

Miners to Fight Pay Reduction

Simultaneous Walkout of Hard and Soft Coal Workers Menaces United States.

Agreements End Mar. 31

By H. D. GARRITSON. Indianapolis, Feb. 11.—The most gigantic strike of coal miners in the history of the United States loomed as a strong possibility as the mine workers began "digging in" for a last ditch fight against wage reductions.

For the first time in the annals of the American coal industry it appeared likely that miners of the bituminous and anthracite fields would lay down their tools in concert.

Wage agreements in both the hard and soft coal districts expire for the first time on the same date, March 31. Operators all along the line have announced their intention of cutting wages.

Miners throughout the country not only are standing pat for retention of what they have, but are demanding increases.

Unless one side or the other recedes, or unless the federal government intervenes, it is admitted, a strike of the United Mine Workers—most powerful single union in America—appears inevitable.

Concerted Action Big Factor. Half a million miners, 400,000 of them in the bituminous and the remainder in the hard coal fields, are affected by the crucial emergency.

"The question of united action of the anthracite and bituminous operators is too important for speculation," said one international official of the United Mine Workers, and yet in the same breath he said that a concerted movement is not improvable.

From a man who unquestionably is as well acquainted with labor conditions in the coal industry as any other living, this terse statement came.

"It is a foregone conclusion that the United Mine Workers of America will resist any wage reductions either in the anthracite or bituminous industry after April 1.

"If existing contracts are not renewed through joint negotiations cessation of operations will, of course ensue after that date."

Government May Act. Possibility of government intervention was seen following the appeal of district officers of the Pennsylvania miners to President Harding, members of congress and administration leaders, asking: "Is the government helpless to evolve any plan for meeting the crucial emergency of the miners?" and demanding a "formal executive governmental investigation" into labor conditions in the coal fields of the country.

Thus far there has not been the slightest indication that the miners will yield a single inch in their demand for an "American standard of living." Neither do the operators show indications of yielding.

That the stage is all set for a strike in the bituminous fields is the declaration of Secretary of Commerce Herbert Hoover and his frank prediction of a walkout is echoed in other high quarters.

Edison Still Good for 15 Years' Service to Humanity

Electrical Wizard, Talking to Reporters on 75th Birthday, Says He Never Will Retire.

West Orange, Feb. 11.—Thomas A. Edison, inventor and electrical wizard, has just 15 years more of service for humanity in him.

This was perhaps the most important statement he made in his annual interview with newspapermen today on his 75th birthday.

Smilingly facing a little army of reporters and photographers who waylaid him on his way to his laboratory, he answered questions on every subject the reporters could think of.

"I hope you will have several more birthdays," said one reporter. "I shall have 15 more," he said, but he did not elaborate on the process by which he reached this conclusion.

A moment before he had answered a question as to when he intended to retire, with "never." Asked what he was working on, Mr. Edison said he had several "red hot irons in the fire," but that he was not ready to talk about them.

Roosevelt Greatest Man. The inventor placed Theodore Roosevelt at the head of a list of great men he had met—although he said he had met the former president but once.

"I liked Teddy," he said warmly. He picked Sarah Bernhardt as "the greatest woman," declaring she was still "full of pepper."

He thought his friend, Henry Ford, would make a poor president, as that was "not in his line," but declared he would vote twice for Ford.

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Thomas A. Edison, at his work in his laboratory.

Leaders to Push Four Power Pact

Opposition to Treaty Passed by Arms Limitation Conference.

Opposition Is Abating

Washington, Feb. 11.—Republican leaders have decided to push the four-power Pacific treaty ahead of all the other pacts negotiated by the armament conference.

The opposition to the treaties appears to have abated somewhat, but whatever remains seems to be centered against the four-power pact. It is obvious that the opposition will muster its maximum strength against the four-power pact and that this treaty will furnish the "acid test."

Easy Sailing for Rest. If the four-power pact is ratified, as republican chieftains have every confidence it will be, then the rest will have easy sailing and the ratification will follow as a matter of course.

An additional reason for giving the four-power pact the right of way is the fact that it was the first of the series of treaties to be announced by the armament conference. The decision to give it precedence, however, is a reversal of previous plans. The original intention was to put through the naval treaty first, because it appears unlikely to encounter opposition.

Lodge Explains Treaty. Today's meeting of the foreign relations committee failed to reveal any symptoms of organized opposition to the treaties. The four-power pact was read and explained by Senator Lodge, and then the committee adjourned without acting until Thursday.

Senator Lodge is obliged to go to Boston to deliver a speech. Many other senators are absent and the committee thought that Thursday would be the earliest date at which it would assemble to consider the treaties.

No reservations were presented at today's meeting, but it seems likely that a reservation along the lines of the Lodge reservation to article 10 of the Versailles treaty will be offered to the four-power pact.

Harding May Stop Off on Yukon Trip. Secretary, Answering Jefferis' Invitation, Says Visit Will Be Considered.

Washington, Feb. 11.—(Special Telegram.)—Before leaving for Nebraska, Congressman Jefferis presented to President Harding an invitation to stop at Omaha enroute to Alaska, in the event the president should make the trip this summer.

In a reply received at Mr. Jefferis' office today from the president's secretary, George B. Christian, jr., said: "The president asked me to assure you that he will be glad to keep your wishes in mind in the event that he finds it possible to make the trip in question. The president is also desirous to know that you approve of the results of the conference."

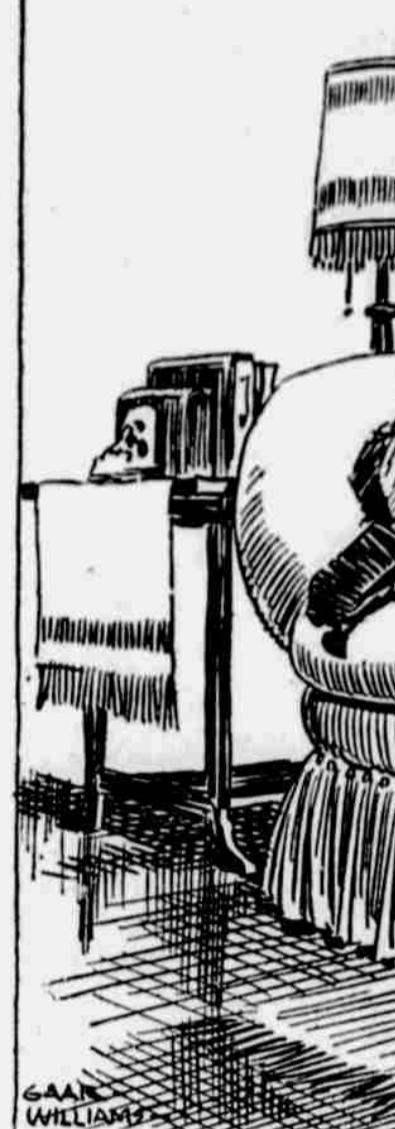
Mr. Jefferis' invitation was extended with an invitation of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce.

Rail Men to Discuss Alliance With Miners. Indianapolis, Feb. 11.—Compliance by the railroad union chiefs of an invitation for a meeting with officers of the United Mine Workers of America to discuss a proposed alliance of 2,000,000 workers to fight against any wage reductions, was announced today by President John L. Lewis of the miners' union, who set the meeting for February 21 at Chicago.

Mr. Lewis' announcement of the Chicago meeting to discuss the proposed "defensive alliance," said that 15 of the 16 major rail unions, including all the big brotherhoods, had accepted the invitation for the meeting. The one not answering was not named, but was apparently regarded among the lesser rail organizations, but Mr. Lewis said he had reason to believe that it would yet approve of the proposal.

Handicapped

NOT A CHANCE! OUR LOG CABIN HAS 'LECTRIC LIGHTS AN' 'EVERYTHING!



Many Protest Curtailment of Train Service

Residents on Columbus and Kearney U. P. Branches Appear at Hearings Before Rail Commission.

Howard Bergen, assistant manager of the traffic bureau of the Omaha Chamber of Commerce, returned yesterday from Columbus and Kearney, where he attended hearings before the state railway commission relative to withdrawal of train service on the Union Pacific railroad at these towns.

According to Mr. Bergen, more than 300 persons living along the railroad were present at the two hearings and entered vigorous protest against any curtailment of service.

The first hearing, held at Columbus, involved the question of taking off a motor car on the Spaulding branch and a passenger train on the Albion branch between Genoa and Albion and substituting a motor for the latter. Protestants to the removal of the trains offered evidence tending to show the service was absolutely necessary and that there was enough traffic to justify it.

Claim Retrenchment Necessary. Rail officials declared trains were not making expenses and retrenchment is necessary. They said great use of automobiles in the vicinity had made inroads on their traffic. Some of the trains in question have been operating for 30 years.

The Albion protesters said it took years to obtain train service to Omaha and return, and they were loath to lose it now.

At Kearney, Friday, similar evidence was submitted by residents and rail officials. The hearing there involved the proposed removal of a motor from Kearney to Stapleton and return. The railroad wanted to substitute a steam train and rearrange the schedule, having the train start from Stapleton instead of Kearney.

Given More Time. Railroad officials were given additional time to file further evidence. There will be no decision on the question for some time, according to Mr. Bergen.

"The Chamber of Commerce and the traffic men know that the railroads are having serious problems with their branch lines," Mr. Bergen said. "Railroads, in many instances, are not making enough to justify continuation of some service. They do not want to operate at a loss and people living along the line do not want to lose the service."

Kenyon Plans to Stay Till March 1

Prefers to Remain in Senate Till Labor Legislation He Sponsors Is Disposed Of.

Washington, Feb. 11.—(Special Telegram.)—Senator W. S. Kenyon of Iowa, who was recently nominated and confirmed as judge of the circuit court of appeals, said today that he would in all probability leave the senate about March 1. He desired, before quitting the upper branch of congress, to get some labor legislation through the senate, particularly his bill "to prepare for cyclical periods of depression in employment by systems of public works."

Senator John Sharp Williams of Mississippi, in congratulating Senator Kenyon on his elevation to the bench, which has been his life-long ambition, said he also deserved congratulations on leaving "95 talking machines behind."

Awards of \$5 each were made to Mrs. Glenn Miller, 145 North Third street; Council Bluffs; Mrs. Ivan H. Peterson, Polk, Neb.; David Anderson, Oakland, Neb.; Julius Fester, 2713 Mary street; Lytte Wilson, North Platte, Neb.; Mrs. E. B. Redfield, Blair, Neb.; Ansel Seales, Enigma, Neb.

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Iowa Man Wins First Prize in Photo Contest

Judges Vote "Autumn Days," by A. S. Workman, Best of 3,000 Pictures Submitted by Amateurs.

From 3,000 pictures submitted in The Bee's 1922 contest for amateur photographers, the board of judges chose, the photograph, "Autumn Days," entered by A. S. Workman of Glenwood, Ia., as winner of first prize, \$50.

Second prize, \$25, was awarded F. T. Denzin, 2017 Douglas street, and third prize, \$15, to C. C. Boslaw, employed in the state insurance department, Lincoln.

Awards of \$5 each were made to Mrs. Glenn Miller, 145 North Third street; Council Bluffs; Mrs. Ivan H. Peterson, Polk, Neb.; David Anderson, Oakland, Neb.; Julius Fester, 2713 Mary street; Lytte Wilson, North Platte, Neb.; Mrs. E. B. Redfield, Blair, Neb.; Ansel Seales, Enigma, Neb.

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U. S. Waiting French Stand on Conference

Washington, Feb. 11.—The American government is awaiting receipt of further details of the attitude of France toward the proposed economic conference at Genoa before replying to Italy's invitations for American participation, it was learned on high authority.

Word has been received that a statement of the French official attitude was being transmitted from Paris, it was said, and it was indicated that no reply to Italy's invitation would be made until the situation in France had been reviewed.

The communication was expected to supplement advice from Paris received yesterday, which stated that Premier Poincare had suggested a postponement of the Genoa conference for three months.

Solon Cites Republican Attainment

Jeffers, in Lincoln Address, Points Out Expense Cut, Farm Laws and Arms Meet.

Lincoln, Neb., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Congressman A. W. Jeffers of Omaha, a candidate for the republican nomination for United States senator, was the principal speaker before the Young Men's Republican club of Lincoln at its annual Lincoln Day banquet tonight.

Congressman Jeffers reviewed the achievements of the Harding administration, commenting particularly upon the reduction of government expenses, the enactment of legislation of special value to the farm industry and the successful conclusion of the arms conference. In part he said:

"The bonded debt of the United States, in round figures, is \$23,000,000,000, borrowed through sale of bonds during the war. From this borrowed money congress appropriated for the fiscal year of 1919, under President Wilson's administration, \$19,000,000,000.

Fails to Pass Bills. "When the 65th congress, which was democratic, expired, it had failed to pass eight supply bills for the fiscal year 1920.

"President Wilson convened the new republican congress May 19, 1919, and that republican congress considered Wilson administration requests for 1920 and cut them down more than \$339,000,000. The Wilson administration submitted demands for \$6,150,000,000 government operating expenses for 1921. The republican congress cut these estimates more than \$1,370,000,000 and held appropriations down that year to \$4,780,000,000.

"The Wilson administration submitted \$5,600,000,000 estimates for 1922. The republican congress cut these estimates more than \$1,500,000,000 and held the appropriations to \$4,065,000,000.

Dawes Goes to Work. "Shortly after the inauguration of President Harding, the republican congress enacted the budget bill, and Charlie Dawes went to work. Estimates presented for 1923 amount to only \$3,834,000,000.

"The house of representatives, notwithstanding the Dawes' cut, reduced the estimates still more and Martin Madden, chairman of the appropriations committee, assured me a few days ago that if the house would continue the good work now in progress, the estimate of some \$48,000,000, we could reduce further the estimates fully \$350,000,000, and thus conduct the government at a cost of \$3,500,000,000 per year. All of this will have been accomplished by a republican president and congress, notwithstanding the additional Postoffice department cost of \$50,000,000 per year. The prewar cost of operating the national government was approximately \$1,250,000,000. Of this, prior to the Volstead law, the

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Business of Merchant Marine Falling Off

New York, Feb. 11.—Preservation of the American merchant marine by federal aid as a means of preventing other nations from cornering the world's commerce, was urged by Edward C. Plummer, commissioner of the shipping board, in an address before the National Republican club today.

He pointed out that, whereas, in the year ending September 20, 1920, ships owned in this country carried 51 per cent of America's ocean freight, they carried only 39 per cent in the last fiscal year.

"The foreigner has taken from us the bulk of our ocean carrying business," he said, "by reducing his rates below ours. The only way we can regain that which we have lost is by enabling our ships to make rates lower than the foreign ships can meet."

Valuation Plan Subject of White House Conference. Washington, Feb. 11.—Tariff valuation plans were the subject of another White House conference today, attended by Chairman McCumby and Senator Smoot of the senate finance committee, Chairman Fordney and Representative Longworth of the house ways and means committee, and Secretary Weeks. After their visit to the president, the senate and house members said the valuation situation was unchanged.

It was understood that Secretary Weeks had some suggestions as to the basic principle of the proposed permanent tariff measure.

Colorado Governor Quits

Russian Famine Relief

Denver, Feb. 11.—Governor Shoup has resigned as a vice president of the American committee for Russian famine relief, according to an announcement made today at the state house. According to the announcement the governor decided to resign when he received a message from Secretary Hoover in which it was stated that the committee, it was believed, was using money for the spreading of communistic propaganda.

McGinty Gets 10-Day Jail Term for Court Contempt. Frank McGinty was sentenced to 10 days in jail by District Judge Sears Friday for contempt of court because he entered his home, 2524 Dodge street, after he had been ordered by the court to stay away following the filing of a suit for divorce by his wife, Ida. She says he has property worth \$500,000.

McGinty said he entered the house merely to get some of his things. His wife said he threatened to "put her in Forest Lawn cemetery."

Protest Reducing Trains. Broken Bow, Neb., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—A public meeting of citizens was held at Arnold to protest reduction of service on the Union Pacific.

Man Wounded by Shell. Broken Bow, Neb., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Elmer Nelson of Ansley was badly wounded in the hand by an exploding shell. He was making an experiment, trying to force the shell into a gas pipe.

170 Equity Cases Pending. Broken Bow, Neb., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Judge B. O. Hostetler will open district court in Broken Bow next Tuesday. Besides seven applications for naturalization, there are about 170 equity cases pending.

Thieves Steal Fountain Pens and Gold Pencils. O'Neill, Neb., Feb. 11.—(Special.)—Three hundred dollars' worth of fountain pens and gold pencils were taken from the drug store of C. E. Stout, this city, by thieves who broke in a rear window. A quantity of small change also was taken from the cash register. Police of other places have been notified to look out for the loot.

Gibbon Marshal Shoots Youth Who Escaped School. Gibbon, Neb., Feb. 11.—(Special Telegram.)—Charles Curtis and Joe Langdon, both about 18, who escaped from the state industrial school at Kearney Friday, were apprehended by Marshal Roy Smith at 5 Saturday morning. The youths led the officer a merry chase through alleys and when they crossed a street under electric lights Smith used his gun. Langdon was captured after being shot through the arm.

Superintendent Clark of the industrial school is making a search for Curtis, who apparently has made good his escape.

Curtis and Langdon have given the authorities at the school more or less trouble and Friday, while working at the sand pit, Curtis struck the guard over the head with a shovel, and when two other boys came to the guard's assistance they were also quite badly beaten, according to Langdon's story.

Yap Controversy Ends; Pact Formally Signed. Washington, Feb. 11.—The long controversy between the United States and Japan relating to the Pacific island of Yap—the subject of many notes and other diplomatic exchanges—was formally and finally ended today with the signature of a treaty by representatives of the two countries. The treaty, which defines the rights of the United States in Yap and other islands mandated to Japan under the treaty of Versailles, was signed at 2:30 o'clock by Secretary Hughes for the United States and Baron Kijuro Shidohara for Japan in the office of the former at the State department.

Forecast. Probably snow and warmer Sunday.

Hourly Temperatures table with columns for time and temperature.

New Feature for Sports Section

Frank Loomis, jr., world's champion hurdler, is the latest recruit to the corps of special writers for The Bee's Sunday sports section. He will present a series of feature articles of especial interest to track athletes and followers of track and field sports. Loomis has engaged to answer all queries from Bee readers on methods of training and past performances of track athletes. Turn to the first Loomis article in the sports section today. Other articles will appear each Sunday.

Man Obeys Strange Voice in Dream and Kills Father

Ft. Madison, Ia., Feb. 11.—Declaring he had been commanded by strange voices in a dream to kill his father, Clark Huff, 26, arose during the night and shot to death his father, John Huff, 62, as the latter lay asleep. The victim was the father of 13 children. The slayer was adjudged insane yesterday.

Await Word From Townley

Lincoln, Feb. 11.—(Special Telegram.)—Nonpartisan league headquarters was awaiting word tonight from A. C. Townley, father of the league, as to whether he would be present at the annual meeting of the Nebraska league in Lincoln February 22.

Rickard Held for Grand Jury

New York, Feb. 11.—Tex Rickard, sports promoter, today was held in \$100,000 bail for the action of the grand jury by Magistrates court on a charge of assault preferred by 15-year-old Alice Ruck, and children's society.

WHERE TO FIND THE SUNDAY BEE

- Part One: New Scientist Church, Page 4; City Hall Concert League on 5th and Angel, Page 5. Part Two: Society and News for Women, Pages 1 to 4; Shopping With Fully, Page 4; "Selling Wintry Snow to Sunshine and Jazz," by Henrietta M. Rees, Page 6; "Flesh of My Flesh," Blue Ribbon Short Story, by Barker Shelton, Page 6; \$100,000 Reward, Serial by Henry C. Rowland, Page 7; Editorial Comment, Page 8; Amusements, Pages 9, 10 and 11; "Jack and Jill," Page 9; Music News, Page 11; "The Married Life of Helen and Warren," Page 11; For the Children, Page 12; Sports News and Features, Pages 1, 2 and 3; Nebraska and Iowa Farm News, Page 5; Want Ads, Pages 6 and 7; Markets and Financial, Page 8.