

### Rail Employees Demand Probe of Bankruptcy Plea

Charge Atterbury Cry of Bankruptcy Is Plan to Make Labor Scapegoat for Inefficiency.

By ARTHUR M. EVANS.  
Chicago Tribune—Omaha The Lesson Wire, Chicago, Feb. 1.—Railroad employees raised the shout today that the roads are seeking to make labor the scapegoat for wastage caused by inefficient management. It was by way of counter-blast to the request made before the United States labor board earlier in the day by the railroad executives through W. W. Atterbury, vice president of the Pennsylvania lines, that the "national working agreements" be abrogated without delay in order to avert "railroad bankruptcy, financial shock, still wider unemployment."

If the board would wipe out the "agreements" no cuts in basic wages would be asked for 90 days, so General Atterbury's proposal ran, except that the basic rates for common labor should be retracted immediately.

**Ready for Fight.**  
Labor at once made ready for a finish fight. B. M. Jewell, head of the railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor, served notice that he will make formal reply later this week. He led off by sending a long telegram to President Wilson last night protesting against any interruption of the board's present hearings on rules and working conditions.

The session was droning along when, just before adjournment, a diversion was caused by J. G. Luhrs, president of the American Train Dispatchers' association. He arose with a vigorous protest against the action asked by the railroads.

Mr. Luhrs had just shot off a telegram to Senator Miles, Foxborough, N. H., urging that a congressional committee be created at once "to investigate the allegations of the carriers that they are facing bankruptcy, which we believe will result in a disclosure that the representations of the carriers are deceptive."

General Atterbury had declared that abrogation of the "national working agreements" would eliminate from operating expenses about \$300,000,000 of waste. Mr. Luhrs maintained that the roads could save more than \$300,000,000 of waste, if management did a better job in operating the lines.

Mr. Luhrs argued that the representations of the carriers that they wanted to reopen negotiations on working conditions with their own employees were "false, misleading and without merit." He said the Pennsylvania road itself has ignored all requests of the dispatchers for conferences.

**Appeal to Wilson.**  
The union leaders in their telegram to the president charge that General Atterbury had, by delivering what they termed "an ultimatum" to the labor board, "violated all decent proprieties, disregarded the transportation act and flouted the existing agencies, such as the Interstate Commerce commission and even congress itself."

The telegram asks President Wilson to take immediate steps to have all the evidence in the case presented to the Interstate Commerce commission, and says that the union representatives were calling his attention to the matter only because "no stone should be left unturned to prevent such a catastrophe as outlined by General Atterbury."

**District Inspector Shot.**  
Belfast, Feb. 1.—Capt. King, district inspector, was seriously wounded, and his wife was shot dead last night near the Mellow railroad station in County Cork.

### Forty-five Years in Railroad's Service



C. J. ERNST  
Assistant Treasurer and Assistant Secretary of the Burlington in Omaha

C. J. Ernst, assistant treasurer and assistant secretary of the Burlington in Omaha celebrated the 45th anniversary of his services with the railroad yesterday.

Forty-five years ago he joined the department in Lincoln. He became assistant treasurer of the lines west of the Missouri on June 1, 1903.

**Madison County Farm Bureau Holds Meeting.**  
Battle Creek, Neb., Feb. 1.—(Special).—The annual meeting of the Madison County Farm Bureau was held in the Odd Fellows' hall in Battle Creek. A representative attendance from every township in the county taxed the capacity of the hall. Farm Bureau work in the county has been intensified since the campaign for membership in December. Discussion at the meeting centered around co-operation in building up the farmers' side of marketing, through first determining the cost of production.

R. A. Stewart, county agent, was re-elected at a substantial salary. Burr Taft of Norfolk was re-elected president; Oscar Sunderman of Madison, vice president; Fred Crowley of Meadow Grove, secretary and William Rottler of Madison, treasurer.

### Dry Leaders in Congress Plan to Add New Teeth

Jail Sentence for First Offenders Planned—Will Make Drive on Home Brewers.

By The Associated Press.  
Washington, Feb. 1.—The prohibition leaders in congress are hoping to tighten up the Volstead law. They are planning new legislation to provide a flat jail sentence for the first offense of selling liquor without giving the court the optional right of imposing a fine.

Other changes being discussed relate to the search and seizure clause, so as to reach the home brew and to make more sweeping the law under which a person buying liquor may be punished equally with the person selling it.

Confiscation of all liquor held by citizens is also being urged. This would legalize seizure of all private stocks. Objection to that, however, has been made by some dry leaders on the ground that little such liquor finds its way into channels of bootleg trade and that it won't be long before all such liquor will be gone.

Unless a pending bill, which would permit federal commissioners to try minor liquor cases, is passed, a proposed amendment to the Volstead law would take care of this. Federal court dockets are now congested with violations and government officials have reported a change of procedure necessary.

The big fight for amendment will start with the opening of the new session in April, according to dry leaders.

Meanwhile, Chairman Volstead of the house judiciary committee is awaiting word from prohibition enforcement officers as to suggestions for making the law bullet proof. He has expressed satisfaction with the law, believing it was borne with teeth, but in talks with members he has expressed the belief that others might be added.

Reports showing heavy transportation of liquor and wholesale smuggling, prompted the movement to put persons transporting and selling it in jail.

In the effort to stop home brewing and distilling, prohibition leaders

admit that they will run into a storm of opposition.

### Measure to Issue Rural Credit Bonds Before House

Lincoln, Feb. 1.—A bill patterned after the South Dakota law permitting the issuance of rural credit bonds to be used in making loans to farmers was introduced in the Nebraska house today. Under the terms of the bill as much as \$20,000 may be loaned to one man on adequate security.

### Nevada Rate Case Argued Before Rail Commission

Washington, Feb. 1.—Another case growing out of the refusal of a state commission to raise state freight, passenger and other rates to the level of those maintained in interstate commerce was argued today before the Interstate Commerce commission.

### Kingdon Could Sued in Breach Of Promise Case

Existence of Suit Disclosed by Report of Supplementary Proceedings Begun in New York Supreme Court.

New York, Feb. 1.—Existence of a \$500,000 suit in which Kingdon Gould, youngest son of George Jay Gould, is charged with breach of promise to marry Mrs. Richard Blum of Arkville, N. Y., was disclosed today in a report of supplementary proceedings begun yesterday in the supreme court here.

Mr. Gould appeared in court yesterday and denied statements made by Mrs. Blum, who asserted he employed detectives to gather evidence on which she obtained a divorce in June, 1917. They previously had agreed, she said, to marry when she was free and were on friendly terms until his marriage to Miss Annunziata Lucei in July, 1917.

She further charged that he offered \$10,000 to settle the case after the suit was filed several months ago, and that she refused.

The court directed both sides to submit all papers in the case next Saturday.

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### Fur Prices Lower

Montreal, Feb. 1.—At the opening of a four-day auction sale in furs today, martens brought from \$6.50 to \$73, whereas last year's highest price was \$201 and the lowest \$35.

### Fleet's Sailors Honor Guests of Peru Government

Four-Day Program of Entertainment Arranged for Visiting Americans Making Up Vessels' Complement.

Lima, Peru, Feb. 1.—Officers and sailors of the American Atlantic fleet today entered upon a four-day program of entertainment which was arranged in their honor by the Peruvian government and the people of this city. Official calls were exchanged this morning by Admiral Wilson and Peruvian officials and at

1 o'clock this afternoon a luncheon was to be tendered to Admiral Wilson and the higher officers of his staff by the Lima jockey club, to be followed by horse racing.

President Leguia was to be host at a state banquet in honor of Admiral Wilson at the government palace tonight.

Callao, Feb. 1.—Seven Atlantic fleet battleships, led by the flagship Pennsylvania, arrived here early Monday afternoon and received a noisy welcome from large crowds along the shores and from small craft in the harbor. Eighteen destroyers and several supply ships reached Callao ahead of the main fleet. A fog delayed the fleet considerably during the last stages of its trip from Panama.

In the 4,790 grade crossing accidents which occurred to motorists during 1919 in the United States, 1,232 persons were killed and 3,558 injured.

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