

L. C. ENGINES REPORTED IN BAD CONDITION

Letter to President of Blacksmiths Says, Railroads Having Considerable Trouble Meeting Requirements of Law—Use Stock Cars for Merchandise.

The controversy between the Rock Island road and the system federation of shopmen on that line is still unsettled. Officials of the road were out of town yesterday when the federation leaders called at the offices, and nothing definite will be done until a conference next week. At that time the federation men will attempt to reach an amicable settlement with the road, but if the road refuses to yield the demands of the men a strike is probable.

The following letter, received by President J. N. Kline, of the Blacksmiths, who is directing the strike of the shopmen on the L. C., was received from a man employed at Burnside, but who is not involved in the strike, and does not belong to any of the unions implicated. For obvious reasons his name is withheld:

Mr. J. W. Kline,
Pres. Blacksmiths:

Dear Sir:

Though I am not a member of your craft I take this occasion to inform you that you are already forcing the railroads to resort to all manner of tactics to meet the requirements of the law and the demands of the shipping and traveling public.

They are already unloading

coal at Burnside and piling it upon the earth in order that they may have the services of the cars. They have also resorted to the loading of stock cars with shipments of merchandise that they may use the box cars for grain. And every engine that comes in is leaking badly and pounding. I may say they are generally run down.

If we had a little cold weather and snow, they could not get a train out of Chicago, and the trains that come in are ten to fifteen hours late. The machines in the shops are all idle and rusty; the forges quiet and not a sound of a hammer can be heard in the boiler shop.

The strikebreakers come and go. They are hustling from shelter to shelter. They have burned three or four engines and are generally incompetent.

TELEGRAPH BRIEFS

"It is possible for a corporation to be a gentleman."—Atty Felix H. Levy. Maybe, but you got to show us, Felix.

Inspector John Wheeler says none but prominent men and preachers went to Everleigh club. No wonder key to vice report is being kept mislaid.

Chinese quarter in Manila caught fire. Dispatch says: "Soldiers brought fire under control and confirmed it to Chinese section." But maybe Chinese aren't popular in Manila anyhow.

John Jacob Astor filed affidavit with tax board. Shows John's personal property dropped \$50,-