

Rail Brotherhood Chiefs to Discuss Wage Cut Decree

600 General Chairmen Called to Meet in Chicago on July 1 to Pass on Award of Federal Labor Board

CLEVELAND, May 21.—Approximately 600 general chairmen of the four big brotherhoods and the Switchmen's Union of North America will attend a joint conference in Chicago, Friday, July 1, to consider and pass upon the wage award made by the United States Railroad Board, which becomes effective on that date.

This action was decided upon to-day after a two days' conference of the railroad brotherhood chiefs here, at which was considered the Labor Board's announcement made last Tuesday of its intention of revising downward the wages of more than one million unskilled rail workers.

The board's announcement said the amount of the decrease, effective July 1, will be made public June 1. At the same time the board announced that it would hold hearings June 6 regarding proposals by the railroads to decrease the wages of "other classes of employees" and would also make its decision in these cases effective on the same date.

Union Chiefs Sign Call

The call for the joint conference was signed by Warren S. Stone, grand chief engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers; L. E. Shepard, president of the Order of Railway Conductors; W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen; and T. C. Cashen, newly elected president of the Switchmen's Union of North America.

The call for the joint conference is in part as follows:

It has been decided to convene all general chairmen of the four big railroad brotherhoods and the Switchmen's Union of North America in Chicago, Friday, July 1 next, to consider and pass upon the award made by the United States Railroad Labor Board.

This is authority for general chairmen to immediately make request upon their respective managements for transportation to Chicago and return, in order to attend this meeting.

Labor Board's Order Quoted

"For the information of all concerned, this meeting has been called as a result of a resolution adopted by the United States Railroad Labor Board, as reported in the public press, and which in part follows:

"1. That this board will on June 1, 1921, announce its decision covering the disputes as to wages between carriers and their employees who have been heretofore heard by the board, to become effective July 1, 1921.

"2. That Monday, June 6, 1921, be set as the date when this board will hear the representatives of the parties to disputes filed since April 15, 1921, or which may yet be filed and docketed prior to June 6, it being the purpose of the railroad labor board to make its decision of the dispute heard June 6, 1921, effective July 1, 1921."

44-Hr. Week Fight Spreads Printers Waging Contest in Many Big Cities

CHICAGO, May 21.—The forty-four-hour week in the printing industry is now an issue in nearly every city of more than 100,000 population, except New York, Chicago and Indianapolis, according to Harry Cantrell, secretary

of the Franklin (closed shop) division of the Franklin Typotheta of Chicago. The issue will be revived in Chicago, however, Mr. Cantrell said, by November 5, when all contracts now in effect between unions and employers in the printing industry will be terminated. "On November 5 the boards will be swept clean," Mr. Cantrell said. "Not a single agreement of any kind, whether pertaining to shop practice, wages or hours of work, will then be effective. The whole scheme of relations between employer and employee will have to be readjusted at that time."

British Mine Owners Offer New Settlement

Expected to Place Proposals Before Striking Coal Men Next Week

LONDON, May 21.—British mine owners are reported to have brought forward a new plan which may result in a settlement of the miners' strike, which this morning entered upon its fifty-first day. It is believed it will be impossible to bring these reported proposals before the miners before next week. The details of the new plan have not been divulged, but it is declared there is reason to believe that they will suggest that wages should be governed by the cost of living.

George Roberts, Laborite member of Parliament and former Food Controller, speaking Thursday night, said the strike had been prolonged because of the "cowardice of the miners' leaders in not telling the men the truth." The men, he said, would return to work within a fortnight "with conditions they could have had long ago simply by going into conference." Imported coal is being landed at Folkestone, Leith, Middlesboro and Portland. Four million tons of idle shipping is lying in British ports.

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