

LACK OF CITY CASH BARS BRIDGE PLAN

Samuel T. French, Camden Commissioner, Holds Early Start Unlikely

STATE MONEY IS AVAILABLE

An empty city treasury forces a barrier to any start on the Philadelphia Camden bridge project until next spring or summer. This outlook was presented to Samuel T. French, of the New Jersey Bridge Commission, when he called today on officials at City Hall.

Commissioner French, of Camden, together with Commissioner Henderson, of Woodbury, called at Mayor Nighth's office today to find the local members of the new Pennsylvania commission absent. They then carried to other city offices their inquiry as to what action, if any, will be taken by Camden to meet the Mayor's request for an appropriation of \$250,000 as the city's share in the first year's cost of construction and survey.

On the conclusion of their visit Commissioner French said: "There seems little chance for action here, but we mean to keep on trying to get a start on the bridge plans."

Bridge plans were first held up by Philadelphia after New Jersey and Pennsylvania had completed preliminary items for the first year's work. The latest excuse for nonaction this fall is that Governor Storer has failed to appoint two of the members of the new Pennsylvania commission and that nothing can be done until these appointments are made.

The New Jersey commission, who have available \$500,000 for use during 1919, were told that any temporary fund floated by the present Council will be more than used in providing for the needs for existing shortages and that the city's share of \$250,000 for 1919 will not likely be included in the final loan measure of the State administration.

The information given the Mayor was that if Governor Storer acts in time, the claim for construction might be met, but that the annual budgets are not through the finance committee. Little hope for action there was promised, however, and they were told that their chance for aid lies in the fact that the new Council is likely to consider a loan program as one of its earliest duties in 1920.

Right to Hearing Issue, Says Gompers

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determining conditions under which they work.

"The right of workers to association has been denied—denied with all the power and influence and wealth of the Steel Corporation—denied by legal and unscrupulous means.

Company Reaps Injurious Harvest

"It has been said that most of the men taking part in this strike are of foreign birth and not naturalized citizens. That may be untrue, but it is true. The largest proportion of Steel Corporation employees are of foreign birth, but these men were brought here by the company.

"There was for years a systematic effort to bring in these men from Europe. There was a constant effort to eliminate Americans. They have a harvest to reap now.

"These steel companies brought about the state of which they now complain.

Work Twenty-four Hours a Day

"Under the efforts of the Steel Corporation, the hours of labor were always abnormally long. They never seemed satisfied until they had their men toiling seven days a week, 365

days a year. When the shifts changed, from day to night, they got them working twenty-four hours a day.

"The right of association, the attempt to organize, met with the sternest opposition by the Steel Corporation.

"The appeals coming to us from the employees were for help in organizing. But most of the efforts were slaughtered by the detectives and the agencies in the company pay. More than 60 per cent of all the private detective agency spying on employees in mines and mills. They have been used as agent provocateurs to induce men to some overt act, to get them to strike too soon."

"Dogging" By Detectives

As he described the "dogging" of employees by detectives, Gompers emphasized his words by pounding frequently on the table.

"In the steel industry," he continued, "men were discharged for merely talking of organization, or for grumbling.

"There have been numbers of men watched so closely that when they reached a hall the proprietor was told to lock the doors against them. Their meetings on a control ground have been broken up. The men were run down, dispersed and some assaulted."

"Can you give instances of that last practice?" asked Senator Sterling, Republican, South Dakota.

"Yes," at McKeesport," Gompers responded.

"Since this strike the offices of the iron and steel workers there have been closed against them."

Can on Meetings, Anti-Strike Plan

"I suppose that has been done on the theory that collection of crowds would cause disorders," Senator Sterling remarked.

"I don't know the theory," Mr. Gompers said. "But I do know the purpose. It was to prevent the leaders from counseling with the men and making the strike effective."

"In the event of war, the labor leader declared, should the rights of free speech and assembly be restricted, they should not be restricted, he said, for a "betraying corporation."

"I know that many of the public authorities in districts of Pennsylvania are under the direct domination of the United States Steel Corporation," the witness declared, sounding the table.

Says State Under Corporation

"The whole conduct of the strike in Pennsylvania shows," Mr. Gompers asserted, "that whatever helps the corporations against the workers will have the stamp of Pennsylvania authorities. The corporation declares that it proposes to run under the provisions—the

so-called 'open shop'—but with all their power they have tried to keep a 'closed shop' closed against the union, closed against union men.

"In response to the many requests for organization from the men we sent a few agents into the field some years ago. They were arrested, driven out of the towns, one of them so bludgeoned that he died. That was four or five years ago. He was Jefferson Davis Pierce, of Worcester, Mass."

Organization Effort Started

Gompers told of the final decision of the American Federation of Labor in 1918 to organize the men and described the methods used to finance the work.

"You have dealt with the policy of the steel companies trying to exclude union men," said Senator Philips, Republican, Colorado. "Is the policy of the unions to try to exclude nonunion men?"

"It is the policy of the unions to try to organize all workers," Gompers replied, adding that, in all his experience, he had never known a workman voluntarily refusing to join a union of his craft."

"I think it is an unfair to quote Mr. Wilson of 1909 as it is to hold up statements of W. Z. Foster, secretary of the steel union," committee made at that time and since disavowed and say they represent his attitude now," said Gompers.

Gompers Favored Postponement

"Now, Mr. Gompers, can you get down to brass tacks?" said Chairman Keenan. "We would like to know why this strike was not postponed, as the President requested, until after the industrial conference."

Mr. Gompers discussed the situation just before the strike and told of the efforts by President Wilson to bring about a conference between the men and the Steel Corporation officials.

"I advised on September 8 with the union committee and suggested that the strike be deferred," Gompers continued.

"A general meeting was called and the responsible officers of the union requested there to strike September 22, unless Judge Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the Steel Corporation, consented to a conference.

"I got a telegram from the President asking me to use my efforts to secure a date. I dictated a message to Mr.

Fitzpatrick (chairman of the steel workers' committee), asking that the President's request be complied with. He told me the men were in such a frame of mind that they could not be prevented from striking even should the committee vote for delay."

Strike, One Way or Another

"Several of the international union officers had declared in favor of postponing," Gompers continued. "They met in Pittsburgh on September 17 and 18 and my letter was read. Organizers who favored postponement, reported that they could not maintain their position. They voted almost unanimously to strike on the original date.

"They knew the strike would have taken place anyway, unaided, disorganized and leaderless. Their choice was not that of having to strike, but simply of having a disorganized or an organized strike, under the guidance of experienced men."

"I am carrying communications from Secretary Foster, of the committee," said Chairman Keenan, reading a letter, signed "Years for revolution, and carrying implications."

Foster Not an Executive

"I've made a brief reference to Mr. Foster," Mr. Gompers returned. "He wrote a book. No one could have a greater animosity to this J. W. W. position Foster took in 1910 than I do. His pamphlet on syndicalism, his attack on Zurich, before the international labor conference, on James Duggan, who represented the American Federation of Labor—all those things, printed in the past, but he changed, took a conciliatory position. In view of what he has said done to improve conditions of the workers, he is entitled to something better than to have his mistakes of the past held up to injure his usefulness. I have no hesitancy in saying that those are not his views."

"He is not now an executive officer of the strike. He is merely chosen to perform the secretarial work."

Steel Company Made 22 Per Cent

Discussing profits in the steel industry, Mr. Gompers cited a statement by Director General Hines of the railroad administration, which showed that in 1918 the Steel Corporation made 22 per cent on its common stock.

"I understand Mr. Fitzpatrick to say that the eight-hour day was granted by the Steel Corporation," remarked Senator Sterling.

"By the efforts of the war labor board," Gompers said, "conditions were finally produced which induced the

corporation to order the eight-hour day. But I understand it is still an order and not an actuality."

Mr. Gompers said he had no definite information on wages.

Senator Sterling introduced a Steel Corporation statement, which said that average wages paid by it had increased 130 per cent since 1913.

"But the corporation's profits have increased 400 per cent in the same time," Gompers retorted.

Stock Ties Men to Job

"Employees are allowed to buy stock," Senator Sterling asked.

"That system of installment stock-selling is an attempt to tie men to the job," Gompers said.

Senator Sterling then read a record of \$12,000,000 spent on welfare work annually by the company.

"They do it because it pays," Gompers said. "It prevents men from devoting their efforts to getting into proper organization."

"We say to all this that what we want is pay, not charity, that a minimum wage be paid that will permit a fair standard of living."

"We must recognize that this war has created antipathy. The time has come for a new understanding between man and man. No man can say he is master of all he surveys. No corporation can do that. No employer, no matter how rich, can pretend to be industrial master. The war must bring something better than pre-war conditions. The meaning of justice is now something more."

When Mr. Gompers completed his testimony the committee adjourned subject to call.

BLAME CREW FOR WRECK

Coroner's Jury Finds Fatal Crash Due to Misread Timetable

After returning a verdict that Oscar Petzold, of Bridgeport, a brakeman on the Stony Creek railroad, was killed in a collision through the fault of the conductor and engineer, a coroner's jury at Norristown today recommended that the railroad be equipped with approved signal devices.

Petzold was killed last Sunday when the freight train on which he was working was struck by a passenger train. Eight passengers were injured.

The testimony today showed that the conductor and engineer misunderstood the timetable, thinking that the passenger train did not run on Sunday.

M'CLURE MEN AIM TO CHECK RECOUNT

Probe of Ballot Fraud Charges to Be Directed by Judge Johnson

LOOKED UPON AS "SCARE"

Isaac Johnson, president judge of Delaware county and a McClure man, will take over the reins of the return board on Monday, when the cases of Tinicum township and several Chester ballot-boxes from the city of Chester

the board. Judge House, of West Chester, will be called to Media to take charge of the criminal court to relieve Judge Johnson.

This move on the part of the McClure faction is looked upon by the Sprout men as an attempt to reverse Judge William B. Broomall's decision of yesterday in which he ordered that all ballot boxes from the city of Chester where fraud or error was apparent should be opened as well as the Tinicum township ballot-boxes.

All of Judge Broomall's recent rulings have been in favor of the Republican League of Delaware county.

"It is a plain case of 'scare' on the part of the McClure faction," Thomas A. Keefer, a return board watcher for the Republican League said today. "They know that if the ballot-boxes from Chester are opened the recount will defeat William T. Ramsey, the McClure candidate for mayor, who won out over Mayor W. S. McDowell by a seventy-nine plurality. The McClure faction are sure of Judge Johnson, but they know that Judge Broomall will give each side a square deal. Well, it will only mean that we will have to fight harder."

Judge Broomall will sit at the return board with Judge Johnson, but the de-

isions will be made by the senior judge.

Reports that the ballot-boxes from the city of Chester were tampered with while supposedly under guard during the night of September 24 are being investigated by detectives for the Republican League.

Last night two armed special deputy sheriffs were placed on guard at the two entrances to Court No. 2, where the ballot-boxes are being held for recount by the return board.

Sheriff Albert R. Granger issued instructions to his men last night that no person should pass them and gain entrance to the courtroom. J. B. Kelly, deputy sheriff and father-in-law of J. P. Pierson, defeated McClure candidate for county commis-

sioner, who, with George Platts, chief tipstaff, was detailed to guard the ballot-boxes during the night when the alleged tampering was supposed to have taken place, was relieved from duty last night by Sheriff Granger, and William M. Mathies was detailed in his place.

"I have heard these reports that the ballot-boxes have been tampered with," Mr. Granger said this morning. "and I am relieving Mr. Kelly. I do not want any reflection cast upon my office."

The placing of the two armed guards to watch the ballot-boxes was the result of investigations made Wednesday night by Joseph M. Hamilton, Republican nominee for county commissioner,

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Attractive Capes and Scarfs of French Marabou and Ostrich in Natural, Fur Brown, Black—\$11.00 to \$26.00.

Advertisement for Joseph S. Darlington & Co. Inc. featuring Women's Sports Suits at \$28.50, \$32.50, \$35.00 and \$39.00. Includes an illustration of a woman in a suit.

Advertisement for Joseph S. Darlington & Co. Inc. featuring "Jack Tar" Togs for Girls. Includes text about dresses and skirts.

Advertisement for Joseph S. Darlington & Co. Inc. featuring Women's Heather-mixed Woolen Sports Hose, \$2.75. Includes text about children's and men's hose.

Advertisement for Joseph S. Darlington & Co. Inc. featuring Women's "Vanity Fair" Silk Underwear. Includes text about blouses and vests.

Advertisement for Joseph S. Darlington & Co. Inc. featuring Fur Cloth and Marabou Neckwear. Includes an illustration of a woman's face and text about scarves and collars.

Large advertisement for Mawson & DeMany featuring an Annual Fur Sale. Includes text about savings of 25% to 40% on all furs and fur coats, a list of fur items and prices, and a list of scarf prices.

Advertisement for I-PRESS & SONS featuring GENUINE DIAMONDS. Includes text about exquisite fine white color diamonds weighing 58 CARAT for \$78.00.

Advertisement for Joseph S. Darlington & Co. Inc. featuring Many New Coats for Girls of 6 to 14 and for Misses of 14 to 20. Includes text about school coats and girls' coats.

Advertisement for Joseph S. Darlington & Co. Inc. featuring Dorine—the Ideal Corset for Young Women. Includes text about complete selection of Dorine corsets.