

BIG R. R. STRIKE SET FOR SUNDAY

10,000 Firemen Ready to Tie Up Fifty-four Eastern Lines.

STRIKEBREAKERS HIRED

Will Try to Keep Cars Going on 50,000 Miles Affected

LAST CONFERENCE TO-DAY

Union Will Meet Mediators, but Says There Is No Chance of Settlement.

President Carter of the Brotherhood of Firemen and Engineers said last night that the strike of firemen on fifty-four Eastern railroads will be officially declared to-morrow evening.

All members of the brotherhood, about 35,000, will be ordered, he said, to quit work at midnight on Sunday night.

These railroads comprise 50,000 miles of track, serve approximately 10,000,000 people, employ 35,000 firemen and have on their payrolls 650,000 persons in all capacities.

Strike Breakers Ready.

The managers of the roads, acting in all matters in concert, have announced that men have been hired to take the place of strikers and that they will put forth every effort to prevent a tie-up of the lines. These men are understood to have been recruited in the last two months since it became apparent that the situation was acute and that a strike was more than a possibility.

The decision to strike was reached last night after a conference at the Broadway Central Hotel between President Carter and the brotherhood's general adjustment committee of fifty-four men from the Engineering Societies Building on Tuesday.

President Carter in the meantime had been in touch with all the local divisions of the firemen on the Eastern railroads and for some time they have been in readiness for his issuance of the strike call.

When the committee of the firemen headed by Carter went to meet the conference committee of the railroads on Tuesday it was felt by them that the conference was to be a mere perfunctory form, and President Carter and his committee had no idea that a settlement would be reached.

The customary forty-eight hours notice will bring the time for the strike on to-morrow Sunday, when simultaneous action is taken by firemen and strikebreakers who are in the firemen's brotherhood will leave their jobs.

The men who will desert their jobs will include 10,000 firemen-engineers, who remained in the brotherhood after they were promoted to be engineers. These firemen-engineers came under the agreement by which the strike was called for by the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and was averted and participated in the concessions made to this brotherhood by the railroads, but under the rules of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers they are obliged to strike with the rest and they took part in the balloting of the union.

Union Has \$250,000.

It was said yesterday by a high authority in the brotherhood that it has approximately \$250,000 in the treasury to be used to levy assessments on the members of the firemen's organization in the South and West. According to leading members of the union the organization is never better equipped for the coming strike, the greatest struggle by far in the kind that has ever taken place in the railroad industry in this country.

It was said that the officers of the union are attempting by this strike at the present stage of the fight to show the public that they had gone to the limit in making concessions and that no concessions were expected from the railroads.

The leaders say that when the strike comes to work the firemen will demonstrate their strength and awaken in the public mind a realization of the justice of their demands.

The strike will indirectly affect about 10,000 railroad employees.

Both Sides Approve Calmly.

It is admitted on both sides that the strike, if it comes, will be calamitous. The strike lasts a week. As New York is the center of supplies for a large territory, a continuance of a strike would bring about famine conditions. At none of these conferences was the gravity of the situation underestimated.

It is not considered likely that the members of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers will refuse to work with non-union firemen. They are under an agreement of their own.

The strike on the fifty-four railroads, if it actually takes place, will so far as is known be the first railroad strike in which before the strike the dispute had narrowed down to the question of the form of arbitration to be adopted after both sides had agreed to arbitration.

The railroad objected to arbitration under the Krieger act because it left the power of determining the award in the hands of one man.

President Carter and his committee

COLDEST NIGHT THIS WINTER

Down to 12 Degrees with a Prospect of Going Lower.

The official mercury, shielded from blasts, dropped last night to 12 degrees, the lowest it has recorded since the beginning of the modest winter. Last year about this date it shiveringly descended to 1 degree.

To travelers bound north and west the cold seemed bitter than it really was because there was a wind varying in force from twenty-four to forty-eight miles from the frigid heart of winter in the Northwest.

The lowest temperature in the country was 4 below zero at Duluth, Minn., Northfield, Vt., ran second with 2 below. The local prospects felt pretty sure last night that the mercury would get down to 10, and maybe a few degrees below that.

For the first time this winter the weather drove the homeless and the destitute from the parks and streets in such numbers to the Municipal Looking House that the place became overcrowded and the superintendent sent about 300 to the Department of Charities docks.

By 11 o'clock 700 men and about fifty women and children had been taken in at the lodging house, bathed, furnished with hot coffee and put to bed.

Those who went to the docks of the Department of Charities found that the steam heat had been kept up, but had to spend the night on chairs or benches, as there are no beds there. They were told that in the morning they would be taken to the lodging house for breakfast.

CRAZED ELEPHANT LEAVES RUIN BEHIND

Smashes Stores and Brewery in Watertown and Breaks Into Armory.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., Feb. 12.—Crazed by the cold, frightened after slipping upon the ice, Ella, performing elephant of the Robinson-Spellman indoor circus, ran wild through the streets here late this afternoon, smashing into business places, causing two runaways, almost trampling women and children and leaving a trail of wreckage behind her coils.

Eventually the huge animal smashed through the doors to the State armory, waded through the benches which had been erected for a wrestling match and rammed into a glass partition that sheltered the guns and accoutrements of Company C.

Two thousand men, led by five employees of the circus, armed with spilled poles, followed the animal through the streets. Firemen and policemen joined in the chase, though keeping at a safe distance. To add to the confusion some one turned in a fire alarm.

In company with four others the elephant had been led blanketed and hooked to the train for loading. The top appearing in New York next week. The mercury stood at zero here to-day and the animals appeared ill as they picked their way over the icy streets.

Just at the car Ella slipped and fell. In a flash the entire herd, trumpeting, dashed in every direction, the onlookers running for their lives.

Ella, after a brewery, into which she went head first, taking the door with her, and then proceeded to scatter the case goods. The employees and office force ran out and through four feet of snowdrifts to safety.

From the brewery company's place the animal tore through the streets, causing two bad runaways, and then almost trampled down Mrs. Peter Freeman and daughter. The women fainted from fright.

A plate glass window next fell before the animal, who then bucked the huge doors of the armory. Outside a thousand persons listened to the animal wreck the place.

Eventually John Robinson, owner of the elephant, quieted the crazed beast. A huge rope tied about the runaway and Ella was dragged to the cars.

DOCTOR MAKES CALL AT SEA.

Liner Minnewaska Stops to Aid Sailor or Preacher.

The steamship Minnewaska, biggest and swiftest of the Atlantic Transport fleet, yesterday from London and Southampton, was halted in midocean on Sunday by the little British freight steamer Mora, hence for Hamburg, which signalled that she needed medical assistance.

The sea was rough, but Capt. Gates of the Minnewaska decided not to pass up an ambulance call from a doctorless freighter flying the flag of his own country.

So the emergency boat of the big liner was lowered with Surgeon Patterson aboard. He climbed up the swaying sea ladder of the Mora and found a man suffering from epilepsy. The patient revived under treatment by the surgeon, who left medicine and advice with the Mora's skipper and then returned to the Minnewaska.

Among those who saw the unusual incident of the steamship lane was Beatrice Harraden, novelist, known chiefly as the author of "Ships That Pass in the Night." The Mora passed in the day.

Miss Harraden is a militant suffragist and an advocate of trade unionism. She said that she regarded Thomas Hardy as the master novelist of the day.

BOY KILLED BY AN AUTO.

Run Over Crossing Vanderbilt Avenue, Near Atlantic, Brooklyn.

Joseph Bell, 6 years old, of 878 Atlantic avenue, Brooklyn, was run over and instantly killed last night by an automobile driven by George C. Fisher, a textile manufacturer living at 326 Clinton street. Fisher was arrested, charged with homicide, but was later released on bail.

The boy was crossing Vanderbilt avenue near Atlantic when he darted in front of Fisher's car.

MYSTERY IN SCOTT'S SHORTAGE OF FUEL

Survivors of Expedition Refuse to Discuss Question After a Consultation.

FEAR OF "MORBID TASTES"

One of Explorers Hints of Details Which Might Hurt People's Feelings.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LENON, Feb. 13.—Immediately upon the arrival of Capt. Scott's Antarctic ship, the Terra Nova, at Lyttelton Harbor, the port of Christchurch, N. Z., this morning (Thursday), a new mystery in connection with the expedition has arisen—that of the fuel shortage of Capt. Scott's party. This the explorer in his last message said was a contributory cause of the failure of the party to get back to safety and for which he could not account.

The Christchurch correspondent of the Daily Chronicle cables an account of his futile attempt to get information on this point from the survivors. He had been chatting with Lieut. Evans and other officers in the wardroom of the Terra Nova. All had been fairly communicative until he introduced the question of fuel, and Capt. Scott's statement in regard to the "astonishing failure" of Petty Officer Edgar Evans, who was regarded as the strongest man of the party, but who died of concussion of the brain a month before the others perished. Then, according to the correspondent, all the officers became suddenly reticent.

The part of Capt. Scott's message in which he referred to lack of fuel was as follows: "I do not think human beings ever came through such months as we have come through and we should have got through in spite of the weather but for the sickening of our maps and the shortage of fuel in our depots. For which I cannot account, and finally, but for the storm which fell on us within eleven miles of the depot at which we hoped to secure fuel supplies. Surely misfortune could scarcely have exceeded this last blow. We arrived within eleven miles of our old One Ton Camp with fuel for one hot meal food for two days."

Lieut. Evans said the fuel shortage was hardly of sufficient importance for a newspaper to deal with and added: "I think you had better not touch upon it as a contributory cause to the failure of the party to get back to One Ton Depot. Lieut. Evans admitted that this was true and repeated his previous statement that the Scott party had fuel enough for a month beyond the time in which they were expected to return.

"Then the suggestion," said the correspondent, "that they ought to have been independent of the supplies at the depots."

"Yes, that is so," said Lieut. Evans, adding that of the four parties who returned after the expedition, only one party had fuel for a base with more than one day's fuel.

The correspondent asked: "Then what shortage did Capt. Scott refer to?"

Lieut. Evans replied: "I do not want to discuss that point further." He repeated his opinion that it was not necessary to deal with this subject at present.

The correspondent was about to question Surgeon Atkinson, who led the party that discovered the bodies of Capt. Scott and the others, under a provision made by Lieut. Evans that he would check the conversation if he thought the questions undesirable, when Lieut. Pennell, who was attached to the meteorological end of the expedition, broke in and expressed the opinion that "it was highly undesirable to enter into details, some of which might hurt people's feelings, and it would be merely pandering to the morbid tastes of a section of the public to publish things which had better not be published."

Lieut. Evans agreed with this and Surgeon Atkinson, consequently said nothing. The correspondent asked: "The impression I received from the conversation is that explanations will be made, but I am not yet in a position to say that the shortage was caused by anybody's carelessness, although that seems to be implied by Capt. Scott's words."

The correspondent concludes: "Great surprise is expressed here at Capt. Scott's references to Seaman Evans. He accompanied Capt. Scott on his first attempt to reach the pole a decade ago. The leader then praised him highly. There was no word of commendation on this occasion."

The wife of Edgar Evans, who although a sub-officer in the navy, enlisted as a seaman in the Antarctic expedition, received a letter from Capt. Scott since the expedition started in which he gave hearty praise to her husband, to whom he referred as "My old friend who has done so well on this expedition that he deserves all I can do for him."

Lieut. Evans in his talk with the correspondents at Christchurch made some brief references to the experiences and isolation of the party under Lieut. Campbell, who had charge of the eastern end of the expedition which was landed at Cape Adare by the Terra Nova and which had to remain all winter in an igloo in a snowdrift. These remarks of Lieut. Evans seem to indicate that the Campbell party narrowly escaped the fate which befell Capt. Scott and his four comrades. He said it is impossible for the public to conceive the hardships which the Campbell party endured.

Lieut. Evans also said that Capt. Scott and his comrades covered 1,842 miles in their journey to the pole and back.

The officers say the bodies of Scott, Wilson and Powers could not have been brought home, but all agreed that it would be more fit to leave them where they had worked and died. The motor sledges proved a failure and frequently broke down. When the last one collapsed everybody was pleased.

The diaries of all the members

Continued on Fourth Page.

REVENGE ON SUFFRAGETTES

Crowd Which Had Letters Destroyed Turns on the Women.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LENON, Feb. 12.—Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the militant suffragette leader, and some other women were mobbed at Lyttelton when they arrived there for a meeting to-night by a crowd whose mail had been damaged by the suffragettes when they poured acids and paint into the post boxes. The suffragettes were only saved from rough treatment by the opportune arrival of the police.

Hostilities were resumed after the meeting and a window in Mrs. Pankhurst's automobile was smashed. The women were roughly handled by the crowd, who fought the police in their endeavor to get revenge for damage to their mail.

Fire to-day destroyed the refreshment pavilion in Regent's Park and the police express the belief that the blaze was the work of militant suffragettes. "Votes for Women" was found scratched on a nearby path and baskets smelling of petrol were found in the shrubbery close at hand.

FIRE AT VANDERBILT HOME.

Smudge Under the Floor Put Out With Glasses of Water.

Fire originating in electric wiring was discovered under the floor in a reception room of the home of William K. Vanderbilt, 666 Fifth avenue, at Fifty-second street, early last evening.

James La Rive, a butler, traced an odor of smoke to a crack under a rug. He notified other servants and ran to send a fire alarm.

By the time he got back the servants had put out the blaze with tumblerfuls of water. The damage was trifling.

ALPINE ZONE OF SILENCE.

Remarkable Discovery of Phenomenon on the Jungfrau.

Special Cable Dispatch to The Sun.

LENON, Feb. 13.—The Geneva correspondent of the Daily Chronicle ascribes as follows: "I do not think human beings ever came through such months as we have come through and we should have got through in spite of the weather but for the sickening of our maps and the shortage of fuel in our depots. For which I cannot account, and finally, but for the storm which fell on us within eleven miles of the depot at which we hoped to secure fuel supplies. Surely misfortune could scarcely have exceeded this last blow. We arrived within eleven miles of our old One Ton Camp with fuel for one hot meal food for two days."

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MADERO HEMS DIAZ IN ARSENAL; FOREIGNERS RUSH TO EMBASSIES

TAFT FACES CRISIS OVER INTERVENTION

Each Hour Brings Nearer the Necessity of Reaching a Decision.

HOPES TO AVOID INVASION

Administration Believes Only Other Solution Is Quick End of War.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Another day of deep anxiety to Government officials has come to a close without bringing the earnestly hoped for relief in the Mexican situation.

Despatches to the State Department from Mexico city show that another period of hard fighting has passed without a decisive victory for either side. Each hour that this state of affairs continues brings nearer to the President and his advisers the necessity of making a decision as to whether or not the United States shall take up arms in Mexico.

There was talk here to-day of the possibility of President Taft conferring with Gov. Wilson in regard to the course to be followed. It was learned from an authoritative source, however, that Mr. Taft will shirk no phase of his duty in the present emergency. If it is necessary for him to act he will do so on his own responsibility as President, and regardless of the views of the incoming administration.

It is not secret to say that the Administration desires above all things that the struggle be brought to a speedy end by a fight to a finish. Such a result is regarded by the President and his advisers as the best for Mexico and as virtually the only hope for relief from the situation now confronting the United States Government.

Decisive Result Only Hope.

Only by one factor or the other gaining a decisive victory is there any hope of order and responsible rule rising out of the present chaos in the Mexican capital.

Continuation of the fighting of yesterday and to-day can have but one result, Washington believed to-night, and that is the complete demoralization of both sides and the utter lack of any dominant force to which this Government can look as the responsible authority in Mexico.

Such a condition is already practically at hand was demonstrated to-day by the admission of both President Madero and Gen. Diaz that foreigners must look out for themselves in Mexico during these frightful hours. Neither even claims to be in a position to afford any protection to life and property within the capital.

Despatches from Mexico city late to-day were interpreted as foreshadowing even worse things for the morrow. Since Sunday the Mexican capital has been cut off from its food supplies. The poorer classes are already feeling the effects of the scarcity of food, and a few hours more of present conditions threaten to bring them to desperation. Women of the lower classes were seen scraping up grain scattered on the pavement during the feeding of the cavalry horses.

Looting Already Begun.

Looting has already begun and the buildings which have been ripped open by the shell fire are reported as swarming with robbers. There remains only the opening of the saloons and cafes to give the Mexican capital into the hands of a frenzied people.

One of the most alarming developments, as viewed by United States officials, was the releasing to-day by the Diaz soldiers of 3,000 desperate prisoners from the city prison. The loosening of these creatures, if they are loosed, is feared here, will precipitate a clash between the foreigners and the natives with consequences of the most disastrous sort.

The American quarter is guarded by American citizens, volunteers who are heavily armed. The appearance of a mob bent on looting in that part of the city is regarded by the Administration as just the sort of occurrence which might easily prove to be the spark to start a general anti-foreigner conflagration.

A further complication to the situation is furnished by the double obligations imposed upon the United States Government. The Washington Administration must protect not only American citizens, but other foreigners as well. Recognition of this added responsibility of the United States was contained in the statement issued by President Taft at 2 o'clock this morning.

Powers Want Action.

This evening it was acknowledged that more than one representative of a foreign Government had called at the State Department and expressed deep interest in the progress of events in Mexico city. The significance of these calls, described by State Department officials as the "casual inquiries" of the foreign diplomats, is too clear to escape notice in Washington. They were on all sides interpreted as courteous reminders upon the part of other

DIAZ WILL NOT TAKE OFFICE.

General Tells World He is Fighting Only for Peace.

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Feb. 12.—The following telegram from Gen. Felix Diaz, timed noon to-day, was received by the editor of the Los Angeles Times:

"I take the liberty of thanking you for the opportunity given me by your representative, who entered my lines under cover of darkness, to thus address the world:

"I reiterate my previous statement that I shall accept no official position in Mexico. I regret the loss of twenty-two of my men and an unknown number of the enemy killed. I am seeking peace at this hour, 5 A. M., but at the same time I am preparing for the supreme struggle and am confident of success.

"I ask your moral support in the fight that I am making to bring peace and save the nationality of my country. I have invited your representative to witness a battle behind our guns, but he has elected to act as a neutral.

"FELIX DIAZ."

MOB RULE IN CHIHUAHUA.

Rioters Cheer Diaz and Cry "Death to Madero!"

EL PASO, Tex., Feb. 12.—Chihuahua, capital of the State of that name, is virtually in the hands of a mob. The first train over the Mexican Central Railroad from that place in over a week reached here this morning, bringing the news that cannot come by wire, because the rebels have cut all telegraph lines. On the train the Federal guard brought ten rebels, arrested trying to dynamite the track a few miles south of Juarez. One of the prisoners is an American.

Passengers on the train report that when they left Chihuahua on Tuesday the populace was rioting and blessing the Governor, and that the riots had continued since Monday night, when Chihuahua received the first news of the outbreak in Mexico city. The mob shouted "Death to Madero!" and "Viva Diaz!" and fired pistols and rifles indiscriminately in the air at the homes and business houses of Madero sympathizers. When Gov. Abram Gonzales attempted to talk to the mob he was hissed and hooted. He called the troops to quell the mob and they refused to fire even in the air.

A Chihuahua newspaper arriving on the same train with the passengers tells of a visit of Gen. Antonio Rabago, commander of the Federal troops in Chihuahua, to the camp of Gen. Marcelino Caraveo, a rebel leader, a few miles from Chihuahua and of a banquet served to the Federal General and staff by the rebel General. They all laughed and drank toasts and when the rebels called President Madero "a shrimp," the paper says, the Federal officers laughed heartily.

Officially Gen. Rabago reported that he had been to the rebel camp to discuss terms of surrender with Caraveo.

Gov. Gonzales is prepared for flight from the capital and has his State papers packed. He realizes that the army is only awaiting the outcome at Mexico city to decide which faction it will support. The officers declare they hope Diaz wins.

TELLS OF SUNDAY'S FIGHT.

American Reaches Laredo With Story of First Battle.

LAREDO, Tex., Feb. 12.—Stories of the fighting in Mexico city and conditions there are told by Americans who passed through here to-day from that capital. The trains were crowded with refugees, many of whom were witnesses of the first day's fighting.

Harry O. Karnes of Akron, Ohio, one of the passengers, was a spectator of the first day's engagement in front of the National Palace.

After it was over I managed to get into the Social, he said. "I did not stay long, nor did I get far into the Plaza.

"Many of the dead still lay there at noon. There were men, women and children. Comparatively few were in uniform. It was in the throes of onlookers that the fatalities were most numerous.

"It will be impossible to estimate the number of injured. Those who were fortunate enough to escape with slight wounds got away as quickly as possible. Of the more seriously hurt some suffered for hours before aid arrived.

"When we left the city of Mexico the Americans there were not in great numbers. A better word, I believe to use, would be perturbed, and that because of the doubtful outcome in a country pretty well ridden by revolt.

"It is difficult to forecast the result. Every person in the republic not seeking to profit by the revolution wants a stable, constituted Government, and especially all of the interests that give life to Mexico."

CLOSE WATCH ON BORDER.

Troops at El Paso Held in Camp With Field Railroads.

EL PASO, Feb. 12.—All railroads entering El Paso have been instructed to be ready to move troops here for mobilization. The troops now here are being held under orders to remain in camp and the men are all armed with 250 rounds of ammunition and carry three days' field rations.

The troops continue to maintain their strict patrol of the border for ammunition destined for the Mexican rebels. To-day they captured 14,000 rounds of cartridges at Presidio, Tex., near Ojinaga, Mexico.

The Mexican Federal and rebel troops have called an informal truce pending the events in Mexico city. In the event of a Diaz victory it is admitted that they will amalgamate. In the event of a Madero victory most of the border Federals are expected to remain loyal, whereupon the rebels will resume their attacks.

Heavy Fighting Follows Truce Called to Save Americans.

TWO U. S. WOMEN SLAIN

President Uses Armistice to Bring Up Guns and Renews Fire.

HEART OF CITY A RUIN

Finest Buildings in Line of Battle Wrecked by Artillery.

CAPITAL FACING FAMINE

Even Necessaries Cannot Be Bought; Looting Already Has Begun.

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 12.—After a second all day unsuccessful attempt to rout Gen. Diaz from the Ciudadela, President Madero took advantage of a truce enforced by the American Ambassador and the German Minister to move his forces closer around the arsenal and to place in position eight large cannons that he had just received from near the capital. The result of this action during the armistice was that at 5 P. M., when the fighting was resumed, Madero poured a storm of shot and shell upon Diaz's stronghold from four sides. When the fighting ceased at nightfall the Federal troops were in stronger positions than at any time since the revolt began.

During the three hour truce, which was demanded by the American and German representatives because of the death or injury of American and German citizens in to-day's fighting, the foreign residents deserted their homes and fled for protection to their embassies or to the suburbs at the north of the city