STAGE SET FOR BIG STRIKE

Steelworkers Are Now Prepared for a Fight to Finish

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COMPANIES' PRESS TRYING TO BREAK STRIKE

ATTEMPT TO CAUSE SPLIT IN STRIKERS' RANKS FAILS

The general strike committee of the Metal Trades, at their meeting this morning, denounced as a falsehood, deliberately manufactured to cause dissension, statements made in the company press this morning to the effect that the striking craftsmen are considering returning to work.

During the last few days the stool-pigeons of the mining companies have attempted to secure names to petitions calling off the strike, but have met with dismal failure, not a single metal trades union having taken action in the matter.

The only matter that is being considered by the Metal Trades is the question of taking off all men working for the Montana Power company to bring added pressure to bear on the mine and smelter operators.

The Anaconda Metal Trades have declared their intention of fighting to a finish and have arranged for a mass meeting for tonight.

Local 200, Electrical Workers, of Anaconda, have declared the Montana Power unfair and this is expected to result in action by other electrical workers' locals in the state.

A federal mediator is being sent in by the department of labor, who will endeavor to adjust the dispute, but the exact date of his arrival is not known.

All organizations having strike funds are now receiving strike relief from headquarters and local relief is also being given from the strike fund of the general strike committee.

The strenuous efforts being made by the company press to stampede the strikers corroborates the evidence in the possession of the general strike committee proving that the machinery of the operating companies is in a deplorable state of disrepair.

For over a week it has been admitted in company circles that the operators must soon decide the question of closing down or settling with the metal trades unless the strikers can be stampeded.

It is said that instructions have been issued to the the company press and the small army of detectives and stool-pigeons to spare no expense or effort in this direction for the next week.

STRIKE IS CALLED FOR OCTOBER 1

(Special United Press Wire.)

San Francisco, Sept. 20.—Three of the largest shipbuilding companies in the bay district have refused to sign a new wage scale and working agreement. All of their men will be called out Oct. 1, according to a statement which the Pacific Coast Metal Trades council has issued.

FIRE RAGING IN REDWOOD FOREST

(Special United Press Wire.)

San Francisco, Sept. 20.—The Mill valley forest fire entered the famous Muir Redwood forest yesterday. It traveled two miles towards these woods in an hour and was being urged by a heavy wind.

The fire destroyed six or seven homes on the outskirts of Mill valley, but had not entered the town according to last reports. "The fire is serious," said Martin Kilcwe, fire agent for Mill valley, and we "cannot tell yet whether it will destroy a part of the famous forest or not."

FOREST DOOMED.

(Special United Press Wire.)

San Jose, Sept. 20. — The entire California Redwood park is threatened with destruction by forest fires. It can only be saved if a large number of firefighters are sent immediately, according to the appeal for help which was received here.

SITUATION IN FIUME GRAVE

D'Annunzio Reiterates the Statement That He Will Defend Fiume Until Death. People With Pact.

Rome, Sept. 20.—Calm and harmony in dealing with the situation which the poet, Gabriele d'Annunzio, has created in occupying Fiume, is urged by Premier Nitti. The moment is grave, he said, in speaking before the chamber of deputies to the poet's reply to the proclamation that every soldier refusing to leave Fiume, would be considered an enemy to Italy. "The infamous order was worthy of the Virile government," was d'Annunzio's reply and reiterated that he would defend Fiume until death.

The time limit fixed by General Badoglio, deputy chief of staff for the italian troops that entered Fiume with Capt. Gabriele d'Annunzio, to return to their commands expired last night. Latest advices from Fiume showed d'Annunzio still in control of the city. The food situation there is said to be serious.

The commander of the battleship Dante Aligheri tried to leave Fiume harbor, but the attempt was discovered; bells and sirens were sounded and the people rushed to the docks. D'Annunzio was among them and he harangued the sailors and thus pre-

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PRICE OF COAL MUST COME DOWN

Montana Trade Commission Threatens Drastic Action Against Profiteering Companies.

Helena, Sept. 20. — Unless coal producers of Montana restore at once the schedule of prices in effect Dec. 31, 1918, they will be called before the Montana trade commission, according to an order issued here. The entire situation will be fully investigated, the commission says, and drastic steps will be taken if necessary to reduce prices.

The commission has sent the following telegram to the principal coal mines of the state:

"The commission is informed that prices on all grades of coal f. o. b. at some mines has recently been advanced. Unless all coal companies agree to restore prices on all grades of coal to basis in effect Dec. 31, 1918, it will immediately call a hearing to determine the reasonableness of present prices. Answer by wire."

Some of the coal companies replied they were using the same price basis as of Dec. 31, 1918, and others acknowledged that advances had been made, which they claim were justified by reason of the advanced cost in supplies and materials.

WEATHER.

Fair and cooler.

FOOD STILL GOING UP

Retail Prices Soar, Regardless of Government's Efforts to Reduce Cost of Living.

(Special United Press Wire.)

Washington, Sept. 20.—Retail food prices in August were 1 per cent higher than in July, setting a new high record, the bureau of labor statistics reported. The bureau's report confirms the figures of the United Press a week ago. Today's estimate, however, conflicts with the department of justice's statement that figures of 12 states indicate a decline from 10 to 15 per cent in food prices. The increase in the August prices occurred during the height of the government's campaign to reduce living costs.

Simultaneously, all official records show, wholesale prices and the prices paid producers fell slightly.

Judge Ames, assistant to Attorney General Palmer, wrote Chairman Hauger of the house agricultural committee, urging immediate passage of the amendments to the Lever food control bill, providing jail sentences for the profiteers.

Acting for the attorney general, Ames took this action after the labor

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BELIEVE STODDEN WILL RELIEVE TRUSCOTT

Mayor Declines to Say That He Will Continue to Refuse Market Master's Resignation From Job.

Despite the fact that Mayor Stodden still refuses to comply with the requests of the housewives and the trades unions of the city and replace T. C. Truscott with some one else in the position of city market manager, the city market managed to continue operations today. Truscott put in appearance, although he had presented his resignation yesterday and with the exception of a few times when he is alleged by the ladies to have gone out of his way to slur the Consumers' league, there were no untoward incidents.

A number of pickets from the Consumers' league were on hand at the market all day, gathering evidence for presentation to the mayor to demonstrate what he undoubtedly already knows, that there are a number of the profiteering commission houses and wholesalers doing business in stalls that should be occupied by farmers.

One of the booths was reported this morning as bearing a sign which the women of the Consumers' league declared was misleading and calculated to give the buyers the impression that it was under the direction or endorsement of the league. Ac-

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COMPANIES PREPARE TO HOUSE AND FEED SCABS

Pittsburgh, Sept. 20.—All preparations are made for a finish fight between capital and labor in the steel industry throughout the United States. Organized labor leaders say the employers will receive the surprise of their lives Monday morning.

The steel companies, it is reported, have rented all the halls in Braddock and Homestead, in the hope of preventing the steel workers from meeting after they strike Monday. Union officials assert the men will insist upon their rights of assembly and will find places in which to meet.

The Allegheny and West Penn mills have suspended operations to enable the men to hold a meeting at which they are considering the action which they will take regarding the strike, in case the company endeavors to operate the mills with strikebreakers.

Prospects of trouble and clashes are beginning to grow as plans and preparations for the big steel strike progresses. With two companies of Pennsylvania's famous state police (better known as Cossacks)—hated by every union man in the country—ordered out, with 10,000 special deputies being sworn in by the steel corporation, the borough presidents in the steel towns about Pittsburgh announced that steps were being taken to prevent mass meetings being held by the steel workers Monday.

Steel companies in many cases are understood to have canvassed their men to get an idea of how many will strike. Union leaders said that from their experiences these canvasses usually prove to be inaccurate and pointed to past strikes where a majority of men in each plant signed not to strike and quit when the time came.

It was said tonight that in a number of plants some men have already quit and sought work in other places. It was expected by union leaders here that many men on the night shifts tonight will take their personal belongings out of the mills at quitting time as many of them do not work Saturday and Sunday nights.

National Leaders Making Plans.

All the national leaders of the unions involved in the strike have this city for their respective headquarters to make final plans for the strike and much of the activities about the offices of the steel workers' national committee had to do with the preparations in the Pittsburgh district.

While national headquarters are in this city in charge of William Z. Foster, secretary of the national committee, it was learned much of the work will be conducted by districts.

Mr. Foster, in answer to queries, said that all men in non-union mills have been asked to strike. None will be left to preserve company property. "The companies have had 12 days' notice of the strike," he said, "and if they have not arranged to look after their furnaces it is not our fault."

Executive Council to Meet.

It was given out here that an important meeting of the executive council of the American Federation of Labor and representatives of the unions in the strike will be held probably in Pittsburgh within two weeks. Questions of financing the

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WORKERS REFUSE TO HANDLE ARMS

(Special United Press Wire.)

Seattle, Sept. 20. — Munitions consigned to American forces in Russia will be loaded aboard ships, despite refusal of union longshoremen to handle them, if the government so orders, said Frank Waterhouse, local shipping man. Union men refused to handle cases which contained machine guns to be used against "workers'" government.

BOAT GOES DOWN IN STORM

Vessel, Believed to Be Spanish Steamer Valbanera, Reported Wrecked in Rebecca Shoals.

(Special United Press Wire.)

Key West, Fla., Sept. 20.—A wrecking crew and divers have left to examine the wreck of the sunken vessel, reported to have been the Spanish steamer Valbanera. It is believed the ship sank in the hurricane that swept Cuba 10 days ago. It has been missing since Sept. 9.

When she arrived off Havana, she put to sea again when it was learned of the danger to enter the harbor during the storm. Ensign Roberts, commanding the submarine chaser 203, stated upon his arrival here late yesterday, that he had plainly seen the nameplate of the Valbanera on the sunken ship in 40 feet of water. Nothing is known of the fate of the passengers and crew.

The divers will enter the ship and search for bodies. The passengers are believed to be entirely Spanish or Cuban. The Valbanera was bound from Spain for New Orleans via Havana.

New York, Sept. 20.—Representatives of the Valbanera's owners, received an official report of the ship's loss in a private cablegram, which read: "Valbanera sunk off Rebecca shoals. No trace of the ship's crew and passengers.

JOBBERS, WHOLESALERS AND RETAILERS ROBBING PEOPLE

Charges that profiteering does exist in Montana and that the consumers are being robbed by jobbers, wholesalers and some retailers, through the medium of excessive profits are made in the first official report of the Montana trade commission, which includes the commission's findings as the result of a superficial examination made in the last few months.

The commission finds that not alone in groceries, but in clothing, shoes and dry goods the people are being charged excessive profits. The profits, the commission finds, range from 34 per cent on some lines of groceries to 60 per cent on some lines of clothing.

While of the opinion, from a preliminary investigation, that the greater portion of the increased cost of living is due to the abnormal increased cost of the raw material, labor and manufacturing prices, the Montana trade commission, in a formal statement says: "The fact cannot be denied, however, that to a certain extent the local jobber, the wholesaler and the retailer, in demanding excessive margins of profit, are also responsible for the present condition." The commission finds the margins of gross profit range from 34 per cent on groceries to 67 per cent on 13 different lines of ladies' clothing and shoes, 59 per cent on men's clothing and shoes in seven different lines, 62 per cent on dry goods, 60 per cent on children's apparel and 62 per cent on bedding.

Merchants are not entitled, the commission believes, to absorb the profits made from pyramiding abnormal advances on commodities that were purchased when values were lower, and suggests that mercantile organizations of the state, before the commission begins holding formal hearings over the state, should get together with a view of adopting a uniform method of applying a reasonable margin of profit for all commodities and lines of business. Compliance with this suggestion will materially aid the commission; "otherwise the commission," says the statement, "in making its investigations, will find it necessary to bring public opinion to bear upon the matter by publishing in detail the results of specific investigations."

The statement of the commission follows:

During the sixteenth session of the legislature the Montana trade com-

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NEW WAGE SCALE PREPARED BY MINERS

Wage Increases and Shortening of the Work Day to Six Hours Are the Principal Demands.

Cleveland, O., Sept. 20.—Wage scale demands to be presented to the soft coal operators in the central competitive field of Ohio, Illinois and western Pennsylvania, which will serve as the basis of relative wage scales in all the bituminous fields of the country, will be submitted to the convention of the United Mine Workers of America Monday or Tuesday.

Attempts will be made to make the instructions of the convention on the principal demands regarding the amount of the increase (presumably about 60 per cent) and the shortening of working time to six hours daily, five days a week, absolutely mandatory upon the miners' representatives in the joint scale conference at Buffalo Sept. 25, and to direct them either to obtain recognition of these principal demands without change or to call out the bituminous miners of the country in a general strike Nov. 1.

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AMERICA CANNOT BENEFIT BY LEAGUE

Meddling in Foreign Politics Has Caused European Bankrupts to Despise and Distrust Us.

Duluth, Minn., Sept. 20.—That America's entry into the League of Nations will mark the formation of a partnership between the one going, solvent country in the world with certain European bankrupts who, after our first experience in meddling and muddling in foreign politics, have come to secretly despise and distrust us, was asserted by Senator Hiram W. Johnson, in addressing a large and enthusiastic audience here last night.

"The League of Nations," he said, "comes to us after its principal members have been gorged with territory, with their boundaries and their limits increased beyond the wildest dreams and with other immense tracts of the world's surface yet to be divided among them.

"After these extraordinary accessions of territory, the one going, solvent nation on earth undertakes by Article X to guarantee forever

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Convention for American Freedom Opens Sept. 25

Chicago, Sept. 20.—The American freedom convention which will meet here at Machinists' hall, 113 South Ashland boulevard, beginning Sept. 25, has accomplished an organization of organizations in enrolling societies of all kinds and uniting them upon one definite program—the establishment and maintenance of American civil and political rights and the immediate release of all political prisoners.

Many Delegates to Attend.

Hundreds of delegates will be in attendance from all parts of the nation, coming from as widely separated points as the Everglades, Fla. (Tampa sends a delegation representative of all the industries located there) and Seattle, Wash. (the Central Labor union sends two delegates and the Mooney Defense league of Seattle one). Delegates have been reported from Newport, R. I., and from Vera Cruz, Calif. Among the organizations represented are church conferences, medical societies, lecture bureaus, farmers' organizations and local labor organizations, representing 52 international unions. Besides the delegates who will appear at the convention, reports will be made from hundreds of organiza-

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Missoula Officials Arrest Man Sent to Fight Fires

(Special to the Bulletin.)

Missoula, Mont., Sept. 20.—Declaring that he was the innocent victim of a frame-up on the part of the Missoula police and officials, Charles Davis, who shipped here to fight fire—from Dillon, Montana—bitterly arraigns the local authorities for their treatment of him. His story, in part, is as follows:

"I had returned to Missoula from fighting fire in the Clear Water country and was seeking work at the government employment agency. After leaving there, I walked down to the I. X. L. cafe on Front street, when, after answering a few questions I was arrested and taken to the jail.

"They asked me questions, but my answers, apparently, did not satisfy them. They tried to make it appear as if they had something on me, but as I knew myself innocent of any wrong doing, I was unable to give them the kind of information they wished. According to the newspaper report, I was supposed to have been charged with vagrancy, but I had $35 on hand and my room rent was paid in the Grand Pacific hotel.

"I was asked why I had paid for two rooms, one in one part of the

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