

SHIPBUILDERS PLAN VOTE ON WAGE CUT

Men's Representatives Believe Men Will Accept 10 Per Cent Reduction

WORK NEAR STANDSTILL

A referendum of employes of virtually all shipbuilding plants on the Atlantic seaboard will be taken within the next few days to determine whether they will agree to a 10 per cent reduction in wages, to become effective March 1.

This action follows a recommendation by the industrial board of the Atlantic Coast Shipbuilders' Association, which met yesterday in the Estey Building. The board consisted of ten men—five representing the 75,000 union shipworkers on the Atlantic coast and five the officials of the shippers.

In an announcement this morning by Clarence S. King, manager of the association, it was stated that the move was necessary because of the impossibility of competing with foreign shipbuilders as wages remained at their present level in this country.

In yesterday's conference the representatives of the local ship plants present were H. A. Minouin, of the New York Shipbuilding Co.; J. Howard Pew, of the Sun Shipbuilding Corporation; W. T. Smith, of the Merchants' Fleet Corporation; James L. Ackerson, of the Chester Shipbuilding Corporation; Pusey & Jones were also represented.

The workers were represented by James O'Connell, president of the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor; Charles Scott, of the boilermakers; John Tobin, of the blacksmiths; Alfred Latture, of the machinists; and James Cooley, of the stationary engineers.

The opinion of the labor group was that the move to cut wages would meet with the workers' approval, as they have no alternative between that and losing their positions. It was said that orders for the building of vessels have fallen off to so great an extent since the completion or cancellation of war-time contracts that the shipbuilding industry is at present almost at a standstill.

By the Associated Press
Elizabeth, N. J., Jan. 28.—A proposal to reduce production costs 25 per cent by lowering wages has been submitted to the employes of the four shipyards of Bethlehem Shipbuilding Corporation.

This was learned today when Eric Everett, general superintendent of the steel plant, began holding conferences with representatives of the union employes.

The ship plants of the corporation to be affected by the wage reductions are located here and at Fore River, Mass., Sparrows Point, Md., and Wilmington, Del.

The wage reduction proposal, it was learned, was submitted to the heads of the international unions in the shipbuilding trades by the Bethlehem officials at a conference in New York last Monday. Labor leaders were told that the cost of production must be lowered if the industry is to be kept in operation and revitalized.

The international union officials, it is stated, informed the Bethlehem committee that they would have to submit the matter to the employes for their consideration.

The agreement between the corporation and the unions affiliated with the American Federation of Labor expired early this month and the conference now in progress, it is understood, will settle the fate of a new contract.

While reluctant to discuss the matter, union officials have indicated that they will co-operate with the shippers in an effort to reduce the cost of production and bring about normal conditions in the industry.



GILBERT K. CHESTERTON English essayist, playwright and novelist, who will be in Philadelphia today

CHESTERTON HERE TODAY

Noted English Writer to Be Luncheon Guest of George Gibbs

Gilbert K. Chesterton, English essayist, playwright and novelist, will arrive at Broad Street Station at 1 o'clock today. He will be accompanied by Mrs. Chesterton and will go to the Bellevue-Stratford Hotel to remain overnight. He will be met at the station by George Gibbs, novelist and illustrator, and will be Mr. Gibbs' guest at luncheon at the Franklin Inn Club.

Mr. Chesterton will deliver a lecture in the ballroom of the Bellevue-Stratford tonight on "The Ignorance of the Educated."

Mr. Chesterton is to return here next week to speak on "Shall We Abolish the Inevitable?" Tuesday evening, and "The Perils of Health," Thursday evening. Mr. Gibbs will introduce Mr. Chesterton tonight.

TRUCK KILLS CAMDEN BOY

Run Down While Crossing Street Near Cooper School

Walter Ollert, twelve years old, of 218 Bailey street, Camden, was run down by a motortruck while crossing the street near the Cooper School, on Third street, near Elm, Camden, at 10 o'clock today, and died as he was being carried into the Cooper Hospital.

The truck was driven by Edward McKim, of Washington street, Camden. He told Coroner Bentley, Ollert was one of three boys who started to run across the street, and in the effort to avoid the truck Ollert was jostled by one of his companions and fell between the wheels of the vehicle.

Coroner Bentley issued a certificate of death from injuries received in an automobile accident, permitting the removal of the body for burial. McKim was held under \$1000 bail for a hearing on Friday, February 4.

SAILORS ARE SET FREE

Had Been Held as Witnesses in Auto Smash

Robert Henon and Richard F. Keleher, both sailors of the Philadelphia Navy Yard, were discharged from custody by Magistrate Grelis, at the Eleventh and Winter streets station, following their detention as material witnesses when an automobile in which they were riding crashed into a trolley car at Eleventh and Vine streets.

Edward J. Flood, a chauffeur at the United States Navy Hospital, who was driving the machine, was held in \$600 bail for court on the charge of reckless driving. Henon and Keleher, who with Flood, were slightly injured in the crash, were not arrested on the charge of being drunk and disorderly as at first reported by the police.

TEXTILE WORKERS HEAR STRIKE TALKS

Strengthening of Picketing Plan Urged at Big Meeting at Labor Lyceum

DISORDER OUTSIDE MILL

With every seat and window sill occupied, and every inch of standing room utilized, a throng of labor men and women filled the Labor Lyceum, at Second and Cambria streets, for more than three hours yesterday afternoon.

There was no age limit set upon the crowd that had gathered. Youth and old age were equally represented. Bright-eyed girls and careworn women out of employment, rubbed elbows with a diversity of masculine types.

This was the sixth meeting to be held in the last three weeks to stimulate picketing at factories and mills where strikes are being waged.

Women, prominent socially and politically, who have long been identified with the Women's Trade Union League, occupied the stage with the representatives of the different unions, and the speaker of the occasion.

Miss Pauline Newman, organizer of the Women's Trade Union League in Philadelphia, was the principal speaker. She talked of the "unjustification, felt by the union workers, of a reduction in wages at this time."

"Much comment has been made," she said, "and this stress laid on the fact that the mill worker has acquired the silk shirt and silk stocking habit. If he has, it is by the sweat of his brow, and he deserves these luxuries."

Silks Their Own Affair

"No woman works harder to buy a pair of silk stockings than one who is employed in a mill, and if she chooses to wear them like her more fortunate sister, it is entirely her own affair."

"Let's make our fight now—get on the picket line, so that we won't become tramps."

John Breen, representing a union of laundry workers, spoke of the "Duty on the Picket Line," urging his listeners to carry on their battle of picketing.

Another speaker was A. Plotkin, who is chairman of the knit goods union. His subject was "The Gentle Art of Making Tramps."

Tension was stretched to the breaking point a half dozen times in the course of his talk. He was the silver-tongued orator of the day.

"The fellow who hasn't a job and is cold, and whose stomach hurts all the time from hunger is dangerous," said Plotkin. "Out of the unemployed come the tramps, out of the tramps come the criminals, and out of the criminals, the jails. We've all learned this from hard knocks."

As the meeting drew to its close men and women gathered their coats

WOMAN "PONZI" ARRAIGNED TODAY

Mildred M. Boniface, Accused of Many Swindles, to Get Hearing in Central Station

MOUNTFORD AT CITY HALL

Mildred M. Boniface, "petticoat Ponzi," who is charged with swindling numerous residents of south Jersey while posing as the daughter of a member of the Morgan firm of financiers, will be arraigned this afternoon in Central Station for a further hearing.

The woman was recognized recently by Director of Public Safety Cortelyou and was arrested last Friday at a pleasantly appointed apartment at 3148 North Broad street.

Robert Mountford, wealthy resident of Haddon Heights, who admitted he married the woman three months ago at Reading, Pa., came to the detective bureau this morning and said he wanted to see his wife before the hearing.

"I want to learn from her own lips whether it is true she owns properties at 1208-10 E. street, Northeast, Washington, and whether the properties may be attached for the recovery of \$10,000 which she obtained from my mother on false pretense," he said.

Mountford "came to the rescue" of his wife when she was first arrested last Friday. When he was shown her police record, his attitude changed.

Then the alleged confidence woman turned upon him and declared she would "send him up for bigamy." She told of their marriage at Reading, and said she had learned afterward that he had another wife.

Mountford, according to the police,

WILL REBURY GIBBONEY

Body of Lawyer to Be Brought Here From Mexico

THIEVES LOOT PAWNSHOP

Clothing and Furs Worth \$2500 to \$3000 Are Stolen

Clothing and furs, worth from \$2500 to \$3000, were stolen from the pawnshop of Abraham Haas, at 1127 Poplar street, during the night.

To obtain entrance to the pawnshop the thieves forced a gate to the rear yard and chiseled open the rear door. They cut through a sheet-iron door, throwing two bolts and two bars, and chiseled through a third door, removing a bar and two bolts.

Forty overcoats and suits were removed from the second floor to the first floor, and packed in suit cases for removal. About fifty pairs of trousers

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY CLUB ELECTS

Dean Henry Bouton, of the New York University, last night told members of the New York University Club of Philadelphia that their alma mater has grown to be the largest university in the country. The alumni held their annual dinner in the University Club, 1510 Walnut street. John S. Arndt was elected president of the club; Carl G. Kirsch, vice president, and W. Franklin Stroud, secretary and treasurer. Bishop Robert L. Rudolph was among the speakers.



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