

DEFIES THE SUBWAY STRIKERS

IF THEY DON'T GET TO WORK, DEGNON WILL FIND OTHERS.

Not a Cent More Than the High Wages Now Paid. Not an Hour of Work Less. Threat of Laborers Anxious for Such Jobs—C. F. U. Ready to Arbitrate.

A committee of the Central Federated Union went to work on its former attitude toward the demands of the Italian laborers on the subway and agreed yesterday to arbitration of their strike. The sub-contractors' association consented to arbitrate. This was at a conference between committees of the union and the association.

Michael J. Degnon, president of the Degnon-McLean Company, the most important contractor on the subway, made this declaration:

"I pay these Italians \$1.87 1/2 for ten hours work a day and \$1.50 for eight hours work, which is the highest price paid anywhere to men who are mere laborers, nothing more. I will not give them one penny more under any circumstances and I will not reduce the working conditions. I am not a member of the contractors' association and I was not invited to be, nor am I present at to-day's conference. I do not know what was done, and I do not care what was done. I have stated my views on this matter and where I stand, and I rest there.

"I will wait a reasonable length of time, several days if necessary, for these men to come back to work. They will have every opportunity to take their old places. If they do not return I shall fill their places with other men. I can do very easily. I believe I could do it right here in the city of New York among Italian laborers who are not members of the union if I needed to. In addition to these men, of whom there are plenty in New York, I have in Maryland, 4,000 negroes, any number of whom we can bring here to New York. They are competent men who have worked for us and worked well for a long time.

"If necessary I will bring these men to New York, secure the best quarters for them on the New York side of the city and put them in the places of these Italians. I think they will be able to take good care of themselves if they have to. I have a number of negroes from Maryland, just the same kind of men as those I speak of, and they have remained in the city for the efforts of the Italians to get them out."

Mr. Degnon was asked what his time limit was and he said it was a week. He would like to come back within a week or take the consequences.

The Degnon-McLean Company is building the subway from the Battery to the City Hall including the Post Office loop, and thence to Great Jones street. It is also constructing the section from the second street to the seventh street. It was formerly a member of the Contractors' Association and was a party to the agreement to submit all matters to arbitration. The reasons for its withdrawal have never been made public. The company employs 2,000 out of the 4,000 Italians who are on strike.

McMillen & McLean the sub-contractors for the section including the tunnel under the Harlem River are also out of the contractors' association and are not bound by the agreement to arbitrate.

It is obvious that if contractors representing more than ten per cent of the employable labor on the subway, do not submit to the decision of the arbitrating board, the settlement of the strike will be as far off as ever. However, the contractor John B. McDonald and his associates seemed confident yesterday afternoon that everything would soon be settled.

Early yesterday morning the committee of the Central Federated Union sent word to Mr. McDonald that they had decided to talk to him in the matter of the strike. It was coming to talk over the strike and asked that a committee of the Contractors' Association be appointed to meet with a committee consisting of John B. McDonald, John C. Rodgers, E. J. Farrell, John Shields, George W. McNulty, John Hopper and Arthur Brockway got together.

Two members of the Rockmen's and Excavators' Union, who looked as though they did not know the difference between arbitration and a strike, accompanied the Central Federated Union committee to the Park Row Building and were present at the conference. Mr. McDonald acted as spokesman for the contractors and Herman Robinson, who organized the Italian union, did most of the talking for the strikers. The result of the meeting was that the strikers did not understand English at all.

Mr. McDonald declared emphatically that the contractors could not agree to arbitration until the Central Federated Union had informed a strike while this agreement was being made. He said, to express his opinion for what it had done and to get back under the protection of the agreement at once.

There was a good deal of argument, but the sub-contractors stood firm behind Mr. McDonald and the contractors behind Mr. Robinson. It would up by agreeing to wipe out the action of last week when the Central Federated Union unreservedly intimated they were ready to have arbitrators settle the entire controversy.

For arbitrators, Messrs. Farrell, McNulty and Hobbrow were named for the contractors and for the Central Federated Union, Messrs. Pallas, McConville and Archibald. Mr. McDonald later issued this statement:

"The proposition is that the men return to work on the subway pending arbitration by the two committees, as provided for under the agreement of June 4, 1921, and that an immediate application be made to the Central Federated Union to take the Excavators' and Rockmen's, and Team Drivers' unions into the regular strike, and the same the present application of the Cable Splicers' Union."

Herman Robinson, the Italians' organizer, was asked if the Italians would return to work at once. He said:

"They are not parties to the agreement between the Central Federated Union and the Contractors' Association at present. Therefore they are not bound by that agreement. They are members of the Central Federated Union and will have an opportunity to come into the agreement. This can only be done by vote among the executive committees of the eleven branches of the union. While this voting is going on—and it will take forty-eight hours at least—the men will not go to work. You can be sure there will be no work done by the strikers for two days at least."

The prospect for a speedy resumption of work all along the subway, therefore, can hardly be called good.

No disturbances were reported yesterday. The police were vigilant and in each station an extra force of reserves was kept ready to go out instantly in case of an outbreak. Commissioner Green said he had taken every precaution to believe that a riot of any consequence was possible. No negroes were put to work.

At a number of points iron workers and riveters were working on something to do. These men complain bitterly about the strike. They can do nothing as long as the Italian strike is on.

WATCHING THE "COXEY ARMY."

New Haven Railroad Officials on the Lookout for Striking Trainers.

NEW HAVEN, May 5.—There is still hovering along the line of the New Haven railroad in this part of the State a remnant of the "Coxey Army" of striking track laborers who were put to flight yesterday by the tip that deputy sheriffs and policemen were waiting in this city to arrest them. President Hall of the railroad, whose scouts were out at night watching for the return of the marchers, reported to him that some of them crept into town after midnight and found safety in the Italian settlement here. Today and tonight the police force were sent on duty, with instructions to bring in all the marchers they could find skulking around the railroad property in this city.

The Italians employed by the road in this city as track repairers since the laborers went out recently are camped every where in the city, guarded by cars, and the fear of the officials of the road that the marchers will lay siege to this track laborers' camp or make a sortie on it and capture both cars and inmates. The guard has been doubled within twenty-four hours.

Stamford, Conn., May 5.—The track work here on the New Haven railroad, interrupted by the march of the little "Coxey Army" of strikers from the Harlem River, is being pushed forward. The section men employed by Foreman Mahon and those in Foreman Haggerty's floating gang have not returned to work.

WILL APPEAL TO CORTELYOU.

Tugboat Men to Find Out if Their Striking Engineers Have Lost Their Licenses.

It was reported to a special meeting of the Association for the Protection of the Commerce of the Port of New York (the tugboat owners), held yesterday at the Produce Exchange, that, so far, 150 tugs were in commission, most of them with non-union engineers. Chairman F. B. Dalzell said after the meeting:

"Not a steamship has been delayed in docking owing to the strike. We have had no trouble in getting the tugboats. Cortelyou, Secretary of Commerce, to start an investigation of the strike of the marine engineers, to find out if they have forfeited their licenses under the Federal regulations by refusing to give the service required of them."

A general meeting of the Marine Engineers' Association was held last night in Webster Hall in Eleventh street near Third avenue at which the tie-up of the tugboats was discussed. The meeting was held in the afternoon. After the meeting President Bernier said that no new arbitration proposal had been received from the independent association and would not arbitrate with them, said he.

"But you agreed to arbitrate with the railroad companies," he was reminded.

"That's a different matter," said Bernier. "We're going to win against the independent tugboat owners."

UNION'S ARBITRARY DEMAND.

That Electric Co. Either Compel Employee to Join Union or Discharge Him.

Schenectady, May 5.—Fred Gilmore, a senior electrician with the International Electric Workers, refused to join the local union of the International Association of Allied Metal Mechanics of America and the local union made a demand upon the officials of the General Electric Company either to compel Gilmore to join the union or to discharge him. The officials declined to do either.

Now President Mulholland of the International Association is here and he has refused to take any part in the matter. The General Manager Emmos of the General Electric Company positively refused to take any action in the matter. He would compel any of his employees to join a union or to discharge a man because he was not a member.

He said that the company could not and would not discriminate against either union or non-union help. President Mulholland says that the local union has no grievance against the General Electric Company. The Gilmore matter, he would add, referred to the international executive board.

KOHLASAT WAITERS STRIKE.

400 Go Out of His Chicago Restaurants Because Negroes Were Discharged.

CHICAGO, May 5.—Waiters employed in eight restaurants of H. H. Kohlasat & Co. struck today to the number of 400, and the famine of napkins and table cloths, which the strike of laundresses has brought upon restaurant patrons, has become a serious matter. The cause of the strike was the hiring of forty-three union and non-union waitresses to fill the places of as many colored waiters who were discharged at one of the Kohlasat restaurants.

IRON WORKERS BOSS IN TOWN.

Engineering a Strike Against the Fuller Co. Despite Agreement.

Frank Buchanan, president of the Structural Iron Workers' Union, came to town yesterday and registered at the Ashland House. He said he was here on account of a strike of iron workers in Philadelphia against the George A. Fuller Company, and New York workers are ready to lead. The strike violates a peace agreement the company had with the union.

Three Strike Pickets Sent to Jail.

CHICAGO, May 5.—Three men acting as pickets in front of the plant of the Peoples Gas Light & Coke Company, have been sent to jail. Judge Holdom scored the striking employees of the Peoples Gas Light & Coke Company, who had violated an injunction against picketing the plants of that company and the building of F. G. Hart wall. The three men sent to jail are Daniel Thompson, fourteen days in jail, William J. Sloan, ten days in jail, Arthur Albino, seven days in jail.

Painters' Strike in Orange Ends.

ORANGE, N. J., May 5.—The big strike of painters and decorators, which started in the Oranges about five weeks ago, will be formally declared off to-morrow. The men returned to work this morning. The minimum wage will be \$2.50 per day. The men struck for an increase from \$2.50 to \$3 a day. The masons and laborers are still out, and Orange bosses will not grant the men struck for an increase until the Newark bosses give in.

Strikers Replaced in Navy Yard.

At the navy yard yesterday eleven men were put to work by Naval Constructor W. L. Capps in place of the strikers who had been doing the machinery of the battleship Connecticut, under the system of pay for the amount of work done, adopted by the Department. The contractor Capps said last night that the work was going on smoothly, and that more men would be put to work each day until the full number required had been obtained.

ITALIANS TAKE MOUNT VERNON

POLICE UNABLE TO COPE WITH FURIOUS STRIKERS.

Compel Negroes Who Took Their Places to Join Union in Terror of Death—Drive Others From Work—Are Camping in Woods—More Trouble Feared Today.

MOUNT VERNON, N. Y., May 5.—A mob of 250 striking Italians who were employed by the T. E. Crimmins, the New York contractor, in relaying the tracks of the Union trolley road, marched through the streets of Mount Vernon and Pelham to-day, armed with clubs and pickaxes, and compelled nearly all of the other Italians employed in those places to quit work.

The strikers completely overpowered the local police and this afternoon Chief Foley had to call out the reserves. They were sent to the home of William Archer, the New York contractor, who owns a mansion at Corcoran Manor in one of the finest sections of Mount Vernon, to protect a gang of men who were grading his grounds.

When the police arrived in Corcoran Manor they found about 150 Italians gathered in front of the Archer residence. The foreman for Mr. Archer said that the strikers had threatened to kill him and his entire gang if they did not join the strike.

Chief Foley, with his revolver drawn, rushed into the mob, followed by Sergeant Reilly and Detective Walters and arrested the strike leader. He gave his name as Louis Domarti. He fought the police desperately and after they threw him down three of them had to sit on him while he was being handcuffed. Two charges have been made against him, inciting a riot and resisting arrest.

The residents of the fashionable town in terror, and many of the fashionable women locked their doors and fled upstairs. The strike leader was loaded in a patrol wagon and taken to the station house, after which seven policemen charged on the mob with their revolvers and night sticks and drove the strikers across the line into Pelham, where they are now camped in the woods.

More rioting is feared for to-morrow when a carload of negroes here to take the place of the strikers. Even so, the word is that a deputy in the city has been notified to be ready to report at the station house at 7 A. M.

The rioting of this morning began when the strikers visited First street, where the tracks are being relaid, and found that a gang of about fifty Southern boys had taken possession of the street. They were armed with pickaxes and shovels. Later nearly all the negroes were marched to the headquarters of the strikers, where they were kept until they had taken an oath of loyalty. The police were so far outnumbered that they were powerless.

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WANTS "PROTESTANT" KEPT IN.

Bishop Whitaker Opposes the Plan to Call the Episcopal Church Catholic.

PHILADELPHIA, May 5.—The Right Rev. O. W. Whitaker, Bishop of the Episcopal Church of the Eastern Diocese of Pennsylvania, in his annual address at the annual convention of the diocese in St. Luke's Epiphany Church, spoke emphatically against the proposition to substitute the word Catholic for Protestant in the name of the church.

He is in favor of changing the name of this church at this time," he said. "I am sure that for every one person who has remained out of the Protestant Episcopal Church because of its name, a hundred would be lost to it as the direct consequence of dropping that name and substituting any other in its place. The word Protestant still matters to her what we call ourselves. The only thing she seeks from us is submission to her authority. To many in the reformed churches, not in communion with us it would give sorrow of heart, because it would be regarded by them as an abandonment of the distinction which has been seen historically and it would be considered as emphasizing whatever causes of division there may be between them and us. I am sure that the word Protestant is still in our minds and it has been proposed to substitute for it."

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THE OLD RELIABLE

ROYAL BAKING POWDER Absolutely Pure THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE

TALK OF A BUILDING LOCK-OUT BY CONTRACTORS MADE DESPERATE BY WARRING CARPENTERS.

Some of Them Say It Seems to Be the Only Way to Bring the Rival Unions to Terms—It Would Throw 75,000 Men Idle and Tie Up Millions of Capital.

The extension of the strike of the Brotherhood of Carpenters against the Amalgamated Carpenters' Society and the apparent impossibility of a settlement of the feud between the two unions, has utterly demoralized the building trade in this city.

There has been talk of a general lock-out of building contractors until the two warring unions come to terms, but nothing definite has been done so far. Theodore Starratt of the Thompson-Starratt Construction Company, one of the two firms of general contractors specially singled out by the Brotherhood of Carpenters for attack, said yesterday to a SUN reporter:

"While there are a great many building contractors on which the carpenter work is not begun, there are many others in which the new strikes stopped all work to-day. After the carpenters work is done there come the steamfitters, painters, paper hangers, kalsominers, glaziers and many other trades, and these are thrown idle when the carpenters strike. The situation is serious and the expediency of a general shut-down of work on all buildings until the two unions settle their differences, has been discussed. So far, competition in business has prevented union action, but matters are in a chaotic state and the question of a shut-down is still under consideration."

Mr. Starratt said that if the contractors could wait long enough the logical end of the trouble would be that the Amalgamated Society would absorb enough tired strikers from among the Brotherhood to man all contracts, but this might spoil the entire building season.

A general shut-down in the building trades would throw idle about 75,000 men and cost many millions of capital. It would mean millions lost in wages to the men, which they would never make up, as the shut-down would cut the building season short.

Another concern which the carpenters have especially singled out in the fight is the George A. Fuller Company, which has the contract for the new terminal building at the Grand Central Station. Ex-Judge McConnell said yesterday that so far the company was getting enough men to get along with. He declined to talk about the prospect of a lock-out.

One or two new buildings on which work was not yet begun are being delayed, as the contractors are afraid to make a start until the carpenters' strike is ended. One of these buildings is the new Hotel Brunswick.