

# COAL MINERS OF U.S. GO ON STRIKE

Summons of Workers' Organization Obeyed By Men In Twenty-Eight States

## FEDERAL INJUNCTION ISSUED

Union Heads Protest Government's Action—Uncle Sam Moves to Protect Interests of the People In Grave Crisis.

Washington, D. C.—Bituminous coal miners in twenty-eight states of the union laid down their tools and quit work last Saturday in obedience to a decision reached at the convention of the United Mine Workers of America at Cleveland, Ohio, September 23.

The first alarm of the strike, which is expected to cause a general paralysis of the business of the nation and outlast suffering if not brought to a speedy conclusion, was given at the Cleveland meeting when the declaration was made that the war time wage agreement, entered into between the government and the miners, would end November 1.

Executive officers charged with the duty of negotiating a new agreement were ordered to stand out for three demands, and if not granted, to issue a strike call for more than 400,000 soft coal miners in 28 states. These demands were:

A five-day working week, a six-hour day and a wage increase of 60 per cent.

At scale committee meetings in Buffalo and Philadelphia miners and operators threshed over their differences without settlement. Representatives of the miners contended that the demands were not arbitrary, that the 60 per cent wage increase was set as a basis for negotiation, that a six-hour day meant actual time the miners were to work underground.

**Insist on Short Day.**

The miners insisted on a five-day week, they said, because there were not four days' work a week the year around for each miner. They contended by limiting each miner to five days there would be a more equitable distribution of the work. The leaders denied that it was the beginning of a nationwide campaign for a shorter working schedule.

After failure of the two sides to get together the strike order was issued and Secretary of Labor Wilson, acting by direction of the president's cabinet, immediately called into conference the heads of the mining and operating associations. Subsequently the full scale committees of each were called in and various proposals were offered and rejected.

**Put Up to Wilson.**

The final proposal was made by President Wilson. It suggested negotiation without reservation, submission of questions still in dispute with the failure of negotiation to arbitration and continued operation of the mines pending final settlement.

The operators, as set forth in a statement by Secretary Wilson, accepted the offer in its entirety; the miners accepted the offer of negotiation "and held the other two for consideration later." This, as explained by Secretary Wilson, abruptly ended the conference.

The miners in the series of conferences charged that while the wartime agreement still bound them to work at the old wartime wage scale, it removed restrictions on the war price of coal and permitted operators to charge what they pleased. This, they declared, had led to profiteering.

An appeal to the miners by President Wilson and announcement by Attorney General Palmer that the strike would be considered "illegal," failed to bring about the rescinding of the strike order.

On the eve of the strike Judge A. B. Anderson of the federal court at In-

# PERSHING EXPRESSES VIEWS

A. E. F. General Tells Senate Committee Army of 300,000 Sufficient.—Favors Military Training.

Washington.—Dissenting in many important respects from the program recommended by the War department and the general staff, General Pershing told the military committee of congress that 300,000 men, raised entirely by voluntary enlistment, should be the outside figure considered for a standing army.

He favored universal military training to provide an emergency reserve, but thought general educational work should be combined with it and military discipline "somewhat relaxed" so that the system would be in complete harmony with democratic institutions. He fixed six months as the training period.

The department had recommended an army of more than 500,000, with a system of universal training not embracing the educational features. Its recommendation for a training period was three months.

Departing again from the expressed views of the department, the general declared army purchasing should be reorganized in a new bureau apart from the quartermaster corps and that a separate department of the government should be organized to coordinate and supervise military, naval and commercial aeronautics. He considered the department's request for 231 general staff officers excessive, and made clear his opposition to any effort by the staff to extend its authority into the details of the department bureaus and of the line.

Indianapolis, Ind., issued a restraining order to stop officials of the Mine Workers' union from engineering the strike.

The principal leaders in the miners' union met the court's action with denunciation as a "violation of constitutional rights," declarations that it came too late to reach their men with a countering order, and with predictions that it would be disregarded anyway.

Attorney General Palmer emphasized to the labor leaders that the government's injunction was in no wise an infringement of the workingman's right to strike, but that it was a lawful process against a calamity to the country. He pointed out that the injunction had been issued for the government, acting for all the people, and not for the employers, acting in conflict with their employees.

**Plans Not Made Public.**

The attorney general declined to predict what would be done if the miners failed to heed the federal court's order, pointing out that the court itself initiates means to deal with those who disregard its mandates.

The government's program to deal with the practical as well as the legal phase of the crisis is steadily being carried out.

President Wilson, by executive order, fixed maximum prices of soft coal.

Fuel Administrator Garfield restored the war orders which will give the railroad administration the power to seize coal in transit and divert it to consumption, in accordance with a preference list arranged with the idea of doing the greatest good for the greatest number.

The machinery of the railroad administration through which the acts of the fuel administration will be carried out was put ready for functioning.

**Troops in Readiness.**

U. S. troops have been dispatched to some of the mining districts, ready to take part in keeping order and protecting those miners who wished to continue at work.

The extent and full nature of troop movements have not been disclosed.

Both branches of congress have passed a resolution pledging support to the administration in its measure to deal with the emergency.

## Explosion Kills Fourteen.

Tokio.—The maneuvers of the entire Japanese navy, in which the emperor participated, were marred by an explosion on the battleship Hyuga in Tokyo bay. Fourteen men were killed and 30 injured. The emperor was aboard the battleship Settsu. The maneuvers, which were the most elaborate in the history of the navy, included mimic battles and airplane attacks on coastal cities.

## Hoarders Soon to Face Music.

Washington.—Many new arrests in a number of states for violations of the food and fuel control law are expected soon by the Department of Justice.

## Prepare to Combat "Flu."

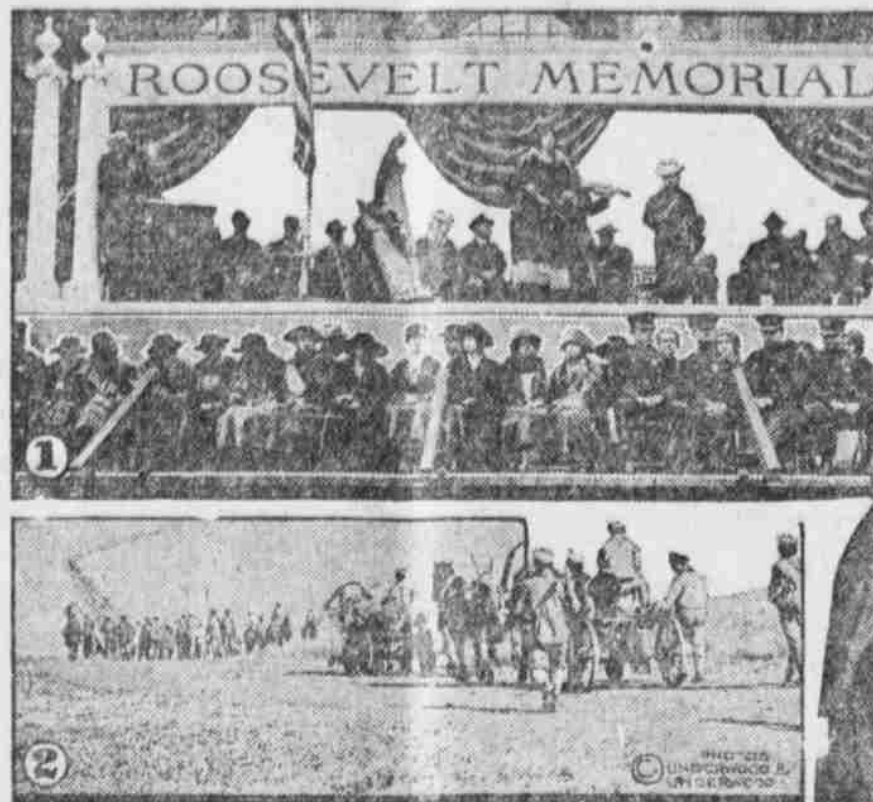
London.—England is preparing for a recurrence of last winter's epidemic of influenza. A vaccine has been prepared in large quantities at St. Mary's hospital and other bacteriological centers in London for the distribution through the United Kingdom.

## Fatal Wreck in West.

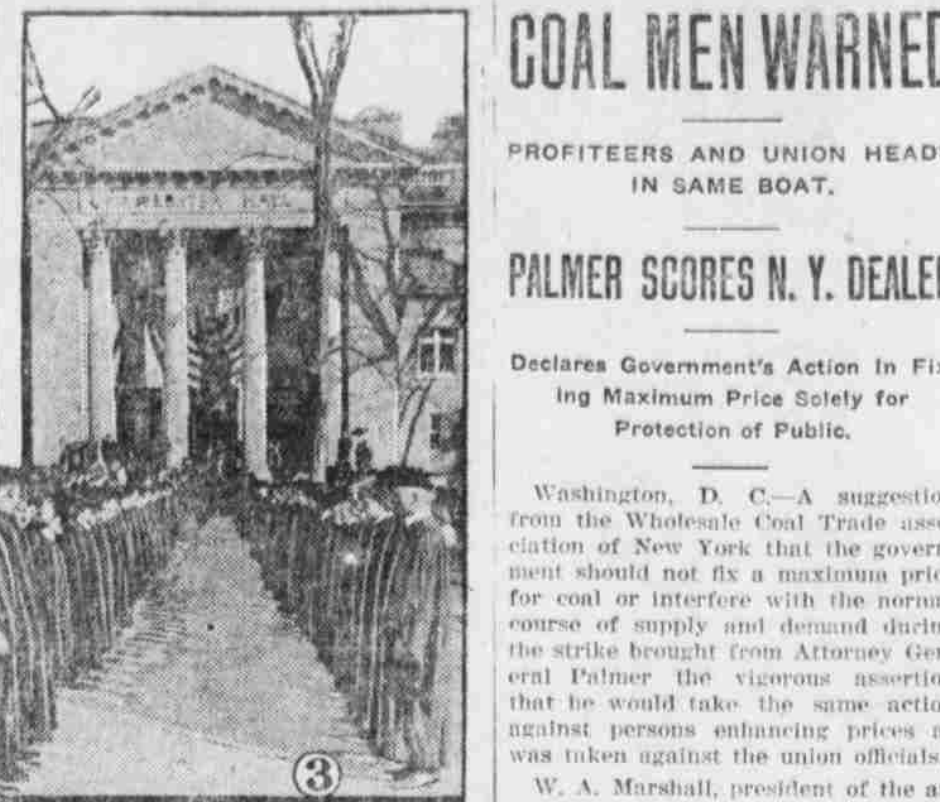
Los Angeles.—Seven persons were killed and 60 injured when Southern Pacific train No. 50 southbound, was wrecked near Acton. The engine, two baggage cars and five coaches went into a ditch.

## Ten Below in North Dakota.

Bismarck, N. D.—The lowest October temperature ever recorded in the weather bureau here was made the morning of the 26th when the thermometer reached 10 degrees below zero, the bureau announced.



1—Scene during Roosevelt memorial ceremonies at New York public library. 2—Admiral Kolchak's forces on the move from Stepanovka to Maximovka, near Ufa. 3—Scene at Webster hall during the sesquicentennial celebration at Dartmouth university.



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# NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

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## DRASTIC MEASURES ADOPTED

War-Time Priority List Is Re-Established for the Distribution of Fuel—International Labor Conference Opens—Congress Overrides President's Veto of Dry Enforcement Act.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The great struggle is on. The United States of America versus the United Mine Workers of America. A nation of one hundred and ten millions against a labor union of perhaps half a million.

Boldly defying the federal government as represented by the president and his cabinet and the governments of many states as represented by their governors, the leaders of the union decreed that the strike of bituminous coal miners should go into effect at midnight Friday. Regardless of the fact that the strike would cripple the entire country and that the resultant suffering would be felt most by their fellow workers, they refused to do anything to head it off, falling back on their oft-repeated statements of its justice and on the assertion that, as it was ordered by a general convention of the United Mine Workers, no representatives of the organization have authority to set such an action aside.

Immediately after the conference of leaders of the miners had issued its statement the government began to mobilize its forces to make good the promise of President Wilson that the mines should be operated. The cabinet met in special session and definite plans of action were discussed and adopted. Meanwhile Dr. Harry Garfield, federal fuel administrator, had been summoned to Washington and steps were taken to revive the fuel administration to prevent hoarding and profiteering. Attorney General Palmer issued a long statement in which he made it plain that the strike was illegal and that the government had both the right and the power to crush it, "without infringing on the recognized right of men in any line of industry to work when they please and quit work when they please."

The plans of the federal officials, it was said, include prosecution for conspiracy of those guilty of causing the strike; armed protection for those miners who are willing to continue at work, and allocation and distribution of coal to railroads, essential industries and homes. Orders for proper disposition of troops went out from the war department; in some of the coal mining states the National Guard was mobilized and in various communities steps were taken for the formation of citizens' committees to aid the authorities.

The first thing done by the government was an order from Director General Hines to the railroads to confiscate all coal in transit, if necessary, to operate the roads and build up a reserve. Then the attorney general announced that the fuel administrator would take control of the handling of the coal and would use his authority under the Lever act to meet the situation. In the distribution of coal the wartime priority list of the fuel administration is to be followed. This is as follows:

1. Steam railroads; inland and coastwise vessels.
2. Domestic, including hotels, hospitals and asylums.
3. Navy and army.
4. Public utilities, including plants and such portions of plants as supply light, heat and water for public use.
5. Producers and manufacturers of food, including refrigeration.
6. National, state, county and municipal emergency requirements.
7. Bunkers and other marine emergency requirements not specified above.

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# COAL MEN WARNED

PROFITEERS AND UNION HEADS IN SAME BOAT.

## PALMER SCORES N. Y. DEALER

Declares Government's Action in Fixing Maximum Price Safely for Protection of Public.

Washington, D. C.—A suggestion from the Wholesale Coal Trade association of New York that the government should not fix a maximum price for coal or interfere with the normal course of supply and demand during the strike brought from Attorney General Palmer the vigorous assertion that he would take the same action against persons enhancing prices as was taken against the union officials.

W. A. Marshall, president of the association, wrote Mr. Palmer recommending that miners who want to work be given protection and that coal consumers be allowed to obtain fuel through the usual, normal channels.

"I am in receipt of your letter and amazed by its contents," the attorney general replied. "While of course proper protection will be given to all miners who are willing to continue at work, it must be perfectly plain to you that even under such conditions the supply of coal must be far from normal. Your proposition amounts, in effect, to a declaration that coal dealers should be permitted to take advantage of these abnormal conditions and have their prices based entirely upon the law of supply and demand, which is only another way of saying that they should be permitted to charge the public whatever they please. The demand for fuel will be constantly increasing and with the supply decreasing, unless there is government regulation, prices charged to the public would be outrageous and the profits accruing to dealers unreasonable.

"The action of the government in restraining the officers of the mine workers' union from furthering the strike order already issued was taken solely in the public interests, and I shall not permit it to be used directly or indirectly for the benefit of the employers' side of the controversy. If any advantage shall be taken of present conditions by any arrangement or agreement of two or more persons to restrict either production or distribution in order to enhance the price of fuel, I shall without hesitation take precisely the same action against such persons as has been taken against the officers of the mine workers' union."

## THREE MONTHS SUPPLY.

Statisticians Claim Nation Has Sufficient Coal Until Feb. 1.

Indianapolis, Ind.—The climax in the strike of bituminous coal miners of the United States is expected soon by both miners and operators. The country's supply of coal, they agreed, will be badly depleted in three weeks.

The following approximate average figures on the present supply of coal has been furnished by one of the leading statisticians on coal in the country: Normal number of tons mined and consumed daily, 1,750,000. Number of tons above ground, 17,000,000. With the number of miners reduced by half it can be assumed, he said, that the production will be cut in half, thus making it necessary to draw about 800,000 tons of coal daily from the reserve supply to meet the nation's needs.

If this condition continues for more than three months the supply of coal will be exhausted, according to these estimates.

At headquarters of the United Mine Workers, officials are making every effort to comply with the injunction issued by Judge A. B. Anderson restraining them from participating in or directing the strike.

## Starving in Bolsheviki Russia.

Helsingfors, Finland.—Petrograd has been without bread for the last two weeks, thousands of persons dying daily, according to information brought to Helsingfors by the Finn, who escaped from a prison camp at Moscow. The population of Petrograd has fallen below 400,000 he said. Conditions in Moscow, the Finn reported, were much better.

## Prominent Stockman Killed.

Omaha, Neb.—Phil Kellogg, prominent live stock commission man, was killed and eight others were injured, two seriously, in a collision of two automobiles in this city.

## Not to Obey Strike Order.

Washington.—Timothy Shea has given notice to congress that the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, of which he is acting president, would not observe pending anti-strike legislation if enacted into law.

## Periodicals Leave Getham.

New York.—More than 60 periodicals affected by the strike and lockout existing in the printing industry here have arranged for publication in other cities.

## Amendment Slain Cleaned.

Washington.—The 45 amendments attached to the peace treaty passed into history when the last survivor, a proposal by Senator Moses, Republican, New Hampshire, to revise voting strength in the league of nations, was defeated in the senate, 47 to 30.

Bismarck, N. D.—Sale of \$3,000,000 worth of state bonds, \$2,000,000 of which were to be used as capital for the bank of North Dakota, is said to have fallen through, bonding houses of the west having refused to underwrite the issue.