

### COMMISSION SUGGESTED

(Concluded from Page 1.)

was a talker who went straight to the point. That's the kind of speakers needed at meetings such as last night's. Mr. Hammes gave a concise, clear and very temperate statement of the position of the strikers, which made an impression upon those who heard him. He said he would be brief and he was, which was another commendable feature of his talk. In part, Mr. Hammes said:

#### MR. HAMMES' STATEMENT.

"The Carpenters Union passed a set of rules, two sections of which were the cause of the trouble. The first of these eight hours constitute a day's work and the other asked for thirty cents per working hour. The eight hour day is just and right, I believe, because the workman who is employed only eight hours each day is capable of doing better work and becoming more skilled in his craft. The result is that the man who employs labor gains as well as the man he employs. Another consideration is that a greater number of men will find employment. Labor saving machinery and the combinations of capital have greatly reduced the number of workmen who are required to do a given piece of work and a rearrangement of hours that will employ more men I believe is for the general public good.

"The second bone of contention is the request for the thirty cents an hour for journeymen and thirty-five cents for foremen. This is \$2.40 per day which can hardly be called extravagant for a skilled workman. If the carpenters could work every workday in the year this would be a fair rate of wages but as a matter of fact the carpenter averages only seven months a year, changes from one job to another and had weather making it impossible for the carpenter to average more than the number of months I have mentioned. More than this, the carpenter must have from \$100 to \$150 worth of tools to start with and each year must expend about \$50 to replenish his stock.

#### WILLING TO ARBITRATE.

"I ask you, as intelligent men, if this wage scale is excessive. If it is let the contractors meet with us and show us where we are wrong and we will recede from the position we have taken. We are willing to arbitrate; we are willing to be convinced if we are in the wrong.

"I have talked of this strike as if it was a carpenters' strike, but it is more than that. The Building Trades Council took up the gauge of battle and caused a general tie up. And a tie up there is notwithstanding the very truthful (?) statements of the Builders' Exchange, Mr. Laudig. A tie up does exist and a tie up will exist until this matter is settled because it is not a case of resisting the demands of the workmen, but of striking a death blow at unionism in this city.

"One commendable feature of this strike is the good feeling that exists between the strikers and their late employers. If there is bad feeling it has not come to my attention and when this trouble is over we can go back and work for the best interests of our employers as faithfully and as honestly as before the trouble.

"Now for the remedy! We are willing to arbitrate. Since the beginning of the trouble we have had a grievance committee ready to confer with the bosses. We are not obstinate. We are willing to go half way; yes, three-



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quarter way to bring the strike to an end.

The speaker then made an earnest appeal to the Builders' exchange to meet the strikers and discuss the matter. The loss in wages every day this strike is in progress, he said, is from \$7,000 to \$10,000. This is a total loss to the city that cannot be recouped and, as the speaker viewed it, the people of Scranton will not long tolerate the conduct of the Builders' exchange if its members continue to refuse to meet their workmen and discuss the matter at issue. He suggested that two of the most prominent men of the city be named to represent the strikers and the Builders' exchange, they to select a third, the decision of this commission to be binding on all concerned.

"The Builders' exchange was invited to send representatives to this meeting," said Mr. Hammes, "but did not see fit to do so. Perhaps they feared they would be 'roasted.' Nothing of that kind would have occurred. We believe in a spirit of conciliation and that has been our attitude since the strike began."

Judge Edwards, in commenting on Mr. Hammes' speech, said he was thankful for the honest and temperate statement of the speaker. He believed the members of the Builders' exchange ought to meet their late employers and see if a settlement of the difficulty cannot be arrived at.

Mr. Hammes then offered the resolutions given above, which were adopted with a cheer.

Judge Edwards then introduced M. F. Conry, who, he said, is one of the best speakers of the Lackawanna bar. Mr. Conry made a very eloquent address. Among other things he said:

#### MR. CONRY'S REMARKS.

"I am not conversant with all the details of this struggle, but I know and you all know that the workmen have come here tonight prepared to talk this matter over with the men with whom they have differences. We do not know what the other side is, but after what we have heard here tonight it seems to me that the Builders' exchange is arranged at the bar of public opinion and the public of Scranton which has sustained an irreparable injury by this strike will take proper consideration of this fact."

Mayor Mohr was the next speaker. He said on opening his remarks that he had rather doubted the propriety of his being present. He said people might say the civil head of the city was playing the demagogue. After consideration he had decided that it was right for him and every citizen to be present. Continuing he said:

"A strike and all its accompaniments appear to me to be a rude something of a barbarous civilization, yet there are times when they are proper. In the present difficulty there must be conciliation and arbitration. I was one of 6,000 men who struck in London a number of years ago and I know that after we had been months of the trouble that I was so embittered that I was ready to rend my hair and I departed like Abraham of old into a far country. I have watched these men closely for five weeks and I can testify to their splendid conduct. There has been no overt act committed and the chief of police, who is present, will bear me out in this, for he can testify that not one of his men have been called upon to quell any disturbance.

"It is beneath the dignity of the Builders' Exchange to meet with these men? They should meet them, the principles of right demand it, and I feel sure that the resolutions presented here this evening will be eagerly accepted." The mayor was greeted with loud applause.

#### MR. M'GUIRE APPEARS.

At this point the appearance of P. J. M'Guire, who had been detained in Philadelphia and who had arrived on the 8:45 p. m. train, caused some excitement. Mr. M'Guire was vociferously cheered as he ascended the platform and it was some minutes before the noise had subsided sufficiently to allow his voice to be heard.

He said he regretted that he could not get here sooner and that he was able to judge by the trend of the mayor's remarks regarding the resolutions adopted that those present were desirous of peace. He told of coming here seven years ago on a similar mission and how the members of the Exchange at that time did not want to see him at first but sent for him in the end. He told of the close relations existing between the labor organizations and the Builders' Exchanges throughout the country and asked why they could not exist here as well.

The eight hour day movement, he said, cannot be stopped by the Builders' exchange and that it is bound to come, as there is a power greater than law behind it—the power of a moral principle bounded on right. He further said: "Labor must have its own voice, not by violence, but by a moral power in itself. If two parties are in a controversy each should recognize the other. If capital and labor are to be partners, why should labor be the silent partner?"

#### NEED OF A UNION.

"The man who goes alone to his employer is easily disposed of, but when united it is different. When no understanding exists between employer and employee wages fall and the employer's profit is uncertain. The contractors in New York city who deal with organized labor who pay their men \$3.50 for an eight hour day make more money than the East Side 'scab' bosses who deal with non-union labor and pay their men \$2.25 a day. It is to the best interests of both the employer and the employee should meet, not with clinched fists, but with the outstretched hand of amity.

"If the contractors agree to meet me fairly and squarely this strike will be settled in twenty-four hours. I desire to thank the strikers for the peaceful disposition they have displayed; it redounds to their credit. If the exchange refuses to compromise at this time, don't weaken, stand together

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firmly, to surrender at this time would mean that you were not satisfied with your position. It remains for the employers to say whether the strike is to be prolonged." Mr. M'Guire was greeted with tremendous applause.

The Rev. C. A. Spaulding next spoke and told of his sympathy with the workingman and how he thought that their cause in the present case was perfectly just and proper.

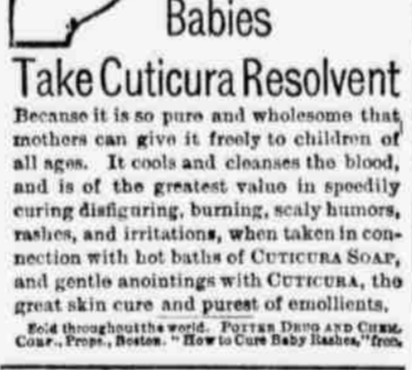
Dr. John C. Bateson followed and spoke along the same lines, dwelling upon the tremendous loss to the business element of the city since the strike began.

Dr. Bateson was the last speaker of the evening. Just after adjournment Mr. M'Guire held an informal levee upon the platform and a number of those present were introduced to him.

#### What Secretary Laudig Says.

Secretary Laudig, of the Builders' exchange, stated to a Tribune man late yesterday afternoon that the exchange as a body had received no invitation to attend the meeting.

He said that some of the members had been asked individually, but that no invitation had been officially extended to the exchange.



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  - 1800 Boys' Knee Pants, Suits that are good value at \$1.50. Bankrupt price, 78c.
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  - \$1.00 Men's Working Pants at 49c.
  - \$2.00 Men's Good Business Pants at 97c.
  - \$3.00 Men's Dress Pants. Bankrupt price, \$1.29.
  - \$5.50 Men's Fine Stripe Dress Pants. Bankrupt price, \$2.24.
- Ladies' Millinery, Wrappers and Cape Department.**
- In this department you will find thousands of bargains. We lack space to mention big assortment of Veiling, Ribbons, Tips, Flowers, Etc.
- Ladies' \$1.50 Crash Skirt, 49c.
  - Ladies' \$3.50 Separate Dress Skirt, 98c.
  - Ladies' \$9.00 Separate Dress Skirts, \$2.98.
  - Ladies' \$1.00 Laundered Shirt Waists, 29c.
  - Ladies' \$1.00 House Wrappers, 49c.
  - Ladies' \$2.00 Trimmed Hats go for 49c.
  - Ladies' \$3.00 Trimmed Hats go for 97c.
  - Ladies' \$5.00 Trimmed Hats go for \$1.65.
  - Ladies' \$7.00 Trimmed Hats go for \$3.23.
  - Misses' \$3.00 Trimmed Hats go for 75c.
  - Children's 50c Sailor Hats for 15c.
  - Ladies' \$2.00 Untrimmed Hats go for 19c.

- Furnishing Goods for Men and Women—Stock of Over \$50,000 Must Be Sold.**
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  - Ladies' Shirt Waists, laundered, from 39c to 89c.
  - Ladies' Stockings from 5c to 25c. Value from 25c to 75c.
  - Men's 4-ply Linen Collars, 5c, or 6 for 25c.
  - Men's 4-ply Linen Cuffs, 9c, or 3 pairs for 25c.
  - Men's White Laundered Shirts, 47c. Value 75c.
  - Men's Good Working Suspenders, 9c. Value 50c.
  - Men's Good Working Stockings, 4c, or 6 pairs for 25c.
  - Men's Unlaundered Linen Bosom Shirts, 27c, or 4 for \$1.00.
  - 10,000 all styles Working Shirts from 19c to 50c.
  - 20 dozen Men's Soft Hats, worth \$1.00. Special price, 39c.
  - 15 dozen Men's Stiff Hats, worth \$1.50. Special price, 73c.
  - 10 dozen Men's Fine Alpine Hats, cheap at \$2.50. Special price, \$1.29.
  - 7 dozen of Men's Extra Fine Stiff Hats, spring style, worth \$4.00. At \$1.75.
  - 25 dozen of Men's and Boys' Spring Caps, worth 50c. Will go at 19c.

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