

RAILROADS OBJECT TO LABOR'S TERMS

Change in Operating Conditions Makes New Agreements Necessary, Board Is Told.

DENY FREEZEOUT PLAN

Explanations Made as to Why Work Was Sent to Equipment Companies.

CHICAGO, Jan. 11.—Change in operating conditions from those which prevailed during Government operation of the railroads was ascribed to-day as one of the reasons the railroads are asking the Railroad Labor Board for modification of the national agreements with the railway labor unions. The reason was assigned by John G. Walber, member of the railroad managers committee, who said the rail representatives sent when the agreements were negotiated were chosen as subordinates of the regional directors and were not entirely free to negotiate as though they represented the roads under private control.

Continuation of the railroad presentation occupied the entire day, with a few interruptions. E. T. Whiter, chairman of the managers committee, read the detailed objections of the roads to the agreements, illustrating with numerous examples of alleged injustice in their operation.

Objection was made to the rule regarding employees sent out on the road for emergency service, and an example was cited in which it was declared the punitive payment was \$2.84 for four men.

Object to Seniority Rule.

"There is no good reason why the employer should send a man from a home point to fill a vacancy and pay traveling expenses, etc., if the employer can get the work done by temporarily employing a man at the local point."

The seniority rule under which vacancies are filled also came under fire of the railroad argument. Inefficiency and loss of output, due to placing incapable men on jobs they could not handle resulted from this rule, according to Mr. Whiter. He said the matter of filling positions requiring special training and knowledge should be left entirely to the foreman and not to the crafts.

That there is absolutely no truth in the charge that the banks and railroad companies are in any sort of a conspiracy against labor and are sending work to equipment companies rather than doing it in their own shops is the answer of Thomas De Witt Cuyler, chairman of the Association of Railway Executives, to charges made by W. Jett Lauck before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Mr. Lauck appeared for the Machinists Union.

"A half truth is as bad as a whole lie," said Mr. Cuyler. The railroads are now preparing to present under oath to the Interstate Commerce Commission the facts concerning equipment repairs. They will confirm the following statements:

"Under the transportation act the roads are bound by rigid restrictions as to what they may pay out for repairs and maintenance."

Need of Economy and Speed.

"The work given to outside shops was given last spring and summer, when the capacity of the shops was absolutely exhausted. The railroads are not now giving repair work to outside shops and depriving railroad employees of the

work unless for reasons of economy and speed.

"The figures quoted as to the relative costs of repairs in railroad shops and in outside shops are misleading, because the charges against repairs include no interest on investment, depreciation and overhead expenses; because the average costs in railroad and outside shops are not comparable for the reason that in order to conserve capacity and to secure the quickest results the roads placed with the locomotive building companies a large amount of heavy repair, reserving for their own shops the lighter grade of work; because it was vitally necessary to get the work done at the earliest possible moment, and the railroads secured from the outside firms the best terms obtainable to get the job done."

"When the railroads were returned to private operation there was an abnormal percentage of cars and locomotives in bad order, requiring repairs. The excess of bad order equipment was beyond the capacity of the railway shops, and the railway labor engaged in the repair of cars had declined in efficiency and output. These abnormal conditions required abnormal remedies to meet them."

IDLE IN TOLEDO DROP 12,000 IN LAST WEEK

Less Than 15,000 Unemployed Union Check Shows.

TOLEDO, Jan. 11.—Marked improvement in the unemployment situation as compared with a week ago was reported when representative business men and manufacturers gathered in the Commerce Club to-day at the request of Mayor Cornell Schreiber, after a number of ex-service men had demanded employment of the Mayor.

It was announced that those attending the meeting were from such a wide range of concerns that an accurate summary of conditions was available.

One week ago the number of unemployed in Toledo was given by Central Labor Union officials at 27,000. A careful checking of lists to-day showed, it was said, that the number now is less than 15,000.

It was stated, however, that many young men had left the city and gone back home in small towns to remain until the factories reopened.

The automobile manufacturing plant of the Willys-Overland Company, it was announced, is preparing to resume production about February 1. Several other large factories which have been wholly or partially idle for several weeks also have set that date for reopening.

A number of automobile accessory plants conducted in connection with the Willys-Overland Company have completed inventories and are awaiting announcement from headquarters to resume operations, it is said.

SILK WAGES REDUCED.

Easton, Pa., Company Announces Cut of 15 Per Cent.

EASTON, Pa., Jan. 11.—Announcement was made to-day by J. W. Stewart, president of the Stewart Silk Company, of a reduction in wages of 15 per cent. for all employees, including himself. The reduction is effective this week. A similar reduction will be made at the Haycock-Cronmeyer mill, effective February 1. About 1,500 hands are employed at both plants.

THREAD MILL CUTS WAGES.

PAWTUCKET, R. I., Jan. 11.—J. and P. Coats, thread manufacturers, announced to-day that a wage reduction would go into effect in the mills here at once. The amount was not stated. The plant employs 2,500.

GLUCOSE PLANT REOPENS.

DECATUR, Ill., Jan. 11.—The A. E. Staley Manufacturing Company, a starch and glucose concern, reopened its plant to-day, employing 500 men.

FILIPINO SUSPECTED IN \$600,000 ROBBERY

Answers Description of Bandit Who Helped Steal Mrs. Palmer's Jewelry.

HOLDUP GANG ARRESTED

Fet Dog's Barking Enables Patrolman to Catch Three Alleged Burglars.

The police arrested yesterday four men who, they said, are responsible for many recent robberies and holdups. They also have another prisoner, said to answer the description of one of the bandits who gagged Mrs. Charlotte Palmer of 59 East Ninetieth street and stole jewelry valued at \$600,000. All were held in heavy ball.

After five hours' grilling the four men

Just arrested admitted participating in two Bronx holdups committed November 27, according to Frank Oliver and Edward Chapman, Assistant District Attorneys for Bronx county. They are James Gerardi, 21, 129 West Houston street; Joseph Capuca, 18, 179 Thompson street; Frank Rome, 21, 32 Carroll street, Brooklyn, and John Rooney, 21, 214 East Fourteenth street.

The prisoner suspected of complicity in the Palmer robbery is Juan Alvarez, 19, 47 Sands street, Brooklyn. He and three other Filipinos were arrested Monday night following a holdup in Lee Hong's Chinese restaurant, at 2823 Third avenue.

A pet dog belonging to Mrs. Emma Dittel, 136 East Sixteenth street, divided with Patrolman Patrick English of the East Twenty-second street station the credit of capturing three alleged burglars. The dog barked the alarm when the men entered Mrs. Dittel's home through the roof. The policeman, single handed, caught all three, although two of them were armed with pistols.

Two fancy colored mufflers led to the arrest of two men who are charged with stealing a diamond ring from Mrs. Regina Feinstein of 224 East 112th street, as she was about to enter her home. Mrs. Feinstein described the mufflers to the police and a detective picked the two men up on the street. The ring was found in one of their rooms.

Chorus girls living at 140 West Forty-

ninth street had an alleged burglar arrested. They said he stole clothes from their rooms valued at \$300. He was held in \$1,500 bail.

Still another man suspected of attempting burglary was caught on the roof of 348 East Fourth street when neighbors were attracted by the screams of Mrs. Rose Seigel.

A "dead line" robbery committed between Saturday afternoon and Monday came to light yesterday. The offices of the Balcotte Company on the eleventh floor of 2 Rector street were entered. The robbers got very little of value, it was said.

5 GARMENT WORKERS SLASHED WITH RAZORS

South Brooklyn Strikers Accused of Assault.

Five garment workers were set upon, blackjacked and slashed with razors yesterday after they had been induced by strikers or strike sympathizers to climb into an automobile which they had supposed to belong to the company by which they are employed.

The assault occurred near the plant of Schwartz & Jaffe, at 233 Thirty-seventh street, South Brooklyn, to which the men were bound. It had been the

custom of this concern to place automobiles at the disposal of its workers to bring them from the nearest subway entrance to the plant during the garment workers' strike, and the men had no doubt that their companions in this car were fellowworkers until they were attacked. The assault concluded with the hurling of all five men out of the speeding car as it sped away from James Smith, sergeant of the mounted police and Patrolman John O'Keefe, who tried to halt it.

The injured workers were Joseph Resnick, 23, of 45 Wyoma street, Brooklyn; Hierman Winter, 34, of 478 East 177th street, The Bronx; Trelge Grand, 26, of 471 Broadway, Brooklyn; Nathan Ascher, 41, of 82 Ludlow street, Manhattan, and David Jacob, 30, of 35 East Eighty-fifth street, Manhattan.

FINED FOR HEATLESS HOUSES.

Joseph Schultz, agent for 1230 St. John's place, and Edsel Rosenfeld, owner of 130 Jerome street, Brooklyn, were fined \$100 and \$200 respectively yesterday in the Brooklyn Court of Special Session for failing to furnish heat.

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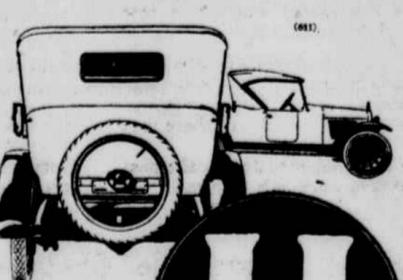
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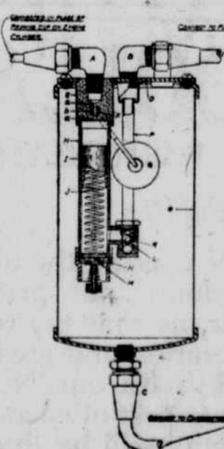
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