

TEACHERS' STRIKE IN 'MYSTERY CALL'

Anonymous Circular Plans Drastic Action to Gain Salary Increase

ORIGIN NOT YET TRACED City Pedagogues Repudiate Hot-Headed Plot of Mal-contents

The appearance of mysterious circulars signed "Central Committee," which hint that a strike among city school teachers will be called unless their salaries are increased, is not regarded seriously by school officials and teachers.

Officers of the different organizations to which teachers belong denied that the circulars were sent out with their approval. The origin is surrounded with mystery. The various committees representing the teachers in the campaign to higher wages denied knowing anything of the circulars. It has been impossible to locate any of these circulars among the teachers. Apparently they have not been widely circulated as yet. It was suggested by Miss Adeline Light, librarian to the board, that the person or persons composing the circulars apparently thought that they were the members of the Board of Education. It was also pointed out that the sender of the letter was under the impression that the board was elected.

TEXT OF LETTER The letter reads as follows: Chairman District No. 21, Strike Committee.

Dear Fellow Teacher: The Board of Education has shown an attitude of utter indifference to our recent petition. Your petition has been turned aside without investigation on the part of any member of the board. The time has come when petitioning is of no avail; hence the following drastic action has been agreed upon by the Central Committee. You will immediately communicate with the teachers in your district that the following action is recommended:

First. On November 1, 1917, a fourth request shall be made for a 25 per cent increase in salary. Second. That a flat refusal or an unqualified "yes" must be given the Central Committee before November 6, 1917. In case the reply of the board is "no," you will ask the teachers to meet in their respective districts at the places already agreed upon and not to return to the classroom until the increase has been granted.

To show our contempt for the board and the recent disloyalty it has displayed toward our superintendent, let us urge the voters in each of our districts that they demand the resignation of the seven men who have done little save black educational progress in Philadelphia for the last ten years. Respectfully, REPRESENTATIVES, CENTRAL COMMITTEE.

Doctor Garber said: "This letter is the first of its kind that I have seen. I have made inquiry of all my district superintendents, but have been unable to get any information on it. They have not heard of this move. I do not think there is anything to it. It is probably got up by a few discontented teachers. I do not take it at all seriously. It is too ridiculous to waste time investigating it."

NO INTENTION OF STRIKING Asked to comment on this letter, Mrs. Emma Y. Thomas, principal of the P. West Mitchell Public School and president of the Teachers' Association of Philadelphia, said: "We have no intention of striking. I know of no such movement as that mentioned in the letter, and can say without hesitation that this action has no connection with, and will not be viewed with favor by, the Teachers' Association. This is the first I have heard of a 'central committee' or any other strike committee."

Alfred T. Sayre, principal of the South-west Public School and president of the Schoolmen's Club, when he had heard of the letter said: "There will be no strike among Philadelphia teachers. Such a thing is out of the question. I have not heard of any such agitation and do not believe there is anything in such talk."

Miss L. Emery, principal Thomas Jefferson Public School, vice president of the Schoolmen's Club, and a member of the committee from that club appointed to carry on the campaign for increase in teachers' salaries, said no such movement as indicated by the letter is being conducted by any authorized teachers' association. Albert H. Haub, associate superintendent of schools, in commenting on the anonymous letter said: "It is, no doubt, the work of a few dissatisfied teachers. I do not believe that it will be taken seriously by the teaching body."

DENOUNCES CIRCULAR Miss Emily M. Benschaw, secretary of the Teachers' Association and president of the Eighth Grade Women's Association, denounced the letter in most unqualified terms:

"This is the work of a bunch of hot-heads. They are doing incalculable harm to the teachers of Philadelphia," she said. "This action is absolutely repudiated by the Teachers' Association. We are at present carrying on negotiations with the finance committee of the board and have been shown every courtesy. They are all most favorably inclined to granting the increase. However, a large sum of money is involved and the increase cannot be given overnight. The matter is being very seriously considered by the board. Such action as this is calculated to counteract all the good that we have accomplished. I cannot adequately express my detestation for the course that these hot-heads have pursued." Dr. Sarah P. Miller, president of the Teachers' Club, and William J. Caskey, president of the Teachers' Institute, both disclaimed any knowledge of this letter, and denounced it as being contrary to the spirit of patriotism of the Philadelphia teachers.

Wilson Acknowledges Letter of Support SHAMOKIN, Pa., Oct. 17.—Joseph Tully, secretary to President Wilson, sent from Washington today a response from the President acknowledging a communication recently mailed him by the Rev. W. C. Hall, of this place, secretary of the general conference of the Primitive Methodist Church. The letter was adopted at a recent annual convention of the church in which the President was highly praised for his war measures directed against Germany.

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Charles Beck Co. Papers for All Kinds of Printing 609 Chestnut Street Philadelphia

BRITISH AIRMEN DROP BOMBS UPON BRUGES

Military Works and Canal Docks of Belgian City Shelled—German Plane Shot Down

PARIS, Oct. 17. Numerous civilians perished from a great number of bombs dropped over Nancy last night by German airmen, today's official statement said. The city was the object of a violent attack by the Teutonic fliers.

LONDON, Oct. 17. British airmen have again bombed the German military works and canal docks at Bruges, Belgium, the Admiralty announced today. A German airplane was shot down. Indications that England's determination to exact full measure of retaliation for German air raids has already caused lively apprehension in German cities were noted in Holland dispatches today.

For sixteen days now not one German air raider has ventured over England. In the eight days immediately before the Teutonic "baby killers" made six air attacks and killed fifty-one persons and wounded 249. It was this sudden concentration of Hun aerial ruthlessness that resulted in a national demand for reprisals, which was answered by the Government yesterday in "Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law's formal announcement in Commons that reprisals were planned.

Bonar Law said that a bill creating an air ministry would shortly be presented to Parliament. "Unofficially it is believed the Government plans to do away, if possible with the dual control of aerial warfare as exemplified at the (army) royal flying corps.

The Munich Post was quoted in Holland dispatches today as deprecating all aerial raids over open cities.

DEER HUNTER SHOOTS AND BADLY WOUNDS MAN

Bullet Lodges in Victim's Abdomen After Boring Hole Through Barrel of Gun

James Cavanaugh, 236 Parker avenue, of Woodlyn, Camden County, a Government inspector of the New York Shipbuilding Company, was shot and seriously wounded near Weymouth, N. J., this morning. He was found lying in the road by a passing automobilist and taken to the office of Dr. H. C. James, in Mays Landing. After being given first-aid treatment he was removed to the West Jersey Homeopathic Hospital, where his condition is serious. Cavanaugh and a party of men were hunting in the woods between Weymouth and Elwood. He was standing on a back woods road, while others were in the thicket on the drive. A shot was fired, presumably at a deer by some hunters, who escaped unidentified, and Cavanaugh was hit by a bullet, presumably from a rifle. The bullet first bored a hole in one of the barrels of the gun he was loading and then glanced off and penetrated his abdomen.

Never before in the history of the oldest sportsman were there so many hunters out. It is estimated that nearly 1000 were in the Atlantic County woods alone. Several parties were successful in bagging deer.

SERENADER CONFRONTED WITH BIGAMY CHARGE

Woman for Whom He Twangs the Ukulele Causes Arrest of Fred Solemno

A ukulele used to serenade his bride of four months proved a boomerang to Fred Solemno, twenty-eight years old, 1935 Carlisle street, for, as he played outside her home, at 2210 Ingersoll street, she consulted with an attorney inside relative to his arrest on a bigamy charge.

Today he faced Magistrate Watson, in central station, and was held in \$500 bail for a further hearing next Friday. Emmu Leptien, who, the police say, is wife No. 2, testified that they were married June 14, 1916, believing him to have procured a divorce.

A short time after marriage, she said, they separated. Later she learned that he had not obtained a divorce from wife No. 1, who, she said, is Lucy Solemno, 1937 North Twenty-third street.

Wife No. 1 was not present at the hearing.

Commits Suicide in Lodgings

John Agnew, twenty-four years old, committed suicide by drinking poison in his room, 223 Pierce street, this afternoon during a fit of despondency. Agnew, it is said, was despondent. He came home this morning after being discharged by an ice-cream manufacturing concern. Following his discovery he was hurried to St. Agnes's Hospital, where he died.

Five Negro "Joyriders" Fined

Five negroes were fined \$12.50 each today, by Magistrate Carson, at the Park and Lehigh avenues police station, for "joyriding" and disorderly conduct, on the testimony of Dr. Louis J. Burns, of 1906 Chestnut street. The men are George Ross, twenty years old, and Andrew Ross, eight years old, both of Fort Washington, Pa.; Thomas Bailey, eighteen; Daniel Dowling, twenty-seven, and William Brown, twenty-four, all of Ambler, Pa.

Wanted Clothes of true distinction—we supply them

You had better see our offerings in Overcoats before making your selection. And whether you look here first or last, the impression is sure to be the same. We don't like to call this the "Overcoat Store," because our stocks of other merchandise are too varied and too broad; but of this we are sure, you will not find a greater variety of good style, nor better quality at near the price we have marked these new coats.

The "Militaire" (shown in the illustration) is one of the most fetching models. It is made of light weight, medium or heavy overcoatings in plain browns and grays and a fine range of fancy fabrics. \$25 and above.

JACOB REED'S COATS 1424-1426 CHESTNUT STREET

GIANT TAX FRAUD REVEALED BY U. S.

Attempts of War Contractors to Evade \$17,000,000 Profits Levy Exposed

MADE IMPROPER RETURNS WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. A \$17,000,000 munitions tax fraud has been uncovered by the Treasury Department.

Attempts of war contractors to evade payment of the 12 1/2 per cent tax on their profits have been revealed by investigations of the Internal Revenue Bureau, which have been in progress for some months. The bureau announced today that \$16,000,000 of the fraudulently withheld tax already has been recovered through pursuit of a compromise policy, and that the Government is determined to recover every cent of the remaining unpaid tax.

The scheme resorted to by the munition makers depended principally on improper returns of taxable property and income. When the bureau announced today that \$16,000,000 of the fraudulently withheld tax already has been recovered through pursuit of a compromise policy, and that the Government is determined to recover every cent of the remaining unpaid tax.

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Discovery of the extensive fraud has led to rigid checking up of the returns of war contractors in all lines. Utmost caution will be observed by the internal revenue officials and agents in collecting the war excess-profits taxes under the newly enacted revenue law.

W. G. COXE RETIRES FROM HARLAN & HOLLINGSWORTH

J. B. Weaver, Formerly of Philadelphia, Likely to Succeed to Presidency

WILMINGTON, Del., Oct. 17.—It was learned this afternoon that William G. Cox, formerly of Reading, Pa., and son-in-law of the late George F. Harlan, for many years head of the Reading Railway, has resigned as president of the Harlan & Hollingsworth Corporation here. The Harlan & Hollingsworth plant is the largest shipbuilding concern in Wilmington and is a subsidiary of the Bethlehem Steel Co. Mr. Cox is now under treatment following a surgical operation. He is prominent in shipbuilding circles as a marine engineer and executive.

Coincident with Mr. Cox's retirement, it is expected that J. B. Weaver, formerly of Philadelphia and now general manager of the Harlan plant, will be made president. These changes are due to the complete absorption of the Harlan plant by the newly-organized Bethlehem Steel Corporation. Other executive changes are expected.

HOSEMEN'S JOB ATTRACTS SMALLEST CLASS IN YEARS

Only 131 Men Turn Up for Civil Service Tests—Many Vacancies in City's Force

Small salary advances made to hosenmen of the Bureau of Fire today failed to prove any inducement to blue seekers, as a total of only 131 men turned up to take the civil service tests.

The municipal fire-fighting force has been badly depleted by reason of many hosenmen quitting to accept more lucrative places with private concerns or to enter the Federal service. Scores of places must quickly be filled and the number of applicants who today took the examination proved very disappointing. Tests for hosenmen have, in recent years, attracted classes of from 250 to 400 men, and today's class creates a new low record.

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EVEN BABEL'S TOWER IS MOVIE SUBJECT

Metro Rears Tall Structure and Demolishes It After Day of Pictures

By the Photoplay Editor A mammoth representation of the Tower of Babel has been erected on Long Island for use in Metro's forthcoming patriotic production, "Draft 258," starring Mabel Taliaferro. The picture was directed by William Christy Cabanne and written by himself in collaboration with June Mathis. It is a successor to Metro's former patriotic photodrama, "The Slacker."

Elephants, camels, stallions, goats and donkeys were used in these scenes, not to mention a thousand players dressed as Babylonians, Assyrians, Jews, Romans, priests, slaves and barbarians. These will be shown on the screen, representing every phase of the rich, varicolored life of Asia Minor in 2227 B. C. Many natives of that picturesque region were secured for the picture by "Barney" Bernard, Mr. Cabanne's assistant, and when the time came for the scenes showing the "confounding of the tongues," where all spoke different languages, many of the players unscrupulously, in general, are said to have involuntarily spoken the language of their childhood.

Plans for the tower were made by Technical Director E. J. Shultzer and executed by Patrick Carey, head carpenter, and his corps of assistants. An army of workmen labored day and night in relays for weeks to put up the giant structure, but so well did Director Cabanne have his work systematized that only half a day was required to photograph the scenes required.

Every cameraman in Metro's employ was utilized in doing the actual work of photographing, and then the pictures were assembled and placed in proper sequence by Mr. Cabanne and his assistants. Interesting "flash" were secured of elephants lifting great blocks into place, of a strong man performing difficult feats in the construction of the tower, of the madness of the multitude when all began to speak different languages, and of the mad rush created at an expenditure of more than \$10,000, was immediately torn down, after having been in actual use less than half a day.

METHODISTS URGED TO ADD "PUNCH" TO ADD "PUNCH"

Ministers Rebuked for Lack of "Pep" in Their Church Work

KEYNOTE OF MEETING Superintendent of Department of Evangelism in Home Mission Addresses Convention

Methodist ministers were urged to add "punch and pep" to their work by the Rev. George B. Dean, superintendent of the department of Evangelism of the Board of Home Missions, in his address at the opening of the two-day mobilization of Methodist churches of the Philadelphia area at the Arch Street Methodist Church, Broad and Arch streets, today. More than 400 ministers were present.

Mr. Dean sounded the keynote of the convention in this address: "The Church is flourishing station." He rebuked the ministers for their apathy in evangelistic work. He pointed out that if each Methodist minister added one convert to the church each month within a year the number would amount to 12,000. Within the last year the church has grown only 2 per cent, while the country has grown 5 per cent; it has required forty members to make one convert, he said.

This morning at 9 o'clock a meeting was held in Bishop Berry's house to complete plans for the convention. Tonight meetings will be held in fifteen churches, each the center of a section. Midweek meetings in all other churches will be dispensed with in order that all the people may attend the central rallies.

Every minister in the Philadelphia area is a delegate, and in addition there are two lay delegates from each charge, but all laymen, whether delegates or not, are urged to attend as many meetings as possible. The mobilization is not primarily for spectacular, though good speeches and plenty of them will be made. It is the purpose to consider the work of the church, wherein it has succeeded, wherein it has failed, wherein it can be improved and made more effective for the upbuilding of Methodism particularly and Christianity generally.

The chief event of the mobilization, which will continue through today and tomorrow, will be a great mass-meeting in the Academy of Music tomorrow night, at which Cyrus D. Foss, Jr., will preside and Bishop McDowell, of Washington, and United States Senator Watson, of Indiana, will speak. A chorus of 300 singing under the auspices and direction of the Philadelphia Methodist Social Union, will be led by A. Lincoln Hall.

Tomorrow morning two well-known laymen will tell what kinds of pastors they like best, and two eminent pastors will tell what kinds of laymen please and help them most.

In the afternoon there will be addresses by Dr. L. C. Murdock, Dr. M. E. Snyder, Dr. S. Earl Taylor, a corresponding secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions; and Dr. S. Parkes Cadman, of New York.

The churches in which the sectional rallies will be held tonight are: First, Germantown, Calvary, Fletcher, St. Luke's, Arch Street, Seventh Street, Gethsemane, Simpson, Memorial, Siloam, Columbia Avenue, Central Church, Frankford and East Calvary.

The Trenton meeting will be held at the State Street Church, and the two Camden meetings at First Church and the Tabernacle.

The themes at each meeting will be the same, and will be these: "The Christian Soldier's Equipment" and "Over the Top." The list of speakers at these mass-meetings includes the Revs. J. A. Hensley, A. E. Piper, C. M. Olmstead, J. B. Sweet, E. A. Martin, F. D. Hartsock, T. D. Dickinson and B. M. Johns, of Wyoming Conference; the Revs. J. W. Marshall, G. H. Seal, Alfred Wags, A. H. Lucas, H. P. Sloan, F. B. Harris and H. D. Ketcham, of New Jersey Conference; the Revs. Robert Watt and H. F. Handolph, of Wilmington Conference, and the Revs. J. G. Bickerton, J. D. Fox, E. E. Helms, C. M. Boswell, J. H. Hackenbury, Jay Dickerson and G. H. Lorah, of Philadelphia Conference.

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1832 BAILEY, BANKS & BIDDLE CO. 1917 Precious Stone Jewelry Pearls Sapphires Diamonds Emeralds Rubies Materials of the best Original Designs

Mawson & DeMany 115 Chestnut Street (Opposite Keith's Theatre) Before You Buy Furs Realize What Fifteen Per Cent Off Means Fifteen cents on a dollar—Fifteen dollars on a hundred is worth while saving, but you save more than that in THIS OCTOBER FUR SALE Our original prices from which you deduct the 15% are from 15 to 25 per cent lower than the present retail value. A possibility, due to our buying in large quantity for ready cash during the early months of last Spring, when raw skins were comparatively low. Therefore the woman who deducts 15 per cent on her purchase actually saves 30. A Small Deposit Will Reserve Your Purchase in Our Storage Vaults Until Desired.

Taupe Wolf Sets Barrel Muff and Wide Animal Scarf 46.75 Winter Price 55.00 Fox or Wolf Scarfs, 22.00 (Very Special) Colors are: Taupe, Kamchatka, Red, Pearl, Gray, Black, Battleship Gray. The values are so unusual that we quote no comparative prices. Russian Pony Coats Three-quarter Length Model Beaver or Raccoon Collar 46.75 Winter Price 55.00 Choice Nutria Coats 45-inch Model—Large Hood—Real Cape Collar, Cuffs and Belt 123.25 Winter Price 145.00 Hudson Seal Coats Skunk or Seal Collar—46 1/2 Model 97.75 Winter Price 115.00 Hudson Seal Coats Skunk or Seal Collar—46 1/2 Model 42.50 Winter Price 50.00 Skunk Sets Barrel Muff and Smart Scarf 34.00 Winter Price 40.00 Natural Raccoon Sets Barrel Muff and Smart Scarf 38.75 Winter Price 45.00 French Seal Coats 45-inch Smart Model "Skunk-Optimum" Cape Collar and Wide Border 68.00 Winter Price 80.00 Kamchatka Fox Sets Barrel Muff and Wide Animal Scarf 80.75 Winter Price 95.00 EXPERT MAIL ORDER SERVICE No matter where you live, you can shop here by mail. Send money order or open a charge account. Assortments sent on approval, express prepaid. Money refunded by return mail upon request. IMPORTANT NOTICE Extra-large-size Coats to 50 bust. Liberty Bonds accepted as cash. Purchasing agents' orders accepted.