

DENY STORY ABOUT STRIKE

Conductors' and Trainmen's Representatives' Contradict Brigg's Story.

ASSERT NO MEETING WAS HELD FRIDAY

Committee at This Point Waiting to Hear Results Obtained from Conference with Gould Lines at St. Louis.

J. E. Murphy, chairman of the Union Pacific general committee of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, and J. J. Rhoades, secretary of the Union Pacific general committee of the Order of Railroad Conductors, state that no joint meeting of the Union Pacific and B. & M. general committees of those organizations was held Friday, that there is no B. & M. general committee of those orders in Omaha, that O. E. Briggs was not secretary of such a meeting and that there was no vote on any proposition to strike on those two roads.

Yesterday O. E. Briggs asserted that he acted as secretary of a joint meeting of the general committees of the Order of Railroad Conductors and the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen in room 91 of the Deltone hotel Friday afternoon, and at that meeting it was voted Friday to strike within forty-eight hours unless the 20 per cent wage increase was granted for a few minutes later, said Briggs, this action was reconsidered, and after a hot debate it was determined to leave the matter still to the arbitration in progress at St. Louis.

Messrs. Murphy and Rhoades, who speak with authority, informed the Bee last night that Mr. Briggs was not connected with their committees in any way and that his statement has no foundation in fact.

Fifty-Two Roads Involved. To the Corn Belt, the Missouri Pacific, the Missouri, Kansas & Texas roads the demand on the part of the conductors and trainmen of fifty-two roads was left for settlement. The fifty-two cover all territory west and south of Chicago, including the Illinois Central southern lines, extending then north to the Duluth, South Shore & Atlantic, west to the Pacific coast and south to the Gulf of Mexico.

After being in conference since January 6, these four committees finally, on last Thursday, submitted an ultimatum to the four Gould lines, that the freight train wages should be raised 15 per cent and passenger 12 per cent, and that double-headers should be run on no train heavier than one engine's rating. This latter condition is simply equivalent to carrying double-headers on all trains, which is wasting an engine to add it to a train that needs but one.

Other Roads Give Increase. ST. LOUIS, Feb. 7.—A conference is being held today between the officials of the Missouri Pacific and A. B. Garrison, assistant grand chief of the Order of Railroad Conductors, and P. H. Morley, general master of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen.

It is reported that the officials of that road have decided to allow the same increase conceded by the Missouri, Kansas & Texas, and that its example will be followed by the St. Louis & Southwestern (Cotton Belt) and the St. Louis & San Francisco.

The conference began at 10 o'clock and at 11 o'clock a recess was taken. At that time it was said that several hours more would be necessary before a conclusion was reached, and it may extend into a night session. The meeting is said to be entirely harmonious.

TRIBUTE TO JUDGE TAFT

Army Officer Speaks of Work of Governor of the Philippines.

"Ever since returning from the Philippines, three months ago, I have seen much in the papers to the effect that Judge Taft, governor general of those islands, would soon come back to the states to accept this or that high station. One week they had it that he would succeed Mr. Root as secretary of war. Then he was to become an associate justice of the supreme court. Both, of course, are high stations. The latter was tendered, but Judge Taft promptly declined, preferring to remain at Manila and develop his plans for the Philippines. But the agitation for his return did not stop. It was thought that he would be recalled to succeed Chief Justice Fuller upon his retirement. I earnestly hope and really believe that nothing in the way of official station will tempt Judge Taft to abandon his work in the Philippine islands."

The comments were made by Major J. H. Watrous of the United States army, who spent nearly two years and a half in the Philippines, and whose duties took him to most of the islands occupied by American soldiers. Continuing, Major Watrous spoke in glowing terms of the great work done by Judge Taft's associate commissioners.

"When I think of that work, of the astonishing progress made in establishing a stable government, of the mountainous masses of schools that have been opened and their striking success in enlightening those people, of Judge Taft's great ability, his tireless energy, his good heart and the ample monetary spirit of which he is possessed, and of his perfect equipment for his high office, I can but look upon the proposition to recall him as a majority of the people looked upon the proposition to 'swap off' Lincoln in 1864, before this mighty task was completed. We often hear the remark that Lincoln was given to the world that he might do the work which fell to him between the Fort Sumter and Appomattox events, or words to that effect. I as sincerely believe that William H. Taft was given to the world to be a civil leader in carrying to lasting, glorious success American occupation of the Philippine islands. Who today think that any one could have wrought better than Abraham Lincoln did? If Judge Taft remains over that until his work is completed, a time that is surely coming—the nation will be asking: 'Where could we have found one more suitable than Governor Taft?'"

There is another side to this talk about

HOWELL WINS EVERY POINT

Controls Meeting of Democratic City Committee Through Proxies.

FAITHFUL HAVE LIVELY SECRET SESSION

Efforts of the Antis to Disturb the Appointment Plan Adopted in January Prove Flat Failure.

The democratic city primaries will be from 12 o'clock noon to 7 p. m. Thursday, April 9, instead of February 12, as decided at the meeting of January 10. The convention will be at 7:30 p. m. Saturday, April 11, a few hours after the republicans are slated to give their nomination, instead of February 14. The appointment will be one delegate for each seventy-five votes or fraction thereof cast for Thompson for governor, making a total of 115, instead of eighty-one as under the old system.

VACATION HOME FOR THE BOYS

Prussian Syndicate Proposes to Fix a Place Where They Can Enjoy Themselves.

(Copyright, 1903, by Press Publishing Co.) BERLIN, Feb. 7.—(New York World Cablegram—Special Telegram.)—Several committees in the Scheidehaus district of Prussia are planning to build a large building for a vacation home for school boys. The boys will be turned loose in the house and over the land, of course under oversight, but with as little interference as possible. They can imagine themselves as desert-isle pirates and bandits, or they can garden or farm, or do carpentering or smithy work, or be idle, just as they please. There will be one common meal indoors, all other meals to be taken when and where the boys wish.

OMAHA SUBURBS.

Florence. Alex Paul and daughters were visitors at the home of Mrs. S. J. S. Paul and her family in Omaha Friday.

Fred Powell and wife of Council Bluffs visited their parents here Saturday and Sunday.

Mary Gunderson went to Blair, Neb., Saturday, where she will remain for several weeks.

Edgar Powell, Jr., returned home Monday from a two weeks' visit with his brother at Blencoe, Ia.

Miss Martha Herk, returned home Friday from Omaha.

Bert Kindred of Herman spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of his father, returning to Herman Monday morning.

Henry Butler left here Wednesday for a two weeks' visit with his brother, Ferdinand Abendroth, at Bancroft, Neb.

Mr. Lou Cole and son George were called to Blair, Neb., Saturday, to attend the funeral of Mrs. Cole's brother.

The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Tucker, of Omaha, was born here Saturday night, weighing about seven pounds, and only twenty-four hours old.

Andrew Anderson was appointed rural mail carrier from the office February 1st, and Henry Johnson enlisted in the navy.

Forman ever had been made a member of the committee, but withdrew his protest upon being informed by the chair that Herdman had been made such member at a certain committee meeting. P. N. Tobin was challenged as a representative of the Fourth ward on the ground that he had been in the Eighth ward for a year and a half. W. T. Johnson was objected to by the same protestant, Butler, because now in the Eighth instead of the Sixth. J. J. O'Connor was objected to as a proxy for John F. Crook, but wasn't been. J. J. Mahoney said, a resident of the Seventh ward for two years and isn't even in the city now. Dan Cannon and W. H. Chadwick both presented proxies from D. T. Murphy and there were others protested on both sides.

Behind Closed Doors. In the hopelessness of the tangle the chair put the motion for executive session on the order of business. P. N. Tobin was then considered and the chair sustained it. A vote was called and the chair overruled, 15 to 8. As this test affected all protests based on the grounds of non-residence the rest were not considered and the Howell faction secured the contested seats.

After that it was plain sailing. Will Herdman introduced a resolution to the effect that the city central committee convene in all acts of the meeting of January 10 except as to dates of primary and caucus, and changing these to April 9 and 11. This left the Thompson vote apportionment standing and the anti-Howell faction was just ready to move an amendment when West moved the previous question. This brought the final showing of strength and the resolution was adopted, 15 to 8.

Sandwiched in with the motions and seconds were some of the warmest fifteen-minute business the committee was cloistered nearly two hours.

KOCIAN IS ANOTHER WONDER

Bohemian Boy Who Plays on the Violin and Astonishes the Masters.

Jaroslav Kocian, the youngest of the Bohemian violin virtuosos, who will play at Boyd's theater Monday afternoon, February 23, was born February 23, 1884, in the small town of Usti Nad Orlic, Bohemia. At the age of 2 he watched with great interest the violin playing of his father's people. It was at the age of about 4 that the gifted child received his first violin and was instructed by his father. The latter, being a schoolmaster, was also a music teacher, as is common in nearly all European countries. In a short time the boy was playing in the town orchestra and his great musical talents were noticed by everyone. In the year 1896, when he had 12 years, Jaroslav entered the Royal Conservatory of Music at Prague and became a pupil of the renowned master, Prof. Sefcik. From this institution he was graduated in five years, being one year less than the course required. Kocian is not like the majority of virtuosos, skilled only in technique, but has been very successful in composition and as a director of orchestras. For example, Jaroslav's orchestra in Monte Carlo. He has been the lion of musical circles in Austria, France and England. Kocian is accompanied by Spindler, an excellent boy pianist. These youths have

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