

STRIKE CONFERENCE BREAKS UP IN ROW

Government's Offer of 14 Per Cent Increase Is Rejected.

U. S. FAILS TO END TIEUP

Coal Men's Parley Adjourns Sine Die—Operators Agree to Accept Garfield's Proposal, While Lewis Claims Injustice to Miners.

Washington, Nov. 28.—The government's offer of a 14 per cent increase of wages was flatly rejected by the coal miners.

As a result the conference between the miners and operators adjourned sine die with the settlement of the wage controversy still "in the air." No provision was made for the resumption of the conference, the miners declaring "that they were going home and sit tight."

The miners' rejection came after the operators had accepted the government's proposal as a basis for a settlement although they declared that the increase without raising the price of coal to the public would mean the loss of profits to a large number of mines and would seriously interfere with production.

After the rejection the operators tendered a compromise offering to submit the entire dispute to a board of arbitration. This also was refused by the miners and the conference took an adjournment.

Statement by Lewis.
The following statement was dictated by Acting President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers:

"The miners and operators' joint conference adjourned sine die. The mine workers' representatives declined to recommend to the miners any acceptance of the 14 per cent increase offered.

"The operators pretended to be willing to grant this 14 per cent increase, but in the same breath stated that they would be unable to operate a large number of their mines unless they had an increase in the selling price of coal. It would be foolish for us to attempt to make any agreement with the operators unless their mines were to be operated.

"The position of the mine workers is unchanged. We hold that the United States government cannot break its word. The pledge given by Secretary of Labor Wilson to grant a 31.6 per cent increase in wages must be redeemed.

"In my judgment Doctor Garfield and the cabinet have committed the most colossal blunder in the industrial history of our nation. They are blindly following an academic theory without regard to justice to the mine workers or the effects of such theory upon the people of the country.

Says Justice Is Denied.
"The responsibility for the crisis now confronting the nation must lie upon those statesmen who are using the powers of the government to oppress and deny justice to the great element of citizenship directly concerned in the mining industry.

"I cannot believe that the people of our country will endorse a policy of oppression and repression which means continued industrial chaos, and intense suffering on the part of the mine workers and our entire citizenship."

The letter sent to Doctor Garfield by the operators of the central competitive coal field, accepting the government's offer, reads:

"Recognizing the seriousness of the present crisis and the urgent need of the country for coal, we wish to advise you that, subject to your approval and conditioned upon the mines resuming operations immediately, the operators' scale committee of the central competitive coal field accept, as a basis for the settlement of the present wage controversy and termination of the strike, the figures submitted by you to the joint meeting of operators and miners held yesterday evening, namely, an average increase of 14 per cent to be granted to all classes of mine labor, such increase to be apportioned in accordance with the wage bases that are acceptable to the employees and employers, thus preserving present differentials. Otherwise than as above, modified in complete accordance with your proposal, the present contract in all its terms and conditions to be continued in full force and effect until March 31, 1922.

"We have already notified the miners to this effect.

Says Profits Eliminated.
"At the same time we wish to call your attention to the fact that the acceptance of this increase in wages without any increase in selling prices entirely eliminates the profits of a large number of mines. Such a large number, in fact, we fear that the production of coal will be seriously affected. We understand that operating statistics for 1919 are not now in your possession, and we shall rely upon the government, when such statistics are properly assembled and presented, to make such adjustments in selling prices as will permit these mines to make such fair and reasonable profits as they are entitled to under the Lever law."

William Green, secretary of the United Mine Workers, said:

"Secretary of Labor Wilson states that the mine workers are entitled to an increase in wages amounting to 31.6 per cent. Mr. Garfield says 14 per cent. Obviously these two conclusions conflict with each other and, to say the least, are confusing. The mine workers know the figures of Secretary of Labor Wilson are approximately correct and the figures of Doctor Garfield are erroneous. The mine workers challenge the figures of Doctor Garfield and cannot and will not accept them. We will accept the figures of a responsible cabinet officer, Secretary Wilson.

"Doctor Garfield, because of the responsible position which he occupies, has done a great injustice to a million miners in America. His statement and decision has served to inject into the settlement of the miners' wage controversy an almost insurmountable obstacle. In that respect his action approaches the commission of a moral crime against the public.

"Mine workers cannot mine coal at the figures fixed by Doctor Garfield. The acceptance of his conclusion would mean untold suffering, suffering and deprivation on the part of the miners and their families. The problem of decent wages and a decent American standard of living, together with an adequate production of coal cannot be solved as a college professor would work out a problem in geometry, algebra or theoretical philosophy.

"The practical way to solve the present problem of coal production is to grant the miners an increase in wages sufficient to meet the increase in the cost of living and to guarantee them an American standard of living. They will then risk their lives in the mines, accept all the hazards of the industry and mine a steady stream of coal sufficient to meet every requirement."

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1—German prisoners of war returned to their homes from England and decorated with flowers. 2—The Glenn L. Martin bomber, largest airplane in the United States mail service. 3—Men of the United States mine-sweeping fleet that has just come home after two and one-half years of duty, mostly in the North sea.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Carranza Refuses to Release Jenkins and Hostilities With Mexico Impend.

ARMY AND NAVY ARE READY

Government's Efforts to End Coal Strike by Negotiation Fail, Miners Rejecting Garfield's Offer of 14 Per Cent Wage Increase.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

It appears at this writing that the breaking point with Mexico has been reached at last—or should one say again? Carranza's government, defying the United States, has flatly refused to release Consular Agent Jenkins in response to the demand made by our state department. Since that demand was in the nature of an ultimatum, threatening unpleasant consequences, it would seem either Washington or Mexico must back water, or hostilities will result.

The Mexican foreign office said the demand of the United States was not based on any legal foundation or principle of international law; that the executive department cannot under Mexican law intervene now in an affair that is strictly in the hands of state courts; that the imprisonment of Jenkins was neither arbitrary nor unjustified, and that he is preventing his own freedom by refusing to give bail. Mexico's assertion that Jenkins, as a consular agent, was not immune from arrest is not contested in Washington. But Secretary Lansing has stated that his department has more information bearing on this case than has been made public, and presumably it is this information that led to the demand for the release of Jenkins.

Reports from Mexico that have come through official channels show that the Mexicans have done all possible to discredit Jenkins. The court at Puebla refused to hear witnesses who would refute the story that he was seen in conference with members of the gang that kidnaped him; and according to the correspondent of a newspaper of Mexico City, a number of peons declared the judge and police inspector had exercised pressure on them to testify against Jenkins.

It was believed in Washington that the administration would maintain its firm stand in the crisis. Otherwise, said the well-posted, congress would take up the matter promptly after convening, call for all the facts in the case and proceed to frame a definite policy. In both house and senate, it was asserted, the great majority was in favor of a showdown with Carranza, who for years has flouted the United States and in innumerable ways displayed his open hostility. There is no forgetting or forgiving his attitude and actions during the war, which the government knew all the time and with which the public is becoming better acquainted every day.

Should armed intervention be necessary, we are in good condition for quick action, for the army has had this possibility in mind for some months. Along the border these forces are now available. Both wings of the aviation service, including 15 aero squadrons, ten balloon companies, five regiments of field artillery, ten of the 13 regiments of cavalry remaining in the army organization, three regiments of engineers, one brigade of infantry, with four within calling distance in the central department, 10 motor transport companies, one field battalion and two telegraph battalions of the signal corps, 23 or more pack trains and all the additional force of supply to care for an army of that size. The marine corps is ready for the emergency, and so is the navy. With a fleet in the Pacific as well as the Atlantic, forces could be landed on both coasts. If the navy needs more men the reserve force can be called on, and that includes a large part of the extra personnel in service during the war.

Besides looking on the arrest of

Jenkins as deliberately designed to affront the United States, the state department officials say the execution last week of Gen. Felipe Angeles also indicates the hostile attitude of Carranza toward this country. Angeles was the foremost Mexican soldier of this day, and was the outspoken admirer of the United States. But he had been the chief aid of Villa and was captured; therefore he was condemned and shot to death. While this may have been technically just, it is likely that the life of so eminent a man would have been spared if he had not so freely given voice to his friendship for this nation.

Less startling, perhaps, than the Mexican crisis, but of no less moment, is the collapse of the government's efforts to end the coal strike by negotiation. "Its final offer to the miners was a 14 per cent wage increase. This the operators voted to accept, and the miners, through Acting President Lewis, rejected. Mr. Lewis declared that "responsibility for the crisis now confronting the nation must be upon those statesmen who are using the powers of the government to oppress and deny justice to the great element of citizenship directly concerned in the mining industry."

The operators and the miners then adjourned sine die, and it seemed that there was nothing left for the government except to take over and operate the mines.

The government's compromise offer, approved by the cabinet and made by Fuel Director Garfield, provided there should be no increase in the price of coal to the consumer and that a joint advisory board of operators and miners should be created, with Secretary Lane as chairman, to work out the details of wage adjustments and furnish information and advice in future disputes. This offer must have been made without hope of its acceptance, for Secretary of Labor Wilson previously had declared the men were entitled to an advance of 31.6 per cent, and the operators had offered an advance of 20 per cent.

The acceptance of Mr. Wilson's conclusions may be affected by the fact that he was a miner himself. Lewis says the men consider his offer a pledge which the government must redeem.

Former Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo projected himself into the controversy with a statement that the operators have been making excessive profits since the war began and can well afford to pay much higher wages without increasing the price of coal. He said the treasury's records of excess profits taxes would prove this. Of course the operators entered still more denial, and Carter Glass, still secretary, came to their defense with a modified refutation of McAdoo's assertion as to profits.

While the dispute goes on the country's stock of fuel shrinks alarmingly. In some regions, however, the mines are being operated steadily. Out in the Sheridan (Wyo.) field the United States officials, civil and military, solved the trouble surprisingly and effectively. They learned that the miners had voted to return to the pits but were prevented from doing so by a campaign of intimidation by the radicals. The military, therefore, at the request of the sheriff, rounded up nearly three score alien agitators and sent them to Fort MacKenzie. A meeting of the miners' union was then called, and the entire strike situation explained by Major Deun, whereupon the men voted unanimously to end the strike Friday.

Governor Allen of Kansas has called for volunteers to work the mines and protect the people of the state from "unspeakable suffering," and hundreds of men have responded. Union leaders say these volunteers will be regarded as strike-breakers.

D'Annunzio, the Italian firebrand, seems to have as many schemes of annexation as the kaiser had. According to various reports, he plans to return with strong forces to Zara and proceed thence to Sebenico; after seizing that city, he will attack Spalato, and there he may run afoul of the American navy, which is guarding that part of Dalmatia; also he is said to aim at establishing a militarist government at Trieste, and now has emissaries in that city. The allied officials in Paris, however, now have renewed hope that a compromise settlement of the Adriatic

question will be reached, satisfactory to all parties, including D'Annunzio. This is the expected result of conversations there between British, French, Italian and Jugo-Slav representatives. The Jugo-Slavs are still nervous and claim to have information that Italy plans to take all of Dalmatia and Montenegro.

Maxim Litvinoff, representing the soviet government of Russia, is in Copenhagen conferring with British emissaries. Primarily the matter in hand is the exchange of prisoners, but Litvinoff admitted that if the British attitude was favorable, peace negotiations would be taken up. He headed the bolshevik delegation that met the representatives of the Baltic states in Dorpat, and the latter say his manner was cold and threatening throughout, and that unless he behaves otherwise in Copenhagen it will be difficult to negotiate with him. The Baltic states already have lost faith in the bolshevik's professed desire for peace with them. The soviet government of Russia has announced new victories over Denikin's forces and further advances in the Omsk region.

On Thursday Premier Stambulisky of Bulgaria signed the treaty of peace between his country and the allies. The pact was signed by all the allied nations except Roumania and Jugo-Slavia, which are awaiting the signing of the treaty with Austria. Bulgaria is to pay an indemnity of \$445,000,000; to surrender all works of art and other treasures taken from allied countries; to abolish compulsory military service, and to reduce its army to 20,000 men. It is deprived of Thrace and of Strumitza, the latter going to Serbia.

Germany, at last reports, was still holding out on signing the protocol which the allied nations drew up, and the supreme council has expressed its surprise and displeasure at this course. The council told the Germans that if the treaty of Versailles were not put into effect on December 1 the responsibility would rest entirely with their government. In another note to the German delegation at Versailles M. Clemenceau, as president of the council, sternly refused to deviate from the terms of the treaty in favor of German prisoners employed in reconstruction work in the devastated part of France, and he used some very plain language concerning German brutality and insincerity.

Another Irish crisis is at hand, for the British government, according to dispatches from Dublin, has issued a proclamation prohibiting and suppressing the Sinn Fein and other like organizations in all countries and boroughs in Ireland. It is believed the British now have 150,000 troops in Ireland, and on the other hand the supporters of the Irish "republic" claim they have an army of at least 100,000, ready to fight for the cause.

The new Labor party held its first national convention in Chicago last week, and it was scarcely worth what he called a success. The official list of delegates showed that 728 presented credentials, but a good many of them faded away before the convention came to a close. Moreover, not one of the 124 international labor unions was represented, and of the 34,000 local unions in the American Federation of Labor and 6,000 independent unions only 642 sent delegates. One delegate from Boston said about 80 per cent of those in attendance were Socialists and ex-Socialists. Among those who deserted the convention were the members of the Nonpartisan league, headed by Governor Frazier of North Dakota. The platform adopted is almost identical with those of other radical groups.

When the congressional committee went to Ellis Island to investigate the cases of the radicals held here for deportation it ran into a bunch of tartars. The reds refused to be questioned, and moreover were on a hunger strike because they were separated from cellmates by bars. Of course the obvious course is to let them starve, and the applause would be general. It was also disclosed that Frederic C. Howe, former commissioner of immigration at the island, had maintained a strangely sympathetic attitude of mind toward the reds who had been caught in the federal net. There may be more about him later on.

A DARING ROBBERY

YEGGMEN STAGE UNPRECEDENTED HOURLUP AT OMAHA.

SECURE \$65,000 IN BOOTY

Overpower Two Watchmen and Blow Two Safes in Downtown Department Store.

Omaha, Neb.—Yeggmen obtained approximately \$65,000 in loot last Sunday morning from the department store of Hayden Brothers in the heart of Omaha's business district, in one of the most daring robberies in the history of the middlewest. Binding two night watchmen hand and foot and while a policeman on the outside was walking his beat, three robbers spent the greater part of the night in the store in blowing open two safes.

The yeggmen rested some time during the night, went to the grocery department and ate "midnight lunch," amused themselves by playing a phonograph and dancing and then resumed work. Included in the loot was currency, gold, bonds and checks estimated at \$48,000 and jewelry valued at about \$17,000. Gold and silver estimated at \$50,000 was left behind because it was too heavy to carry.

The robbers caused three explosions with nitro-glycerine in the blowing open of two safes in the office on the second floor of the store.

That the yeggmen were professionals was evidenced in the manner in which they did the job.

Every article which is known to have been handled by the men during the robbery has been examined, and not a single finger print could be found. Finger stalls were used by each of the operators, thus destroying any possibility of getting their finger prints.

KILLED BY MEXICANS.

Relations Between U. S. and Carranza Brought Nearer the Break.

Washington, D. C.—James Wallace, American citizen, was shot and killed by Carranzista soldiers near Tampico Nov. 26.

The state department was advised of the killing and immediately ordered a thorough investigation. Details of this latest outrage were lacking, but administration officials did not hesitate to characterize it as "almost the last straw" in the chain of "aggravating incidents which has occupied the attention of the state department for several months."

The Wallace referred to is believed here to be E. T. Wallace of the Gulf Refining company, about 40 years old, and one of the company's best men.

If the identification of Wallace is correct, he is the eighth official of the Gulf Refining company to be killed in Mexico and the eighth American to be killed since July 22, 1919, when the state department warned the Carranza government that more killings of Americans would lead to a change in policy of this government toward Mexico.

MEXICO DEFIES U. S.

Refuses to Release American Consular Agent W. O. Jenkins.

Mexico City.—Declaring there is "no legal foundation, nor principle of international law" upon which the United States bases its demand for the immediate release of William O. Jenkins, United States consular agent at Puebla, the Mexican government, through Hilario Medina, under-secretary of foreign relations, stated it was impossible to accede.

It is asserted that the executive department cannot, under Mexican law, intervene at this moment in an affair which is strictly in the hands of state courts. It is declared the imprisonment of Mr. Jenkins was neither unjustified nor arbitrary and that Mr. Jenkins is preventing his own freedom by refusing to give bail, for which reason, it is said, "he cannot be considered a victim of molestation."

STORM KILLS EIGHT.

Great Damage Done By Gale and Snow in Four States.

Chicago.—At least eight persons were killed and scores injured and heavy property damage by a windstorm which reached a velocity of 80 miles an hour in some places and which was accompanied by sleet, snow and rain, which swept across the central valleys and southern lake region last Saturday.

Five persons were killed in southern Michigan. Two men lost their lives in Indianapolis, when one was electrocuted by a broken wire and another blown from a ladder. A woman was struck dead by a cornice from a building in Muncie, Ind.

Property damage will run into hundreds of thousands of dollars. Missouri, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan suffered intensely by the storm.

First Snow in 25 Years.

Phoenix, Ariz.—Snow fell here Nov. 28. Officials of the weather bureau said it was the first November snow since the station was established here in 1895.

Woman Elected to Parliament.

Plymouth.—Lady Astor, American-born wife of Viscount Astor, was elected to parliament from the Sutton division of Plymouth in the balloting of November 15. The result was announced after a count of the ballots here.