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The employer further stated to the board that they would not arbitrate their own demands, even if the continuing demands of the railroads were withdrawn, and also declined to suggest any other plan or method for a peaceful settlement of the controversy.

They were informed that their decision would be made known to the President Wilson and also that the President claimed the right to a personal interview with both parties before any action was taken.

Both sides expect painful results in their conference with the President. The roads fear they may be forced to surrender many of the propositions they used to effect the brotherhood agreement for an eight hour day and time and a half for overtime.

The stand of the brotherhoods was defined in this statement by Mr. Garrison: "The Board of Mediation and Conciliation came to us this morning with a statement that they had been precisely what the managers offered us the day we broke with them."

"In other words, after invoking Federal mediation, the picture which was had not in any way consented to be mediated, but expected all the mediating to be done by the side that had not involved such action."

"In answer to the proposition to arbitrate all pending differences, including the managers' tentative proposals, we replied: 'As our proposition for the eight hour day and the overtime over time has been in the hands of the managers for many months and no proposition has come from their direct or indirect agents which we could do anything to add to our demands as contained in Form 35.'"

"We refused to arbitrate on any such basis and shall consider ourselves at liberty to take such steps as we deem proper effecting a settlement of the pending controversy in accordance with the methods of these organizations—by withdrawing our men from the services of the roads."

"The mediators, then announcing they officially represented the President of the United States, requested in his behalf a conference with both parties before the final break should take place. They were notified later the four executives of the organizations accompanied by the mediators and managers would be in Washington to-morrow morning, subject to the request of the President for a conference."

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men will so cripple the roads that they will have to come to terms. The view of the managers is that public opinion—a sentiment that will grow out of the general inconvenience—will be the club that will make the men back to their work. It was with this confidence that the factions headed toward Washington last night with Secretary Tumulty.

WILSON TO BE NEUTRAL.

President Will Take No Stand on Merits of Dispute. WASHINGTON, Aug. 13.—When the railroad men arrive at the White House to-morrow President Wilson is prepared to make an insistent personal appeal to the strikers to return to their normal and peaceful settlement of their differences.

The President has taken no stand on the merits of the dispute and the general opinion is he will not when the conference takes place to-morrow. His plea is expected to dwell principally upon the grave responsibility which will be upon the shoulders of whichever faction is responsible for tying up the nation's traffic. The President is in close touch with the situation and has been advised by the strikers and the management.

Mr. Wilson made no official statement on the strike to-day, but it is considered that he will not when the conference takes place to-morrow. His plea is expected to dwell principally upon the grave responsibility which will be upon the shoulders of whichever faction is responsible for tying up the nation's traffic.

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WAR EVENTS OF DAY AS TOLD OFFICIALLY

Advance of 300 to 400 Yards in Face of Raking Fire of Germans. Left Bank of Meuse, Repulsed. ITALIANS PUSHING ON Carry Hill 121 and Debell—15,723 Austrian Prisoners Taken Since Aug. 6.

LONDON, Aug. 13.—The British troops near the Somme River pushed forward their lines to-day from 300 to 400 yards on a front of almost a mile, according to the official announcement of the War Office.

The gain was made northwest of Pozieres. Another action on the plateau north of Hazentin-le-Petit resulted in the capture of German trenches in the direction of Martinpuich.

The German artillery kept up a heavy barrage fire, it is remarked, but the British losses were exceptionally light in spite of it.

Any one who might think from reading the British official reports that the British offensive is over if he went out on the field would conclude, judging from the unceasing and enormous volume of the gun fire, that a terrific battle was still being fought.

The question this week, said a staff officer, was not how many more Germans than our own were killed, but how many more of our own were killed.

Advantage With British. It has been a week all to the taste of the Germans. They have had such an advantage of position over the British as they have never had before.

German Guns Retiring. British guns are screened behind the conquered slopes of Pozieres ridge, while from the crest the British are able to see all the way to Hapsaume.

Casualties Are Enormous. As some illustration of the power of artillery fire when the shells are ample and the guns numerous it is estimated that during this last week the Germans in the Somme battle area had 15,000 casualties from mortar fire and gun fire.

On the second floor the police came upon three men, who they say, were carrying more bolts of the material than they were allowed to carry.

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FURIOUS FIGHTING ON AT MAUREPAS

Germans Make Heroic and Costly Counter Attacks, but Fail to Hold. FRENCH TAKE THIRD LINE Hand to Hand Struggle Occurs as Teutons Yield Ground Only Inch by Inch.

PARIS, Aug. 13.—Terrific fighting in the village of Maurepas and southeast of it raged throughout last night and to-day. Late to-night the War Office announced that furious German counter attacks had resulted only in huge losses for the Teutons, and that the French had made further progress in the vicinity of the village.

The principal German counter attack was directed at the cemetery and church at Maurepas. It was stopped by machine gun fire.

Not far from the Somme the trenches which were taken yesterday were consolidated thoroughly. In the offensive carried out successfully yesterday evening the British troops advanced through three and in some cases four lines of German trenches.

Bombardment Was Terrible. "The capture of the third line of the German defence from Harleux to the Somme was preceded by a bombardment of such intensity that for a radius of twelve miles there was a tremor of the earth, shaken by an uninterrupted earthquake."

In the trenches the infantry was prepared for formidable artillery preparations. The correspondent adds, "waiting impatiently for the moment to rush to the front, the British troops were ordered for the entire front, the batteries suddenly ceased fire. The silence which succeeded was great, and lasted only a few minutes."

Armored Forts Encountered. "Numerous works and armored forts and fortifications were encountered in the French hands, from one end to the other in exactly one hour and twenty minutes."

Arrested in Monkey House. Enrico Vattetta of 2476 Arden Avenue, The Bronx, was arrested last evening in the monkey house in Bronx Park, accused of molesting several women. He was held in \$500 bail for examination to-day.

A bargain tide caught 'em! Rods, reels, lines and hooks—good but discontinued patterns. Together with a quantity of Sporting Goods. Such things as camping shirts, ponchos, hunting coats and canteens.

Marked down anywhere from 25% to 50% for quick clearance. Madagascars, Yeddo and linen helmets for golf and fishing. Several hundred—mostly \$3.00 formerly. \$1.00

ROGERS PEET COMPANY Broadway at 13th St. The Four Corners Broadway at Warren Fifth Ave. at 41st St.

Specialists in Footwear Since 1857 Andrew Alexander Sale of Summer Shoes August is the ebttide of our Summer selling season and finds us with many small lots of smart shoes too depleted in sizes to be retained. These are now marked at tempting reductions for quick disposal. All Departments at Both Stores Sixth Avenue at 19th Street 548 Fifth Avenue, at 45th St