

# THE DAY BOOK

500 SO. PEORIA ST.

398

TEL. MONROE 353

Vol. 1, No. 79 Chicago, Thursday, Dec. 28, 1911 One Cent

## FAIL TO CONNECT STRIKING SHOPMEN WITH ILLINOIS CENTRAL WRECKS

*Railroad Officials Say, in Two Cases Spreading Rails Were Probably the Cause—Kline Challenges I. C. to Allow Police Investigation.*

Investigation of the four wrecks on the Illinois Central, and the alleged attempted wrecking of a fifth train, Tuesday night, declared by Lieut. Mooney of the Kensington police to be the work of a wrecking crew of fourteen union men, operating in a conspiracy a la McNamara, has failed to result in any arrests, but has prompted the statement by I. C. officials that the derailing of the Blue Island express at Grand crossing and the ditching of a freight at the same place was probably caused by spreading rails.

The only evidence to support the "wrecking crew" theory so far disclosed is the testimony of two 15-year-old boys that they saw two men on the right-of-way shortly before the fifth train was due. No trace of these men has been found. The police have not been able to connect them with the shopmen now on strike at Burnside.

At the Illinois Central offices, it was said officials were not pre-

pared to charge the strikers with responsibility for the wrecks, as investigation had uncovered no evidence against them.

This morning's Examiner contained a long story of a conference between Lieut. Mooney and President J. W. Kline of the Blacksmiths' union, and it was inferred as a result of that meeting that Lieut. Mooney had definite information that 14 union men were in a conspiracy to wreck I. C. trains. The lieutenant said arrests would be made either last night or this morning.

Mr. Kline was asked by Mooney if his union employed wrecking crews, and if it was not possible that such an organization might not be formed without his knowledge. The answer was an emphatic negative to the first question, and "Yes" to the second. Kline told the lieutenant he did not know of the importation of a gang of strikers from the south to "start trouble" on the road. He also denied knowledge of an alleged meeting of 14 strik-