

OPPOSES FEDERAL RAIL OPERATION

Labor Leader Says "Political Autocracy" Cannot Conduct So Great an Industry.

WANTS GOVERNMENT TO OWN

Declares Men Operating Roads Have Made Life-Study of Work—Change Would Give More of an Equal Opportunity.

Washington, Aug. 11.—"Organized labor is not willing to have the government operate the railroads because it does not believe so great an industry can be conducted by any political autocracy," Glenn E. Plumb, author of the Plumb plan for control of the roads, declared before the house interstate commerce committee.

In resuming his testimony Mr. Plumb was asked by Representative Sweet why, if the government was to own the roads, his plan did not give it authority to operate.

"Because we do not believe in operation by any government body," the witness replied. "We do not believe this great industry can be conducted by any political autocracy. If we leave operation in the hands of political appointees we would place the railway systems ultimately in the hands of politicians, and that, we admit, cannot be safely done."

"The men operating the roads have made a life study of it. We have provided an incentive to actuate every employee, and in this bill we have removed restrictions placed upon them by capital."

"You believe then," Mr. Sweet asked, "that your plan will give more of an equal opportunity to those engaged in railroad work?"

"We believe it restores to those in this industry that equal opportunity of which they have been deprived."

Representative Rayburn referred to the brotherhoods' scheme as a "soviet system."

"I don't know much about Russian affairs," Mr. Plumb retorted, "so I can't say as to that."

"But would you consider it fair to workers in other industry to socialize the railroads solely?" Mr. Rayburn asked.

"This plan, or modification of it, can be applied to every industry based on government grant or monopoly," Mr. Plumb said. "It can be followed in all these."

Mr. Plumb repeated again that the idea he advanced would lead to operation of the service and not of the profits.

Declaring that he wished to substantiate his assertion made previously during the hearing that threats to unseat members of congress were a part of the railroad unions' propaganda in favor of the Plumb plan, Representative Webster introduced into the record a stack of several hundred form letters addressed to him. All were printed and identical in wording on letterheads bearing the name of the brotherhoods of railway car men and clerks.

"Wages have been increased, the workday shortened and labor and the family have had more of the necessities of life under the present government control," the letters said. "He who obstructs the government in the policy of control or ownership becomes our direct enemy, and shall be posted throughout the land. It shall be our chief policy to remove him from any political line of trust the public has given into his keeping."

"Do you indorse that as a part of the educational plan you said you were making in favor of this bill?" asked Mr. Webster.

Mr. Plumb said he did not indorse the wording, but remarked that "any body of citizens had the right to use the ballot to protect any rights they may think are in danger."

"The men are following the example which has been thrust upon them by the opposition," he continued. "It shows the condition throughout the country. The mind of the workman is like a bed of tinder and, seeing a gleam of hope, he resorts to anything to attain it."

BIG CONCESSION TO MINERS

British House of Commons Passes the Seven-Hour Mine Work Day.

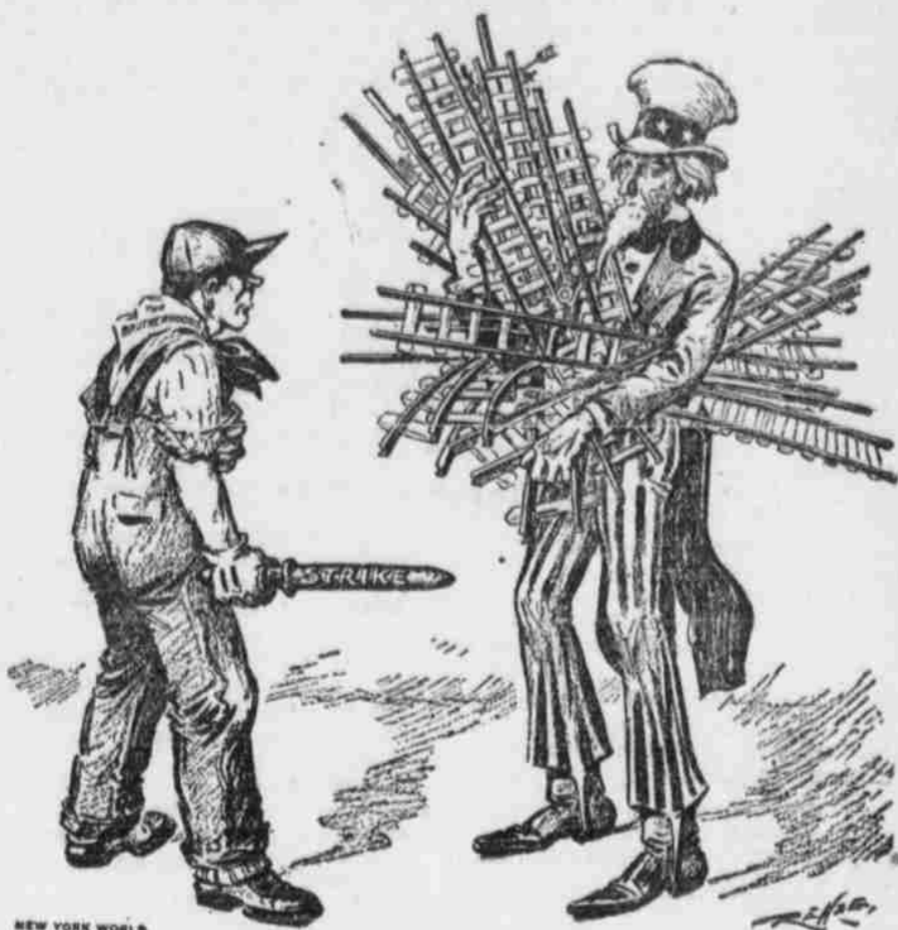
London, Aug. 11.—The house of commons adopted the bill providing for a seven-hour day in the mines.

Belgium Ratifies Peace Treaty. Brussels, Aug. 11.—The chamber of deputies unanimously ratified the peace treaty with Germany.

Illinois Bank Is Held Up. Chicago, Aug. 11.—Four youthful white bandits and one elderly negro held up the South Holland Trust and Savings bank, South Holland, Ill., and escaped with about \$7,000, of which \$3,000 was in cash.

North Dakota Buys Flour Mill. Bismarck, N. D., Aug. 11.—The state of North Dakota, through the State Mill and Elevator association, has purchased a flour mill and is now locating four large mills and terminal elevators.

"GIVE ME THOSE RAILROADS!"



URGES FIRING SQUAD PACKERS UNDER FIRE

LABOR LEADER OFFERS REMEDY FOR PROFITEERS.

House Body Told Rail Men Have Made No Plans for Strike—Want Lower Prices.

Washington, Aug. 7.—Organized labor has no concrete suggestion for reducing the cost of living, but it may later advocate a firing squad for profiteers, Warren S. Stone, head of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, told the house interstate commerce committee.

Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor, told the committee that labor would not be disappointed if it failed to have its railroad plan adopted immediately.

It would simply gird itself for the educating of the people to the point at which congress would be sufficiently impressed.

Mr. Morrison said he believed that the Plumb plan would be so satisfactory that there would be no occasion for railroad employees to strike.

"The railroads under this plan," he said, "will be run without profit, with wage-earners and public getting all the benefit, the public a lower rate and the employees a reasonable compensation."

Questioned by Chairman Esch after he had presented his formal statement, Mr. Stone said the railway brotherhoods were entirely opposed to return of the roads to the old system of control.

In the event congress rejected the Plumb plan, it would be the policy of labor to create enough sentiment out of congress to force its adoption.

"We have not and do not make any strike threats," he said. "We have not even demanded an increase in wages; preferring a reduction in the cost of living."

Asked by Chairman Esch if he had any concrete suggestions, Mr. Stone replied:

"I think we might possibly offer many suggestions. We haven't them in concrete form at this time. It might be that before we get through we would advocate a firing squad for some people."

Mr. Stone added that unless congress found a solution of the high cost of living problem within a few months America would see "its very worst period."

"The people are not going to starve," said he. "They are going to die fighting."

NEW KING RULES HUNGARY

Archduke Joseph Forms Ministry to Replace Peldil Government—Peasants Hunt Communists.

Budapest, Aug. 8.—The allies' mission in this city delegated government authority to Archduke Joseph Wednesday night, when the Peldil government resigned.

Paris, Aug. 8.—The peace conference was advised that the newly formed Hungarian cabinet, headed by Jules Peldil, had been overthrown and that Archduke Joseph had established a ministry in Budapest.

The message to the conference regarding the cabinet stated that the members of the social democratic government, while they were in session at the national palace, were arrested by Hungarian police. The coup d'etat was carried out without disorder.

Peasants are reported to be hunting down communists who have fled to the country from Budapest. It is alleged that they are being incited in this work by the Roumanians.

Find Bodies of Sailors.

New London, Conn., Aug. 11.—The bodies of Arnold Henderson, Chester, Ill., and Sidney G. Uhlk, Hamilton, Ill., seamen, drowned when the submarine G-2 submerged with an open hatch two weeks ago, have been recovered.

Ready for Packer Suits.

Chicago, Aug. 11.—United States Attorney Charles F. Cline returned to Chicago from Washington with the complete plans of the federal government for the criminal prosecution of the five big Chicago packers.

"BIG FIVE" TARGET OF U. S. ATTORNEY GENERAL PALMER.

Charges Clear Violations of Antitrust Law—Hoarding Defined as Crime—Goods Will Be Confiscated.

Washington, Aug. 8.—Developments in the government's drive on the high cost of living popped out so fast that they tumbled over one another.

Attorney General Palmer announced the bringing of antitrust suits against the five great packing concerns—Armour, Swift, Wilson, Morris and Cudahy.

At the same time the attorney general ordered all agents of the department of justice to arrest profiteers, hoarders and other contributors to soaring food costs. The first arrests came in Pittsburgh where a concern was wholesaling sugar at 14 cents a pound.

Food hoards may be confiscated by the government.

Intermingled with the cost of living situation was the decision of the senate interstate commerce committee to notify the president that it disagrees with his suggestion for a special wage board to deal with railway employees' demands. The committee holds the president has sufficient authority already to deal with the situation.

Antitrust suits against the five big meat packers will be instituted immediately by the department of justice.

Attorney General Palmer announced that the evidence before the federal trade commission and committees of congress indicated "a clear violation of the antitrust laws," and that he had ordered "prompt action accordingly."

Isidor J. Kresel of the New York law firm of Jerome, Rand & Kresel will have charge of the case.

TAKE 22 MEN; RAID STILLS

Illicit Whisky Made at Elgin Seized by Chicago Revenue Men—Prisoners Are Held.

Chicago, Aug. 7.—Twenty-two men, fourteen stills and several hundred gallons of illicit whisky were brought to Chicago after Internal Revenue Agents L. C. Kefer, Matthew Weydert and Perry Fuller descended on Elgin, Ill., and raided an alleged illicit still. The men were arraigned before United States Commissioner Mark A. Foote and held for further hearing in bonds of \$1,000 each. The men arrested were: John Drahona, H. H. Juby, John Meyers, Joseph Pitki, Steven Orbin, George Sole, Steven Sloboda, Steven Szosz, George Vlastazio, Joseph Kunos, Clark Wyoungthornal, Joseph Petus, Peter Abraham, Steven Boros, Frank Captain and his brother Joseph and John Czeki.

MORE YANK BRIDES ARRIVE

First German Women to Come to U. S. Since 1917 in Port.

New York, Aug. 9.—The first German war brides to come to the United States since 1917 arrived here aboard the army transport Great Northern from Brest. They were included among 249 young women of various nationalities who married American soldiers abroad. The Great Northern also brought about 22 officers, 1,500 troops and 83 welfare workers. The battalions Wisconsin, Maine, Kansas, Alabama, Illinois and Kentucky arrived with contingents of midshipmen, recent graduates of the United States naval academy at Annapolis, aboard. They are on a practice cruise.

Poles Occupy Minsk.

Paris, Aug. 11.—Dispatches from Warsaw carry the announcement by the newspapers there that Polish troops have occupied the city of Minsk. Minsk is some 200 miles east of the borders of the old province of Poland.

Demand for General Kruska.

London, Aug. 11.—The surrender of General Kruska, commander of the German prison camp at Kaiser, has been demanded by the allies as the first of the German officials to be tried for violation of international law.

TELLS HINES TO END RAIL STRIKE

President Instructs Director General to Fix Wage of the Workers.

DECIDE DEMANDS ON MERITS

Wilson Insists, However, Men Must Return to Work First—Action Taken After Committee Decides Legislation Unnecessary.

Washington, Aug. 9.—President Wilson took the railroad wage crisis into his own hands and told the striking railroad shop employees to go back to work if they wanted their demands for increases considered.

His request for legislation having been regarded as unnecessary by the senate committee on interstate commerce, the president said a duty had been imposed upon him to act and he did so in no uncertain way in a letter to Director General Hines, which, in effect, orders railroad strikers back to work and to obey the authority of their national organizations.

The president notified the director general to inform the railroad shopermen that their demand for increases would be considered on its merits, but that:

"Until the employees return to work and again recognize the authority of their own organization the whole matter must be at a standstill."

The president also said, referring to the "careful consideration" which the administration is giving to the high cost of living, that this was a time "when every employee of the railways should help to make the processes of transportation more easy and economical rather than less, and employees who are on strike are deliberately delaying a settlement of their wage problem and of their standard of living."

"They should promptly return to work," the president's letter to Director Hines said, "and I hope that you will urge upon their representatives the immediate necessity for their doing so."

"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 organizations and their authorized committee."

"When federal control of the railroads began the railroad administration accepted existing agreements between the shopermen's organizations and the several railroad companies and by agreement machinery was created for handling the grievances of the shopermen's organization of all the railways, whether they theretofore had had the benefit 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."

"Concerted 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."

Immediately upon receipt of the president's letter Director Hines urged the strikers to return to work in the following letter:

"Washington, D. C., Aug. 9.—Executive Council, Railway Employees' Department, American Federation of Labor, B. M. Jewell, Acting President—Dear Sir: I inclose a letter I have just received from the president relative to the wage matter. It is obvious that it is of the highest importance, not only in the interest of the public but in the interest of the employees themselves, that they shall immediately return to work."

"The situation having been clarified by the definite indication that congress does not wish to take action in the premises, the railroad administration stands ready to take up the wage question on its merits with the duly accredited international officers and their authorized representatives as soon as the employees return to work."

"WALKER D. HINES, Director General of Railroads."

Soldier Killed at Dance Hall.

Des Moines, Aug. 9.—Private Hiram Doeben, stationed at Camp Dodge, was fatally shot by a policeman, George Welsh, at a dance hall. The shooting was the result of a dispute between the police and the soldier over refusal to admit Doeben and another soldier to the hall.

Manhattan Car Line Quits.

New York, Aug. 9.—Its treasury exhausted and unable to obtain further credit, the Mid-Crosstown Railway company, operating crosstown cars on 25th and 29th streets, Manhattan, suspended operation.

American Will Be Umpire.

Paris, Aug. 9.—Brig. Gen. Harry H. Bandholtz, on the interallied military commission appointed by the allies to arrange a settlement at Bucharest will leave here for Hungary as soon as possible.

FAIR PRICE BODIES

FOOD CONTROLLERS ASKED TO APPOINT COMMITTEES.

WAR TIME SYSTEM REVIVED

Attorney General Proposes to Know What Profits Retailers Are Making—Men Asked to Serve Free.

Washington, D. C.—Attorney General Palmer has started a movement to ascertain how much of the high cost of living is due to excessive profits by retailers.

In a message to all state food administrators who worked with Administrator Hoover during the war, the attorney general requested the appointment of a fair price committee in each county to investigate what is being charged for retail necessities and, if in excess of what the committee considers just, to publish a list of fair prices for the guidance of the public.

This is the "extra legal" means of reaching profiteering, which Mr. Palmer recently indicated was under consideration. He has frankly admitted from the start that there was no means to prosecute directly a man guilty of extortion in prices. Retailers who are gouging the ultimate consumer will have to be disciplined by public sentiment, which officials have no doubt is sufficiently alert to the situation now to act vigorously, in clear cut cases.

Hoarders, on the other hand, can be reached through the war-time food laws or the Sherman act, and Mr. Palmer requested the state food administrators to transmit to him any evidence of hoarding or other violations of the law which they might encounter in their work, with the promise that the government's law enforcement machinery would act promptly.

"There is a pressing necessity for the restoration of normal conditions," Mr. Palmer's telegram said, requesting the men who did such effective work during the war to take up the burden again. They were asked to serve without compensation, the attorney general believing that the public service to be performed now is as important as when the country was engaged in hostilities, and that no patriotic citizen would refuse the call of duty.

Congress on Monday commenced consideration of the high cost of living problems by giving consideration to the legislative recommendations made by President Wilson in his address. The cost of living question now overshadows even the peace treaty and many other important affairs at the capital.

The department of justice has announced that hoarded food stocks will be taken over by the government and placed upon the market to help reestablish operation of the law of supply and demand.

Loaded Car Leaps Into Flames.

Montreal—Seven persons were burned to death in a fire on a scenic railway at Dominion park, an amusement resort near this city. The cause of the fire is unknown, but it is believed it was started by a lighted cigarette or match.

The fire started in "The Mystic Mill," and the flames laid hold on the skeletal structure of the railway. When the firemen arrived the mill was a blazing pyre and a few minutes later that part of the railway constructed over the mill fell with a crash into the roaring furnace. A car filled with merry-makers took a fatal leap into the flames.

Coming from the mill could be heard moans of agony and cries for help but the firemen found it possible to rescue only a few of the men, women and children trapped in the blazing structure.

Coal Shortage a Reality.

Des Moines, Ia.—The midwest and southwest are threatened by the most serious coal shortage in years, primarily because the mines now are working only about half speed because of the failure of the people to "shop early" in laying in next winter's supply of fuel. This is indicated by production figures made available to local mine operators and labor officials by the United States geological survey. According to these figures the 620 mines in Iowa, Arkansas, Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas now are working an average of only 3.4 days a week and producing 267,845 less tons per week than their normal output.

First German to Be Tried.

London.—The surrender of General Kruska, commander of the German prison camp at Kaiser, has been demanded by the allies as the first of the enemy officials to be tried for violations of international law during the war.

Clemenceau to Attend League Meet.

Paris.—Premier Clemenceau probably will attend the meeting of the league of nations in Washington this autumn, the Echo de Paris reported recently.

Power to Seize Foodstuffs.

Minneapolis, Minn.—The city council has empowered the mayor to seize and take control of all food storage warehouses here with a view of undertaking the distribution of foodstuffs seized therein at cost to the consumer.

GOVERNMENT SELLING FOOD

Omaha Postmaster Made Distributing Agent in Zone Comprising Six Middle West States.

Omaha, Neb.—Col. G. S. Bingham, chief quartermaster officer at the Omaha army depot, has commenced the sale of foodstuffs held here by the government. The sale is being made by case lots, under a schedule of prices issued at Washington, and now in the hands of all postmasters.

Under these instructions goods can be sold by credit to municipalities, state, county and public institutions; and by cash payment, forwarded under signature, to postmasters, acting as agents for the parcel post, Boy Scouts and employes of the government.

Postmasters in this zone shall be sold food for distribution through the parcel post. They will receive and fill all orders for less than case lots. Persons in this zone should mail orders for any amount of food offered for sale to Postmaster Fanning of this city, and he will fill their order and send it through the parcel post.

These orders must be accompanied by the price of the goods and parcel postage.

Food is being shipped from one quartermaster depot to another to give persons in all districts equal opportunity to buy.

Orders filled by the quartermaster depot directly will be for case lots only. Prices quoted by the War department are f. o. b. Omaha.

The Omaha zone includes Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, North and South Dakota and parts of Utah and Iowa.

Says Europe Faces Famine.

London.—Europe faces starvation the coming winter unless the United States extends credits for the purchase of food, according to a report to the peace conference. The American farmer will not be able to save Europe by mere production, the report states.

"America's food surplus will rot in the warehouses unless Europe is rid over the present financial crisis," it is pointed out. "Europe is unable to pay, either in cash or commodities."

European labor tendencies also are menacing the food situation, according to the American experts. Great Britain's decreased coal output, for instance, removes her greatest means of buying food.

Hoarding by speculators is the explanation given for high prices in the United States. By eliminating this factor, experts believe America can continue to export 18,000,000 tons of food to Europe without seriously depleting her domestic supply.

May Bring Dead Yanks Home.

Washington, D. C.—Apparently there is no French law prohibiting the removal of the dead bodies of American soldiers from French soil "for a period of three years from January 1, 1919." The house foreign affairs committee had been informed that such a law existed, but Secretary Lansing wrote Chairman Porter that while a bill along this line had been introduced in the French Chamber of Deputies, it had not yet been acted upon.

The foreign affairs committee has before it a resolution proposing the immediate return of the bodies of the American soldiers killed in the war.

Cities to Take Food Allotment.

Washington, D. C.—Under an arrangement with the War department, the entire allotment of surplus army food stores for New York state probably will be taken up by municipalities of that state for distribution and there will be no parcels post sales or sales by other federal agencies in the state.

Fifty Killed in Riot.

Berlin.—Fifty persons were killed during disturbances near Chemnitz, a railroad station 38 miles southwest of Dresden. Troops were overpowered and disarmed by a mob. The soldiers' horses were slaughtered and the flesh distributed to the crowd. Many wounded persons are in the Chemnitz hospital.

Storage Stocks Larger.

Washington, D. C.—Although prices of almost all important foods have shown a substantial increase during the last year, stocks of food held in storage on June 1, this year, were approximately 29 per cent greater than those held on June 1, 1918, according to a memorandum showing the relation between storage figures and prices issued by the federal trade commission. Government stocks were excluded from the comparison.

To Try Packers at Chicago.

Chicago, Ill.—The government's case against the five big packers will be placed before the federal grand jury which meets here two weeks hence. This means that criminal prosecution will be instituted.

Sugar Prices Drop.

Chicago, Ill.—Two-cent reduction in the wholesale price of sugar has resulted from inquiries directed against the price of the commodity.

Strikers and Police Battle.

New York.—Three persons were wounded by revolver bullets, seven others so badly beaten that they may die and 50 or more less seriously injured in scores of riots between strikers and police during the second day of the Brooklyn street car strike.