

# UNCLE SAM IS TRYING TO AVERT MINERS' STRIKE

### Cabinet Discusses Situation and Conference With Union Heads Will Be Called.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Immediate steps to avert the threatened nationwide strike of bituminous coal mine workers are to be taken by the federal government. After President Wilson's cabinet had discussed the situation at length Secretary Wilson of the Department of Labor announced that he would invite John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers of America, and John L. Brewster, representing the operators, to confer with him here, probably Thursday.

While efforts of the miners and operators to reach an agreement on the demands of the workers, which include increased pay and shorter hours, have failed Secretary Wilson is hopeful that some amicable adjustment of the controversy can be made. It is understood that he will impress upon both Mr. Lewis and Mr. Brewster the importance of uninterrupted operation of the mines upon the life of the nation.

### Would Stop Railroads.

The possible effect of such a strike on the railroads is understood to be uppermost in the minds of government officials, as a shutdown of the mines would result in a paralysis of the transportation system within a short time, with consequent suffering over the country because of the shutting off of popular centers from food supplies. Industries also would be brought to a standstill with public utilities stopped and shipping tied up.

President Lewis of the miners' union, who has been in this city conferring with other union officials, went to Indianapolis to prepare the call for the strike on November 1. Officials hope the issuing of the call will be deferred until after the conference here. Should the conference be barren of results further action by the government is expected, but no one in authority would venture to suggest what form that action would take.

### Whole Cabinet May Decide.

While the cabinet decided to leave the settlement of the strike with the department of labor, it was regarded as more than likely that if the conference failed the entire cabinet would consider the next course.

Besides threatened strike of coal miners, the cabinet discussed the general industrial situation today and it was announced that Secretary Baker would make a statement on the subject tomorrow before the Federation of Women's Clubs at Cleveland.

### Unions Call Off Strike.

New York, Oct. 14.—Six of the largest longshoremen's local unions voted to return to work, John F. Riley, chairman of the longshoremen's strike committee, announced. These locals, he said, have a combined membership of 13,000 workers.

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## Man Police Declare Has Confessed to Being Riot Leader



Leonard Weber

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struck the mayor that Weber admitted the charge, the detectives say.

### Fired at Body.

He did not see the negro Brown until the body had been struck up on the telephone poles at Nineteenth and Harvey streets, Weber said. The shots that were fired from out of the gun which Weber used were aimed at the body, he confessed, according to the detectives. Weber was removed to the county jail and is being held without bonds.

Following his arrest, his wife appeared before military and civil authorities begging an interview with her husband. She was refused. Weber was working in the artists' department of the World-Herald up to the time of his arrest.

### World-Herald Statement.

Henry Doory, secretary and business manager of the company which publishes the World-Herald, last night said:

"If Leonard Weber is the man, I hope he gets his. If he struck the mayor, he should go to the penitentiary."

Mr. Doory stated that he did not know Weber personally and not until Tuesday did he know that he was in the employment of the World-Herald.

"Of course, had we any idea that Weber was implicated in the affair we would have reported our knowledge to the police. I am surprised that a man of his education and ability should have been involved in that crime. I am sorry for his young wife."

W. G. Crouse, vice president of the company, stated he had nothing to add to what Mr. Doory said.

## New Planes Sold for \$200 on Baker's Order Now Held at \$5,000

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were sold to the Nebraska corporation, but the Curtiss company produced about 12 1/2 per cent new engines.

### Baker to Blame.

Pressed by the chairman as to reckless disregard of the government's interests in selling \$2,700,000 worth of aircraft without knowing what they were selling, or whether the planes and engines were new or old, Captain Disette insisted that the responsibility rested entirely on Secretary Baker, saying:

"If the director of sales does not approve of a sale, the question goes to the secretary of war. Of course, his word is supreme. The director of sales disapproved the sale to the Curtiss company, but Secretary Baker ordered it, so we had nothing to do but put it through."

Now Selling at \$5,000.

In response to a question, the witness said the Curtiss people were now selling the planes they rebought from the government for from \$2,500 to \$5,000 each for planes fitted with engines.

In this connection it is interesting to know that the congressman Reavis, chairman of one of the subcommittees of the special investigation committee, originally uncovered this situation, but his committee not having jurisdiction turned the matter over to Chairman Frear, who has been able to fix the responsibility for the loss of \$611,000 at the least calculation on Secretary of War Baker, who overruled a recommendation of a subordinate that an inventory be made of surplus aircraft material.

## Senate Debate Nearly Reaches Boiling Point

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that he hadn't in the least changed his mind about the truth of what he had said.

### Says All Pledges Broken.

Senator McCumber, a republican member of the foreign relations committee, was speaking in reply to Chairman Lodge of the committee who had just concluded a prepared address supporting the Shantung amendment and declaring Japan was building in China an empire menacing the United States. Japan relentlessly had broken her pledges and would continue to do so, in furtherance of her scheme for China's exploitation, Mr. Lodge asserted.

In replying, Senator McCumber argued that the proposed amendment would be of no avail because Shantung already was in Japan's possession and altering the treaty would not change that possession. On the other hand, he said, the league of nations would put the "civilized world with a grip upon Japan's throat" to compel it to make good its promises to restore the province to China.

Later Senator Reed made an extended argument against the league, asserting that if it had the power to force Japan to give back Shantung, it certainly would have the power to compel the United States to do whatever it desired. He argued that the league council and assembly would not be judicial bodies, because every member would be an interested party in any big world question.

## DOUGLAS COUNTY BILLS READY FOR SECOND READING

### Both Houses of Legislature Receive Governor's Message—Makes No Recommendations.

(Continued From Page One.)

wired he would be present tomorrow, Bushce, Bradstreet, Good, Hammond, Sturm and Weavering absent.

A motion to make the officers of the last special session the officers of this session with the exception that J. L. Howell, assistant sergeant-at-arms, who was absent at the special session, be made assistant sergeant-at-arms, and that W. J. Wells be made custodian of the senate chamber, was carried.

### Bond Bill Up.

S. F. No. 1, a bill giving counties authority to issue bonds in an emergency such as exists in Douglas county in the burning of the court house, with a provision that contracts should be let by competitive bidding, was introduced in the senate.

H. R. No. 1, introduced in the house raises the pay of policemen in Omaha to a maximum of \$125 instead of \$100 as at present, gives an inspector of police \$300 a month instead of \$200, and gives the city authority to raise money to increase the police force and repeals that part of the Omaha charter clause which restricts appointments for police inspector and chief of police to residents of the city of Omaha.

### House Roll Call.

The roll call in the house showed the following absent: Allen of Gage, Anderson of Knox, Carstensen, Frost, Fuller, Hoover, Porter, Rodman, Taylor, Street. Five others, Birdsall, Cole, Hunt, Larsen and Williams have resigned. Some of the absentees possibly may have appeared later.

The appropriation bills necessary to cover the usual expenses of a session, salaries, mileage, etc., were introduced.

Both houses adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock, when bills will be read the second time and adjournment taken so that all who desire may visit Omaha and view the ruins. The invitation of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce was accepted and a resolution of thanks adopted by each house, although neither body will go officially. It is expected that fully two-thirds of the members will go tomorrow.

### State Solons Will Come Here to View Damage

Members of both houses of the state legislature, now in special session at Lincoln, will come to Omaha today and go through the Douglas county court house, to view the results of the recent rioting.

The party is expected to arrive at 4 this afternoon. F. A. Brogan, chairman of the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce, extended an invitation by telephone for the entire body to take dinner at 6 this evening in the Chamber of Commerce rooms.

### Will Address Engineers.

At the regular meeting of the Omaha chapter, American Association of Engineers, held last night at the Chamber of Commerce, it was announced that the chapter would be addressed by Dr. J. F. Edwards, Omaha's new health commissioner, October 21 at the University club.

## WARNS AGAINST SUPINE INACTION TOWARD RADICAL

### Senator Poindexter Sees Real Danger "Government Will Fall" Unless Something Is Done.

Washington, Oct. 14.—Warning that there is "real danger that the government will fall" if it continues its attitude of "supine inaction" toward the radical elements over the country was given in the senate by Senator Poindexter, republican, Washington.

Referring to propaganda circulated at Gary, Ind., urging steel workers to revolt and establish a dictatorship, Senator Poindexter said there was ample proof of the revolutionary movement, not only at Gary, but throughout the country. Many of the strikes now in effect he added, were called "in pursuance of the revolutionists' plan to strike down all government."

The Washington senator offered a resolution asking why the Department of Justice had not proceeded against the circulators of revolutionary propaganda. Senator Thomas, democrat, Colorado, questioned the need for the resolution. He said the steel strikers in his state had no grievance; that they were fighting for nationalization of the steel industry.

Senator Pomerene, democrat, Ohio, remarked that his information was that the strike leaders were holding out the inducement that the plants soon would be in the employees' hands as a means of getting the men to remain in the unions.

Government statistics indicate that the per capita consumption of sugar in the United States is increasing about twice as rapidly as the population.

## Arbitration to End Strike Causes Trouble

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be final, after an attempt to reconcile differences had been made by a joint committee of employers and employees. The labor representatives would be chosen both by these "out on strike and those remaining in the employ of the several companies.

The climax of the day's tense sessions, one of which was recessed in the midst of confusion, came when Samuel Gompers, leader of the labor delegation, made an impassioned plea for intervention in the steel strike and reviewed the negotiations leading up to the calling of the strike on September 22.

### Looks at Gary.

Looking directly at Judge Gary, chairman of the United States Steel corporation, seated with the public group, less than 15 feet away, the labor leader declared that the steel corporation had "acted like the Bolsheviks," in refusing to meet representatives of the other party in the dispute. Judge Gary kept his eyes fixed on the labor leader's face throughout the speech, but made no reply when Mr. Gompers concluded.

Outside the conference hall labor delegates declared that the conference would be a flat failure unless it took action on the steel strike. Several intimated that the labor delegation might withdraw from the conference if the arbitration resolutions were defeated, although more conservative representatives did not believe the group as a whole contemplated any such drastic action.

That the employer group does not favor intervention in existing disputes, either under the labor or substitute arbitration proposals, was indicated by the remarks in the conference of L. F. Loree, president of the Delaware & Hudson railway, and a statement issued tonight by Magnus W. Alexander, managing director of the National Industrial conference board. The latter expressed the belief that the majority of the delegates were "averse to turning itself into a general arbitration board," while Mr. Loree

## Mayor Writes He Is Regaining Strength Rapidly in the South

Mayor Smith has written to his secretary, O. M. Olsen, stating that he expects to leave Escalot Springs, next Thursday to go to Haines City, Fla., where he will visit a son, Lisle W. Smith, who has a fruit farm.

The mayor wrote that he is regaining his strength rapidly.

## House Is Better

New York, Oct. 14.—Col. E. M. House had a good night and his condition continues to improve, it was announced today by his son-in-law, Gordon Auchincloss.

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