Archie Mayson, colored, killed Wal- the latter killed him with his wooden lace Waldo, also colored, in Edgefield county Saturday, by striking him in the head with a wooden gun. Num-bers of Edgefield county negroes have for some been engaging in drill prac-tice for a Fourth of July celebration using wooden guns. Waldo and Mayson fell out and Waldo attempted to dison Mill at Edgefield to be capitaliz shoot Mayson with a pistol whereupon

V. B. Wright, a vegetarian of Chester, has been notified by the War De partment to report at once at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

A charter has been issued to the Ad ed at \$175,000.



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BEST PAID MEN ARE NOW ASKING FOR HIGHER PAY

Covernment Officials Fab to Find Any Justice In Demands Of Train Service Employees.

By Judson C. Welliver in The Washington Times.

Administrative and legislative asthorities in Washington are taking a distinctly different views of the present effort of railway trainmen to compel an advancement in their wages, from any that has been taken on former occasions.

It is very apparent that the case for the employes seeking higher wages is viewed with less amiability than cordinarily. In legislative circles there has recently been serious talk of legislation to prohibit strikes by employes of interstate carriers, and to provide a procedure for compulsory arbitration.

The impression has gained a good leaf of ground, that certain favored classes of employes have for a long time been systematically aggregating to themselves most of the increases

Highest Paid Class Of Men

On behalf of the enginemen and trainmen who are making the dewand for a large wage increase, it is urged that the higher cost of living justifies their demand. Yet these men, the engineers, firemen, conductors and brakemen, are the highest paid classes of railroad labor. The question being asked why an engineer getting an average wage in 1913 of \$5.20, should require an increase, while trackmen, who were getting \$1.5s per day, should be left out?

Again, the average wage of conductors in 1913 is shown by the statistics of the Interstate Commerce Commission to have been \$4.39 per day. At the same time, telegraph operators and dispatchers were getting an average wage of \$2.52 per day.

If the increased cost of living for the \$4.39 conductor necessitates a large increase in his compensation, conductors. where does the \$2.52 dispatcher come

No demand is being urged on behalf of the operators and dispatchers, and some of the railroads have lately advanced from \$3.38 to \$4.20. been intimating vigorously that if a big additional burden must be laid classes of employes.

The truth of the whole business is crease had been 27 per cent. that, as a whole, the railroad emhighly paid as compared to other peofortunate of all these classes are the

Rate Rising Rapidly

Not only are these four classes paid much more liberally than other employes, but the figures show that their rate of wages has been rising more rapidly than that of any other 1903 \$2.17 per day, and in 1912, \$2.96

In 1914 the Interstate Commerce Commission's report showed the number of railroad employes for the entire country to be 1,710,296. Out of this number there were 62,021 engineers, 64,959 firemen, 48,201 conductors, and 136,809 other trainmen; a total of 311,990, or just about onesixth of the entire number.

At that same date, the number of trackmen, exclusive of foremen, was 337,451. That is, the number of common laborers on the section was greater than the entire roll of engineers, firemen, conductors, and brakemen. Yet this huge army or trackmen was working for an average wage of \$1.58 per day, while engineers were getting \$5.20, firemen were getting \$2.13, conductors were getting \$4.39, and other trainmen were getting \$3.04. These figures are the commission's averages for the entire country.

Condition Bettered

Largely because they are the best organized classes or railway workers and have been unremitting in their demands for better wages, these four classes have succeeded in bettering their condition rapidly and regularly. Meanwhile, there is a marked indisat the expense of the other classes. which are not so highly organized.

on a wage increase, have, on their side, the tremendously potent argument that if they don't get what they ask, they can walk out and tie up the whole railroad system. No other class of employes could do this, because no other is so instantly indispensable.

How effectively the four favored classes have used their power is shown by the cold figures. In the ten years from 1903 to 1912, inclusive, the salaries of general officers in creased an average of 17 per cent.

In that same ten-year period the salaries of engineers increased 21 per cent

During those same ten years the wages of general office clerks increased 13 per cent, while the wages of

firemen increased 32 per cent. During those same ten, years the wages of telegraph operators and dispatchers increased 14 per cent, while those of trainmen other than conductors increased 36 per cent.

Impressive Statement

Here is an impressive statement of fact about railway wages that ought not to escape attention. There were a total of 37.873 employes classified as switch tenders, crossing tenders, and watchmen. These were recelying in 1912 an average of \$1.70 per day, which was actually 6 cents a day less than they had been receiving ten years earlier.

At that time there were 48,201 conductors with whom the statistics The conductors, therefore, were only a slightly more numerous class than the tenders and watchmen; yet, while the conductors had had their wages raised from \$3.38 to \$4.29 per day, the less fortunate class of tenders and watchmen had to stand a reduction from \$1.76 to \$1.70 per day.

. If the cost of living has been steadily advancing for conductors, so as to justify an increase of 27 per cent in their wages, it seems difficult to explain why that same cost of living should have fallen sufficiently to warrant a decrease of 3 per cent in the wages of switch tenders, crossing tenders, and watchmen.

Take the single classification of general office clerks. There were 87,106 of these according to the official report Asmuch larger number than of either engineers, firemen, or conductors.

These general office clerks were paid an average of \$2.21 per day in 1903, and of \$2.50 in 1912; an increase of only 13 per cent in the tenyear period.

General office clerks, without exception, are compelled to live in cities, where cost of living is high. Engineers Better Off

Engineers, on the other hand, are distributed between large towns and small towner on the average, their living circumstances ought to make their expenses average considerably less than those of office clerks, yet the stail the show that engineers have received in the ten-year period an increase of 24 per cent in their wages, making them average exactly \$5 per day while general office clerks have received an increase of only 13 per cent, making them average \$2.50 per day.

One of the worst underpaid classifications of railway employes is that of the station agents. There are just about 40,000 of these in the country, or nearly as many as the number of

In 1903 station agents averaged \$1.80 a day, and in 1912 they had been raised to only \$2.20 a day, while in that same time conductors had

That is, the station agent in 1912 was getting just about half the wages on their labor funds they would like of the conductor, and in ten years be to give the benefit to the poorer paid had had an average increase of 17 per cent, while the conductor's ini-

Here are two of the most numerployes of the country are not very ous classes of railway employes: Trainmen, other than ple. A few classes of railroad men firemen, and conductors, numbered are paid very high wages. The most 136,809, while trackmen numbered 337,451. The statistics show that the engineers, firemen. conductors and trackmen were getting in 1903 an average of \$1.31 per day, and in 1912 an average of \$1.50 per day, an increase of 14 per cent.

What Others Got On the other hand, the classifica-

tion of other trainmen was getting in per day, an increase of 36 per cent. In percentage, this is the largest advance received by any single class of railway employes during this decade.

A general survey of wage conditions in the railway service and in other industries, it is believed, would show that in the last fifteen years the highly organized and favored classes of railway wage earners have had their incomes increased more than almost any other class of workers in the country, while the much more numerous, but less effectively organized classes of railway workers have probably received rather less increases than other industrial workers in general,

In view of the strong feeling that these most fortunate, classes of the railway employes are now making excessive and unreasonable demands, being called as never before to these general discrepancies. There is a strong dis position to inaugurate a general and sweeping inivestigation of the whole question of railway wages with a view to establishing some sort of publie regulation not unlike that already applied to railroad rates, in the interest of employes and public alike. position to extend further favors to those classes already most highly The trainmen, whenever they insist | favored, at the expense of other classes of employes who appear to be getting very low wages.

> Four national railroad unions threaten to the up every steam road in the country. The number of employees involved may total 400,000. They seem to have it in their power to stop all freight and passenger traffic on 250,600 miles of track.

We have never had a strike

of such scope and magnitude. It would paralyze all American industry and commerce and export trade. A nation of 100.-000,000 people would stand still, while its biggest industry + fought out a question of wages + and hours. A deadlock would be inconceivably destructive. Banger (Me.) News.

Change of Venue For Bethune.

The case of Willie Bethune, charged with murder, has assumed a new aspect with the granting by Judge Jno. Wilson at Manning on Tuesday in the Clarendon county court of a change of venue from Clarendon to Lee coun ty, where the case will be tried in the circuit court. Solicitor Stoll asked that it be removed to Williamsburg county for trial, while Messrs, Clifnot efm for trial, while Messrs. Clifton and Moise, the defendant's attorneys, requested that it be moved to Sumter county. Judge Wilson decided on Lee county and named that as the place

for the trial. This case has attracted a great deal of attention throughout the State, esoccially in this section, as it has been in the Supreme Court on Appeals a number of times and has brought out a number of interesting legal points. -Sumter Item.

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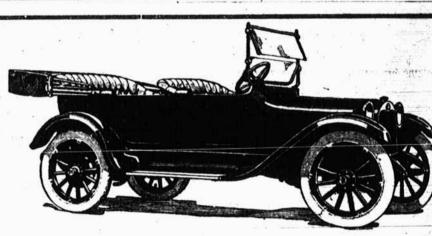
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