

LABOR LEADERS WILLING TO CONTINUE CONFERENCES

Men, However, Will Insist on Restoration of Seniority Rights Before Returning to Work, Jewell Declares

By GEORGE NOX MCGAIN Chicago, July 20.—B. M. Jewell, head of the Railroad Shopcraft Union, in an hour's interview yesterday outlined the strike to me from his viewpoint. I met the president of the striking shopmen at his office in the Riviera Building, far out on the North Side of the city.

The headquarters of the railroad employees of the American Federation of Labor, which is the official name of the striking shopmen's organization, occupies the top floor of a three-story structure, minus an elevator, but elaborate in tilework and exterior decoration of enameled brick.

Mr. Jewell's office is an unpretentious 10 by 12 room, containing three chairs, a flat-top desk loaded with letters and telegrams, a few photographs on the walls and no rug on the floor.

He was in his shirt sleeves at his desk dictating to a stenographer when I was introduced.

In personal appearance he is not the typical strike leader. He is of medium height and build, tending to slenderness. His features are clean-cut, face lined to long, but full of animation. His brown hair is without a touch of gray, and I fancy he is about forty-five years of age. When he becomes interested his conversation is direct and his language well chosen.

"Are you willing to meet the railroad executives and discuss the situation with a view to ending the strike?" I asked him bluntly.

"We are, most emphatically," was the reply. Then he added: "We always have been ready to meet them."

"What is the stumbling block, then, to an adjustment of your difficulties and the return of the men to the shops?"

"The operators demand that our men must return to work before they will consider any question at issue. This is impossible. We want to know just where we stand before we return."

"And why insist on this?" I asked.

"Because if we returned under such an arrangement it would afford the railroad executives the opportunity of accepting or rejecting any or all of our men. The question of sacrificing seniority rights of members of our organization would be involved. The result would breed dissensions and trouble and we would be worse off than we were in the first instance, or before the men went out."

"What do the shopmen ask as a condition for their returning to work?" I continued.

"Gives Shopmen's Demands. 'That the railroads agree to abolish the contract system of forming the pairs; that they permit our men to return to work with unimpaired rights. These are the principal things we ask to be adjusted, and that they also agree to give us back the crown, land and sea.'"

"I am convinced that you are a radical, Mr. Jewell; is that so?" I interjected. He smiled broadly as he replied.

"Emphatically, no; I'm not a radical. In fact, I am anything but one. I have been president of this organization for four years, and think my administration scarcely justifies such a charge."

"But the impression is pretty general," I suggested. Again he smiled; laughed rather, as he said: "I presume that idea is the result of my activities in the shopmen's outlaw strike of 1919. We won, if you recall. No, I am anything but a radical, in the sense you imply. I believe in fighting for and with the Government, not against it."

"One of the most interesting statements made by the strike leader had to do with the inception of the present trouble."

"If this strike had not been declared, we would have been able to vote of our members, there would have been disorders, fights and destruction of property," he asserted with emphasis.

"You mean the men would have resented any attempt toward calling it off?" I suggested.

"Not that," he replied. "We addressed a letter on the subject of the strike by our men to the Railroad Labor Board on June 17 last. On June 20 I again addressed the board advising them that in compliance with the vote of the six shop craft in the United States, sanction had been granted to suspend work at 10 A. M. Saturday, July 1."

"Hearing Held Too Late. 'The board immediately notified us that they had summoned the railroad executives and railway employes to appear for a hearing on the 29th of June, Friday, June 30, the day before the date set for a cessation of work. Why they waited till that last day I have never discovered,'" he added.

"We did not respond to that notification of the board for this reason: There are something like 17,000 local lodges of our craftsmen. The strike order had been issued for Saturday, July 1, the day following that appointed by the board for its hearing. If we had attended that meeting it would have been physically impossible for us in the few hours that it took all the members of our organization in the United States."

"We would have been compelled to depend solely on newspaper headlines to disseminate the fact over the country that the order for a cessation of work was in doubt, or held up, that the heads of the shop crafts were still discussing the situation."

"Our men, in the absence of official

notice from headquarters to that effect, would have been all at sea. When they gathered at the shops on that Saturday morning there had been doubt, arguments, turmoil and dissension among them. Differences of opinion would have resulted in personal encounters, and serious difficulties would have ensued, disastrous not only to our organization, but to life and property."

"The physical impossibility of reaching by telegraph 17,000 separate lodges in an organization of ten or twelve hours is apparent to any reasonable man. Our organization officials, therefore, decided to let the order for suspension of work stand and await an adjustment in the future," concluded Mr. Jewell.

"Have you called on any of the railroad organizations to support the shopmen in their strike?" I asked.

"What do you mean? Sympathy strikes?" demanded Mr. Jewell. "I suppose it might be called that," I replied.

"No Sympathy Strikes. 'We have not, there will be no sympathy strikes. Every railroad labor organization is an autonomous body. It decides all questions concerning its affairs within its own organization. This is apparent in the action of the maintenance-of-way men who have declined to go out. The signmen, I believe, have decided not to join us. That answers your question.'"

"What effect will the action of President Harding in asking the various States to turn out the National Guard for the protection of life and property have on the present situation?"

"In reply, the troops are to be mobilized in connection with the coal strike and not the strike of railroad operators. I think, however, that the ordering of troops in connection with the railroad situation would be inadvisable. I believe it would complicate matters and lead to trouble."

"But what about the trouble in the railroad strike already reported from various sections?" I inquired.

"I have investigated every report of disturbances, particularly that at Denison, Tex., and from all information these cases have been greatly exaggerated or were put forth by interested parties with the idea of influencing public opinion against us."

"Do you believe that public opinion is with you in your position?"

"It is on the part of men who think. If anybody will study the causes which led up to it, examine the documents in the case, read our presentation and our correspondence with the Railroad Labor Board, I am convinced that they will concede the justice of our position," said Mr. Jewell in conclusion.

"Rail Reactionaries Facing Disaster. Continued from Page One. have no further claim to consideration by the railroad Saturday morning. The men who have taken their places will be protected and retained permanently as part of the regular forces of the roads."

"There is nothing startlingly new in this. It is merely a reaffirmation of the railroad's position. It is noticeable, however, that nowhere is it affirmed that the executives will not confer with the strikers or that they will not take back some of them, at least."

"It is a slender thread of hope for the striking shopmen, and that is all."

"Reactionaries Courting Disaster. The reactionaries on both sides of this situation are not only blocking every well-meaning effort to settle the questions at issue, but are actually rushing it to a point where it will be impossible to escape disaster."

"Under all circumstances it looks as though President Harding will be compelled to shoulder a burden additional to the coal strike—that of the rail strike."

"From announcements in this morning's Chicago newspapers it would appear that still further trouble is in store not only for this city, but for the railroad that centers here."

"For days past the threat of a complete tie-up of the city's trolley lines and elevated railroads has hung over the municipality. It now seems as if the tie-up will be ordered within forty-eight hours. In that event the police department contemplates the withdrawal of all patrolmen from the railway yards and shops."

"This will necessitate the State becoming active in the situation. National Guardsmen will take the places vacated by the police and from the very start this suggests disturbances and clashes."

"Two Bright Spots. There have been two developments that afford some slight encouragement. The action of the Pennsylvania Railroad officials in making a new contract with their employes, which in some cases contemplates an advance in wages, has had, it is understood, a heartening effect on those of the railroad craftsmen who are on strike but are anxious to return to work."

"The other development came in a letter written by Bert M. Jewell to E. J. Grable, grand president of the Maintenance-of-Way employes. Only one copy of this letter was made, and it was surreptitiously removed by some one from Assistant President Smock's room in the hotel. All of the officials deny emphatically that they gave it out for publication, as it was not intended to be used at this time."

"From the inception of the strike President Grable has been repeatedly denounced by the hot-heads for his refusal to call a strike. Some of them have threatened to act without his sanction. Nearly 60 per cent of the 452,000 members of the organization voted to go out, but with sole power of action Mr. Grable has refused to order them out."

"One of the charges made was that he was breaking faith with the shopmen; that an agreement had been made between the officials of the shop crafts and the maintenance-of-way employes that the latter were to have walked out in conjunction with the shopmen on July 1."

"Jewell Upholds Grable. Yesterday, in response to a request from Mr. Grable, Mr. Jewell wrote a letter stating specifically that no such agreement existed between the organizations; that Mr. Grable was within his rights as president of the maintenance-of-way men in declining to permit them to strike."

"It was a most unusual communication, in face of the call of Mr. Gompers and the executives of the Federation of Labor to back up the railroad strike in every way, and verification of Mr. Jewell's statement that he has not tried to influence other railroad organizations to join the strike."

"Mr. Grable left last night for Detroit, where he is to meet the officers of the Grand Lodge of his order. They are to receive his report on his visit to Washington and interview with the President, and also to act upon the demands of certain officials that a strike be called at once."

"Mr. Grable was more firmly convinced than ever when he left this city of the necessity of his position as opposing a walk-out at this time. All his power will be exerted against such a step at Friday's meeting."

"The president of the Maintenance-of-Way employes is the one big outstanding figure in this complex and threatening situation. He will play a conspicuous part in the events of the immediate future."

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TWO-PIECE SETS—Vest and Step-ins; batiste, voile and silk plisse; tailored and trimmed—\$2.00 to \$7.90.

COSTUME SLIPS—of nainsook; with deep hems; beautifully trimmed—\$1.95 and \$2.95.

ENVELOPE CHEMISES—of trimmed nainsook—\$1.25.

NIGHT GOWNS—of white nainsook, tailored or trimmed; and of lace-trimmed batiste in orchid—\$1.95.

SATINE PETTICOATS—plain hem and double panel—\$1.00.

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Don't Forget a Bathing Suit Bag!

Of cotex lined with rubber, \$1.50. Utility Bags, of moire or cotex, cloth-lined; rubber-lined pocket for bathing suit, \$2.95.

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Boxes holding 24 sheets of Paper and 24 Envelopes, white linen-finish. Half price at 25c.

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Packages containing 84 sheets of white Linen-finish Writing Paper and 75 matching Envelopes—58c.

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Floor samples, many styles, with only one of a kind but every kind wonderful value—\$27.00, \$29.65 and \$34.25.

Strollers—\$9.00

Very comfortable, reclining back. One-fourth under price—\$9.00. Strawbridge & Clothier—Basement, Filbert Street

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SLIPS AND DRESSES—of soft nainsook, bishop or yoke style, plain or trimmed skirts—75c to \$3.50.

LONG PETTICOATS—of nainsook, plain or ruffled, 65c to \$2.50; of flannel, made in Gertrude style, \$1.00 to \$3.50; flannelette—50c.

HAND-CROCHETED SACQUES—with touches of pink or blue—\$1.00 to \$3.50. Flannelette Wrappers, 50c Hand-made Socks, 38c to 95c

Baby Blankets, \$1.25

Outing flannel Diapers, \$2.25 a dozen; woven fabrics, \$2.50 a dozen.

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Bathing Caps in Glorious Array

Bright, light, dark; plain or variegated; simple and complicated; plain and elaborate; caps, hats, bonnets, kerchiefs—25c to \$1.00.

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Women's and Misses' Slip-Over Wool Sweaters, \$2.50

Slip-over Wool Sweaters. White and a few plain shades, at this remarkably low price. Strawbridge & Clothier—Aisle 6, Market Street

Summer Frocks for Girls From Ten to Eighteen

The pretty, cool tissues, sheer voiles, fresh-looking linens, gay ginghams—the Frocks that gladden the summer picture and make one feel cool by suggestion. VALUES ARE WONDERFUL.

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Plain colored ratine with embroidered collar; straight-line belted Dresses of checked gingham with linene or organdie collars; figured voile Dresses in light or dark colorings. Sizes 14, 16 and 18 years.

Misses' Lovely Frocks of Crepe de Chine—\$15.00

Straight, low-waisted Dresses with sash of the material; plaited skirt with side draping. Black and navy blue. Sizes 14, 16 and 18 years.

Intermediate Girls' Sheer Wash Frocks—\$7.50 to \$15.00

The model sketched, \$10.75

Sheer figured voile, plain colored organdie; dotted Swiss; white voile and checked gingham combined. Also white voile and colored dotted Swiss combinations. Sizes 10 to 16 years.

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Full box-plaited Skirts, and two-piece gath-ered Skirts with oddly cut pockets. Lengths, 29 to 33 inches.

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Plain colored organdie with rows of self quilting and colored flowers; colored voiles, embroidered or hemstitched; braid-trimmed tailored Linen Dresses; Gingham and Linen Combination Dresses. Sizes 14 to 18 years.

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Black and colors, and in sizes 8½ to 10—not all sizes in each color, however. Three groups, all marked for quick clearance.

Silk Stockings, cotton tops and soles; in plain or ribbed. Some seconds. 65c

Pure Silk Stockings, full-fashioned with cotton tops, seconds. \$1

Also fancy-weave glove-silk Stockings, in first quality. \$2.00

Full-fashioned Stockings entirely of silk, with lace clocks. All have some slight irregularity. \$2.00

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New Victor Grass Rugs Low in Price

Heavy-warp stenciled Japanese Grass Rugs, of the better grade, at most attractive prices. In the popular shades of blue and green.

Size 8x10 feet—\$4.50

Size 9x12 feet—\$5.00

Crex de Luxe Rugs, Half Price

Odd-size Rugs of this famous make at low prices:

Size 5x6 feet—\$3.50

Size 5x6 feet—\$3.40

Size 8x9 feet—\$2.50

Size 2x6 feet—\$2.50

Strawbridge & Clothier—Floor 4½, Filbert Street

Something-to-do Books for Children

Painting Books—some with paints, others with crayons; Cut-out Books, toy furniture, dolls and their dresses to cut out; and scores of other equally interesting books to amuse the kiddies these warm days—12c to \$1.75.

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AT ATTRACTIVE PRICES

Plain-tailored white gabardine, \$2.75. Flesh and white sports satin, and a few of eponge in plain colors and plaids, at \$3.75. Baronet satin, white, navy blue and black, \$6.75. White flannel, very smart, \$5.00 and \$7.50. And Skirts of high-grade silks, chiefly all-white fancy weaves—excellent value at \$8.50.

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One-pound of these delicious assorted fruit-filled and satin-finished Hard Candies, conveniently packed in decorated tin cans—35c.

Also walnut-filled Dates, very delicious—35c a pound.

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Five thousand yards of the genuine Ningshai Pongee—the clear, fine, heavy quality that tailors so smartly. Width, 32 inches—\$1.55 a yard.

Another Lot of All-Silk Pongee, Special at \$1.00

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The Clearance of Women's Summer Frocks Is a Great Economy Event

The assortments are good, the models all that could be desired, the colors and materials are those highest in favor, and there are weeks of wearing time ahead—no wonder women marvel at these low prices.

Now \$5.00 Now \$8.50 Now \$12.50

Dresses of figured voile in brown, Copenhagen blue and navy blue effects; regular sizes. Extra-size Dresses of ginghams in panel and tunic styles.

Fine ginghams, dimities and dotted Swiss, high-grade ginghams, dainty tissues, tailored ratine, and combinations of voile-and-linen. Great variety.

The Frocks of Imported Dotted Swiss, high-grade ginghams, dainty tissues, tailored ratine, and combinations of voile-and-linen. Great variety.

Lovely White Silk Frocks, \$15.00 to \$35.00

Crepe de chine, Canton crepe and Tricolette, in draped and plaited styles; some beaded, some embroidered, others with the fashionable self trimmings that are so smart this season.

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STRAWBRIDGE & CLOTHIER

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SLIPS AND DRESSES—of soft nainsook, bishop or yoke style, plain or trimmed skirts—75c to \$3.50.

LONG PETTICOATS—of nainsook, plain or ruffled, 65c to \$2.50; of flannel, made in Gertrude style, \$1.00 to \$3.50; flannelette—50c.

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Outing flannel Diapers, \$2.25 a dozen; woven fabrics, \$2.50 a dozen.

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\$3.75 Sports Pumps and Oxford shoes in various styles; some of white buckskin with tan or black trimmings; rubber-soled shoes.

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