

RAILROAD STRIKES FORBIDDEN BY BILL

Cummins Measure for Federal Control Provides Jail Penalty

MANY REGIONAL SYSTEMS

By the Associated Press
Washington, Sept. 2.—Private ownership and operation of railroads in a number of regional systems under strict government control, with strikes and lockouts of railroad employees prohibited, is the plan for permanent railroad legislation submitted to the Senate today by the interstate commerce subcommittee.

A tentative bill embodying the subcommittee's recommendations, which bear no resemblance to the Plumb plan, had been introduced by Chairman Cummins and referred to the full interstate commerce committee. The bill is the result of many months of hearings and work by the subcommittee, which, besides Mr. Cummins, included Senators Kellogg, of Minnesota, and Pennington, of Washington, Republicans, and Pomeroy, of Ohio, and Robinson, of Arkansas, Democrats.

Strikes Are Forbidden

Salient provisions of the Cummins bill include:

Termination of government control and return of the railroads to private ownership on the last day of the month of enactment.

Establishing the Interstate Commerce Commission with greatly increased powers as the supreme body over railroad affairs.

Supervision and control of virtually all railroad affairs, including rates, wages, operation and financing, by the government.

Creation of a new railway transportation board of five members appointed by the President to supervise railway development and operation, subject to final action of the Interstate Commerce Commission. Creation of a new committee of wages and working conditions, composed equally of representatives of employees and employers, with wide authority in settling labor questions, subject to decision of the transportation board and Interstate Commerce Commission.

Prohibiting strikes and lockouts of railroad employees under fine and imprisonment penalties.

Defining a new policy for concentration in ownership and operation of railroads, with federal incorporation, into not less than twenty nor more than thirty-five regional systems.

No guarantee by the government of future railroad income, but limitations made up on revenue to "fair" dividends based on value of properties fixed by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

The bill also provides that existing railroad payment contracts with the government shall be continued not longer than four months and that present rates shall continue until changed by the Interstate Commerce Commission, with provisions looking to immediate action toward readjustments.

Regional Rail Systems

The keynote of the subcommittee's bill, Chairman Cummins stated in an explanation to the Senate, is the plan for establishment of twenty to thirty-five regional rail systems.

The new method of settling labor disputes is the proposed committee of wages and working conditions, Senator Cummins said, adding:

"It creates a committee of wages and working conditions, which is to be composed of eight members, four representing labor and four representing the railway companies. Each railroad craft is to nominate candidates for this committee, and the board is required to appoint four from among such nominees. Each railroad corporation is to nominate a candidate for membership, and the board is to appoint four persons from among such nominations.

"This committee is to consider all complaints submitted by representatives of the employes or of the carriers, and is to decide by a majority vote, and its decisions are to be certified to the transportation board.

"If the committee of wages and working conditions is evenly divided upon any dispute the whole matter is to be certified to the board, and the decision of the board is final and constitutes a governmental judgment with respect to the matters in controversy.

"It provides that the committee and transportation board shall take into consideration the scale of wages paid for similar kinds of work in other industries; the relation between wages and the cost of living; the hazards of the employment; the training and skill required; the degree of responsibility,

and the character and regularity of the employment."

Alternative for U. S. Ownership

The subcommittee's bill, Senator Cummins told the Senate in his explanation, is an alternative for government ownership.

"Unless we have something similar to the committee's plan put into immediate effect," he said, "government ownership of the railroads will be only a question of time."

The proposed concentration of railroads into regional systems by re-incorporation based upon actual physical valuation, Senator Cummins declared, appeared the best response at this time to the demand for consolidation. The bill's plan, he said, will retain competition among the carriers, remove and prevent overcapitalization and also provide adequate, but not excessive rates.

For seven years under the bill voluntary combinations of the carriers in conformance with the board's plan would be permitted. If not voluntarily combined in seven years the board could require compulsory consolidation under federal charter and based upon actual physical valuation.

"The right to strike has heretofore been recognized in our laws, particularly in certain provisions of the Clayton act," said Senator Robinson in commending the Cummins bill.

"Those laws should be modified and strikes of employes on railroads engaged in interstate commerce should be forbidden.

"While the right of the laborers to quit employment for any reason is recognized and preserved (in the bill)," said Senator Robinson, "combinations or agreements to hinder, restrain or prevent the movement of commodities or persons in interstate commerce, or agreements which have that effect are likewise penalized."

CLUE IN COOPER CASE FAILS

Prisoner Not Near Scene of Murder at Nashville

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—Police officials announced today that investigation of the movements of J. P. Feuston, who was arrested and questioned regarding the murder of Robin J. Cooper, a Nashville lawyer, developed that he was on a train en route from Louisville, Ky., to Nashville when Cooper was killed.

Feuston and Casey Jordan, a woman, were arrested after a negro said he saw an automobile resembling Feuston's near the bridge where Cooper was killed. They were charged specifically with violating the bone-dry amendment by transporting whisky into Tennessee from Kentucky.

MURDER JURY CHOSEN

Will Judge Case of Farmhand Charged With Slaying Teacher Greensburg, Pa., Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—A jury was selected after eight hours' work in the criminal court here yesterday to try James Crawford, a farm hand, charged with the murder last May of Emma Austrav, aged nineteen, a school teacher of Derry township. The girl disappeared April 28, and several days later her body was discovered on an abandoned farm near Loyalhanna station.

AVERS WILLIAMS TELLS UNTRUTHS

Attorney Calls Statements Slander—Comptroller Nominee Declares He Is Maligned

TESTIFY TO COMMITTEE

By the Associated Press

Washington, Sept. 2.—Appearing in rebuttal before the Senate banking committee, considering the nomination of John Skelton Williams to be comptroller of the currency, Frank J. Hogan, former attorney for the Riggs National Bank, of this city, today accused the comptroller of making "slanderous" statements regarding him. He also charged that Mr. Williams' testimony before the committee was "full of untruths."

After the comptroller had presented a prepared statement declaring that Mr. Hogan was conducting a propaganda against him, the committee adjourned until Thursday.

At that time the comptroller will present records asked for by Mr. Hogan, who said they would show the contrast in Mr. Williams' attitude toward the Riggs Bank and the other banks in Washington. After the records have been produced, he said, he would reply to Mr. Williams' "insinuations" and "slanderous" statements so as to "effectually refute" them in such a manner "that every senator will be able to understand."

After reviewing the Riggs Bank case, Mr. Williams said:

"Every available weapon, person and method for attacking my character as a man and reputation as an official before your committee, the Senate and the public has been used with eager malice. Each accusation or suggestion presented against me has been spread assiduously through the newspapers."

Mr. Williams said "despite the sinister and reckless efforts of the malicious, unscrupulous few," only one national bank executive had appeared

before the committee to oppose his nomination and his "testimony has been proved to be 'disingenuous and without foundation from start to finish.'"

MERCIER TO DISCUSS LEAGUE WITH WILSON

Cardinal Will Sail Tomorrow With Delicate Mission From Pope

By the Associated Press

Paris, Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—Cardinal Mercier, primate of Belgium, who will sail from Brest for the United States tomorrow on the Agamemnon, has been entrusted with a delicate mission in America by the Holy See, according to the Journal. The newspaper says that the cardinal will lay before President Wilson the Pope's views on the league of nations.

Cardinal Mercier told the Associated Press that he was visiting America because, having been in contact with the great work of the Americans for relief of the Belgians during the war, he wanted to thank them on their own soil, and because he was glad to accept invitations received from virtually all the universities of America.

The cardinal added that the name of the Associated Press recalled to him one of the dramatic incidents of his experiences during the war. The Germans had threatened to arrest him and policemen were even at his door ready to take him into custody when the German commander intercepted a dispatch from the Associated Press to the cardinal asking him if the Germans were arresting him on account of his public utterances.

"That telegram," said Cardinal Mercier, "made the commander hesitate long enough for Berlin to reflect and think better of it."

Baltimore, Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—For the first time in this country three cardinals will officiate at the pontifical mass in the thanksgiving peace service

Sunday, September 14, at the Baltimore Cathedral.

Cardinal Mercier, of Belgium, then the guest of Cardinal Gibbons, will pontificate, Cardinal Gibbons will preside at the service and Cardinal O'Connell, of Boston, is expected to preach the sermon. Archbishops and bishops from all parts of the country will be present in honor of the Belgian prelate.

GUARDS QUIT KNOXVILLE

Only Local Troops Remain on Duty in Riot Zone

Knoxville, Tenn., Sept. 2.—(By A. P.)—National Guardsmen who have been patrolling this city since the race riot last Saturday night are returning today to their home cities, leaving only the local troops on duty. No further trouble is expected by Adjutant General Sweeney.

Thirteen men have been arrested in connection with the wrecking of the county jail by a mob which sought Maurice Hayes, a negro charged with the murder of a white woman. None of the prisoners liberated at the time have been captured.

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VOTE TO DEFER RAIL STRIKE

Cleveland Shoppers Put it Off Ten Days for Conference


Cleveland, O., Sept. 2.—Shoppers employed by the New York Central Railroad in this city and who are members of the federated craft unions, voted

last night to defer strike action at least ten days. In the meantime the wishes of all similar employes on the New York Central lines on the question of remaining at work will be learned.

The local employes will abide by this decision.

Cincinnati, O., Sept. 2.—Six hundred Chesapeake and Ohio employes in shops at Silver Grove, Ky., near Cincinnati, voted yesterday to postpone the contemplated general strike for ninety days.

It had been agreed that the shopmen were to walk out yesterday and to call out the machinists and other Chesapeake and Ohio employes.



Let's do a little straight thinking on prices

THE present situation is not new in the world; there have been other wars and other periods of high prices.

Homer Hoyt's article in the August **NATION'S BUSINESS** points out some of the fundamental economic truths about the cause and cure of high prices.

His September article carries the discussion one step farther.

Most men will continue to talk without thinking. The appeal of the **Nation's Business** is to the men who want to do their thinking first before they talk—to business leaders who now, more than ever before, ought to equip themselves to lead.

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