

Soft Coal Miners Of Whole Country Threaten a Strike Army Couldn't Hold Them at Present Wages, Says Union Official

Garfield's Aid Sought Agreement by Joint Committee of Operators and Workers Is Expected

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—Soft coal miners all over the country will strike if their demands for an increased wage scale are denied, according to union representatives.

"The men are working now only in anticipation of this increase," said K. C. Lewis, one of the miners' representatives, to-day. "If they don't get it a draft army could not hold them at work under present conditions."

Rembrandt Peale, the operators' adviser to Fuel Administrator Garfield, asserted, however, that there would be no strike. His confidence is construed to mean that a satisfactory agreement will be reached at the conference of operators and miners now in progress here.

To-day a joint scale sub-committee, composed of two miners and two operators from the Central field in Western Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois and Indiana, considered the wage demand, which the operators had formally rejected yesterday. A decision by the sub-committee is not expected before Saturday.

The first move of the miners to gain Fuel Administrator Garfield's consent to a wage increase was made to-day, when Frank Hayes, vice-president, and John Lewis, statistician of the United Mine Workers, submitted figures showing a labor shortage of 40,000 men in the four states affected by the demand. They said that the present wage scale is not high enough to keep the miners from going to munition factories and other establishments where they receive higher pay. The draft also was said to be increasing the shortage.

Dr. Garfield was asked to grant a general wage increase in the central competitive field, in which virtually 90 per cent of the bituminous coal is mined, for the duration of the war, or for two years ending April 1, 1920, to stabilize coal prices and hold the miners at their work.

The Federal Trade Commission is understood to be investigating complaints filed by coal operators in the central field. These inquiries began before the miners' demand for increased pay. One contention of the operators is that the present government price in some instances is below the actual cost of producing.

Bennett Now Leads Mitchel By 441 Votes

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would present any evidence of fraud or of a violation of the law.

"I shall investigate every irregularity," he said. "I shall not confine my examination to mere errors.

The Bennett watchmen figured that if there is an official recount as a result of the inspection their candidate would have several hundred more votes added to his total than those indicated in the tally kept during the inspection, because of the large number containing erasures in the voting space before Mr. Bennett's name. These were practically all Mitchel ballots, and would be declared void, they contended.

One of the broadest discrepancies discovered between the official count as announced and the tally yesterday was found in the 31st Election District where Mitchel was credited with twenty-three and Bennett with none. Actually, each had eleven ballots in the box. In the 15th Election District of the 16th Assembly District Bennett had been credited with ten votes and Mitchel twenty-four. The inspection showed that Bennett had received thirteen and the Mayor thirteen.

Erasures in Brooklyn

The cases of erasure which occurred so frequently in the inspection of the first few districts in Manhattan were also found in Brooklyn. A typical one was discovered in the 3d Election District of the 3d Assembly District, where the official count showed 25 for Mitchel and none for Bennett. The examination of these ballots showed that ten crosses which had been placed before Bennett's name had been erased and shifted to the Mitchel column.

Mayor Mitchel said yesterday that he had not given up hope that when all the ballots throughout the greater city had been inspected he would still have a margin.

"I have an idea," said the Mayor, "that when the ballots in Brooklyn are examined the trend will be the other way. However, if the inspection of the ballots shows that Mr. Bennett's is the primary nominee of the Republican party I shall do all I can to obtain an order from the court for a recount of the ballots."

Meanwhile the Mayor had gone to Fusion headquarters, 244 Madison Avenue, and had a straight talk with the campaign managers. It was understood that he insisted on a reorganization of the campaign committee if he were to run independently against Bennett.

Mayor Takes Charge

The Mayor virtually took matters in his own hands and threw overboard some of his campaign managers.

William Hamlin Childs, chairman of the executive committee of the Fusion Committee of 1917, issued a statement last night which did not quite tell the whole story. The statement follows: "The developments of the primary elections have increased the work of the Fusion Committee. It has been expanded beyond the limits of its present headquarters, at Thirty-eighth Street and Madison Avenue. More office space is necessary and more executive assistance is needed. The new program, Mr. Luther Little has been appointed vice-chairman of the Fusion Committee, and Emory R. Buckner has been appointed campaign manager to fill the vacancy thus created.

The executive office will be moved to-day to the twelfth floor of the Manhattan Hotel. The Mayor, William Hamlin Childs, Mr. Little, Mr. Buckner, and Carter Childs will have their offices at the Manhattan. The publicity department will be under the supervision of Mr. Sam A. Lewisohn, and the offices of the several committees will

remain in the Hecksher Building, at Thirty-eighth Street and Madison Avenue.

The fact is, that ever since the returns of the primary election were received, Mayor Mitchel has been trying to find out who it was that made so many miscalculations, and why a preliminary campaign was not insisted upon. There have been several stormy meetings at Fusion headquarters since the primary election, at which the Mayor was present. The change that he made yesterday means that he will own campaign from now on, and that a fight will be put up that will astonish the members of the committee who thought that the Mayor would be nominated in the Republican primaries.

Buckner Supersedes Little

Mr. Buckner, who takes Mr. Little's place as campaign manager, is a former Assistant District Attorney, and is connected with the Curran and Mitchell Committee when that body investigated the Police Department several years ago. He is a member of the law firm of Root, Clark, Buckner & Howland, of 31 Nassau Street, and is the son of an ex-Senator Root, is a member of the firm. Whatever the Fusion Committee continues to do at the headquarters on Madison Avenue, the active campaign will be waged from the Manhattan Hotel.

Two extra election clerks, with their accompanying watchers for the two candidates, were added yesterday in the examination and count proceeded much more rapidly, and it is expected the examination will be finished this week.

Mr. Bennett obtained the order from Justice Geff restraining the Board of Elections from certifying the name of Mayor Mitchel on the Republican ballot. Mr. Bennett set forth that he determined beyond the shadow of a doubt that he was the regular candidate for Mayor.

"I wish to make the point clear, moreover," he said, "that the voters who voted for my opponent's original apparent majority of 335 votes and the gradual piling up of a majority in my favor, upon inspection, are patently solely by corrections in the count announced by the representative of the Board of Elections, and is not in any way made up of the hundreds of additional ballots which were counted in my opponent's favor, but which will be entirely void by the court because of erasures of crosses marked opposite my name and the writing in of crosses opposite my opponent's name."

Factories Idle; New Army Left Without Guns

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The Ordnance front. Ammunition could have been supplied for these rifles from a large number of American factories which have been engaged in turning out Enfield cartridges for the British during the last two years.

Military necessity demanded that the expanding armies of the United States be supplied with rifles with the least possible delay. This was accepted as the reason for the decision to purchase the Springfield, which was acknowledged to be a better type of gun, with the Enfield, which could be turned out in far larger quantities.

But the factories did not proceed. The rifles which the three factories had been turning out did not come up to the ideals of the Ordnance Board. It takes a great deal of time to readjust the delicate mechanism of the Springfield, which the board thought it wise to take the time, for reasons which are not clear.

It is decided: FIRST, that the gun should be re-chambered for Springfield ammunition.

SECOND, that the rifles of the three plants be absolutely interchangeable in all their parts.

Many mechanical engineers say that for the rifles to be interchangeable under existing conditions is practically impossible.

There are about 100 parts to the Enfield rifle, 2,000 distinct operations being employed in its production. Each operation is a gauge, the application of more gauges. A gauge is a measuring instrument, adjusted to thousandths of an inch. The gauges used in the several plants are patterned from master gauges, the manufacture of which is an intricate and exacting process, demanding the utmost skill on the part of the mechanic and a considerable length of time.

Intricate Process Delays Production

Every change in the final make-up of a rifle makes necessary the making of new master gauges, new shop gauges and new tools. To complete a new type of rifle, even while using the old type as a basis, is the work of months. This, in essence, is what the Ordnance Board has attempted with the Enfield.

It took nearly two years to develop the gun which the Ordnance Board had in mind. The factories are now turning out its present point of perfection. It has been passed by the British boards of inspection as suitable to the uses for which it was ordered.

The first guns turned out by the American factories for the British were not entirely satisfactory. The orders called for an improved type of Enfield, adapted from the weapons which the English had been manufacturing in England had been in the country for years prior to the outbreak of hostilities. Only the specifications were sent to the manufacturers in this country.

Each manufacturer, with these specifications, worked independently, with the result that they turned out three types of rifle, differing in many essential details. A halt was called, and after a delay of several months, the three gauges governing the mechanism were obtained from England. Then shop gauges and new tools were made, and the manufacture of the guns proceeded.

Perfection Later Or Rifles Now?

But the difficulty had not been entirely solved. The products of the three factories were found to be interchangeable only to the point at which the individual soldier could make repairs on his rifle on the battlefield. That is, any one of the easily replaced parts could be replaced by a similar part made in any of the three factories. This was not true, however, of the more intricate parts of the rifle. If the gun was so badly damaged that it had to be repaired, it would be necessary to replace the broken parts with pieces made in the same factory or go to the trouble of fitting similar pieces from the other factories to the gun by hand.

Somebody Is Always Taking the Joy Out of Life . . . By BRIGGS



from a military point of view—interchangeability of rifles?

Already five months have been lost while the experts at Washington have discussed the theoretical advantages of the Springfield rifle over the Enfield and of "full interchangeability" over the machine shop back of the trenches.

Ammunition Change Another Factor

Now comes the question of ammunition. Experts interviewed by The Tribune, men who have been concerned in filling the British contracts and men who have studied the rifle making industry in this country for years, do not accept as adequate any of the reasons for which the Ordnance Board determined to change over to American ammunition. Granting that the American bullet attains a higher velocity than the Enfield, they confess themselves at a loss to understand what advantage is gained by this factor under present conditions of short range warfare.

The importance of the matter lies in the fact that there are a score of factories equipped to manufacture Enfield ammunition in this country to one manufacturing Springfield ammunition. He got into immediate communication with Walter Rogers Deuel, of 32 Nassau Street, attorney in the case. Mr. Deuel later was visited by Dr. Charles A. Norris, head of the pathological department at Bellevue, who is making tests of the organs for traces of poison.

Dr. Norris announced that it would be at least ten days before results of the examination would be given. When questioned concerning the cause of the death, he said: "It is merely to find out the cause of death—it should not be supposed that it is connected with anything criminal. Of course, the case may still be taken up in court. I cannot say until the tests now being conducted are complete."

"Why did not the family accept Mrs. Bingham's physician's certificate that death was due from myocarditis? Circumstances brought their attention, which I cannot give in detail, made them consider that there might have been an error about the cause of death. Physicians are not infallible, and even two or three might have made a mistake."

Again the Bugbear Of Interchangeability

The reason advanced for the change was that the ammunition furnished the men at the front might be interchangeable between the Springfields used by the expeditionary force and the Enfields used by the regular army. Here again the interchangeability idea was shown, persuading the Ordnance Board to spend months extending the capacity of its own arsenals and equipping new plants to turn out Springfield ammunition ready to begin delivery of Enfield cartridges at once.

The change in the ammunition, of course, led to important changes in the rifle. It became necessary to make over the receiving and firing mechanism and to change the diameter of the bore. This in itself meant the loss of several months in the production of new gauges and tools. The factories, however, hastened to submit tool-made models of the Enfield gun, and a test of these models was made early in June at the Springfield Arsenal.

Fifty thousand rounds of ammunition were fired by each of the models submitted by the three factories. The test lasted three days, and it was stated that the rifles stood up under them to the satisfaction of the government experts.

The summer work on. No orders came from Washington for the factories to proceed with the manufacture of the modified rifle. Officials investigating the reason for the delay were given the information that the Ordnance Board was considering the problem of making the products of the three factories interchangeable.

Milk Trust Raid in Chicago

CHICAGO, Sept. 27.—Detectives from State Attorney Hoynes' office raided the offices of the Milk Producers' Association to-day, seizing records of meetings of the alleged "milk trust."

As a matter of fact, this was Mr. Little's opinion, not that of Fusion headquarters, and Mr. Little thought that he was to have a free rein in the conduct of the campaign. He must have found out within a day or so, however, that some one else dictated the policy of his office. Nothing whatever was said about it, but that vigorous pre-primary campaign of his never materialized. And now, unless the signs fail, Bennett has won the primaries by default.

Who overruled Mr. Little, now so cavalierly relegated to the role of a consultant? Some say William Hamlin Childs, chairman of the executive committee of the Fusion Committee, and Emory R. Buckner, factotum of the outfit. Others contend that the Mayor himself must have had a hand in it. They recall that the

Brother Presses Bingham Inquiry

Examination of Vital Organs of Former Mrs. Flagler Will Take Ten Days

William R. Kenan, brother of Mrs. Robert Worth Kenan, yesterday came to this city to direct the investigation into the death of the former Mrs. Henry M. Flagler, who left an estate of \$7,000,000. Mr. Kenan's return from his home at Lockport, N. Y., for the first time since it became known that Mrs. Bingham's body had been exhumed at Wilmington, N. C., and her vital organs brought here for examination, was the signal for the greatest activity in the investigation.

Mr. Perkins issued a brief statement in the form of a letter to Mr. Fraser, denying the main contentions of the farmers. He says he never advocated Prussian methods for running the country, as charged in the advertisement, but had often called attention to many excellent characteristics of German economic methods. He denied responsibility for bad working conditions in the Osborn Harvester factory, at Auburn, N. Y., and insisted that the harvester company, which he organized, corrected labor evils in the Auburn works after acquiring the plant.

Mr. Perkins further denied that he wanted to become president of the food commission. He had been drafted by Governor Whitman, he said, and held "that no American citizen has the right to be a slacker at this critical period in our country's affairs."

"I am naturally grieved," he continued, "to find that nowhere in your advertisement do you question my ability or intention. If confirmed, it is the force of law. This, in effect, is the highest indorsement of the Governor's nomination."

Confession Names Higher-Ups

James Clark, chief of the City Hall detective, is the man who forged the connecting link between the "big men" and the "contract gunmen" who were transported to this city and lodged here with funds sufficient to cause the completion of their programme.

"The men are much higher than policemen," Mr. Rotan remarked, when he was asked if the persons who are to be named in future warrants are members of that department. He would not divulge the number of suspects, but let it be known that there are more than two or three.

From an authoritative source close to the officials in charge of the investigation it was learned that the facts in possession of Mr. Rotan include a definite description of the two men who went to New York to barter with a politician there for the hire of gangsters who would accomplish what was wanted to carry the fight against James A. Carey and his adherents in the 5th Ward.

Smith Trial Tuesday

Mr. Rotan let it be known that he will not "lay any of his cards on the table" at the hearing, which is scheduled for Tuesday, when Mayor Smith, Lieutenant Bennett and Isaac Deutscher are to be arraigned under the warrant sworn out against them. That procedure will be limited, according to the plans of the prosecution, and the main features of the investigation will be placed before the grand jury in a demand for quick and effective indictments.

"If I could give it out without interfering with the trial I would do so," Mr. Rotan said to-day when pressed for further information about the evidence in his possession.

"Mike" Sullivan Sought As "Exporter" of Gang That Terrorized Ward

On his return from Philadelphia yesterday, District Attorney Francis A. Martin of The Bronx made public the confession made a few days ago by "Little Bill" Burkhardt regarding the murder of Patrolman George A. Eppley in Philadelphia on Primary Day, September 19.

Burkhardt is one of the four gang-

Perkins Answers His Farmer Critics

Denies Main Contentions Made by Them in Advertisement He Paid For

George W. Perkins answered yesterday the advertisement appearing in the morning papers from the farmers' organizations of the state attacking him as unsuited to head the State Food Commission. Mr. Perkins had agreed to pay for the advertisement when Samuel Fraser, chairman of the Central Committee of Farmers' Organizations, told him the farmers could not afford to do so.

Mr. Perkins issued a brief statement in the form of a letter to Mr. Fraser, denying the main contentions of the farmers. He says he never advocated Prussian methods for running the country, as charged in the advertisement, but had often called attention to many excellent characteristics of German economic methods. He denied responsibility for bad working conditions in the Osborn Harvester factory, at Auburn, N. Y., and insisted that the harvester company, which he organized, corrected labor evils in the Auburn works after acquiring the plant.

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Warrants Issued For 'Higher-Ups' in Primaries Murder

Names Are Withheld Pending Hearing on Conspiracy Charge Before Coroner

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 27.—Thousands of citizens crowded the Academy of Music to-night in a protest meeting over conditions in police administration which permitted rioting at the primaries in the old Fifth Ward in which Policeman George Eppley was killed by Jacob Maecia, a New York gunman. Resolutions were adopted demanding a vote against city officials of the Republican party.

Conspirators who financed and staged the political plot which culminated in assault and murder will be vigorously prosecuted, it was declared. With the identity of every man connected with the conspiracy revealed through confessions, additional warrants carrying the names of the "big men" in the case will be served shortly, according to District Attorney Rotan.

Mr. Rotan declared yesterday that the names of the financiers are members of the murder conspiracy were known, but would be withheld pending their arraignment before the coroner. The time for their arraignment has not yet been fixed.

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Mitchel Is Called Kaiser by Wagner In Keynote Speech

Senator Tells Tammany City Administration Is as Autocratic as Germany's Officers Re-elected

Murphy's Name Is Cheered, but He Fails to Appear at the Meeting

"Our country is fighting to break the autocratic rule of those who are kept upon their toppling thrones by men of wealth, property and military and civil influence. The coming municipal campaign is a similar struggle to preserve democracy. It is to drive out the municipal autocrat and the administration which has been moulded by money, power and favoritism."

War and the issues raised by the war were thus brought into the mayor's campaign last night in the Democratic "keynote" speech delivered by Senator Robert F. Wagner to two thousand district leaders who crowded Tammany Hall in an organization meeting.

Mayor Mitchel was compared with the Kaiser, and in other ways said Senator Wagner, charged last spring by Mayor Mitchel with "pro-German" sympathies, repay the compliment. The Mayor was delineated as "trembling on his pinnacle of domination," attended by men of wealth, supported by its financial powers and flattered by the newspapers.

"Political Camouflage Used"

The Mayor's charge of German sympathies was answered with the allegation that the Mayor was resorting to "political camouflage" in "using the American flag for advertising purposes, and appealing to the voters on the pretended issue of patriotism."

Although only 2,000 district leaders attended, they represented an additional 20,000 voters. Each of the 14 Assembly Districts, the 6,000 members of the County Committee of last year are increased now to 9,000.

It has heretofore been a custom of names be read off by the secretary of Tammany Hall, Tom Smith. Last year he rushed through the 6,000 in thirty-eight minutes. Last night, however, he heaved a sigh of relief that could be heard on an Fourteenth Street where a resolution was passed foregoing the reading of the names.

Before Senator Wagner's speech he was re-elected chairman of the county organization. With him were re-elected Secretary Smith and Treasurer Charles F. Murphy's name was greeted with thunderous applause when it was read among the members of the county committee, but the "Old Master" was not seen. The Chairman Wagner began to speak.

Mr. Wagner said in part: "Mayor Mitchel has been found wanting. He has permitted himself to become the creature of the Foundation and corporate influences, surrendered the administration of our public schools into the hands of men who were not approved by the people, and the principles of the Rockefeller General Education Board, and permitted the charity trust to establish itself in absolute control. He has been found wanting because of efforts to take over the city's gas, electric and property rights to the New York Central Railroad. He has been found wanting because under his administration the debt of this city has continued to mount, and we have been supporting that debt by a bankruptcy than to efficiency.

"The keynote of the coming municipal campaign, as I see it, will be democracy itself, the right of the people to rule themselves, and we have for years been fighting for democracy one who by his life and struggles is the embodiment of American democracy.

"And who will be the candidate of the Republican party for Mayor? The Democrats cannot afford to question the Republicans themselves, working day and night, are still trying to find the answer with all of magnifying glasses. No matter what may be the result of the Bennett-Mitchel government, it is a disgraceful thing to see the American Political Association convention.

"Most of the trouble arises from the fact that wives of farmers do not place the eggs on the market soon enough and also on account of poor refrigerating conditions through the country," he said.

\$45,000,000 Lost Yearly On Eggs, Says U. S. Agent

MILWAUKEE, Sept. 27.—"Forty-five million dollars' worth of eggs spoil annually on account of poor market conditions," said H. A. McLeer, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at the American Political Association convention.

"Most of the trouble arises from the fact that wives of farmers do not place the eggs on the market soon enough and also on account of poor refrigerating conditions through the country," he said.

News in Brief

Francis von Brintelen, who was brought here from a British prison to testify against German conspirators, was indicted to-day for a writ of habeas corpus. He alleges that his surrender by Great Britain was illegal.

George P. Watkins, assistant chief statistician of the Public Service Commission, is in the Ludlow Street jail in default of \$375 bail.

Police Commissioner Woods pointed to the career of George Eppley as an example and inspiration for six-four policemen graduated from the Headquarters training school. The graduating class was in black.

Colonel Roosevelt and Mayor Mitchel will speak at a "National Service Night" moving at Madison Square Garden October 5. It is to be a mass meeting of all civilian war organizations.

An appeal has been filed from the decision of Surrogate Fowler, upheld by the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, that Hettie Green's \$100,000,000 estate is not taxable in this state.

Silk has crowded out another Madison Avenue landmark, the former home of Dr. H. H. Holbrook Curtis, as a result of the fact that it is soon to be torn down to make room for a silk concern.

Patrick McGrath, locked up in New Brunswick, N. J., as a deserter, commanded the warden's revolver, held the force of keepers, put on the warden's shoes and escaped. He reported to his company commander and promised to return the clothes and revolver.

Charles Edison, son of the inventor, has been indicted, under the Espionage Act, for disclosing to the Central Intelligence Agency the location of a wireless receiving station in Times Square, New York. The trial will be in the eleventh hour.

The nightingale, with Halsys and Tourist, is on a "National Service Night" moving at Madison Square Garden October 5. It is to be a mass meeting of all civilian war organizations.

The Erie Railroad has invited any employee who thinks he can fill a higher position to write to the management and tell why.

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