WILSON CALLS HALT ON R. R. STRIKE

Will Treat With Shopmen If Strike Is Called Off

THE SITUATION IS CLARIFIED

Effect Of Executive Decision, It Is Believed, Will Be To Put A Sudden End To Transportation Disturbances.

Washington.—President Wilson notified Director General Hines that he was authorized to take up the demands of railroad shop employes for higher wages and decide them on their merits.

Strikers Chief Obstacle.

The President said that the letter sent him by Senator Cummins, chairman of the Committee on Interstate Commerce, had "set me free to deal as I think best with the difficult question of wages of certain classes of railroad employes," but added:

"The chief obstacle to a decision has been created by the men themselves. They have gone out on a strike and repudiated the authority of their officers at the very moment when they were urging action in regard to their interests."

The President's decision was announced from the White House in the form of a letter sent by him to Mr. Hines. The President said that "until the employes return to work and again recognize the authority of their organization the whole matter must be at a standstill."

The President's Letter.

The President's letter follows:

"My Dear Mr. Director General:

"I am just in receipt of the letter from Senator Albert B. Cummins, chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, which set me free to deal as I think with the difficult question of the wages of certain classes of railway employes, and I take advantage of the occasion to write you this letter, in order that I may, both in the public interest and in the interests of the railroad employes themselves, make the present situation as clear and definite as possible.

"I thought it my duty to lay the question in its present pressing form before the committee of the Senate, because I thought I should not act upon this matter within the brief interval of Government control remaining without their acquiescence and approval. Senator Cummins' letter, which speaks the unanimous judgment of the committee, leaves me free and indeed imposes upon me the duty to act.

"The question of the wages of railroad shopmen was submitted, you will remember, to the Board of Railroad Wages and Working Conditions of the Railroad Administration last February, but was not reported upon by the board until July 16. The delay was unavoidable because the board was continuously engaged in dealing with several wage matters affecting classes of employes who had not previously received consideration. The board not having apprised us of its inability, at any rate for the time being, to agree upon recommendation, it is clearly our duty to proceed with the matter in the hope of disposing of it.

To Deal With Union.

"You are therefore authorized to say to the railroad shop employes that the question of wages they have raised will be taken up and considered on its merits by the Director General in conference with their duly accredited representatives. I hope that you will make it clear to the men concerned that the Railroad Administration cannot deal with problems of this sort, or with any problems affecting the men, except through the duly chosen international officers of the regularly constituted organization and their authorized committees.

"Matters of so various a nature and affecting so many men cannot be dealt with except in this way. Any action which brings the authority of the authorized representatives of the organization into question or discredits it, must interfere with, if not prevent, action altogether. The chief obstacle to a decision has been created by the men themselves. They have gone out on strike and repudiated the authority of their officers at the very moment when they were urging action in regard to various interests.

"You will remember that a conference between yourself and the authorized representatives of the men was arranged at the instance of these representatives for July 28 to discuss the wage question and the question of a national agreement, but before this conference took place, or could take place, local bodies of railway shopmen took action looking toward a strike on August 1. As a result of this action, various strikes actually took place before there was an opportunity to act in a satisfactory or conclusive way with respect to the wages. In the presence of these strikes and the repudiation of the authority of the representatives of the organization concerned, there can be no consideration of the matter in controversy. Until the employes return to work and again recognize the authority of their own organization, the whole matter must be at a standstill.

Government Will Be Fair.

"When Federal control of the railroads began the Railroad Administration accepted existing agreements between the shopmen's organizations and the several railroad companies, and by agreement machinery was created for handling the grievances of the shopmen's organization of all the railways, whether they had heretofore had the benefits of definite agreements or not. There can be no question, therefore, of the readiness of the Government to deal in a spirit of fairness and by regular methods with any matters the men may bring to their attention.

"Concerned and very careful consideration is being given by the entire Government to the question of reducing the high cost of living. I need hardly point out how intimately and directly this matter affects every individual in the nation, and if transportation is interrupted it will be impossible to solve it. This is a time when every employe of the railways should help to make the process of transportation more easy and economical, rather than less, and employes who are on strikes are deliberately delaying a settlement of their wage problems and of their standard of living. They should promptly return to work, and I hope that you will urge upon their representatives the immediate necessity of their doing so.

Cordially and sincerely yours.

"WOODROW WILSON."

Hines Notifies Unions.

Director General Hines notified the unions immediately that the Railroad Administration was ready to take up the question "as soon as the employes return to work."

U. S. FLAG TO STAY ON FORT.

Pershing Recommends Policy In Regard To Ehrenbreitstein.

Coblenz.—The American flag will continue to fly from the fortress of Ehrenbreitstein so long as United States troops hold a position here in the occupied area, according to information from Paris received here by the interallied Rhineland commission. General Pershing, it is understood, recommended that the Stars and the Stripes be kept on the fortress, which has been an American garrison since last December. He also recommended that Coblenz be made American headquarters. A decision by the supreme council as to the area to be occupied by the Eighth Infantry and other units which are to remain here is expected to be announced some time next week.

ARMY RETURNS TRANSPORTS.

2,912,000 Tons Given Over To The Shipping Board.

Washington.—Return by the army to the Shipping Board of a total of 2,912,000 tons of shipping was announced by the War Department. Included in 1,176,000 tons retained by the Department on August 1 was 230,000 tons of cargo vessels.

The fastest transports remaining in the army service have been ordered to make westbound trips without full capacity as a means of hastening the return of "first-class personnel." The order was made possible by the decreasing number of troops available for embarkation on the other side of the Atlantic.

GETS 46 VESSELS IN WEEK.

Shipping Board Fleet Augmented By 163,355 Tons.

Washington.—Forty-six vessels, aggregating 163,355 gross tons were delivered to the Shipping Board during the week ending August 1, it was announced. This brought the total number of vessels delivered to 1,182, representing more than 4,342,000 gross tons. Of the 46 vessels, 25 were steel construction, aggregating 119,355 gross tons; 18 were wooden craft, aggregating 41,667 gross tons, and three were of the composite type.

Australian manufacturers are making pressed steel water pipe 28 feet long by 30 inches internal diameter at a plant in Bombay.

SEVEN LOST AT ARSENAL.

Search Of Raritan (N. J.) Explosion Ruins Completed.

Raritan, N. J.—Searchers among the ruins of the United States Arsenal, wrecked by explosion and fire, completed their work, and as no more bodies were found. Lieut. William Jefferds, post-adjutant, announced that officials of the Arsenal believe not more than seven lives were lost.

EMPLOYERS SUE UNION.

Demand $400,000, Alleging Breach Of Contract.

Waterloo, Iowa.—Damages of $400,000 for breach of contract on the part of employes of the Waterloo Gasoline Engine Company, following the precedent of the famous Danbury hatters' case, are asked in a suit filed by that company, which is owned by John Deere Company, Moline, Ill., against the International Machinists' Union, its organizer, officers and members.

Negligent Neighbors

A WORLD LABOR BODY ORGANIZED

Ground Laid for Reforms in Social Questions

NO PRACTICAL RESULTS YET

Entire Governing Board Changes, Germans And Austrians Disappearing From The List Of Officers.

Amsterdam.—The International Labor Congress, at which a new international federation was formed, came to an end shortly before 10 o'clock Tuesday night, with many speeches from the representatives of the various nations. From the speeches it could be gathered that even after four years of war, workingmen could meet to consider their welfare without more than an occasional exchange of sharp words.

It cannot be said that a great amount of practical work was accomplished at the first meeting, but ground was laid for the future which promises to prove fruitful in reforms of social questions upon which the workers of all nations are urging action.

The last hours of the congress were spent in discussing a number of important resolutions with regard to the League of Nations, the socialization of national resources and the blockade of Russia and Hungary, all of which were accepted by the congress. Only the American delegates voted against the resolutions, while the British were absent, owing to the necessity of catching a cross-channel steamer. Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, explained that the Americans agreed almost entirely with the spirit of all the resolutions, but that, owing to their mandate, they could not vote for them.

The entire governing body has changed since the last international, the Germans and Austrians at present taking no part either in the presidency, vice-presidency, treasury or secretariat. Many of the members expressed sorrow at the disappearance of Carl Legien, the most prominent German labor leader and organizer, from participation in an official capacity.

Several delegation leaders spoke of their hopes for the future, Mr. Gompers saying that the Americans would do all in their power to further legislation for improvement of the condition of the workers of all countries. Herr Legien told the correspondent that he thought the international movement would prove successful and that the workers of all countries would act together. He was totally against any idea of a war revenge, he said, as were all the German workers.

For Socialization.

In one resolution the congress declared:

"The economic disorganization accentuated by the war was caused by the impotence of capitalism to reorganize production in such a way as to insure the well-being of the masses. The congress declares it imperative that the efforts and activities of the working classes of all countries should be directed toward obtaining complete trade union organization as a necessary basis for realization of the socialization of means of production."

The bureau of the International Trades' Union Federation was instructed to obtain information on the result of socialization and to report to the national centers, the report to be accompanied by affidavits. The resolution further states:

"Even when the means of production are socialized, it is only by normal production, scientifically and continually developed, that general and individual well-being can be obtained and guaranteed for all everywhere."

SUGAR CROP TO SET RECORD.

Gabriel G. Menocal Arrives With Prediction From Cuba.

New York.—The sugar crop of Cuba this year, is expected to break all records, according to Gabriel G. Menocal, brother of the President of Cuba, who arrived here from Havana on the Ward Liner Mexico, accompanied by members of his family. Mr. Menocal asserted that because of abundant rains this season the crop next year also will be very large.

PALMER OPENS FIGHT ON PACKERS

Antitrust Suits to Be Brought Against "Big Five"

THE CAMPAIGN ON HIGH COST

Justice Agents After Hoarders—President Appears Before Joint Session Of Congress.

Washington. — Anti-trust suits against the great meat-packing firms were announced by Attorney-General Palmer as the first concrete development of the Government's campaign to reduce the high cost of living.

Armour, Swift, Morris, Wilson and Cudahy, who have been pictured in the investigations of the Federal Trade Commission and before Congressional committees as a great combination in control of food products, are to be haled again before the Federal Courts by special prosecutors.

The evidence in hand, Attorney-General Palmer declared, indicated "a clear violation of the anti-trust laws."

Whether the prosecution would be civil or criminal, the Attorney-General declined to state, merely recalling that the law provided for both.

The history of all the Government's anti-trust prosecutions in 25 years does not show a single individual ever serving a jail sentence for a violation. There are evidences that the Government hopes for some in the present campaign.

Mr. Palmer's announcement follows:

"The Department of Justice has made a careful review of the evidence developed by the investigation into the combination of packers, both by the Federal Trade Commission and the hearings before the committees of Congress. This review has been made by lawyers specially retained for the purpose and their report is now in hand. I am satisfied that the evidence adduced indicates a clear violation of the Anti-trust laws and prompt action will be taken accordingly. Further proceedings, while under the immediate direction of the Department of Justice, will be in charge of Isidor J. Kresel, of the law firm of Jerome, Rand and Kresel, of New York, who will be given such assistance as the case seems to warrant."

While he was announcing prosecutions of the packers, Attorney-General Palmer was unleashing his special agents on a country-wide trail of profiteering and food hoarding. These prosecutions come under the food-control law.

All United States attorneys were instructed to ferret out food hoards and libel them under Federal law.

"This is the most important business before the country today," announced the Attorney-General, "and I propose to have the law enforcement machinery of the Government sidetrack everything to this job."

WASHINGTON

William A. Wimbish, of Atlanta, Ga., special counsel for the Southern Traffic League, told the House Interstate Commerce Committee it should sit tight and proceed with investigation of the railroad problem just as if organized labor had not demanded tripartite control of the roads.

Demands of 410,000 railway employes that their wages be increased unless something was done to materially reduce the cost of living were considered at a conference between Director General Hines and J. J. Rorester.

A resolution directing the President "to employ means directly within his power" to relieve the people from the high cost of living, was introduced by Representative Riddick, Republican, Montana.

The Senate today confirmed the nomination of John Barton Payne, of Illinois, and Henry M. Robinson, of California, to be members of the United States Shipping Board.

Commissioner Roper ordered that drug addicts may obtain narcotics on prescription by reputable physicians.

Modification of the War Risk Insurance Act were proposed in a bill introduced by Representative Sweet, Republican, of Iowa.

7-CENT FARE CAUSES RIOT.

Mob Burns Two Cars And Overturns Others—Several Hurt.

Muskegon, Mich.—All street car traffic is suspended here as the result of disorders following refusal of passengers to pay a 7-cent fare. A mob of several hundred persons attacked street cars during the night, burning two of them and tipping over a score of others. Several rioters were injured when the police, traction employes and special deputies dispersed the mob.

FOCH INVITED TO COME.

American Legion Extends Invitation To Marshal.

New York. — Marshal Foch, of France, representing the veterans of all the Allied armies, of which he was in supreme command, will be invited to attend the first national convention of the American Legion, the national organization of American veterans of the great war, which is to be held in Minneapolis on November 10, 11 and 12.

SPIES OF GERMANY BOTHERED YANKEES

Enemy Learned Valuable Secrets No Matter How Carefully Guarded.

CENTER ON AMERICANS

Germans Sent Smoothest Secret Service Men to Camp on Trail of Americans as Soon as They Landed.

Paris.—American newspaper correspondents abroad are now permitted to relate some of the troubles the Americans experienced with the great German spy system.

No army in the world war had a harder fight against the smooth-working, far-reaching Teuton espionage system than did General Pershing's warriors. The Germans concentrated a large number of spies against the Americans immediately after the first Yankee contingents landed in France and kept augmenting their numbers. The American army was made the object of the spy offensive because the Germans recognized that, if the war continued until the summer of 1918 and then lapped over into 1919 it was the American army that would figure largely in allied operations. They wanted to find out what kind of an army Pershing had, what the morale of the individual soldiers was, what the staffs were planning and what disposition was being made of American troops behind the western battle front.

Hard to Keep Secrets.

In spite of all precautions and in spite of contre-espionage forces, German agents undoubtedly collected a large amount of valuable information behind the American lines to supplement other odds and ends they had picked up from American prisoners, from the reports of their land and air observers and from other sources.

Officers tried hard to keep the Boche from learning that one American unit had been removed from the line and supplemented by another. That was information that the German intelligence officers wanted for their "order of battle" maps, by which they kept track of the exact disposition of all enemy troops in the line and reserve.

One night elements of the Seventy-seventh division, from New York city, slipped quietly into line in the Baccarat sector, relieving other units of the Forty-second division, which entrained for the west to help repel Hindenburg's last great offensive. There was every need for secrecy. But when men of the Seventy-seventh peered across "no man's land" at daybreak they saw hoisted from the German trenches this sign, printed in English:

"Good-by, Forty-second division! Welcome, Seventy-seventh!"

There were other instances of the same kind; but the thing was not all one-sided. Often the Americans knew that Heinie was slipping in a new outfit, the number of the outfit and just what kind of stuff its men were made of, and they made important use of that information.

Much Trouble in Alsace.

American troops that saw service in the mountainous Alsace country had the greatest difficulties with the spy evil. Behind the Franco-American lines were a large number of people who were German-born and who retained their sympathies for the kaiser. The country offered unusually good opportunities for spies because of its hilly, wooded nature. On several nights, when American troops were entering the trenches to relieve other units, rockets and colored lights shot up from hills behind the American front. The German artillery promptly responded to this tip by pounding the American communication trenches, knowing that they would be crowded with men passing forward. The hills and woods afforded such excellent hiding places that it was next to impossible to attempt to trap the men who had touched off the lights. The situation in Alsace was all the more difficult because the French government desired to avoid offending the Alsatian villagers by making arrests.

Elsie Janis Adopts Boy Who Fought in War

New York.—Elsie Janis signed papers which make her the foster mother of Michael Cardi, fourteen, an Italian orphan veteran of the war, who landed here as a stowaway on the transport Madonna from Marseilles six weeks ago. Miss Janis put up a bond of $5,000 to insure that Michael will not be a public charge and the lad is now at her home in Tarrytown.

NAVAL BOATS DO DANGEROUS WORK

Yanks Are Clearing Mine Field 200 Miles Long and 45 Miles Wide.

MAKE NORTH SEA SAFE AGAIN

Task Almost as Dangerous and, From Viewpoint of Shipping, as Important as Hunting Submarines.

London.—Eighty United States navy mine sweepers are busy in the North sea at a job almost as dangerous and, from the viewpoint of shipping, quite as important, as hunting submarines.

They are clearing away the largest mine barrage in the world. This barrage, nearly 80 per cent American-made and American-laid mines, is about 200 miles long and 45 miles wide. It closes the North sea from Scotland to Norway.

The task has already resulted in a casualty toll of four vessels damaged, one officer killed and others wounded. The U. S. S. Bobolink, the first victim, had her stern blown in by an exploding mine. Lieutenant Bruce was killed. Several other officers and men, knocked overboard, were rescued. The U. S. S. Patuxent was badly damaged about the stern and the U. S. S. Rail slightly damaged. All were of about 1,000 tons. The fourth was a smaller boat.

Thus far the fleet has covered an area containing 4,000 mines. Of these 45 per cent have been accounted for. Where the remaining 65 per cent are nobody knows. Captain Sexton estimated the mine hunt would keep the sweepers busy until October or November. It involves a personnel of about 2,500.

When the word was first mouthed around through the ranks that American gobs were going to pick up the mines they helped to lay a short time before, the general opinion was that it would be one of the most thrilling jobs yet. And no one has been disappointed. Equipped with maps showing approximately where every mine was dropped, the flotilla started out in twos, each pair dragging a cable between them.

Mines Sown in Strings.

The mines, the map said, were sewn in strings. All the sweepers had to do was to straddle the line, pass from one end to the other, and the cable, between them, would do the rest.

Of course, the particular mine in question wouldn't be the only one to go off. The concussion would always set off others immediately adjoining, and probably still others adjoining these. These two exigencies were provided for on the map under the titles "zone of extreme danger," "zone of possible danger," and beyond that "zone of safety." In addition, there would be a few other mines free-lancing around in all three zones.

The first few days were rather disastrous. Captain Sexton and his staff in London began to dread opening the morning's dispatches. Gradually, with Yankee resourcefulness, the Americans seemed to be getting on top of the job, until now Captain Sexton is confident they are going to clean up the assignment with minimum losses.

FINNISH LEGION FIGHTING BOLSHEVIKI

Part of the Finnish legion operating against the bolsheviki in North Russia are here shown at a halt during a march across a frozen lake.

IS A MUSICAL PRODIGY

Boy Leads Orchestra at the Age of 13

Child Who Astonishes Europe Born in Maine of Italian Parents.

Rome.—Willy Ferrero, aged thirteen, who leads 100-piece orchestras in selections from Wagner, Beethoven, Rossini, Greig and others, is an American and was born in Portland, Maine. The child has attracted the attention of Europe since he was four years old, but it was only recently that his American birth was revealed by his parents, who are Italian.

The father told the Associated Press correspondent that Willy carried an American passport, but that his name thereon was William Ferrero, a name he had chosen for him while he had worked in Maine when the child was born.

The father said that at the age of two the lad was brought to Italy, whither his parents were returning to take up their residence in their old home in the Folies Bergere, in Paris. A year later he appeared in the Costanza theater, Rome, where for the first time he led an orchestra of 100 pieces. The program was composed of Wagnerian, Beethoven and other heavy selections.

The child took his orchestra before Emperor Nicholas in 1913 and conducted two concerts for the monarch. In the same year his orchestra was filling an engagement in London, and he was commanded to appear before Queen Alexandria of England at Marlborough house. He appeared before Pope Benedict XV. in 1916.

In April, 1915, just before Italy's declaration of war, Willy was presented with the gold medal by the Italian minister of education after he had made a successful appearance in the Augusteum, where he had conducted an orchestra and chorus aggregating 500.

All the players in the orchestra are men of long experience.

SHOOTS PIGEON, PAYS $47.50

St. Louis Man Loses in Court After Argument With Bird's Owner.

St. Louis.—Shooting a single pigeon has cost Philip Hommel of Belleville a total of $47.50.

The pigeon ate some of Hommel's garden seed and vegetables. Hommel killed it. Then Hommel got into an argument with Anton Sehlinger, owner of the bird.

He brought a charge of threatening to kill against Sehlinger. Justice Lautz ruled against Hommel in each of the four cases and the plaintiff was compelled to pay the costs, $36.20. Then Sehlinger sued Hommel for disturbing the peace and Judge Lautz assessed a fine of $5 and costs.

FIRST GERMAN LEVY ON $1,200

Beginning at That Point Graduate Taxes Affect All Property in Country.

Copenhagen. — Mathias Erzberger, German minister of finance, has issued a statement, according to a Berlin dispatch to the Tidende, that the proposed levy on property in Germany will begin at 5,000 marks (normally about $1,200) and will be graduated up to 10 per cent for property valued at 50,000 marks ($12,500).

The rate will become higher with property the valuation of which is above this figure until it reaches 65 per cent on property above 3,000,000 marks ($750,000).

The levy will be payable by installments extending over thirty years, beginning with January, 1920.

In Jail, Escapes Arrest.

Reading, Pa.—Fred Noll considers himself lucky in having been in jail. The police have been looking for him in connection with the mysterious shooting of Harry Drey in Hampden park, while with Noll's sister, Helen. Noll is said to have threatened Drey because the latter was a married man. The police discovered recently that Noll has been in jail for a week on a trespassing charge. "Gee, I'm glad I'm in jail," was Noll's comment when he learned the officers had suspected him. The police now believe a woman may have been the assailant.

Postmistress Wants Pay.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—Miss Hilda Bloomberg, postmistress at Wilson, is wondering if she will be able to recover from the United States government for feeding 20 chicks received through the mail a few days ago. Seeing that the chicks were in need of feed, Miss Bloomberg took upon herself the task of providing for them until such time as their owner should claim them. As yet no owner has appeared.

On the Job.

Fort Dodge, Ia.—"Do it now," always was Lawyer Albert Behren's motto so when another car bumped into his he at once served notice of suit for $1,275 damages.

ITALY DEMOBILIZES 2,200,000

All Men of Classes Between 30 and 45 Included in Number Dismissed From Service.

Rome.—Nearly 2,200,000 soldiers of the Italian army have been demobilized since the signing of the armistice, according to a statement just issued by the government through the Stefani agency.

Of this number there were 225 general officers, 75,000 officers of the staff and line and 1,700,000 enlisted men. The latter comprised all the men of the classes between 30 and 45 years of age and men of the remaining classes who were released for special reasons.

The remaining effectives of the Italian army in service approximate 2,000,000.

The Weaker Sex.

St. Louis.—The weaker sex was not. A deputy sheriff, seven hastily sworn assistants and a commandeered truck were required to take Mrs. J. Campbell to jail.

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