

LAS VEGAS FEARS STRIKE TRAGEDY

150 Railroad Workers Surrounded by Strikers in Nevada Stockade

MOVE STALLED TRAINS

Las Vegas, Nev., Aug. 15.—Las Vegas was at a high tension today. For two days the town has been without trains, mails or fresh foodstuffs, the supply of the latter having been low before the railroad tie-up started. State police, armed with machine guns, were expected almost momentarily, but officers here said they feared an outbreak before reinforcements arrived.

Approximately 150 persons, railroad shop employees, guards and their wives and children, were virtual prisoners in a railroad stockade here early today and Union Pacific workers were maintaining pickets outside.

Governor Boyle, who has been here several days, addressed the strikers late yesterday, delivering a warning against a "psychic jug." He told them a clash between strikers and non-striker employees or strikers and officers might lead to something that would prove uncontrollable.

Governor Boyle declared the isolation of Las Vegas made the situation one fraught with untold dangers. He pointed out that this city is more than 300 miles away from other cities, with all transportation facilities cut off.

District Attorney Harmon told the men that an outbreak at this time would unquestionably result in "another Herrin tragedy," and pleaded with the leaders to hold "hot heads in check."

Los Angeles, Aug. 15.—(By A. P.)

All passenger trains stalled on lines of the Santa Fe Railway by the walkout of members of the Big Four were reported moving today. Efforts were being made to move all freight tied up on the same line, and tension following the railroad labor troubles in the Southwest was expected to be relieved by dispatches from San Bernardino, Calif., announcing the end of the brotherhood strike there on the Union Pacific system.

Santa Fe officials planned to start at least one passenger train a day from Los Angeles to Chicago.

Investigation by Federal officials of the report that trains were abandoned at desert points, with passengers suffering of passengers as a result of a conspiracy, was said to be progressing. Department of Justice agents were to begin an inquiry today at Needles, Calif.

The United States Grand Jury may be called into session to hear testimony on the conspiracy inquiry, it was said.

So exhausted was it to almost a verge of collapse after four days on the desert of Needles, 125 passengers on Santa Fe train No. 1, which had been stalled by the unauthorized walkout of the "Big Four" Brotherhood, agreed here.

Passengers denounced the inhumanity of the railroad strikers.

"I am an old woman—too old to be made to suffer as I have on this trip because of greedy workers," said "Grandma" Mallison Woodson, ninety-five years old, who was on the verge of a collapse as she was taken from the train and placed in a wheel-chair.

J. N. Norris, fifty-seven years old, of Los Angeles, left here four days ago for the East in search of better health. He came home last night worse than when he left. He was too weak to walk.

A story of the same conspiracy between strikers was told by Mrs. A. R. Milven, of Kansas City.

"Some of them opened up their homes to passengers and invited them to ride what they thought they could get," Mrs. Milven said. "I don't think any of the passenger accepted their hospitality."

Two Babies Are Born on Trains Halted in Desert

San Bernardino, Calif., Aug. 15.—By A. P.—Two babies born on stranded trains at Seligman, Arizona, were among four hundred passengers returned here today after four hot days and nights in the desert.

No hardships were encountered by the marooned travelers except when the babies were born without the proper facilities to care for them.

Mrs. P. J. McCrecheon, Bakersfield, asserted that strikers intimidated stranded women and children ready to leave Seligman Sunday night by telling them that the train would be blown up before it reached Los Angeles.

Harding to Put Rail Strike Up to Congress

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Apparently intended to be the court, judge and jury for the trial and conviction of those employees whom they do not intend shall return to work.

Four Reasons for Rejection

The letter which was signed by the heads of the seven organizations on national strike informed the President that his proposal had been unanimously rejected for four reasons:

"First was that, in a previous proposal, the President had suggested that all employees on strike be returned to former positions with 'seniority and other rights unimpaired.'"

"My proposal of August 7 is that the seniority question be agreed to, or rather disposed of, only after they have returned to work," the letter said.

"This strike cannot be, and no other railroad strike has been, settled until it was agreed that all employees on strike are to be returned to work and to their former positions with 'seniority and other rights unimpaired.'"

The second reason declared that "there is no penalty in the transportation act against employees who strike, when an attempt is made through a decision of the Railroad Labor Board." Enforcement of seniority, it was added, "would read into the transportation act a penalty which is not contained therein."

The third reason, after pointing that the unions had agreed to a former settlement proposal of the President, said they were "unable to understand why after we had accepted your own terms of agreement, you now request us to accept a proposal which is directly in conflict with your former proposed agreement."

Proposition "Impracticable"

As a fourth reason the leaders declared the President's latest proposal "impracticable" and tending to "create a chaotic condition because of the undetermined seniority status of the employees."

The letter asserted in conclusion that railroad employees were mindful of the public interest, that in this strike they had been willing to accept an original settlement arrangement which "did require that the employees make a concession of virtually every issue which brought about the strike," and that "if past statements are correct, the managers of some of the railroads, the last few days, have frankly admitted that they do not desire at this time to settle the strike, but hope to be permitted to continue their efforts to disintegrate the organizations of railroad employees."

Willard and Stone Confer

Though Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio, and Warren S. Stone, grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, both denied last night having entered into a conference into the strike situation, it was admitted today that such a meeting had been held. Mr. Willard left the city immediately afterwards. What further efforts the brotherhood officials would make was not disclosed.

With reference to the splendid walkout in the west of other crafts, got on national strike, brotherhood leaders said all such walkouts were under investigation by representatives of the national organizations. The conduct of such treatment, it was explained,

Soft Coal Chiefs Agree on Wages

Continued from Page One

Its duties being to consider future settlements of disputes in the coal industry.

The settlement came after a week spent in marking time here by operators and miners. Finally, the showdown on the issue of compulsory arbitration came, resulting in three big operators withdrawing from the conference when President Lewis refused to accede to the demand. The conference reorganized and threw the doors open to all soft coal operators. A quick agreement in principle followed, with operators controlling production of 30,000,000 tons annually committed to its adoption.

The operators in the meeting have mines in Ohio, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan. Orders went forward from the operators here today to their bosses back home to get ready to speed up coal production. Miners, however, were confident that an early resumption of work at scattered mines would result in other operators hurrying their acceptance of the agreement.

Washington, Aug. 15.—(By A. P.)—The brightest ray of light in the darkened industrial situation appeared today from the anthracite coal fields of Pennsylvania, where persons in close touch with the situation expressed the belief, chances for a quick and satisfactory settlement of the long-drawn-out strike of union miners were good.

Definite results from the meeting in Philadelphia Thursday, with President Lewis, of the United Mine Workers, were predicted, and Senator Pepper, of Pennsylvania, who is acting for President Harding, who was instrumental in bringing about the conference, was authority for the statement that "there seems no doubt an adjustment of all differences of the time being, at least, will be accomplished."

Senator Pepper, who at the request of the President has been carrying on negotiations with the anthracite operators of his State, with Governor Sprout last night had a long conference with President Harding and Secretary Hoover at the White House. It was the conclusion of this meeting that his statement was issued. The President, Senator Pepper said, had been given all the details of his negotiations with the operators at Philadelphia "will be held in an atmosphere of entire sincerity."

No intimations were given as to the basis on which the settlement is being negotiated. It was believed possible, however, that if at least a temporary settlement should result from the Philadelphia conference an agreement might be reached for the creation of a presidential or congressional commission to adjust future wage difficulties.

HARDING ADOPTS HANDS-OFF POLICY

By CLINTON W. GILBERT

Staff Correspondent Evening Public Ledger

Washington, Aug. 15.—It is hoped by the Administration that the railroad strike will be ended by negotiations between the brotherhood chiefs and railroad executives. The conference between the brotherhood chiefs and Daniel Willard last night was followed by one between them and T. De Witt Cuyler today.

In the meantime, the President will keep his hands off as he did in the coal strike, when President Lewis, of the miners, began to deal directly with the coal operators. He will not go to Congress, and he is unlikely to make any public statement. He will undertake no further mediation and offer no further suggestions of compromise.

The official announcement that the coal strike is broken, is expected hourly.

Those three paragraphs sum up the strike situation which has taken an optimistic turn, to keep his hands off and will be required quickly, but it is believed the railroad strike has entered a stage paralleling that of the coal strike when Lewis began to call the conference at Cleveland. The facts are that the railroad brotherhoods, the most influential of the railroad unions, and three-quarters of the railroad executives walk out on Cleveland, it was said.

The Administration is impressed with this disposition on both sides and means to keep its hands off.

Advised to Keep Hands Off

The President has been advised by leading Senators, so long as the railroads can function, to keep his hands off and let the railroads fight it out with their men. If he should decide to do this, he would make no suggestion of legislation to Congress, but might continue to a statement of the strike situation.

If the strike among the brotherhoods spreads and the railroads cease to function, there will be nothing for the President to do but to ask authority to take over and operate the railroads. Those who have had contact with the brotherhood chiefs are firmly persuaded that they wish to end the strike. They are conservative and cautious leaders. Their organizations are in a strong position. They have much to lose and nothing to gain from a strike. Their followers are much more radical than they are and are proving hard to control.

The shopmen's strike goes on much longer the brotherhood leaders may be forced by their own rank and file to take part in it.

Big Four May Decide

With regard to the issues in the shopmen's strike they are likely to take a practical view. They are interested in saving the shopmen's union, for they do not wish to see the hold of labor in the transportation industry weakened. But any settling of the strike leaves the shopmen's union firmly entrenched with its national agreement in force is likely to seem acceptable to the brotherhoods.

The chiefs of these organizations speak with more authority than any one else who has sought to end this strike. They have the fate of the strike in their hands. The shopmen probably will be better off if the brotherhoods fail to support them. The railroad executives probably will be better off if the brotherhoods take part in the strike supporting the shopmen. Both sides will listen to them.

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G. A. CULLEN ENDS LIFE WITH BULLET

Body of Former Lackawanna Official Found in Room of Hotel Vanderbilt

LEFT 9 LETTERS AND WILL

Special Dispatch to Evening Public Ledger

New York, Aug. 15.—George A. Cullen, formerly a vice president of the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad, prominent in the United States railroad administration and founder of the Consolidated Ticket Office, was found dead in his room on the seventeenth floor of the Hotel Vanderbilt by a maid who had been trying for hours to get into the place. He had been dead about ten hours, the medical examiner believed.

Death was due to a bullet wound in the abdomen fired from a .32-caliber pistol which was found at his side. A note directed that nine letters be mailed unopened. There was a will in which he left all his estate to his mother, but no written explanation of his act.

Mr. Cullen had lived at the Vanderbilt since August 10, and kept very much to himself. It was said at the hotel, he was so retiring, it was said, that it was believed he had gone on a vacation. He registered as "T. H. Reed, of Philadelphia," but made no effort to conceal his real identity in death. A note on the dresser read: "I am George A. Cullen."

Mr. Cullen was a bachelor and about forty-five years old. He lived many years at the Hotel Edgewater in East Orange, N. J., where he and his mother made their home together. The two left the hotel ten days ago and it was believed there that they were vacationing together. It was said that so far as known Mr. Cullen had no troubles of any kind. Acquaintances were incredulous when informed he had taken his life.

Mr. Cullen retired from railroad service to organize the North American Fruit Exchange.

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GEORGE A. CULLEN

HOOVER ADVOCATES COAL LEGISLATION

Will Be Necessary to Regulate Distribution and Prices Next Winter, He Says

WANTS CONGRESS TO ACT

Washington, Aug. 15.—Legislation by Congress to regulate distribution and prices of coal during the winter was declared today by Secretary Hoover to be necessary even though operations soon are started in the bituminous and anthracite fields.

The suspension of work in the coal fields, now in the twentieth week, has so lowered coal stocks, Mr. Hoover said, that not even immediate and reasonable fuel production will remove the necessity of some measure of regulation during the next six months, when the country makes its greatest drain on coal supplies.

The Federal Coal Distribution Committee, the Commerce Secretary pointed out, is functioning with voluntary force and as an emergency agency and hence cannot continue to direct distribution indefinitely. Mr. Hoover also saw the need of imposition of some statutory control of coal prices during the winter or otherwise coal prices might become unduly high.

Railroads were warned today by the Interstate Commerce Commission to cease confiscating coal moving over their lines under priority order, for delivery to consignees who have been declared preferred under the Federal fuel distribution plan.

"The commission's attention has been called to the fact that railroads frequently confiscate coal which is being moved under priority of equal or higher class than coal for railroad fuel as ordered by the commission," said a commission notice. "This practice is not consistent with the spirit of the service orders of the commission and tends to defeat the efforts now being made to insure the most efficient distribution of coal."

E. C. Morse Pleads Not Guilty

Washington, Aug. 15.—(By A. P.)—Ernest C. Morse, former Director of Sales of the War Department and now president of the Foreign Sales Supply Company, of New York, pleaded not guilty in the District of Columbia Supreme Court today to two indictments charging conspiracy to defraud the Government in connection with the sale of the Ohio History Powder plant at Jacksonville, Tenn., and with disposition of surplus lumber from commitments.

Slain for "Making Rain"

Pontiac, Mich., Aug. 15.—(By A. P.)—Carl Schroeder and his sons-in-law, August Zimmerman, farmers living near Northville, were shot to death at the farm home by Albert Schroeder, twenty-five, a son and brother-in-law, according to a reported confession made by the latter after his capture by a posse. The alleged slayer is quoted by the officers as saying his father exerted his "influence" against him in his "power to make rain."

TWO GRIPPING SHORT STORIES

of one advised with the other in the Magazine Section of next Sunday's Evening Public Ledger. Both are real fiction. They will be read with interest and pleasure. "Make It a Habit."

Indianapolis, Ind., Aug. 15.—(By A. P.)

The action of the Cleveland conference in reaching an agreement is of no consequence to the Indiana bituminous coal operators' association, said Phil H. Tenn, secretary of the association, when apprised of the developments there. "Our association was not represented there," he continued, "and we will sign no agreement made in that conference."

Ed Stewart, former president of dis-

Pittsburgh, Pa., Aug. 15.—(By A. P.)

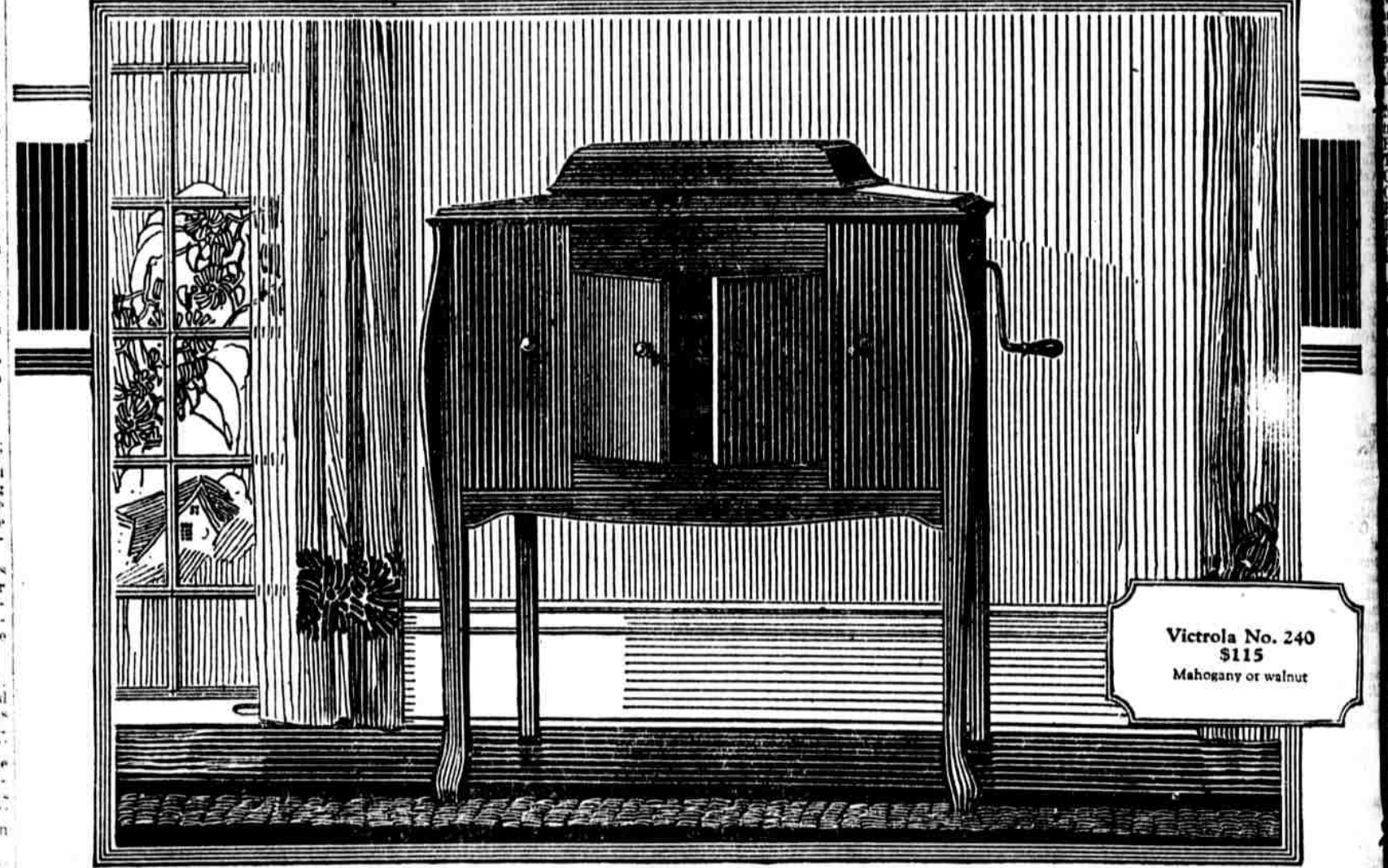
The Pittsburgh Coal Producers' Association declared today that it had "no intention whatever" of following the lead of the operators who had come to an agreement with the United Mine Workers in Cleveland to end the bituminous strike.

"If anything the situation here has tightened," it was asserted. Member companies of the association are credited with about 70 per cent of the 45,000,000 tons produced annually in the Pittsburgh district.

Terre Haute, Ind., Aug. 15.—(By A. P.)

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