

EDFIELD DISCUSSES CONDITIONS OF LABOR

outlined His Statement at Conference Reflects Views of President Wilson.

TRUGGLE FOR MORE POWER

Head of Commerce and Labor Department Asserts That Organized Labor's Cause Is Being Injured by Steel Strike.

BY JUSTIN McGRATH.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 29.—Secretary of Commerce Redfield today accorded newspaper men an interview, in which he expressed opinions on labor conditions of such interest as to start speculations as to the degree of importance to be attached to his declaration. There was curiosity to know whether Secretary Redfield's views would be taken reflecting the views of President Wilson.

It was recalled that a short time before the President left Washington for his campaign of speaking in the Secretary of the Interior or which came out with an interview in which he discussed the serious nature of the strained relations between capital and labor so far as the great industries were concerned, and advocated the holding of an industrial conference for the purpose of bringing about a better understanding.

Much Speculation in Capital. A few days later President Wilson called the industrial conference, which he met at the White House on Monday. Therefore, there was much speculation in Washington as to what he would say.

Secretary Redfield said: "Organized labor is losing the sympathy of the general public. Its attitude and actions undergo alterations very soon the movement will be a serious reverse."

Secretary Redfield expressed the view that the latest demands of some of the labor leaders and strikes which followed these demands were not based upon an economic necessity, but were for the purpose of getting more power for organized labor. He said that the attitude of the public towards organized labor had changed, and the secretary of labor and industry with which public officials are dealing with strikers. He continued:

"Theoretically public officials and officers of the law always take this action. They do it actually when there is the preponderance of public opinion supports them."

Refers to Governor's Act.

The secretary made reference to the Governor's act of Pennsylvania, in the steel strike, and Governor Coolidge, of Massachusetts, in the Boston police strike, and his statement of official condemnation and vigorous action against strikers. "Many union workers carrying their pockets under labor cards, I told me they believe some of the demands are making exorbitant demands and disturbing labor there by, with the effect of hurting seriously and may be permanently the just cause of the union."

Speaking of the industrial conference to be held next week in the White House, Secretary Redfield said: "There will be at the conference a number of employers who have happily solved their individual labor problems in entire satisfaction and harmony and their employees. Their workers have voice in the management and a share in the profits."

"This condition has in the past been sought by organized labor. I understand from the labor side that they propose this very idea of profit-sharing and voice in management. Well, I order if agitators are fighting this idea now because they feel they will lose their jobs and their influence with the workers themselves, their idea becomes an actuality generally in American industry."

DRONER'S JURY DECLARES WRECK AN ACT OF MALICE

Seaboard Air Line Employees Lose Lives Near Petersburg, Result of Gross Crime.

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.] PETERSBURG, Sept. 29.—Acting District Judge Ritchie and a jury of twelve Dinwiddie County yesterday laid an inquest on the bodies of Engineer C. E. Smith and Fireman Henry Ferguson, who lost their lives in an accident on the Seaboard Air Line railway near this city late Saturday night.

The verdict was that they came to their death by a railroad accident which was caused by an open switch, high in the opinion of the jury, had been maliciously tampered with by one person or persons unknown to the jury.

The verdict in the case of the negro as the same, except that the negro was a trespasser, and riding unlawfully on the train, and in a place that was dangerous. He was crushed between two cars.

The engineer and fireman were added to death. The body of Engineer Smith has been sent to Asheville, N. C., while that of Fireman Ferguson was sent to his home at Boykins, N. C.

Bloodhounds took the trail of the supposed wreckers at the broken switch Sunday morning and followed to where the Seaboard tracks cross the Ferndale car line, where they refused to go further. At that point it said, two men were seen to jump aboard the relief train, as it returned to the scene of the wreck to Petersburg. They are now believed to have been the wreckers.

The negro, who was killed in the wreck, has been identified as James Hobbs, a fugitive from justice in Brunswick County, where he was wanted for shooting and wounding a man. Hobbs was recognized at the inquest show Saturday night, but he

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