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STRIKE IS DECLARED

Four Thousand Men Quit in South Omaha Packing

TEN SEPARATE UNIONS INVOLVED

Entire Aggregation Walks Out Noon Without Comm

EMPLOYERS NOT SEEKING MEN

Packers Submit Plan of Arbitration, but It is Not Satisfactory.

HIGHER WAGES AND CLOSED SHOP ISSUES

All Grades of Meat Advance Two Cents Pounds in Price, but Packers Deny Community of Interests Exists.

At noon yesterday 4,000 employees at the four packing houses in South Omaha, Armorel, Cudahy's, Swift's and the Omaha, laid down their tools, quit work and went on strike.

This action was the result of an order received by Stephen Vail, second vice president, from Michael Donnelly, president of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen's Association of North America.

For over two months President Donnelly has been in conference with the packers of Chicago in relation to a new scale of wages and a closed shop for unskilled labor.

The packers declined to meet the demands of the Amalgamated association, and last week a talk of strike.

Saturday the last conference was held between the packers and the representatives of the labor unions. It was then certain that a strike would be ordered.

Monday the situation looked decidedly dubious, and in order to prevent a strike the packers united and sent the following communication to President Donnelly:

CHICAGO, Ill., July 11, 1904.—Mr. M. J. Donnelly:—The receipt of your letter of the 10th is acknowledged. The principal demand which has been presented by you is for a substantial increase in the wages of your unskilled labor. As can readily be ascertained, there has been no such increase in any other industry in the United States, but on the contrary, the prevailing conditions are such that a decrease in wages is being made.

At the same time, the packers are being forced to pay higher wages to their skilled labor, and to employ a large number of men in the packing houses, many of whom are being employed in the packing houses, many of whom are being employed in the packing houses, many of whom are being employed in the packing houses.

The large Combes majority terminates the rumors that the investigation might lead to his retirement from the premiership.

Eventually the chamber adopted by a large majority a resolution declaring that the premier and government were above suspicion and unanimously adopted a clause of a motion resolution denouncing the calculations.

The effect of the vote is the rejection of the report of the investigating committee.

During the disorderly debate M. De Baudry D'Asson, conservative, sought to place a motion of censure on M. Combes as the letter was withdrawing from the chamber.

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CUT RATES STILL IN FORCE

Conference of Steamship Companies May Reach Result on the Rate War.

LONDON, July 12.—The Associated Press is authorized by one of the representatives of the steamships which participated in the conference with the president of the Board of Trade, Gerald Balfour, in regard to the transatlantic rate war, to deny the report circulated in the United States that the negotiations have failed.

"You can say," he added, "that the negotiations are progressing with every chance of an early agreement."

It is proposed to insert the old emigrant law in an informal agreement. Until the agreement is signed the 40 rate will continue.

Director General Ballin of the Hamburg-American line left London today for Berlin, but he will return soon to London for a further and probably final conference.

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PACKING PLANTS EMPTIED

Thousands of Employees Drop Work and Walk Out on Strike.

One of Most Extensive Strikes in Meat Packing Industry, Involving Several Leading West-ern Cities.

CHICAGO, July 12.—As the result of a disagreement, one of the most extensive strikes in the history of the meat packing industry of the United States began today in Chicago, Omaha, Kansas City, St. Joseph, Mo., and other cities where large packing plants are located.

If prolonged, the strike is expected to cause widespread inconveniences, possibly equaling the anthracite coal famine of two years ago.

The unanimity of the strike was completed, and more than 100,000 employees are directly involved. In Chicago alone 15,000 men are on strike.

The effect of the strike on the food supply of the country and the price of meats is being earnestly discussed, notwithstanding the announcement today that the packing houses, contrary to somewhat general expectations, will continue operations without any close down, employing whatever help may be obtainable.

How much alleviation in the furnishing of supplies to the public this course may afford is a matter of wide variation of opinion.

The packers declare that hundreds of men who could not be provided with places have been applying daily for work.

The walkout here was started by the employees of the killing departments at the various packing houses. The killers were followed by the workers in other departments as fast as the current work left by the slaughterers could be cleaned up.

Thus as the workers in each department disposed of their part of the work they threw off their aprons and departed.

Strikers Were Considerate.

This consideration was shown the packers, the labor officials stated, because it was not the desire of the men to cause the employers any financial loss as the result of neglecting that was on hand to be done.

Watched by a company of police, the strikers carried off the packing houses, firing overalls, rubber boots and knives, cleavers and steels.

The strikers were greeted by crowds of workmen, many of whom joined hands and walked in a column toward the packing houses.

There was absolutely no sign of disorder. A picturesque scene was presented when the sausage factories and canneries were left by their forces.

There are 1,000 girls employed in these departments. They are being kept busy by the factory girls, this army of feminine strikers tripped blithely along the main thoroughfare of the stockyards and were roundly cheered as they emerged through the gates and distributed themselves through the crowds of men who awaited their coming.

"How long do you think it will last?" inquired one man, looking quite serious.

"Ten," replied the striker, "except that President Donnelly says that the men managed to hold out fifteen months in Buffalo, and I guess we can do much better."

Prepared for Long Fight.

President Michael Donnelly of the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butchers' union of America and leader of the strikers said this evening that he believed the strikers would have little difficulty in withstanding the assaults of the government.

He said that the strikers had a fund of \$100,000 and that they had a long and cordial exchange of friendly sentiments. The boys will be the guest of honor at a garden party tonight at the Elisee palace.

The visit of the boys to Paris is significant in the strengthening of the French protractor over Tunis and the development of the governmental policy of building up the French North African empire.

TALK OF A BRITISH ALLIANCE

Russian Papers Say Matter Cannot Now Be Considered Utopian.

ST. PETERSBURG, July 12.—This is the belief of St. Petersburg and St. Paul, one of the greatest holidays of the year. All business is suspended and the government departments are closed.

The papers here are again exploiting the prospects of an Anglo-Russian understanding, the treaty providing for the return of the great holidays of the year. All business is suspended and the government departments are closed.

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