Labor Federation Behind Strikers, Gompers Declares

Attitude of Railway Board Scored by Union Chief—Men Fighting for Life of Organization.

Washington, July 15.—The American Federation of Labor stands squarely behind the striking railway shopmen of the country and means to do everything within its power to assist the various unions whose members are "fighting for the very life of their organizations," Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, said.

The attitude of the railroad labor board was denounced by Mr. Gompers, who declared the board, ever since its creation had been a blot on the "sensible procedure of things."

Mr. Gompers said he was confident that if the railway executives and representatives of the railway workers were to meet and discuss their differences among themselves, they would reach an agreement to end the strike. He did not look with favor on any move by the labor board to adjust the differences between the rail managers and workers, he said, because in the creation of the board it was apparent that "politicians were to decide industrial questions."

So long as the state authorities refuse to call on the federal government for assistance, he insisted, the government has no power within the law to send federal troops to any state.

Mr. Gompers scouted the idea that the striking shopmen were interfering with mail trains.

Mr. Gompers also asserted he had information that the Interstate Commerce commission was in possession of official data to the effect that locomotives were being illegally sent out of yards by various railroad companies unfit for service and dangerous to the public.

Wolverine Flyer Hits Loose Track, Derailed

Battle Creek, Mich., July 15.—The westbound Wolverine Flyer, the Michigan Central's finest train, went over loosened tracks two miles east of Battle Creek at noon today and five rear coaches were derailed, while the main line track was torn up for about a quarter of a mile. Two persons were slightly injured. All cars remained connected and upright.

Political Activities

Seven in Race.

Lincoln—The race for the republican nomination to congress in the First congressional district is attracting more than ordinary interest on account of the activities of the seven candidates who are seeking the nomination for the regular or long term. Nearly all of these have entered upon an active speaking campaign into the far corners of the counties that compose that district.

The seven candidates lined up in this race are, in the order named on the certified list of candidates issued by the secretary of state: Walter L. Anderson, Pelham A. Barrows, both of Lincoln; Wilber W. Anness of Dunbar, J. Ray Shike, University Place; Paul Manhart and John Hanna, both of Auburn, and R. H. Thorpe of Lincoln. The names of Mr. Barrows, Mr. Shike and Mr. Thorpe also appear on the short term or vacancy ballot for the republican nomination.

Wants Change.

Auburn—Paul Manhart, republican candidate for nomination as congressman from the First congressional district, who has come out in favor of a change in the Volstead act so as to permit the manufacture and sale of light wines and beer, issued a statement in which he asserted that a large number of persons in his district have told him they voted for the prohibition issue before the amendment was ratified by the state legislature in the belief that prohibition meant the doing away with the commonly called "American saloon or bars. They believed, according to Mr. Manhart, that there would be no effort to take away the right to have, if they desired, beverages of low alcoholic content, in their homes.

Mr. Manhart claims that prohibition still is a live issue in the state. He says the next question in order of consequence that the people talk about is taxation. He says they claim that the cause of the heavy taxes and the source of revenue to meet them could be remedied by permitting the use of light wines and beer in homes and collecting from said beverages a small revenue; and at the same time this would apportion the burden of taxation more equitably and do away with the great cost of trying to enforce strict prohibition.

Declares War on System.

Blue Hill.—In announcing his campaign platform for the nomination as state superintendent of public instruction, Prof. C. L. Mathews of this city today declared he would if elected, "unshackle the hold of the state university on the state superintendent's office," and that he would dismiss a major portion of the inspectors employed in that office.

Professor Westcott stated his desire that he wanted "that part of the tax dollar spent in the home district for the home school, under supervision of the home people and not the centralized power down at Lincoln." He claims to be the first of the candidates to declare war upon the centralized system and alleged waste and extravagance in school matters.

Oldest Resident Running.

Lincoln—Darius M. Amsberry, candidate for congress from the Sixth congressional district, claims to have been a resident of his district for a longer time than any of his competitors. He located as a homesteader in Custer county in April, 1878. Since that time he has had much to do with the building up of Custer county, one of the new counties, and which is now one of the largest in size and ranks fourth in population and first in agricultural activities.

Was Great Host.

Lincoln—Wilber W. Anness, republican candidate for congress, is known over the First district as the man C. F. Reavis defeated for the republican nomination for congress in the campaign of 1914. In that campaign the winning candidate was to give a supper to those of his comrades who lost—and Frank Reavis entertained.

According to all who attended that banquet, Mr. Reavis was a great host. They say that Wilber Anness, at that dinner, served at the Lincoln hotel, when he went in, took off his coat and sat in his shirtsleeves and suspenders. When the banquet was over, he carried his coat downstairs under his arm. Mr. Anness was seen the next day still carrying the coat.

New Jersey Bachelor Would Make Hundred Hearts Beat as Fifty

Hammonton, N. J., July 15.—Instead of following the prevalent custom of making two hearts beat as one, Lewis Conley plans to urge 100 hearts to beat as 50.

He proposes, as a means to his end, the passage of an ordinance forbidding the playing of solitaire by the 50 widows and 50 widowers in this town.

Conley, a widower himself, proposes a "heart lottery," whereby the names of all the widows and widowers are to be placed in two boxes and shaken up. Following a drawing, the names of the widows and widowers will be paired off, and under the ruling, trial courtship of six months will ensue.

After that the couple can either marry or draw again, the drawings to continue until "Cupid" Conley has married off the widow-widower crop—himself included.

Women to Serve First Time on Election Boards

New System in Counting Ballots Will Speed Up Sending of Returns to Commissioner.

Women will serve for the first time on election boards at the primaries, which will be held next Tuesday, from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m., in 175 voting precincts of Douglas county.

Also, for the first time in this county, counting boards will go on duty in all precincts at noon and will tabulate the ballots during the second half of the voting day. This plan will enable election boards to send their returns to the election commissioner within a short time after the polls close at 8 p. m. The counting boards also will comprise men and women.

On the national ticket, republican voters will have six senatorial aspirants to consider, the democrats, three and the progressives, two. There are many candidates for the various state nominations. The candidates were closing their campaigns Saturday and are looking forward with confidence. State candidates flocked into Omaha during the last few days of the week. It has been a "pussy-footing" campaign in the main, although a few candidates have held meetings.

R. B. Howell, republican candidate for United States senator, closed his speaking tour last night in the downtown district. Congressman A. W. Jefferis, republican candidate for the nomination of senator, also closed his speaking tour Saturday evening at Blair. He went to Decatur and Tekamah at noon.

Legislative nominations will be made next Tuesday for the first time under the new districting system, which provides for nomination and election of state representatives and senators by districts, instead of at large throughout the county. This plan gives Douglas county 13 representatives, one more than the last representation.

Omaha voters will have the privilege of voting on the proposition of whether the existing city charter should be adopted as the basis of a home rule charter; also another proposition which submits a $200,000 Auditorium bond issue.

Omaha C. of C. Opposed to Higher Coal Prices

"The Omaha Chamber of Commerce is opposed to any settlement of the coal strike which will continue the present high prices through the coming winter. Compared with the prices of our western products coal prices are absolutely out of proportion."

This message was telegraphed to President Harding Saturday morning, in protest to his present plan of handling the coal strike situation. It is signed by A. C. Scott, chairman of the chamber's executive committee, which met specially to formulate the message.