher wages and decide them on their merits.

Strikers Chief Obstacle.

The President said that the letter sent him by Senator Cummins, chairman of the Committee on Interstate Commerce, had "set me free to deal as I think best with the difficult question of wages of certain classes of railroad employes," but added:

"The chief obstacle to a decision has been created by the men themselves. They have gone out on a strike and repudiated the authority of their officers at the very moment when they were urging action in regard to their interests."

The President's decision was announced from the White House in the form of a letter sent by him to Mr. Hines. The President said that "until the employes return to work and again recognize the authority of their organization the whole matter must be at a standstill."

The President's Letter.

The President's letter follows: "My Dear Mr. Director General: "I am just in receipt of the letter from Senator Albert B. Cummins, chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, which set me free to deal as I think with the difficult question of the wages of certain classes of railway employes, and I take advantage of the occasion to write you this letter, in order that I may, both in the public interest and in the interests of the railroad employes themselves, make the present situation as clear and definite as possible.

"I thought it my duty to lay the question in its present pressing form before the committee of the Senate, because I thought I should not act upon this matter within the brief interval of Government control remaining without their acquiescence and approval. Senator Cummins' letter, which speaks the unanimous judgment of the committee, leaves me free and indeed imposes upon me the duty to act.

"The question of the wages of railroad shopmen was submitted, you will remember, to the Board of Railroad Wages and Working Conditions of the Railroad Administration last February, but was not reported upon by the board until July 16. The delay was unavoidable because the board was continuously engaged in dealing with several wage matters affecting classes of employes who had not previously received consideration. The board not having apprised us of its inability, at any rate for the time being, to agree upon recommendation, it is clearly our duty to proceed with the matter in the hope of disposing of it.

To Deal With Union.

"You are therefore authorized to say to the railroad shop employes that the question of wages they have raised will be taken up and considered on its merits by the Director General in conference with their duly accredited representatives. I hope that you will make it clear to the men concerned that the Railroad Administration cannot deal with problems of this sort, or with any problems affecting the men, except through the duly chosen international officers of the regularly constituted organization and their authorized committees.

"Matters of so various a nature and affecting so many men cannot be dealt with except in this way. Any action which brings the authority of the authorized representatives of the organization into question or discredits it, must interfere with, if not prevent, action altogether. The chief obstacle to a decision has been created by the men themselves. They have gone out on strike and repudiated the authority of their officers at the very moment when they were urging action in regard to various interests.

"You will remember that a conference between yourself and the authorized representatives of the men was arranged at the instance of these representatives for July 28 to discuss the wage question and the question of a national agreement, but before this conference took place, or could take place, local bodies of railway shopmen took action looking toward a strike on August 1. As a result of this action, various strikes actually took place before there was an opportunity to act in a satisfactory or conclusive way with respect to the wages. In the presence of these strikes and the repudiation of the authority of the representatives of the organization concerned, there can

Negligent Neighbors



be no consideration of the matter in controversy. Until the employes return to work and again recognize the authority of their own organization, the whole matter must be at a standstill.

Government Will Be Fair.

"When Federal control of the railroads began the Railroad Administration accepted existing agreements between the shopmen's organizations and the several railroad companies, and by agreement machinery was created for handling the grievances of the shopmen's organization of all the railroads, whether they had heretofore had the benefits of definite agreements or not. There can be no question, therefore, of the readiness of the Government to deal in a spirit of fairness and by regular methods with any matters the men may bring to their attention.

"Concerned and very careful consideration is being given by the entire Government to the question of reducing the high cost of living. I need hardly point out how intimately and directly this matter affects every individual in the nation, and if transportation is interrupted it will be impossible to solve it. This is a time when every employe of the railroads should help to make the process of transportation more easy and economical, rather than less, and employes who are on strikes are deliberately delaying a settlement of their wage problems and of their standard of living. They should promptly return to work, and I hope that you will urge upon their representatives the immediate necessity of their doing so. Cordially and sincerely yours,

"WOODROW WILSON."

Hines Notifies Unions.

Director General Hines notified the unions immediately that the Railroad Administration was ready to take up the question "as soon as the employes return to work."

U. S. FLAG TO STAY ON FORT.

Pershing Recommends Policy in Regard To Ehrenbreitstein.

Coblenz.—The American flag will continue to fly from the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein so long as United States troops hold a position here in the occupied area, according to information from Paris received here by the interallied Rhineland commission. General Pershing, it is understood, recommended that the Stars and the Stripes be kept on the fortress, which has been an American garrison since last December. He also recommended that Coblenz be made American headquarters. A decision by the supreme council as to the area to be occupied by the Eighth Infantry and other units which are to remain here is expected to be announced some time next week.

ARMY RETURNS TRANSPORTS.

2,912,000 Tons Given Over To The Shipping Board.

Washington.—Return by the army to the Shipping Board of a total of 2,912,000 tons of shipping was announced by the War Department. Included in 1,176,000 tons retained by the Department on August 1 was 230,000 tons of cargo vessels. The fastest transports remaining in the army service have been ordered to make westbound trips without full capacity as a means of hastening the return of "first-class personnel." The order was made possible by the decreasing number of troops available for embarkation on the other side of the Atlantic.

GETS 46 VESSELS IN WEEK.

Shipping Board Fleet Augmented By 163,355 Tons.

Washington.—Forty-six vessels, aggregating 163,355 gross tons were delivered to the Shipping Board during the week ending August 1, it was announced. This brought the total number of vessels delivered to 1,182, representing more than 4,342,000 gross tons. Of the 46 vessels, 25 were steel construction, aggregating 119,355 gross tons; 18 were wooden craft, aggregating 41,667 gross tons, and three were of the composite type.

Australian manufacturers are making pressed steel water pipe 28 feet long by 30 inches internal diameter at a plant in Bombay.

A WORLD LABOR BODY ORGANIZED

Ground Laid for Reforms in Social Questions

NO PRACTICAL RESULTS YET

Entire Governing Board Changes, Germans and Austrians Disappearing From The List Of Officers.

Amsterdam.—The International Labor Congress, at which a new international federation was formed, came to an end shortly before 10 o'clock Tuesday night, with many speeches from the representatives of the various nations. From the speeches it could be gathered that even after four years of war, workmen could meet to consider their welfare without more than an occasional exchange of sharp words.

It cannot be said that a great amount of practical work was accomplished at the first meeting, but ground was laid for the future which promises to prove fruitful in reforms of social questions upon which the workers of all nations are urging action.

The last hours of the congress were spent in discussing a number of important resolutions with regard to the League of Nations, the socialization of national resources and the blockade of Russia and Hungary, all of which were accepted by the congress. Only the American delegates voted against the resolutions, while the British were absent, owing to the necessity of catching a cross-channel steamer. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, explained that the Americans agreed almost entirely with the spirit of all the resolutions, but that, owing to their mandate, they could not vote for them.

The entire governing body has changed since the last international, the Germans and Austrians at present taking no part either in the presidency, vice-presidency, treasury or secretariat. Many of the members expressed sorrow at the disappearance of Carl Legien, the most prominent German labor leader and organizer, from participation in an official capacity.

Several delegation leaders spoke of their hopes for the future. Mr. Gompers saying that the Americans would do all in their power to further legislation for improvement of the condition of the workers of all countries. Herr Legien told the correspondent that he thought the international movement would prove successful and that the workers of all countries would act together. He was totally against any idea of a war revenge, he said, as were all the German workers.

For Socialization.

In one resolution the congress declared:

"The economic disorganization accentuated by the war was caused by the impotence of capitalism to reorganize production in such a way as to insure the well-being of the masses. The congress declares it imperative that the efforts and activities of the working classes of all countries should be directed toward obtaining complete trade union organization as a necessary basis for realization of the socialization of means of production."

The bureau of the International Trades' Union Federation was instructed to obtain information on the result of socialization and to report to the national centers, the report to be accompanied by affidavits. The resolution further states:

"Even when the means of production are socialized, it is only by normal production, scientifically and continually developed, that general and individual well-being can be obtained and guaranteed for all everywhere."

PALMER OPENS FIGHT ON PACKERS

Antitrust Suits to Be Brought Against "Big Five"

THE CAMPAIGN ON HIGH COST

Justice Agents After Hoarders—President Appears Before Joint Session Of Congress.

Washington.—Anti-trust suits against the great meat-packing firms were announced by Attorney-General Palmer as the first concrete development of the Government's campaign to reduce the high cost of living.

Armour, Swift, Morris, Wilson and Cudahy, who have been pictured in the investigations of the Federal Trade Commission and before Congressional committees as a great combination in control of food products, are to be haled again before the Federal Courts by special prosecutors.

The evidence in hand, Attorney-General Palmer declared, indicated "a clear violation of the anti-trust laws." Whether the prosecution would be civil or criminal, the Attorney-General declined to state, merely recalling that the law provided for both.

The history of all the Government's anti-trust prosecutions in 25 years does not show a single individual ever serving a jail sentence for a violation. There are evidences that the Government hopes for some in the present campaign.

Mr. Palmer's announcement follows: "The Department of Justice has made a careful review of the evidence developed by the investigation into the combination of packers, both by the Federal Trade Commission and the hearings before the committees of Congress. This review has been made by lawyers specially retained for the purpose and their report is now in hand. I am satisfied that the evidence adduced indicates a clear violation of the Anti-trust laws and prompt action will be taken accordingly. Further proceedings, while under the immediate direction of the Department of Justice, will be in charge of Isidor J. Kresel, of the law firm of Jerome, Rand and Kresel, of New York, who will be given such assistance as the case seems to warrant."

While he was announcing prosecutions of the packers, Attorney-General Palmer was unleashing his special agents on a country-wide trail of profiteering and food hoarding. These prosecutions come under the food-control law.

All United States attorneys were instructed to ferret out food hoards and libel them under Federal law.

"This is the most important business before the country today," announced the Attorney-General, "and I propose to have the law enforcement machinery of the Government side-track everything to this job."

WASHINGTON

William A. Wimbish, of Atlanta, Ga., special counsel for the Southern Traffic League, told the House Interstate Commerce Committee it should sit tight and proceed with investigation of the railroad problem just as if organized labor had not demanded tripartite control of the roads.

Demande of 410,000 railway employes that their wages be increased unless something was done to materially reduce the cost of living were considered at a conference between Director General Hines and J. J. Rorester.

A resolution directing the President "to relieve the people from the high cost of living, was introduced by Representative Riddick, Republican, Montana.

The Senate today confirmed the nomination of John Barton Payne, of Illinois, and Henry M. Robinson, of California, to be members of the United States Shipping Board.

Commissioner Roper ordered that drug addicts may obtain narcotics on prescription by reputable physicians. Modification of the War Risk Insurance Act were proposed in a bill introduced by Representative Sweet, Republican, of Iowa.

7-CENT FARE CAUSES RIOT.

Mob Burns Two Cars and Overturns Others—Several Hurt.

Muskegon, Mich.—All street car traffic is suspended here as the result of disorders following refusal of passengers to pay a 7-cent fare. A mob of several hundred persons attacked street cars during the night, burning two of them and tipping over a score of others. Several rioters were injured when the police, traction employes and special deputies dispersed the mob.

PENNSYLVANIA BRIEFS

At auction the well-known distillery at Indian Head, Conneville, owned by Bill Pritts, was sold to his son, James Pritts, for the sum of \$505.50. It will be scrapped for the copper.

Petitions liberally signed are pouring in from every section of Mifflin county requesting the county commissioners to provide a rest room and comfort station in the basement of the court house in Lewistown for the use of the country people who come to town. Since the court put the county dry eleven years ago, it has been a growing question as to how this issue was to be taken care of.

A general outline of the events of the welcome home demonstration for returned service men of Franklin county, which will take place in Chambersburg on Labor day, September 1, has been adopted by the executive committee for the celebration. A full day of entertainment for the ex-service men and women will be provided, and the finance committee is now at work securing voluntary contributions for the occasion.

The borough of Port Carbon, which boasts of a larger number of soldiers furnished the government than any other town of the same size in the state has set August 15 as the date upon which it will welcome home its 200 boys. A sporting committee which has been appointed has prepared a long list of prizes to be awarded. Port Carbon authorities have asked all neighboring towns to take part. F. C. Yungst is president of the committee; M. P. McLaughlin, vice president; John M. Oren, secretary, and T. J. Fayhey, treasurer.

John Hinkle, Weatherly boy, who tried to clean out his rifle when it blocked, by shooting another bullet through the breach, is at the State hospital in Hazleton, with surgeons hopeful of saving his sight. The blast back-fired into his eyes.

A woman "doctor" by name of Hattie Shannon, of Dubois, hung out her shingle in Mill Hall, and despite the fact that there were two university physicians there, soon had a large number of patients. Then the Clinton County Medical society got busy and soon discovered that she was really no doctor at all, but only a "quack." She was arrested and is now being held for trial under \$500 bail.

Saloon keepers are getting somewhat scared in Nesquehoning since the United States district attorney from the district is causing the arrest of those who sell 2.75 per cent beer. Men in the Panther Creek valley engaged in the pursuits of industry favor the daylight saving plan, as it permits them to give ample time for the cultivation of their gardens, claiming that this will help to cut down the high cost of living.

The purposes for which the war chest fund was created no longer existing, the money will probably be used in erecting a suitable memorial in honor of the service men of Summit Hill.

Eighteen new members have been received by the woman's club, which has purchased the old John Fritz homestead on East Market street, Bethlehem, as a home for the club for \$30,000. The club has, to date, procured \$30,500 toward the \$50,000 Saucon Park fund.

For giving short weight in ice, Robert Wirth, of Bethlehem, was obliged to pay a fine of \$5 and costs to Alderman Reuter. The charge was brought by City Sealer of Weights and Measures Erwin Seifert.

Failure to use grease on a pulley connecting with a threshing outfit at work threshing rye on the farm of W. G. Long, near Chambersburg, is said to have been the cause of a fire which destroyed a large straw stack and damaged the threshing rig and sixty bags of rye just threshed. The pulley during the work became heated from friction and ignited the straw stack causing a big blaze.

George Kadask, nineteen, and Frank Riskowski, thirty-five, of Wilkes-Barre, were perhaps fatally fatally burned by an explosion of gas in the long drift of the West End Coal company, at Mocanaqua. Kadask worked as a driver boy and Riskowski as a miner.

A fire entailing a \$7000 loss occurred on the farm of Milton King, of Zion View, when sparks from a steam engine, which was used in threshing grain, are supposed to have set fire to the barn. Three horses were lost in the flames, along with the grain and hay of the season.

Struck by a swinging door of the barn on his father's farm at Marysville, Hoke, six-year-old son of Hoke Sharp, of Klein, was instantly killed. The lad was standing in the doorway of the barn when the door swung shut during a heavy windstorm, crushing his skull.

Davison R. Clark, of Freemansburg, shot a gray fox on South Mountain. It weighed twenty-six pounds.

The property of the Home Brewing company, at Weissport, was sold to "Squire Austin Boyer, of Weissport, for \$3500, and will, very likely, be converted into a factory.

In an order just handed down by Judge J. C. Work, the claim of the state of Pennsylvania for collateral inheritance tax of the coal lands of the McShane estate, Unlontown, is refused and the widow, Mrs. Ruth McShane, is given \$31,050.25. Mrs. McShane was the chief beneficiary.

A weasel killed thirteen hens, valued at \$10 each belonging to John Musselman, an East Allentown farmer, and was, in turn slain by the owner of the chickens. The county commissioners paid \$2 for the weasel's pelt.

Mrs. Francis Gillespie, wife of an Allentown railroad section hand, has become heiress to the bulk of a \$190,000 estate left by her father, Peter Timony, of Freeland, Pa.

Chester county commissioners asked for bids for a bridge over Red Clay creek, near Kennett Square, but not an offer for the work was made when bids were to have been opened.

Edward Osborne, a discharged soldier, and Catharine Hickman, of Baltimore, locked up as veterans at West Chester while walking to Oklahoma, they said, failed to secure their liberty at habeas corpus proceedings, and must serve thirty days in jail.

Roads throughout Bucks county are in bad condition, stone roads having been badly washed, and dirt roads being extremely soft and full of sink holes.

A survey by County Agent Garber shows that more than 100 tractors are in use in Berks county.

Official warning was issued by the constables of Conneville and surroundings that in the future all dogs found on the streets would be killed. It was reported that fifteen dogs were found on one square of a main section of the city sunning themselves. The orders for a general slaughter followed.

Clearfield county authorities are busy on the job to wipe out the illegal booze business and their efforts have brought to justice several foreigners who were running speakeasies. A man named Caramelle, of DuBois, was the latest individual charged with selling intoxicating beverages.

For the first time in a number of years good fishing is reported in the Susquehanna river in Perry county. Reports coming from Liverpool are to the effect that big catches are being made daily of pike, salmon and bass. One story is told of 17½ and 16 inches bass being hooked, some of the largest taken in this vicinity for several years.

Eleven men paid \$70 for supper at the indoor picnic held by the ladies of the Columbia hospital auxiliary held in the state armory in Columbia. General E. C. Shannon was among the guests and a large sum was raised for the hospital fund.

The York Federation of Trades Unions has decided to erect a labor temple at a cost of \$15,000.

Fitch L. Leonard, of Montrose, Susquehanna, long connected with the auditor general's department, has been promoted to be auditor to succeed E. C. Dewey, of Clearfield county, who resigned after long service.

Plans are being made to feed 1800 returned soldiers at the welcome home reception at New Castle on August 19. The beef for the barbecue will reach the city already roasted, being prepared by a fireless-cooker system while enroute from Chicago.

Westmoreland county for the first time in many years has considerable acreage in buckwheat, and prospects for the crop are very good. It is estimated that fully 500 acres of buckwheat were sown by the Westmoreland county farmers this year. For the last twenty-five years Indiana and Somerset have been the "buckwheat" counties of western Pennsylvania.

A Segal, a Palmerton merchant, was arrested on oath of R. J. Hengen, Carbon county sealer of weights and measures, charged with short weight and was fined \$10 by Squire Mooney. Segal sold 25¼ pounds of onions for thirty pounds, charging the latter weight. Palmerton holds the record for short weights and measures. A total of twenty-five merchants have been arrested for this offense in Palmerton alone, as against eighteen throughout the county.

President Lucas, of the Merchants and Manufacturers' association of Columbia, has named Edward Bittner and William L. Bucher as delegates to a chamber of commerce meeting at Lancaster to protest against the removal of the ninth internal revenue office to Philadelphia, where it is to be merged with the first district.

The position of borough school nurse, recently created by the local school board, has been accepted by Miss Nettie Gable, former superintendent of the Chambersburg hospital, who was elected by the school board at a recent meeting.

Wild deer are again appearing in Perry county and are wandering quite near to settled sections in search of food. Recently an especially large buck was sighted near the home of F. D. Jeffries in Oliver township by a son, Daniel Jeffries.

J. Clayton Hixon, Amaranth, has filed a petition to be a candidate for associate judge in Fulton county and J. A. Barclay, Sinnemahoning, to be candidate in Camden county.

Allentown city council has decided to sell all the fire department's horse-drawn apparatus and to purchase motor equipment, costing nearly \$150,000.

Resigning the secretaryship of the Hazleton chamber of commerce, Harry F. Grebey will return to school teaching.

After a three months' strike, miners at the Keystone mine, Hilldale, have reached an agreement and will return to work.

Canvass of the Lehigh district shows a large majority of the farmers in favor of the daylight saving plan. Thirteen of every fourteen aliens who have left Hazleton for Europe since the armistice are Italians, 2000 of whom have sailed, intending to stay.