

DECLARE FOR BIG STRIKE

Provisional Declaration is Made by Anthracite Miners.

ULTIMATUM TO COAL OPERATORS

If Final Effort of Civic Federation Prove Unavailing United Mine Workers Will Name Date for Walkout. Expect Strike at Lowell.

Shamokin, Pa., March 25.—Unless the efforts of the Civic Federation are effective with the coal operators it is more than likely that a repetition of the strike of 1900 will occur in the anthracite region. In that year 140,000 employees of the anthracite mines were on strike for six weeks. The convention yesterday of districts 1, 7 and 9, United Mine Workers, which districts comprise the entire anthracite field, made a provisional strike declaration, leaving the date to be decided by the executive boards of the three districts. This was practically the last official act of the delegates and the convention adjourned sine die.

The adoption of the resolution containing the ultimatum of the mine workers was followed by a scene of wild enthusiasm and the opera house rang with the acclamations of the delegates, who, with lusty cheers, approved the work of the special resolutions committee and expressed their confidence in President Mitchell. The convention at its session showed a disposition to insist on the adjustment of the mine workers' grievances, but the delegates were willing to relinquish the question of recognition providing other more important concessions were granted. This fact is evidenced in the resolution adopted, which states, as the chief demands, a shorter work day, a minimum day wage scale, a uniform increase in wages and the weighing of coal wherever practicable.

The Civic Federation is regarded by the delegates as the last hope of the mine workers in their demands for improved conditions and the gravity of the situation is manifested in the words of President Mitchell: "I am free to say that to me a strike seems imminent."

The district executive boards met last night to select the 14 delegates, who, under the provisions of the resolution, are to comprise the committee. After the meeting President Mitchell said the members had not been named, but men fitted for the mission by their knowledge of the situation in the anthracite coal region would be selected. Should a strike occur over 144,000 mine workers would be rendered idle. Of this number, nearly 120,000 are on the membership rolls of the union, the duties of the remainder being of a character which renders them ineligible to membership.

Missouri Miners Strike.

Bevier, Mo., March 25.—A general order was given yesterday by President George Richards of district No. 25, United Mine Workers, declaring a strike upon the Murlin Coal company's mines in this state. The walkout affects 800 miners, who left their posts yesterday, divided in the following counties: Macon, 400; Randolph, 250; Ray, 200. The cause leading to the trouble was the discharge of a miner in Randolph county last week for some minor trouble. The miners and the company could not agree as to who is at fault. There is a signed contract affecting all union mines in the state. The differences existed in the interpretation of the signed scale.

Textile Workers Vote to Strike.

Lowell, Mass., March 25.—A general strike of the textile operatives in Lowell now seems unavoidable. The cotton spinners and the loom fixers met last evening and voted to stand by the demands of the council. The spinners voted to strike at the word of the council and the loom fixers went them one better by instructing their delegates to advocate a general strike at the meeting of the council this evening. The demand of the Textile council for a 10 per cent increase in wages Saturday was refused by the mill agents.

Will Consider Miners' Grievances.

New York, March 25.—Notice was given out by Ralph M. Easley, secretary of the National Civic Federation, that the national conciliation committee of the association would hold a special session tomorrow morning to consider the miners' grievances. Senator Hanna will attend, and others expected at the meetings are Bishop Potter, Oscar Strauss, Charles A. Moore, Frank P. Sargent, James Duncan, John Mitchell and Franklin McVeach.

Foul Play Suspected.

Joplin, Mo., March 25.—Will Houdson, ground boss of the Golden Rod mine at Chitwood, northwest of Joplin, is missing and it is thought has been murdered. Workmen who went out to the mine in the morning found his shirt in the engine room, with three great bloody rents in it, such as would have been made by stabs into the heart. His empty pocketbook was found beside the shirt. It is supposed he was killed and thrown into some abandoned shaft.

Fail to Reach Agreement.

Springfield, Ills., March 25.—The miners and operators of the Springfield subdistrict, after being in session four days endeavoring to settle rates not settled by the state conference, adjourned last evening without being able to come to an agreement. By the terms of the state conference they must now work until May 1 at the old rates.

HORSEWHIPS TOPEKA'S MAYOR.

Nurse Lashes City Official and Threatens to Attack Governor.

Topeka, Kan., March 25.—Miss Blanche Boise, a protegee of Mrs. Nation, horsewhipped Mayor Parker in his office at the city building at 9 o'clock. Three times she slashed the mayor and then he sprang at her, gripped her by the throat, choked her to the rawhide out of her hands and pushed her in the hall.

As Miss Boise was thrust out by Mayor Parker she exclaimed: "Thank God I've done it. I've horsewhipped you and now I'm going to horsewhip the governor."

Before beginning her horsewhipping Miss Boise gave the mayor a severe scolding and accused him of being responsible for the fact that the joints are running openly in Topeka, and for the murder which was recently committed in Roy Daniel's saloon. She then pulled her horsewhip from the folds of her dress and before the mayor knew what had happened she struck him three times across the head and shoulders.

Miss Boise is a nurse by profession. She is about 35 years of age and is quite a handsome woman.

When seen by a reporter after the affair, Mayor Parker refused to discuss it. The woman who whipped him talked freely. She said: "I was in sympathy with Mrs. Nation, but did not take part in her raids. I have come to the conclusion that the only way to make public officers enforce the temperance laws is to horsewhip them. I have an organization behind me and we have whips for Governor Stanley and Judge Hazen. I will wait and see how this dose acts on the mayor before I repeat it. I think it is a good plan."

SLEEPING MAN INCINERATED.

Supposed Member of Brady Gang Meets Death in Burning Oil House.

Mason City, Ia., March 25.—Word was received here at the division headquarters of the Milwaukee that their oil house had been broken into last evening at Sanborn and that three of the members of the Brady gang had met an unexpected and in one case fatal experience. One man was burned to death and a second fatally, while the third escaped, but was apprehended by the officers.

At first it was thought that the case was one of murder and arson, but the man arrested declares that the three men were somewhat intoxicated and went into the oil house to sleep and that it must have caught fire from their pipes. The oil and coal houses of the company were completely destroyed and one of the men incinerated. The second is at the hospital, but will probably die.

TRAINS COLLIDE DURING FOG.

Three Men Killed, Several Injured and Cars Piled Up on Track.

Youngstown, O., March 25.—In a head-on collision between freight trains yesterday on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago road four men were killed and three injured. The dead: Norman Graham, James Thomas, Charles Blackburn; brake-man, name unknown.

The trains crashed together in a heavy fog, completely wrecking both engines and piling the cars up so that traffic will be suspended for hours. The cause of the wreck is not yet determined, the engineers on both trains claiming they had orders to go ahead.

Sums Up Patrick's Defense.

New York, March 25.—Robert M. Moore began summing up for the defense in the trial of Albert T. Patrick, accused of the murder of William M. Rice. In opening he said the prosecution had shown no motive for the killing of Rice by Patrick, because Patrick, under the 1900 will, was not to inherit Rice's millions for himself, but for the carrying out of a trust. Jones' statement that Rice was killed at the direction of Patrick, the lawyer contended, was unworthy of belief because Jones had a motive in making that statement.

Probably Murder and Suicide.

Chicago, March 25.—James Towns, his wife and their 8-year-old daughter were found dead in bed here yesterday. They had been asphyxiated by gas from the kitchen range. A plug had been removed from the range, and the man's arm was thrown over the child, apparently holding her down. These circumstances are cited by the police as evidence of a double murder and suicide.

Raid Counterfeiting Den.

Chicago, March 25.—Police and secret service men raided a counterfeiting den in the attic of a building at 36 Cass street last night and confiscated two boxes heaped with shining bogus coins. A number of dies, casts, packages of plaster of paris, bags of sand, bottles of acid and other paraphernalia were also secured. Two men were arrested, while a third escaped.

Dead Man in Fire Ruins.

South McAlester, I. T., March 25.—Fire yesterday destroyed Peter Ivey's meat market and seven other frame structures. The body of Ivey, who was 60 years old, was found in the ruins. There was an ugly wound on the skull and some think Ivey was murdered and robbed and his store set afire. The financial loss was \$8,000.

Sheriff Robbed of Prisoners.

Troy, Ala., March 25.—Bill Ziegler, a negro charged with an assault on a little white girl, was lynched seven miles below this place. At a preliminary hearing the negro was bound over to the grand jury. The sheriff started to town with the prisoner, but was overpowered by the mob.

THREE MEN FOUND GUILTY

Neely, Reeves and Rathbone Are Convicted.

SENTENCED FOR POSTAL FRAUDS

Each of Them Gets Ten Years of Imprisonment and a Heavy Fine in Addition for Embezzling Cuban Postal Funds.

Havana, March 25.—The trials before the audiencia court of the cases arising from the embezzlement of Cuban postal funds have resulted in the following sentences: C. F. W. Neely, ten years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$56,701; W. H. Reeves, ten years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$35,516; Estes G. Rathbone, ten years' imprisonment and to pay a fine of \$35,324.

Indianapolis, March 25.—Edward Thompson, ex-postmaster at Havana, arrived home yesterday. When informed of the finding of the audiencia court at Havana in the cases of C. F. W. Neely, W. H. Reeves and Estes G. Rathbone, Mr. Thompson said: "I knew it, I knew those men would be soaked. Of course—at least I have no doubt of it—this finding will finally be submitted to the United States authorities, or, perhaps, the court has previously intimated to the federal officials what the result will be. I believe it has all along been determined to convict these three defendants. Why, just think of it, in these courts the defendants are not permitted to sit by the side of their attorneys or to suggest questions in cross-examination. In fact, the argument is the whole thing in the trial, and the recommendation of the fiscal is equivalent to the final judgment of the court. Here is a significant fact: In the case of the three men just convicted, the recommendation of the fiscal was for a term of 24 years' imprisonment and \$135,000 fines. You see he has been induced to withdraw some of his recommendations, for the penalties have been greatly reduced. What influence was brought on the fiscal to bring down the penalties in his final recommendation to the court I have my opinion."

DISCUSS CUBAN QUESTION.

Seven House Members Confer With President Roosevelt.

Washington, March 25.—A conference was held at the white house yesterday between the president and seven of the Republican members of the house of representatives who have been foremost in opposing the plan of Cuban reciprocity urged by the ways and means committee and understood to have the support of the administration. The members who called were Representatives Tawney and Morris of Minnesota, Dick of Ohio, William A. Smith of Michigan, Metcalf of California and Dayton of West Virginia. The call was at the request of the president, who desired an exchange of views to the end that harmonious action might be secured in such steps as are taken in behalf of Cuba. At the conclusion of the conference the general understanding was reached that any statements made to the public would be to the general effect that no conclusions were reached and that the conference was confined to a general interchange of views.

OLEO BILL IN SENATE.

Proctor Makes Opening Statement in Support of Measure.

Washington, March 25.—Consideration was begun by the senate yesterday of what is popularly known as the oleomargarine bill. The measure places a tax of 10 cents a pound on oleomargarine colored in imitation of butter and reduces the present tax of 2 cents per pound on oleomargarine to one-quarter of 1 cent a pound in its uncolored form. Proctor (Vt.), chairman of the committee on agriculture, made the opening statement in support of the measure. He concluded with the observation that the pending bill was "a measure to protect an honest product against a fraud."

Moss-Rhea Election Case.

Washington, March 25.—Boreing (Ky.) injected an attack on the Goebel election law into the discussion of the Moss-Rhea contested election case from the Third Kentucky district, which again occupied the attention of the house yesterday, but Rhea declined to be drawn into an extended debate on an issue not directly involved in the case. He contented himself with paying his respects to Boreing, charging the latter with ignorance of the law of his own state. Rhea made a strong presentation of his side of the case, but had not concluded when the house adjourned. The vote will be taken this afternoon.

Report Hepburn Food Bill.

Washington, March 25.—The house committee on interstate and foreign commerce yesterday voted to report the Hepburn pure food bill, to prevent the adulteration, misbranding and imitation of foods, beverages, candies, drugs, etc., and regulating interstate traffic in such goods. The bill was framed by the national pure food conference and for some time hearings have been in progress on this and other pure food measures.

Arguments in Gray Case.

Chicago, March 25.—The case against Dr. Robert E. Gray, charged with the murder of Irma Brown, probably will be given to the jury today.

HITCHCOCK DENIES REPORT.

Says He Has No Intention of Resigning From Cabinet.

Washington, March 25.—Secretary Hitchcock has returned from St. Louis, where he was called by the serious illness and subsequent death of his brother. He denied that he had any intention of resigning his cabinet portfolio or had even contemplated retiring. He refused to discuss the reports to that effect that have been current, beyond characterizing them as without foundation.

He replied in the negative when asked if he might not find it necessary to resign in order to take up the responsibilities that had formerly devolved upon his deceased brother in directing their private business in the west.

TO RUN AGAINST SPEAKER.

State Senator Courtright Will Oppose Henderson for Congress.

Waterloo, Ia., March 25.—Senator I. B. Courtright of Waterloo was yesterday announced as a candidate for the Republican nomination for congressman in opposition to Speaker Henderson and will make a fight for control of the coming congressional convention. This means that for the first time since he was sent to congress in 1882, Colonel Henderson will find it necessary to contest with an aspirant for his seat. For ten years the nomination has come to him by unanimous vote of the delegates and only once or twice has there been indication of opposition.

Waukegon Opera House Burns.

Chicago, March 25.—Fire originating in gasoline which Webster Cullerison, an actor, was using to clean garments, nearly destroyed the Phoenix opera house block in Waukegon last night. Cullerison was badly burned, but escaped from the building, carrying with him David Horning, a lad who was with him when the gasoline exploded. There was a number of narrow escapes from death, the fire spreading so rapidly that the exits were nearly blocked by flames and smoke before the alarm became general. The dressing rooms in the theater were occupied by members of the "Runaway Match" company. The entire equipment of the company was destroyed.

Dumont Ready for a Trip.

London, March 25.—Santos Dumont arrived in London yesterday, bringing the airship with which he intends to make a voyage over London during the coronation festivities. He said he proposed to sail for the United States, to which country he goes on his own initiative, early in April, and will consult with the authorities at St. Louis on the subject of the conditions of the exposition competition.

More Insurgents Surrender.

Manila, March 25.—The remnant of the force in Laguna province, Luzon, under the insurgent leader Caballos has surrendered to Lieutenant Dougherty of the Seventh infantry. Forty-seven rifles and 18 revolvers were turned in by these insurgents. Caballos, who also surrendered, has ordered the insurgents remaining in Laguna to cease their hostilities.

Loubet to Visit Czar.

Paris, March 25.—The chamber of deputies, by a vote of 469 to 32, adopted a bill providing a credit of 500,000 francs to defray the expenses of President Loubet's visit to Russia. The senate also adopted the credit unanimously. After the credit had voted, a socialist proposition asking for a sum of money to aid persons out of work was rejected.

Priest Shot at Target Practice.

Concordia, Kan., March 25.—Rev. Father Perrier, who has been the Catholic priest of this parish for 15 years, was accidentally shot yesterday while at target practice. Perrier and Bishop Cunningham were practicing when Perrier dropped his 38-caliber revolver. The revolver was discharged, the ball entering his right leg above the knee.

Sentenced for Sedition.

Manila, March 25.—Senor Torres of the island of Marinduque has been sentenced to ten years' imprisonment in Bilbid prison for sedition. This is the first sentence on this charge. The trial by court martial of Lieutenant Hagedorn has commenced. Hagedorn was quartermaster of the Twenty-eighth infantry and was charged with embezzlement.

Rev. Lowther Explains.

McPherson, Kan., March 25.—Rev. Gravielle Lowther stated today that he believes he will be cleared of the charge of heresy at his trial before the Methodist Episcopal conference at Arkansas City. He stated that he had been misunderstood. He is not an atheist, as has been stated, he said, but a "theistic" evolutionist.

Kitchener Offers Terms.

London, March 25.—The Associated Press has good reason to believe that Lord Kitchener, in his interview with Mr. Schalkburger, agreed to withdraw the punishment proclamation issued in September if General Dewet and the other Boer leaders surrendered.

SPARKS FROM THE WIRES.

Canada will send another contingent of mounted men to South Africa.

Kid Carter knocked out Joe Choyinski at Chicago Wednesday night in the first round. Both men were nearly out.

John Duan, a teamster employed by the Hercules Powder company, was blown to atoms while loading a wagon at the magazine north of Findlay, O., Monday.

INJUNCTION ON REBATES

Temporary Restraining Order Against Six Chicago Lines.

TRY TO STOP DISCRIMINATION.

Holds Good Until June 1 or Later. Granted in Compliance With Interstate Commerce Commission's Request—Hope to Get Other Roads.

Chicago, March 25.—With the consent of the defendants, Judge Grosscup, in the circuit court yesterday, issued the temporary restraining order, asked by the interstate commerce commission against the railways entering Chicago. The order holds good until June 1, or until further orders from the court.

The railroads affected by the injunction are: The Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago and St. Louis, the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago, the Michigan Central, the Illinois Central and the Chicago and Northwestern.

Before entering the order Judge Grosscup said: "But for the compliance of the defendants I should have required the fullest possible hearing. The matter is one of extreme importance and not to be decided without the most mature deliberation."

It is believed that the railways named agreed not to contest the petition for an injunction at this time, in order that other roads eventually might be brought into court and compelled to give up to the provisions merited to live up to the provisions merited act.

To Bring Suit Against Merger.

St. Paul, March 25.—Attorney General Douglas will bring action against the railway merger in the state courts within ten days. It will be brought in the district court here. The action will take the form of an application for an injunction to restrain the Northern Securities company from voting the stock of either the Northern Pacific or the Great Northern Railroad company. The general purpose is to secure jurisdiction on behalf of the state and to make the issue broad enough to cover the whole merger.

DEFENDS CREED WITH GUN.

Holiness Preacher Kills Young Man Who Interferes With Duel.

Ardmore, I. T., March 25.—At Cumberland, I. T., last night, Rev. E. M. Lamar, a Holiness preacher, shot and killed Calvin Van Winkle, a well-to-do citizen of Cumberland. In his church last night, before the services began Lamar made the statement that no other Christian belief than that of the Holiness sect was of any value and that those persons who cling to other Christian beliefs were sure of hell. William Van Winkle, father of the young Van Winkle, is a strong Baptist. He became enraged at the statement of the preacher and invited him outside. Calvin Van Winkle heard the men quarreling, came to his father's rescue and was shot and killed. Several shots were exchanged between the elder Van Winkle and Rev. Lamar without damage. Lamar is under arrest.

Armistice in South Africa.

London, March 25.—The Daily Chronicle asserts that an armistice has been arranged pending the duration of Schalkburger's mission to General Dewet and that offensive operations against Dewet, Delarey and Botha will be suspended. The three generals have agreed to observe the armistice honorably until the return of the envoys to the Boer lines. It is believed that the envoys, after acquainting Botha with the result of their mission, will again confer with Lord Kitchener, although no arrangement for the second conference has been made.

Irrigation Congress Postponed.

Colorado Springs, Colo., March 25.—The National Irrigation congress, which was to have been held here next August, has been officially postponed by the National Irrigation association until Oct. 6 to 9. The reason assigned for the postponement is that the transmississippi congress is to be held at St. Paul in August and the irrigation congress draws upon practically the same class of delegates. President Walsh, it is also said, will be in Europe in August, but will return in time for the October meeting.

Jury Unable to Agree.

Springfield, Ills., March 25.—Judge Burroughs, in the Madison county circuit court yesterday, discharged the jury in the case of John Foreman, charged with making threats to destroy the property of certain farmers if money was not sent to the signers, who signed themselves "Invincibles." The jury was out 68 hours and could not reach an agreement.

Injunction Against Picketing.

Denver, March 25.—Judge Palmer, in the district court yesterday, issued a permanent injunction restraining the Denver Retail Clerks' union from enforcing a boycott against a retail merchant in front of his store and attempting by this means to turn away trade therefrom.

Students Fire University.

Vienna, March 25.—The newspapers here report a students' outbreak of a revolutionary character at Plock, Russian Poland. The students there set fire to the technical school and attempted to lynch the professors, who escaped with difficulty. Mounted troops quelled the disturbances.

'FRISCO'S NEW TRAIN DITCHED.

"Meteor" Jumps the Track and Four Passengers Are Injured.

Denison, Tex., March 25.—The Frisco's handsome new train "The Meteor," southbound, left the track near Francis, I. T., yesterday and four passengers were seriously injured, as follows: William Atkins, Kansas City, left arm wrenched and cut; Mrs. Maude Rivett, Gun City, Mo., hip sprained; Mrs. M. C. McGowan, St. Joseph, internally injured; S. F. Dutton, superintendent of the Harvey eating house, Kansas City, thrown through a window and badly cut.

Thousands Going to Northwest.

Kalspell, Mon., March 25.—Five sections of a westbound passenger on the Great Northern railroad went through Kalspell, with about 3,000 people, who are seeking homes in the west. Over 100 stopped off in Kalspell and will look over the valley with a view of settling here.

Seal Fisheries a Failure.

St. Johns, N. F., March 25.—The steamer Newfoundland, the first sealing ship to return from the ice floes, arrived in the channel today, with reports that indicate that the season's fishery was the worst on record.

Monster Eels.

Many of the islands of the western Pacific have in their streams and lakes large numbers of eels of immense size which seldom are used as food by the natives, who seem to have a horror of the snakelike creatures. The eels of Strong's Island, one of the Caroline group, are peculiar in that they hibernates regularly and seek for their place of hibernation the loftiest places which they can find.

These eels sometimes will climb mountains 2,000 feet high and select the summit as the place for their winter's rest. They select or make a depression in the soft, moss covered soil and fit themselves into it snugly, remaining for months at a time absolutely motionless and inert. Sometimes the eels are covered with moss or vegetable debris and at other times they are found exposed to view with their broad, flat heads doubled back upon their bodies. After their season of rest upon the mountain tops the eels wriggle their way down to the valleys and, plunging into the rivers and lakes, begin to feed upon the crawfish, for which crustacean they have a fondness which is shared by the natives. These eels are excellent eating, but nothing will induce the natives to touch them, alive or dead.

Relieved.

It was a long ride through a desolate and dangerous country, and the politician sought to relieve the monotony by philosophic musings on his recent victory and embarrassments that even success brings.

"Hold up your hands!"

The stagecoach gave a lurch and stopped. The ray of light that shot into the vehicle turned the spattering rain into myriads of evanescent gems.

"What do you want?" asked the politician, with a firmness that showed that he had faced danger before.

"Your money."

"Here it is."

"Your watch and diamond ring."

"They are yours."

"I must say you're good natured anyhow," said one of the highwaymen.

"Not at all. Are you sure that's all you desire?"

"What in thunder did you think we wanted?"

"I was afraid"—and the politician's voice trembled a little—"you wanted an office!"—Philadelphia North American.

Excessive Politeness.

There is a man who is always apologizing, and some say: "How courteous he is! How thoughtful! A born gentleman!" Know that he is a thorough and aggressive egotist. He runs against you, he steps on your foot, he tries to pass you on the left, he knocks your hat as he hangs by a strap in the car, he sits on your coattail—what does he not do to call attention to his own breeding? Sometimes he throws the accent on "beg," sometimes on "pardon." The speech is merely a rhetorical flourish, and he has practiced all the variations.—Boston Journal.

Consumption and Sulphur.

A German physician recommends to consumptives the sulphur treatment. This consists in the patient living in rooms where one or two drams of sulphur are melted daily on a hot stove. The first ten days there will be felt increased irritation and cough. These soon decrease, and improvement is rapidly felt, and complete cures are often effected if the disease is not too far advanced.

Ancient Sacrifices to the Sea.

The navigators of antiquity, to whose imaginative ignorance the ocean seemed peopled and beset with chimeras dire and supernatural agencies of all sorts, used often to sacrifice human lives to the mysterious water gods. It is regarded by tradition that Idomeneus, king of Crete, vowed to sacrifice to Neptune the first living thing he met after escaping from a storm, and this happening to be his son he fulfilled his vow religiously. Medea nearly became a sacrifice during the return voyage of the Argonauts.

Mournful.

Toward the end of the mince pie stage Willie put down his spoon and pushed away his unfinished trifle.

"Why, Willie," said his father, "what's the matter? You look quite mournful!"

"Yes," replied Willie, "that's just it. I'm more'n full." And the innocent child wondered why everybody laughed.—London Globe.