

LABOR BOARD REPLIES TO COMMUNICATION OF RAILWAY EMPLOYEES

Issue Taken With Mr. Jewell on Several Points—Comparisons Made in Purchase Value of Wages Now and in 1915

Mr. E. M. Jewell, president, Railway Employees' Dept., A. F. of L., 4750 Broadway, Chicago, Ill.

Dear Sir: Your communication of the 17th instant, in which the presidents of the eleven organizations composing your department also joined, has been duly received and most carefully considered.

Your letter is to the effect that certain decisions of the railroad labor board have been submitted to a strike vote of the members of your several organizations and that, in the event the vote is affirmative, the strike will be sanctioned by you and your associate officials.

It might seem that your communication calls for no official response. Personally, however, I have always felt a willingness to go beyond the strict limits of my official authority in the interest of railway peace, when this could be done without the sacrifice of any principle or of the commission of any official impropriety.

Inasmuch as a vote in favor of a strike by the men is not to be a mere formality, but is to be followed by a strike order from the organization heads, I deem it a duty to make reply to your letter.

It is to be presumed that you do not desire that the members of your organization shall vote for a proposition that contains such possibilities of loss and detriment to themselves, upon a misunderstanding of the action and attitude of this board. It is a fact, however, that your letter does manifest a strikingly distorted conception of what the board has done and why it did it.

In the most concise manner possible and without the repetition of much detail, let me call attention to a few statements in your letter.

1. Your statement that the board's last decision "states openly that pressure of circumstances was such that the board was unable to determine just and reasonable wages" is not correct. The decision contains no such statement and none that can be fairly so construed.

The decision recites at length the abnormal economic and industrial conditions of the post-war period, and then says:

"Surrounded by such abnormal conditions, the Labor Board has not been permitted to deal with the question of what constitutes just and reasonable wages and working conditions in the same undisturbed and uncomplicated manner as would have been possible in normal times."

This simple recognition of difficulties experienced by the whole world should not be twisted into an interpretation designed to mislead the men whose interest are most directly involved.

2. Your statement that this board says that "the establishment of just wages for railway workers must await the complete satisfaction of ownership in the matter of rehabilitation and profits" is an inexcusable perversion of both the language and meaning of what the board in fact said. A strike of railway employees, involving their wages, their employment and their welfare, based upon such misleading statements of this board's sentiments and declarations, would be unjust to the men and to the public.

3. The statement in the board's decision "that labor can not be completely freed from the economic laws which likewise affect the earnings of capital" is so obviously sound that it will not be questioned anywhere this side of the kingdom of the Bolshevik. And yet, you mention this as an occasion of offense.

Your construction of this as meaning "the treatment of labor as a commodity" is strained, especially so, in view of the fact that the board, in the same paragraph, said:

"It should be said that the labor board has never adopted the theory that human labor is a commodity to be bought and sold upon the market, and, consequently, to be reduced to starvation wages during periods of depression and unemployment."

4. Your statement that the board "failed to take into consideration the principle that even the lowest paid railway employees, such as section men and laborers, should receive at least a living wage," is utterly baseless.

Your continual isolation and accentuation of the fact that a minimum rate of 33 cents an hour, \$1.84 a day, was established for section men is entirely misleading because it overlooks or suppresses so many connected facts, among which are the following:

(1) The rate for section men ranges from 23 to 35 cents per hour.

(2) A comparatively small number of them receive 23 cents per hour. A vast majority of them receive the higher wages. This is shown by the fact that the average rate per hour is 32.7.

(3) The 23 cents rate is found on a comparatively small number of divisions on a few roads in the south and southwest. It is not even

FLORENCE SHOPMEN GET ORDERS

Local Officials Construe Walkout as Optional With Men and With Union

Florence, June 29.—Members of the Florence local of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad shop crafts union today received permission by telegram from their head officials to quit their jobs at 10 o'clock Saturday morning.

The local chairman construed the telegram as making the walkout optional with the local union and with the individual members. The instructions received are the first of the kind ever received here, it was stated today. Local union men would not say today whether there would be a strike on Saturday or not. The railroad officials here have received no notification. Approximately 700 men will be affected here if the strike comes off.

WILL MAKE PAYMENT

Depositors in Peoples' Bank of Greenwood to Receive Money

Greenwood, June 29.—Depositors of the Peoples' bank of this city, the affairs of which were taken over by the Bank of Greenwood as liquidating agent in January, 1921, will be paid 20 per cent. of the balance of their unpaid deposits tomorrow, according to announcement of the trustees of the bank today. A 40 per cent. payment of the total deposits was made on December 27, 1921.

Since the payment of 40 per cent. of the total deposits the trustees have succeeded in spite of unfavorable financial conditions in collecting enough to make a 20 per cent. payment at this time.

DEMPSEY AGREES TO FIGHT NEGRO

Accepts Challenge of Harry Wills

New York, June 29.—(By the Associated Press.)—First steps in negotiations which, it is believed, eventually will bring Jack Dempsey and Harry Wills, negro pugilist into the ring for a titular match for the heavy weight crown were taken today when Dempsey accepted Wills' challenge.

This acceptance was announced by the New York state boxing commission. This body officially acknowledged receipt of the challenge and deposit of \$2,500, and later issued a proclamation stating that, unless Dempsey, before July 10, accepted under reasonable conditions, his title would be declared forfeited as far as New York state boxing territory was involved. In accepting the challenge, Dempsey, through his manager, Jack Kearns, requested that a conference be held between the principals be held soon, so that conditions governing the proposed bout might be considered.

No date for this statement issued by the boxing commission, but it is understood that the managers of the two heavyweights will meet and arrange the necessary preliminary details within the next week or ten days.

Rainbow Veterans Plan For Reunion

Former Members of Famous Division to Gather at Greenwood in July

Greenwood, June 29.—Preparations are being made here for the annual reunion of veterans of the Rainbow division living in North Carolina and South Carolina which will be held in Greenwood July 10 and 11. A large number of members of the famous division are expected to attend.

No program has yet been announced, but, according to L. A. Dugan, chairman of the reception committee, the reunion will be long remembered by every Rainbow veteran who attends.

Curious results that should be satisfactory to them. With the degree of friendly interest that I feel in these organizations and with the recognition that I accord to their great service to their membership I am hopeful that they will not adopt a course that will surely prove disastrous to the organization and unfortunate to the men composing them. It is regrettable that such a step is contemplated at a time when the country is just entering upon an era of more stable industrial conditions that give promise of an enlarged degree of prosperity to railway employees.

Very respectfully,
Ben W. Hooper, Chairman.
Co-William H. Johnson.
J. A. Franklin.
Jas. W. Kline.
J. J. Hyves.
Jas. P. Noonan.
Martin F. Ryan.
E. F. Grable.
E. H. Fitzgerald.
Timothy Healy.
D. W. Holt.

GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE IN STRIKE

United States Railroad Labor Board Summons Heads of Unions and Executives to Appear in Federal Investigation in Chicago Today

Chicago, June 29.—(By the Associated Press.)—Intervention by the federal government under the authority of the transportation act created to maintain the orderly course of the nation's transportation arteries loomed tonight as the final hope of averting the threatened railroad strike of 400,000 shopmen, and possibly 500,000 more railroad workers.

Their ultimatum to the railway executives rejected, chief executives of the six shop crafts unions, which have called a strike for 10 o'clock Saturday morning, and the leaders of four other unions now polling a strike vote, prepared tonight to answer the summons of the United States railroad labor board to appear in a federal investigation tomorrow.

With the union heads were summoned the executives of 23 railroads, charged by the employes with illegally contracting shop work in violation of the board's orders, one of the three questions on which the shopmen have been casting strike ballots for the last two weeks. Other railway executives of the 201 class roads in the country also were asked by the board to be present.

Developments of the strike situation came in rapid sequence today. International presidents of the six shop unions announced telegrams authorizing their membership to walk out Saturday morning.

The labor board immediately recognized a threatened interruption of traffic and acting under the authority of the transportation act issued citations to the strike leaders to come before it for official inquiry.

The Association of Railway Executives meeting here on other matters considered and rejected the union proposal of a truce pending negotiation over wages and working conditions.

The executives declared that a strike would be against the orders of the labor board and against the United States government and thus absolved themselves from further responsibility to the present situation.

Rumors of a compromise to be submitted by the labor board at a meeting this afternoon, had it that the railroads agree to abolish the system of farming out work to contractors, which was one of the issues in the strike referendum and controversy in which the board has ruled in concession by the carriers as against several roads. With this partial victory for the unions, their leaders were said to be manifesting a disposition to cancel tomorrow's strike order and accept the wage reduction.

The assurance that the railroads and employes will abide by the law and orders of the United States Railroad Labor Board was the basis on which the Federation Labor body pinned its hopes of throttling the threatened railroad strike.

MORE MEN ON STAFF

Governor Appoints Four as Lieutenant Colonels

Columbia, June 30.—Gov. Harvey yesterday announced the appointment of the following men as members of his military staff: D. L. Smith, Walterboro; Jesse S. Leonard, Central; J. L. Michie, Darlington; J. B. Gibson, Dillon. All members are to rank as lieutenant colonels.

Irish Republicans Escape by Tunnel

Belfast, June 30.—The republicans in Four Courts at Dublin are escaping from the building by means of a tunnel which they have constructed for use in emergency, says a Dublin message received here this afternoon. The flight followed a tremendous explosion at twelve thirty in the Four Courts, and was followed by a shower of legal documents, the message stated.

State Police at Pennsylvania Mines

Punxsutawney, Pa., June 30.—A detail of state police arrived today to take over the coal strike situation after yesterday's disorders in the mining district around here. The marching men were estimated to number three hundred. They destroyed the coal house scales and wrecked a motor truck carrying coal. The march was finally broken up by troopers. There were no casualties.

TO DISCUSS COAL STRIKE SITUATION

Invitations to White House Accepted by All Principals. Conference Saturday Remains More or Less a Mystery

Washington, June 29.—With acceptances received from all the principals in the bituminous and anthracite coal strikes, both on the operators' and the miners' union side, official Washington tonight began preparations for the Saturday conference President Harding has called to consider a possible basis for resuming work in the mine fields.

Both sides having accepted, a question remains only on two points: first, as to the identity of the individuals who would represent the employers of the unionized bituminous field, and second, what would be the administration's plan for procedure after the meeting assembled.

At the commerce and labor departments where officials have chiefly been occupied with the strike settlement plan, it was intimated that the union leaders and the operators would be expected to work out their own course after the conference assembled. President Harding was expected to bring the groups together but his engagements call for him to leave Washington immediately after and it was expected that Secretary Davis and Secretary Hoover would represent the government in the immediate negotiation.

Emphasis was placed behind the assertions in semi-official discussion that the government did not expect the meeting to bring about a strike settlement itself, but to recommend, if possible, to associations by those present a further course which might be followed and which might result in settlement. It was considered unlikely that the meeting would be public.

HOUSE TO TAKE LONG VACATION

Members Go Home to Enter Campaigns

Washington, June 30.—The house of representatives adjourned tonight at 9:45 o'clock until August 15, thus giving members opportunity to return home to look after their campaigns while the senate still is at work on the tariff.

Democrats, opposing adjournment almost solidly, forced a roll call. The vote to quit was 171 to 43 with two voting "present."

"The Democrats having voted with their fingers crossed, I now move that the house be adjourned," said Representative Mondell, the Republican leader.

There was a shout and a wild race to taxicabs waiting outside to rush members to outgoing trains.

In opposing adjournment, Democrats insisted the house ought to stay in session and act on Henry Ford's offer for lease of Muscle Shoals.

On objection by Representative Montague (Democrat) of Virginia, Mr. Mondell failed to get through a request that all members be given five days in which to extend their remarks in the Congressional Record on any subject relating to legislation.

To enable the house to clean its affairs, a technical session of the senate was held at 9 o'clock for signature of last minute bills by the senate's presiding officer.

PINK SILK GOWN STIRS ENTHUSIASM

Garment Displayed in House of Representatives by Fordney in Tariff Agreement

Washington, June 30.—A pink silk night gown—very soft and fluffy—was displayed to the house today by Chairman Fordney of the ways and means committee to support his charge that home manufacturers could not compete with foreign tariffs because of a low rate tariff. The garment almost broke up the show.

Lifting it high, after he had exhibited other wares, including a shotgun and a fiddle, Mr. Fordney shouted above the laughter that he hardly knew how to describe it.

"Atta boy!" a member shouted back.

"I suppose you gentlemen would like it better if there were something in it," said the veteran tariff builder, and women in the gallery joined in the laughter.

The gown made in Belgium cost \$13.40, the landing cost raised it to \$21.69 and it was put on sale for New York women who like luxuries at \$60, said the chairman.

Belfast, July 1.—The big main line bridge, two miles south of Drogheda has been blown up, severing railway communication between Belfast and Dublin.

TROOPS ARE READY IN WEST VIRGINIA

National Guard Companies Are Ordered Mobilized. No Details Known. Destination of Soldiers Not Announced

Charleston, W. Va., June 29.—Company D, West Virginia National Guard, comprising three officers and 50 men, was ordered mobilized shortly before midnight tonight. A conference was in session at that hour in the governor's office with Governor Morgan, Adj. Gen. Charnock and other state officials attending.

Both Governor Morgan and General Charnock were silent as to the cause for mobilization. At the executive office Jesse V. Sullivan, secretary to the governor, told an Associated Press representative that "we can't tell you now; maybe there will be something later."

Company C infantry unit of the National Guard, was also ordered mobilized. The men reported to the armory about 1:30 o'clock, and were at once ordered to "fall in." Their departure for the Cabin Creek district was momentarily expected.

Charleston, W. Va., June 30.—A Gazette staff man, stationed at headquarters where Company D, machine gun unit of the National Guard is being mobilized at 1:40 o'clock this morning, said that he had reliable information that the company would entrain within the next 30 minutes. He could not learn officially its destination but it is believed to be to the Cabin Creek district where a threatened outbreak of miners is reported.

Herrin, Ill., June 29.—No additional bodies were recovered from the wrecked strip mine near here today by William McCowan, coroner of Williamson county and a squad of nine deputies, who worked all day by digging with shovels in the earth around the destroyed steam shovel mine of the Southern Illinois Coal company.

It has been rumored that several bodies of non-union miners were buried in the mine as a result of the fighting between the striking union miners and strike-breakers last week.

One of the wounded strike-breakers, who is in a hospital here, reported that guards at the mine buried several dead strike-breakers last Wednesday night with the steam shovel, but Coroner McCowan said that no evidence was found to substantiate the report.

Other developments today in the mine situation in Williamson county were an announcement by Circuit Judge Hartzell at Marion that a grand jury investigation of the mine massacre last Thursday would begin July 10, and the first arrest in connection with the mine disorders in the district.

Maintenance men at three mines of the Madison Coal company near Carterville, who had quit work after being warned to leave, returned to their posts, and deputy sheriffs arrested a union miner at Carterville in connection with the threats.

BEAUFORT VOTERS HEAR CANDIDATES

Candidates For Governor All Lay Stress Upon Questions of Taxation

Beaufort, June 29.—Candidates for state offices were heard in Beaufort tonight, the meeting being held in the court house and attended by about 300 voters.

Cole L. Blease had come to the people, he said, to give them a remedy for their tax burdens. A sick man did not need a physician to tell him he was ill. The problem, he thought, was to cut expenses, not to find other sources of revenue. He characterized the tax commission and other departments as useless fifth wheels in the government. No commission form of government had ever been successful, he said.

Cole L. Blease, John T. Duncan said, has had two terms and is asking for a third and Blease, he said, was not offering a single suggestion for tax reduction and could not point to a single thing he did while in office to reduce taxes.

George K. Laney, of Chesterfield again laid stress upon the state, and that he was making the campaign on his own hook. Nobody was behind him, he said, and if elected governor no machine or organization would control him. He would be the chief executive of the state.

Mr. Laney paid a high tribute to Senator Neils Christensen's effort to settle the canal question. He denied that the commission had offered to sell the canal for a small sum as claimed by John T. Duncan and said he would not allow state moneys to be used to allow state moneys to go unrefuted. If the senate had swallowed the full program of tax reform as set forth at the last session of the general assembly the state levy would have been cut down to about four mills. The people, despite the cry of tax burdens, would see that not a school was closed, that not an inmate of the state hospital suffered and that the Confederate veterans were cared for. If elected governor, Mr. Laney said, he would give the people the same kind of service he has rendered the general assembly the last 20 years.

Thomas G. McLeod told the voters that 70 per cent. of the tax burden on the people of Beaufort rested directly on the responsibility of the county delegation as only 30 per cent. of the taxes paid by the people of the county goes for state purposes.

Mr. McLeod made a strenuous plea for enforcement of the law, if the crime wave is to recede. His remarks were so applauded that at times he had to wait for the cheers to subside. "I can make no better governor than I have been citizen at home," he said. He could take no more character into the office than he had shown in a private citizen at home. Mr. McLeod awakened more enthusiasm here than possibly has yet been shown any candidate during the campaign.

STILL WILL FACE MURDER TRIAL

Mother-in-law Accuses Barnwell Man

Barnwell, June 30.—Milton Still, a white farmer who lives a few miles from this city, has been arrested on a warrant charging him with the murder of Barnie Diamond 18 years ago.

The arrest is said to have resulted from a difficulty between Still and his brother-in-law, Frank Owens, about ten days ago, at which time the latter shot Still in the leg. Still had Owens arrested, whereupon Owens' mother, Mrs. M. A. Owens, divulged information which led to the arrest of Still on the charge of murder.

From the best information available, it seems that the evidence against Still is very meager, as no eyewitnesses to the alleged murder can be located. In Mar. 1904, the body of Barnie Diamond was found lying by the Southern railway tracks about two miles south of Barnwell, and it was thought that he had been killed by a train during the night. On the night of his death Mrs. Owens was at the home of Milton Still, her son-in-law, and now states that she heard cries and the sound of blows coming from the house of a white woman named Mamie Phillips, who lived just across the railroad track from Still's home. Mrs. Owens, it is understood, charges that Diamond was killed there, but she also charged by Still in an effort to hide his alleged crime.

The case will probably be brought to trial at the October term of the court of general sessions.

Strike General at Roanoke

Roanoke, July 1.—It is estimated that about thirty-five hundred men employ in the Norfolk Western shops here, answered the strike call, while seventy-five men went out of the Virginia shops.

FREE STATERS TAKE PORTION OF BUILDING

Two Main Parts of Four Courts in Dublin Captured by the Provisional Government Forces

London, June 30.—The two main parts of the Four Courts in Dublin have been captured by provisional government forces, according to a dispatch to the Central News, Commandant Barry and 22 men being taken prisoner. Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellows, leaders of the revolt, are in a smaller building and have been summoned to surrender. Another dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph from Dublin says Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellows with 150 followers hold the rear of the Four Courts building. The artillery firing was renewed at 3:45 o'clock this Friday morning. The prisoners taken by the Free States number 33.

London, June 30.—A dispatch to The Times from Dublin timed 2:30 o'clock this (Friday) morning, says the Free Staters attacking the Four Courts are commanded and being personally led by Brigadier General Daly.

After brisk artillery and machine gun fire General Daly led his men from the southside of the Liffey across Grafton street and the bridge.

The gun fire had broken down the gate, and so briskly did the Free State soldiers make the ascent that they did not suffer any serious casualties.

As they crossed the court yard rifle butts and rams brought down in inner doors, and as they fell the defenders poured a withering fire upon the attacking force.

Three rebel soldiers were killed outright by gun fire and ten others were wounded in hand to hand fighting which ensued.

Twenty-two of the irregulars threw up their hands and surrendered, while Rory O'Connor, with Brig. Gen. Traynor and 150 men, retreated to a far corner of the court. Quickly throwing up barricades they are now holding the Free Staters at bay.

The dispatch to The Times adds that O'Connor has been given opportunity to surrender but has declared it to be his intention to fight to the death.

The Free Staters captured a great quantity of rifles, machine guns and explosives. It is thought that by secret means many of the original garrison have made their way into the city, where they have seized Hammond's hotel in Sackville street, turning out the guests on five minutes notice.

Dublin, June 29 (By the Associated Press).—The insurgent Republican forces under Rory O'Connor have been able to hold Four Courts, for two days against all the attacks of the provisional government. Throughout today a slow bombardment continued and gradually sections of the splendid edifice were seen to crumble away.

Because of the slow and deliberate methods employed by the government authorities, the operations have been prolonged for a much greater period than was generally expected, thus permitting an opportunity for those supporting the revolutionary movement to take up positions at various points throughout the city with the object of giving aid to the men within the insurgent stronghold. They seized houses in various sections and engaged in systematic sniping or bombing attempts against the official troops.

Nobody has been able to get out of the Four Courts, but O'Connor's Dublin brigade, comprising a score of four thousand men, has shown activity that indicates it is working on a prearranged plan. Last night and today bands of irregulars occupied various premises which they could hold and from which they could do maximum damage by sniping. But everywhere they are being countered by regulars, who also are maintaining many points of vantage.

While the majority of the people in Dublin commend the action of the provisional government, the Republicans are circulating confident statements and though O'Connor is not supposed to be in any way responsible to the De Valera party, it is evident from the statement issued by Mr. De Valera today that he has that party's sympathies.

No accurate estimate of the casualties can be made, although the dead are known to number at least a score, the wounded reaching a high figure. The casualties are by no means confined to the investing and besieged forces as sniping has played a considerable part. One free state soldier was shot dead while standing at the window in the Four Courts hotel. One man was killed and three were wounded by snipers in Dane street.

Every time gas goes up, the shoe dealers grin.

Times are better. A pie hasn't as many pieces as it once had.