

STEPS TAKEN TO AVERT BIG STRIKE

HARDING ORDERS MEETING OF WORKERS AND OPERATORS.

INDUSTRIES GIVEN WARNING

Utilities Corporations in Illinois Advised to Stock Up Before April 1, Date Set for Walkout.

Washington, D. C.—President Harding is insistent that the government do all in its power to avert the threatened coal miners' strike on April 1.

To this end he has directed Secretary of Labor Davis to call a conference of bituminous coal miners and mine owners in the near future to consider a new agreement.

The government holds that the agreement reached in 1919, under federal auspices, binds the mine owners and miners to consider a new agreement to succeed that which will expire April 1.

The attorney general has notified the president that the contract binds the parties to such a conference, and that nothing has intervened to invalidate this provision of the agreement. The president, himself, commenting on the situation to his advisors, said that the government would indeed be impotent, if a condition should exist whereby it could not exert its power and influence to avert a threatened industrial outbreak.

Warned to Stock Up.

Chicago.—Hearings of big industrialists were warned by coal operators and dealers to stock up as heavily as possible in preparation for the coal strike, which now seems inevitable on April 1, when present contracts with the unions expire.

Utility corporations throughout the state have been urged by the Illinois commerce commission to do all in their power to secure the largest possible supply of coal before the date set for the strike, so that all gas making, electric lighting, interurban car service and power and other public utility services may not be hampered.

For the first time in the history of the country, the proposed strike will hit both the bituminous and anthracite fields simultaneously. Previous coal strikes have involved either the anthracite fields of the east or the middle west bituminous mines. When the steep came in either field, coal consumers in the field affected have been able to get supplies from the fields that were still in operation.

The unions, however, have now arranged their wage agreements so that they can call a strike over both fields.

Operators say that if consumers store up coal now, a sufficient amount can be brought in from the non-union bituminous fields of Kentucky and West Virginia to keep industry in motion throughout the summer and fall. The unions foresee this loophole in their plans and have been trying to involve the rail unions in the strike, so that this non-union coal could not be moved, but this plan does not promise much success.

Movie Star Seeks Divorce.

Los Angeles, Calif.—Another matrimonial wreck has come to light in the Los Angeles film colony. Billie Rhodes, widow of the late Smiling Bill Parsons, has filed suit for divorce from her second husband, William H. Jobelman, to whom she was married in 1920.

Striker Given Prison Term.

Nebraska City, Neb.—Martin Mulaney, packing house striker, convicted at the present term of the district court of kidnaping James Estes, a negro strikebreaker, was sentenced by District Judge Begley to serve from three to five years in the penitentiary.

Shot Senator; to Prison.

Washington, D. C.—Charles Grock, aged 65, who last March 5, shot and wounded former Senator Charles B. Henderson of Nevada, was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment by Chief Justice McCoy in the District of Columbia supreme court.

Sell Obsolete Warship.

Washington, D. C.—The obsolete monitor, Monterey, station ship at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, for several years, has been sold to Bercovich company, Oakland, Calif., for \$3,600, the navy department announced.

Irish Leader Is Ill.

London.—A Dublin dispatch reports that Michael Collins is in bed, suffering from the grip.

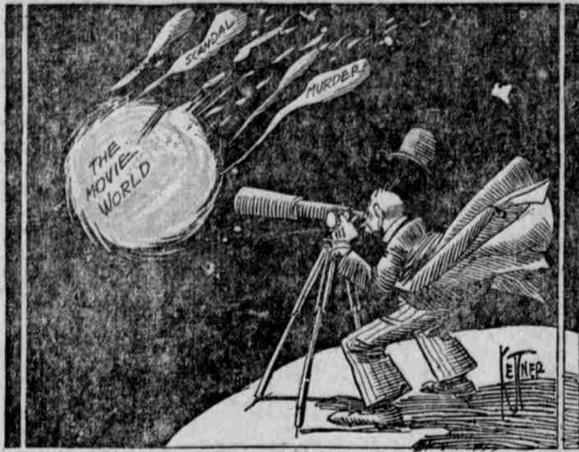
New York Banks.

New York.—The actual condition of the clearing house banks and trust companies for the week (five days) shows that they hold \$44,292,520 in excess of legal requirements. This is an increase of \$46,401,260 from last week.

Omahan Slain by Wife.

Omaha, Neb.—Emil Valien, 34, of Omaha, was shot and killed by his wife at their home here. She told police Valien had abused her and their children.

Falling Meteors



GIRL KILLS ALLEGED BETRAYER IN A TEXAS COURT ROOM

Opens Attack as She Steps to Witness Chair—Man's Second Trial Was Just Starting.

Waco, Tex.—Miss Marcine Matthews, 17 years old, shot and killed J. S. Crosslin during proceedings in the district court here. He was charged with criminally attacking the girl two years ago. Crosslin was 59 years old. Crosslin was tried, convicted and sentenced to nine years in the penitentiary, but the case was reversed on an error in the admission of testimony and remanded for trial.

The preliminaries had been completed and Miss Matthews had been called to the witness stand.

"He disgraced me, ruined my health and deprived me of school privileges," she stated after the killing. "But he will never ruin another girl."

Miss Matthews walked to the witness chair, then turned with a pistol in hand, fired straight at Crosslin, who sat in a chair beside his attorneys 15 feet away. She took two or three steps forward and fired again. Advancing to within three feet of the man, who had collapsed in his chair, she shot a third time, the bullet penetrating Crosslin's side.

W. H. Forester, counsel for Crosslin, seized the girl just as the third shot was fired and almost at the same time Officer Burton reached her and, taking her in her arms, carried her out of the courtroom. He took the weapon from her and locked her in a room in the sheriff's office.

Complaint has been filed charging the girl with murder.

Held as Black Hander.

Washington, D. C.—George E. Long, 40 years an employe of the bureau of insular affairs, in the war department, was arrested and held for investigation by department of justice officials in connection with the sending, during the last few weeks, of letters to prominent Washingtonians demanding large sums of money. Threats of death were made in case the money was not forthcoming.

Mabel Normand Reported Better.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Miss Mabel Normand, reported seriously ill with the grip at her temporary retreat in Altadena, was said to be improving. Her secretary told inquirers that while Miss Normand was seriously ill, it was thought that her recovery was almost certain.

Two Missing Following Explosion.

Stamford, Conn.—Two men were missing after a \$100,000 fire which followed the explosion of a tank car of acids at the plant of Richards & Co., makers of artificial leather, here. The two men were working at the car and were believed to have been killed by the explosion.

Woman Freed of Murder Charge.

Auburn, Neb.—The charge of murder against Mrs. Lucile Neal, for killing her husband here August 13, last, was dismissed by District Judge John Raper, upon motion of County Attorney Armstrong, who reported that he had no new evidence to introduce.

Divorces Famous English Beauty.

London.—The earl of Cathcart was granted a divorce upon proof of Lady Cathcart's indiscretions with the earl of Craven. The case, which originally was in the defended list, came before the court as an undefended suit.

Senator Rawson Sworn In.

Washington, D. C.—Charles A. Rawson of Des Moines, was sworn in as senator from Iowa, succeeding Senator William S. Kenyon, who resigned to accept appointment as judge of the Eighth circuit court of appeals.

Let U. S. Get German Dyes.

Washington, D. C.—Declaring that congress has tied the hands of the administration in dealing with the reparations commission, President Harding in a letter to Senator Freylinghuyzen, republican, New Jersey, has suggested that legislative action be taken to permit the United States to get its quota of German reparations dyes.

Viscount Harcourt Dies.

London.—Viscount Harcourt died here, age 59 years.

BLAST DESTROYS THE GIANT YANKEE AIRSHIP, THE ROMA

Estimates on Dead Vary From Half a Dozen to Nearly 40—Over 50 on Board.

Norfolk, Va.—Exploding after crashing downward during a trial flight, the army's Italian built airship Roma was destroyed near the naval base here with the loss of an undetermined number of lives.

Estimates an hour and a half after the disaster, placed the dead from half a dozen to nearly 40, out of the more than half hundred persons on board.

Washington, D. C.—The navy department was notified of the disaster in the following telegram from the naval authorities at Norfolk:

"Army dirigible Roma caught fire and fell to the ground near army base, Norfolk. Thirty-five persons reported dead out of 50 aboard."

Norfolk.—Several persons were reported killed and 12 seriously injured when the giant airplane Roma plunged obliquely over a mile and crashed into a barracks building at the Hampton Roads army base, according to information in the hands of the commands at the Hampton Roads naval base. The remainder of the 21 members of the crew and 39 or 40 passengers and observers aboard the Roma escaped with minor burns, cuts and bruises, according to information at the base.

The Roma was between 600 and 1,000 feet in the air when she fell. Officers at the Hampton Roads naval base stated. Some of the passengers aboard were virtually unharmed, although all were shaken up. A number of them jumped from the cars of the Roma as she fell. Others caught under, and these, it is believed, were killed almost instantly.

Ask Operators to Meet Miners.

Chicago.—President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America, asked coal operators of the central competitive field, comprising the states of Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and also of western Pennsylvania, to meet with union officials at Cleveland on March 2 for a wage conference which, he said, might avert the impending strike. Similar requests have been rejected by some operators who said they wished to discontinue collective bargaining with the miners.

Movie Comedian Ill With Grip.

Los Angeles.—Harold Lloyd is suffering from a severe attack of the grip. He is confined to his home in this city, with two nurses in attendance. Being an athlete, it is thought the comedian will make a recovery without the dreaded pneumonia setting in, despite his high temperature.

Taylor Mystery Remains Deep.

Los Angeles.—The mystery surrounding the slaying of William Desmond Taylor, motion picture director, still remains as far from solution as when the body of the director was found in his apartments here almost three weeks ago, investigators working on the case said.

Oil King O. K.'s Love Match.

Chicago.—John R. Rockefeller has given his approval to the engagement of his granddaughter, Mathilde McCormick, 17-year-old daughter of Harold P. McCormick, to Max Oser, Swiss riding master.

Kidnaped Ulsterites Nearly All Freed.

Belfast.—While most of the unionists captured in recent raids in northern Ireland have been released, the Ulster home office announced that 25 of the kidnaped men had not yet been returned.

Police Fire on Rioters.

Pawtucket, R. I.—One man was killed, two were seriously wounded and six persons were hurt when the police used riot guns on a crowd of 1,000 persons who gathered at the plant of the Jencks Spinning company, where a strike is in progress. The guns were brought into play when several patrolmen had been knocked down after the arrest of three strike sympathizers. The dead man is Juan d'Assumpcao of Valley Falls. Joseph Diaz and Tony Regoss were taken to a hospital in a critical condition.

OMAHA BANKER ADMITS LOOTING BANK

W. V. Mathews, President of Defunct Pioneer State Bank, Indicted Some Time Ago.

Omaha, Neb.—Willard V. Mathews, president of the now defunct Pioneer State bank of Omaha, indicted by a special grand jury some time ago on a charge of embezzling \$200,000 from the bank, pleaded guilty before District Judge Leslie.

Sentence was deferred until March 1 to give Mr. Mathews time in which to straighten out his personal affairs.

Three other persons indicted with him, including T. H. Matters, Omaha, attorney, were granted separate trials.

Mr. Mathews gave out a statement in which he said he believed his violation of the law, if there was one, was a technical one and was "of the head and not of the heart."

Whisky Loot Worth \$90,000.

Detroit, Mich.—Six armed men bound and gagged the watchman at a government warehouse in Beaubien avenue here and escaped with 20 barrels of bonded whisky, which they loaded on a motor truck. The robbery was discovered when an investigation was made of the watchman's failure to punch his time clock. Police estimate the whisky to be worth \$50,000.

Louisville, Ky.—Twenty armed men, with three trucks, held up three guards and one passerby at the Old Pepper distillery near Versailles, Ky., and escaped with between 350 and 400 cases of liquor, valued at about \$40,000, according to telephone reports received here.

Indict Packing House Heads.

Rapid City, S. D.—Orville Rinehart, former candidate for the United States senate on the democratic ticket, and John Burke, president of the Dakota Packing company, have been indicted on charges of making alleged fraudulent misrepresentations to the state securities commission, as to the books kept by the packing company. Rinehart was treasurer of the company. In a separate indictment, H. F. Fellows, an attorney, was charged with seven embezzlement counts, aggregating \$6,431 while he was secretary of the Dakota Packing company.

"Off" These Schools.

Lincoln, Neb.—Instructors in any of the state normal colleges of Nebraska hereafter will be refused leaves of absence to study in or attend the Universities of Columbia, Chicago and Northwestern "because the testimony of those who have been students and the news items in the daily press show that cigarette smoking is common among women in these institutions" under a resolution adopted by the board of education of state normal schools.

To Use Planes in Florida.

Washington, D. C.—Use of airplanes along the Florida coast in the war on rum sellers was understood to be under consideration by prohibition headquarters. Plans for the use of airplanes against rum runners was understood to be part of the gigantic program being worked out by prohibition authorities involving activities in the air, on the water and on land to stem the tide of illicit liquor flowing into the country from West Indian and other islands.

Girl Drops to Death.

Chicago.—Miss May Ginsburg, aged 22, daughter of a wealthy St. Paul business man, either fell or leaped from the fifth story window of her apartment here and was instantly killed. A passing policeman found her body lying on the sidewalk, clad only in a night gown, kimono and bedroom slippers.

Ball Magnates at St. Joe.

St. Joseph, Mo.—Every club of the Western league was represented at the schedule meeting here. It has been settled there will be 168 games, with the season opening April 1 or 14 with the clubs of the northern half of the circuit playing in the southern half.

Sweet Into Senate Race.

Washington, D. C.—Burton E. Sweet, republican member of the house from the Third Iowa district, announced he would enter the republican primaries in June as a candidate for the senate. The office at stake is the unexpired term of Senator Kenyon.

Takes \$22,000 Bank's Cash.

New York.—William A. Russell, messenger for the Greenwich bank, was robbed of \$22,000 in currency by an automobile bandit, who boarded the truck in which he was transporting the money to a downtown bank.

Cobb's Condition Serious.

Boston, Mass.—Irvin S. Cobb, author and humorist, is seriously ill at a hotel after a relapse from the grip, which forced the cancellation of a lecture last week. Dr. J. H. Stevens said Mr. Cobb's condition was "serious but not dangerous."

Wrestling Star to Retire.

New York.—Stanislaus Zbyszko, world's heavyweight wrestling champion, plans to retire undefeated in May and to place his title in the care of his younger brother, Wladek.

CORNHUSKER ITEMS

News of All Kinds Gathered From Various Points Throughout Nebraska.

A blaze which started in the garret of the Friend hotel was declared by Fire Chief Hoefer to have all the appearances of incendiary origin. The fire was extinguished with chemicals before much damage resulted. When the volunteer fire department answered the call they found Britton in the kitchen of the building, which is a three-story brick structure, eating popcorn. When told that the building was on fire he answered that it could not be possible. Investigation showed that oil-soaked carpets and blankets had been placed in the garret. According to firemen the building is insured for \$20,000.

Every taxpayer in Nebraska who turns in property for taxation will have to give an oath that his return is correct, if a plan proposed at a group meeting of county assessors here is carried out. Twenty assessors at a meeting passed a resolution urging that county assessors require precinct assessors to administer an oath on every tax return in their district.

Some drunken pigs near Chadron went on a roaring, don't-care-a-whoop rampage, and unwittingly tipped off the story of how corn mush had been poured into their feed trough. These pigs and never before fractured Mr. Volstead's act, nor the peace and dignity of the community. The owner of the pigs was arrested.

L. C. Yund of Broken Bow has completed installing his wireless outfit. Mr. Yund brought the set with him from Coudersport, Pa., but on account of war conditions has not reset the station. He has very complete equipment and can receive messages from France, Germany, Spain, Norway and South America.

When Deputy Sheriff T. L. Miskimen went on an errand to the basement of the county court house at Alliance, he discovered that a burglar had stolen the contents of two 100-pound sacks of granulated sugar and had filled the sacks with ashes and cinders. The sugar had been confiscated in a raid on a still several months ago.

At a meeting of taxpayers a protest cost of the public school system at Auburn it developed that farm land near town is paying taxes amounting to \$14 per acre, and that the cost of the public schools in this district has increased from \$8,700 to \$40,000 in six years with little increased attendance.

Secretary Clancy of the Red Cross has resigned as executive secretary of the Hall county chapter, and will, beginning with the first of the month, take a position with the national organization as field agent for the state of Montana.

The Garrison Poland China Pig club has completed its organization and is the first of its kind to be started in Butler county this year. More than half of the boys have already started, each having a pure bred sow.

As an appreciation for the quick response made to David City's call for aid when the I. O. O. F. temple burned the David City city council authorized the sending of a check for \$100 to the Seward fire department.

An inspection of the winter wheat near Oshkosh shows that practically all of it is going through the winter in splendid condition, is well rooted and the abundance of moisture assures a speedy growth in the spring.

Loetta is rallying around Mayor Havens in his efforts to secure a municipal swimming pool and skating park. The commercial club and the schools, as well as many farmers, are back of the movement.

By a vote of two to one Scottsbluff approved the issuance of bonds of \$300,000 for the construction of a new high school building. The poll showed 980 for and 483 against the proposed issue.

Mrs. Sarah A. Bond, 80, sister of Ella Wheeler Wilcox, died at her home in Ord from injuries received when she fell on an ice-coated sidewalk a week ago. Her hip was broken in the fall.

The supreme court has refused to break the will of Joseph Hayden, late Omaha merchant, on petition of Louise Josephine Hayden, niece, and William Hayden, brother.

An electric siren fire alarm is to be installed at Randolph by the fire department, to supersede the bell alarm.

Unless further complaint is made against Mrs. Loreta Schreiner, who fasted eight days in the Dodge county jail rather than send her children, La Ross and La Visa, 8, to the public school, she will be allowed to retain custody of them.

The state of martial law which has been in existence in Four Mile precinct at Nebraska City, in Otoe county, since January 28, has ceased by a proclamation of Governor McKelvie, stating "that violence and disorder had been suppressed and there was no further need of martial law."

While shelling corn at his place near Wolbach, Anson Kinney got his left hand on the shell, losing the first and fourth fingers of the hand, which had to be amputated, and he may yet lose the other two fingers.

Mrs. Agnes Scott, widowed mother of Policeman J. E. Scott, killed in Omaha, is entitled to compensation of \$15 a week for 350 weeks and \$150 burial expenses, according to an informal opinion given by Frank Kennedy, secretary of state department of labor and ex-officio state compensation commissioner.

Sugar beet growers in the vicinity of Lowell and Gibbon are not in the least perturbed over the announcement that the year's contract price will be around \$5 per ton, for the simple reason they do not plan to raise many beets, regardless of price. With irrigation acreage these farmers for the most part are finding the humble potato more profitable, with cabbage a close second. Consequently, this vicinity, which in past years has raised large quantities of beets, will build up, instead, a greatly increased potato acreage and also a large acreage of cabbage. The latter product is becoming more popular annually. One farmer located south of Gibbon a setting out 40 acres of cabbage plants to replace beets.

Approximately 180 inmates of Nebraska penitentiary will soon be steadily employed in the new prison shirt and overall factory. Installation of 129 large power sewing machines is expected to be completed soon. Large quantities of buttons, thread and cloth are already on hand. The factory will probably turn out 125 dozen shirts a day, according to Warden Fenton. The entire product will go to a Jefferson City, Mo., wholesale concern, which has contracted for the labor.

Instructors in any of the state normal colleges of Nebraska hereafter will be refused leaves of absence to study or attend the universities of Columbia, Chicago and Northwestern "because the testimony of those who have been students and the news items in the daily press, show that cigarette smoking is common among women in these institutions," under a resolution adopted by the board of education of state normal schools.

Nebraska's dog population for 1921 was 105,288, according to figures given out at the state house at Lincoln, based on assessor's returns. That means that there is one poodle, collie, alder, terrier, bull dog or some other kind of canine for every twelfth person in the state. The dog census for last year shows an increase of 5,285 over that of 1920. The assessors made no attempt to place the dog weight.

For the first time in the history of American suffrage, two sisters are candidates for congress this year. One is Mrs. Irene C. Buell, Ashland, city prosecutor, who has already filed her petition with Secretary of State Amsherry at Lincoln. Her elder sister, Mrs. A. K. Gault, mayor of St. Peter, Minn., is a candidate for congress from the district there.

Fire destroyed the five-room home of W. D. Shaal near Springfield. Mr. Shaal was alone in the house at the time of the fire and almost suffocated before rescued. The firemen were unable to save the house or contents. The loss is estimated at \$3,000.

Benkelman schools have outgrown the present school building, and the district is preparing to vote a bond issue to cover the present running expenses. New quarters for high school or grade must be provided before school opens next fall.

The city council at Ravenna has made a call for bids on street paving. The first district to be paved will cover about 30 blocks. It is the object of the city to pave the main thoroughfares and one block on each side street.

When Pierce Oxley, farmer of Cambridge, awakened in the morning he found his large barn, two head of horses, three cows and much grain and hay destroyed by fire. The origin has not been determined.

A petition by 506 taxpayers of Fillmore county was filed with the county commissioners asking that the services of the county agent be continued and the annual appropriation was made for that purpose.

"Frozen assets"—loans that could not be liquidated, were blamed by J. E. Hart, secretary of the state department of commerce and labor, in announcing the closing of the Homer State Bank at Homer.

When a fire broke out on the roof of the public school building at Hubbard, the fire drill in which the children had been trained was ordered and they all marched orderly to safety.

Frank Sampson, 13, of Western, caught a full grown wolf in a trap and succeeded in killing it with a short handled ax after a desperate fight.

A permanent summer camp for the Boy Scouts of Scottsbluff is proposed to be built at Laramie park in Wyoming, by the Scott bluffs Boy Scout council.

While Agnes Arneke, 14, of Norfolk, was asleep in her room, an unknown person entered and cut off her hair.

The citizens of Wood Lake are to vote on a bond issue of \$25,700 to provide a water system and electric light plant. The town has been burning gasoline and kerosene lamps since the electric light plant was destroyed by fire about three weeks ago.

The largest irrigation project in the Republican valley is about to be carried out a few miles west of McCook by G. H. Watkins in the Watkins farm near Perry. The nest of wells and pump plant will cost about \$6,000 and the plant will supply water for 300 acres.

The city council of Fairbury has purchased a second fire truck to use in case of emergencies.

F. L. Hurd, Omaha, has written Governor McKelvie to urge the next legislature to pass a law demanding that all restaurants serving horse or mule meat advertise the fact in big placards on front windows. "I would advise a penalty of five years and one day, no pardons or paroles, for violation of same," Hurd said. The governor is anxious for information as to where such meat is sold in Omaha. Hurd fails to specify in his letter.