

Let War Board Fix Grievances, B. R. T. Men Ask

Workers Suggest to Garrison That Demands Be Placed for Adjustment Before National Labor Body

Company Bars Agitators

Officials Declare They Will Deal With Employees, Not Outside Organizations

The executive committee of the Brooklyn Rapid Transit Workers' Union last night suggested in a communication to Lindley M. Garrison, receiver for the lines, that all the grievances of the employees be placed for adjustment before the National War Labor Board. The proposal was formulated as a reply to Mr. Garrison's refusal to treat with officials of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America, Local 867, Mr. Garrison had told the workers that he would negotiate with committees of employees and that no outside organizations would be recognized. The committee further pointed out in response to this objection that the committee at present acting for the association is comprised of employees with service ranging from nine months to eighteen years.

Mass Meeting Announced

The action was taken at a meeting at Labor Lyceum, Myrtle and Willoughby avenues, Brooklyn, with twenty-one members of the executive committee present, headed by Patrick J. O'Brien, vice-president of the association, and one woman, representing the women workers. In anticipation of an immediate reply to their suggestion, the union leaders announced a mass meeting at the employees of surface, subway and elevated lines for Tuesday night at Arcadia Hall, where the company's attitude will be made known and discussed.

The communication reads: "Hon. LINDLEY M. GARRISON, Receiver, B. R. T., New York: "Dear Sir—Your communication of April 4 received and contents noted. The committee wishes that you say in reference to subject matter. The employees have been fully guided in their actions by your notice of March 11: "That the employees could join any organization which they please. On the other hand, the management of the system will, as heretofore, deal with committees of its own employees in all matters affecting the relation of its employees to the system."

"Every member of the committee is an employee, with service ranging from nine months to eighteen years. They have been selected by the employees of the various branches of the system at a mass meeting held to discuss the hours and conditions of their labor, and formulate machinery to meet with the views of the receiver.

Intimidation Charged "There is now under investigation by the National War Labor Board the cases of forty men who have been discharged for union activities. There is continual intimidation carried on by officials of the company against men who have been active in organization work.

"The committee has been patient, with the hope that as an officer of the United States District Court you would carry out the principles and policies as laid down for the guidance of employers and employees by a proclamation of President Wilson when he created the National War Labor Board.

"The committee of your employees, therefore, ask you to grant them a conference to take up their hours, wages and conditions. Should this request of the committee be not acceptable to you as receiver of the B. R. T., we respectfully suggest that all matters in controversy be referred to the National War Labor Board for adjustment.

"Respectfully, "JAMES SHERIDAN, Chairman Executive Committee, Outside Help Barred

The company, on their side, carried out its plan to deal solely with employees of the system by issuing a circular to the car barns in which they detailed their stand to the workers. "As you may have observed," ran the circular in part, "the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees of America have approached the management and asked it to make a contract recognizing that organization and dealing directly with it in regard to matters concerning our employees. The management will not deal with outside organizations and has so informed the representatives of the above named association.

"The management will gladly deal with its own employees, either through existing machinery available in the shape of departmental trustees or through any other accredited committees selected by the men in any way that is agreeable to them from among their own number to represent their own interests in any matters they desire to take up with the management."

Men Against Strike Officials of the B. R. T. have also met representatives of the workers in various depots, discussing the situation yesterday with about forty of their number. They maintain that the feeling among the workers is against a walkout. They also stated that the company has now under consideration methods of eliminating the "swing shift," one of the grievances of the carmen. It is the period between the two tours of duty which comprise the day's work of many motormen and conductors.

The meeting of the workers last night was addressed by Dean John York, rector of St. Bridget's Church, in Brooklyn. Dean York cautioned the men against any radical or rash step and advised them not to strike unless it was absolutely necessary.

The men, according to the scale proposed to Mr. Garrison on March 9, demand recognition of the union, sixty cents an hour and a nine-hour day. They also ask thirty-five cents an hour for blacksmiths and structural workers, forty-eight cents an hour for shopmen, for whom they want an eight-hour day, with time and a half for overtime.

Ship Named East Side By Wife of Governor

New Steel Vessel Christened After Home District of Smith Family

Mrs. Al Smith, wife of the Governor, christened the 7,500-ton steel ship "East Side" at Shooters Island yesterday in the presence of 1,000 guests and 6,500 employees of the Standard Shipbuilding Company, which launched the vessel. Governor Smith, who was to have accompanied his wife, sent a message shortly before the launching, saying he was detained at the City Hall in New York.

"East Side" was chosen as the ship's name because of Governor Smith's long residence in that famous section of Manhattan. Mrs. Smith, with her son, Alfred, jr., and her daughter, May, reached the launching platform with Mr. and Mrs. Lewis A. Nixon, the former State Highway Commissioner. The steamer Homer Ramsay brought the guests, including city and state officials, from Pier A, Manhattan.

At exactly 1 o'clock the ship started down the ways, and Mrs. Smith broke the customary bottle of champagne across its bow. After the ceremony there was a luncheon at which Mrs. Smith was presented with a laurel wreath by James Codoy, vice-president of the shipbuilding company.

Mathew J. Cahill was master of ceremonies, and Senator James H. Boyd represented Governor Smith. Among the other officials were John Gilchrist, Commissioner of Licenses, and State Senators Lynch, Dunigan, Kaplan and Southland.

Two Overcome by Gas Doctor, 84, and Deaf Nephew Try to Fix Leaky Jet

The fumes from a leaky gas jet in the apartment of Dr. Edward O'Connell, 2245 Broadway, late last night, overpowered both Dr. O'Connell, who is eighty-four years old, and his nephew, Christopher Vernon, a deaf mute, fifty-seven.

The younger man was attempting to mend the fixture. Stepping from the room for a moment, he returned to find his uncle unconscious. Vernon tried to revive his uncle and was himself overcome. A tenant in the building notified Patrolman James Hughes. The men were taken to Knickerbocker Hospital. Both will recover, it is said.

Short Weight in Sale Of Ham Is Charged

Employe of Butcher Arrested After Investigation by Commissioner Holwell

John Kebl, an employe of Albert Sussmann, a butcher at 17 West 133d Street, was arrested yesterday, charged with giving customers short weight, after an investigation by Joseph J. Holwell, Commissioner of Weights and Measures. Commissioner Holwell called it "one of the most flagrant cases of profiteering" brought to his notice.

An anonymous complaint describing the alleged practices followed in the shop came to Commissioner Holwell. Through an agent he purchased a ham there. He declared that the ham was one pound short of the weight for which it had been sold. Chief Inspector Albert E. Lutz, of the Bureau of Weights and Measures, then placed the salesman, Kebl, under arrest.

When arraigned Kebl, according to Commissioner Holwell, asserted he had been ordered to deliver short weight. Sussmann, the proprietor, denied there was any scheme to defraud customers, and declared that Kebl had merely made a mistake in figuring.

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The arrival of the first spell of genuine spring weather has brought with it the usual flood of pamphlets and catalogues. Officials of the National War Garden Commission announce that, in view of the fact that the war is over, the little plots shall be now known as Victory Gardens instead of War Gardens. Their need, however, says Charles Lathrop Park, president of the commission, is just as vital this year as in previous years.

Judging from the rash on the seed dealers, New York's crop outlook is bright. The dealers say, however, that the amateur gardeners are buying more intelligently and carefully this year than last. The novelty of experimenting with all kinds of vegetables, they say, has worn off, and the novice is now buying a few kinds of seeds, and only those that he has found suitable to his soil.

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