

BAR HIM FROM JOB

Operator Says Company Will Blacklist Him for Testifying.

QUIZ GETTING GOOD

Employees Testifying Before Walsh Commission Tell of Unsatisfactory Conditions Under Which They Are Obligated to Work, Completely Contradicting Testimony Given by Heads of the Telegraph Companies.

CHICAGO, April 14.—Five Postal Telegraph company telegraphers, suddenly subpoenaed to appear before the United States commission on industrial relations today, unanimously contradicted yesterday's testimony of Edward G. Reynolds, general manager of the company, who said that conditions of employment were 100 per cent. satisfactory.

The five witnesses said that none of the operators was satisfied, in the main, because they thought they did too much work for too little money, and knew of no way to obtain redress of grievances.

Mr. Walsh replied: "If you or any other of the young men get into difficulty because of your testimony during the life of this commission, please notify Secretary Brown."

"Oh, let us hope not," smiled the chairman.

"I'll be fired and I never will get another job," concluded the witness.

Other witnesses were Thomas J. Carroll, traffic superintendent of the western division of the Western Union Telegraph company; George Duffy and Eli Rosenberg, messenger boys; B. Frank Shrimpton, secretary-treasurer of the New York local Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America, and W. T. Russell, S. P. Aubrey, T. L. Yarrington and Clare E. Emerson, Postal company operators, who preceded Rogers, S. J. Koenekamp, president of the telegraphers' organization, added a few words to his previous testimony regarding the telegraphers' strike of 1907.

When Russell took the stand, Mr. Walsh stated interrogatively:

"Mr. Reynolds, your general manager stated yesterday that conditions among the Postal company's telegraphers were satisfied and there were no complaints?"

"There is much dissatisfaction over wages and the 'hounding' of men to 'speed up,'" replied Mr. Russell.

"In Chicago our instruments are too close together, and we can't work in comfort, and when short relief from the key is necessary sometimes you can't get it for hours."

Mr. Walsh asked: "Why don't you state your grievances through the union, or association of employees to which Mr. Reynolds testified yesterday?"

Mr. Reynolds stated that this union elected its own officers and was a channel for the adjustment of the grievances.

"I never heard of it," responded the witness.

The other telegraphers either had not heard of the union or only vaguely. They regarded the chief operator as the court of last resort, they said, and regarded it as a hazardous experi-

ment to appeal that high. They complained, if at all, to the sub-chiefs. Russell said that he wrote wire to Mr. Reynolds a year ago, but never received a reply.

"There are 300 men in the Chicago office and I don't believe you can find two of them who are satisfied," said Mr. Russell.

"Mr. Reynolds testified that he himself was not satisfied with his own salary," interjected Commission Ashton, who laughed and added: "You need not answer that."

The witnesses work on circuits paying \$85 a month, but those of them on the extra list were unable to work full time and earnings fell below that. Emerson said that he never had trouble getting short relief from the key if he appealed to the chief operator.

Yarrington complained the company compels the operators to rent the typewriters used in the office while a rival company provides them free to the men.

The messengers said they had been employed in obtaining opium from a Chinese recently convicted for the crime in Chicago.

Shrimpton testified that the spy system of the Western Union makes men in that office afraid to be seen talking to a union man, much less to join the union. He said the only remedy for conditions was to protect the men in their right to organize.

Mr. Carroll presented another side of the picture and went into details of portions of the testimony given previously by the president and vice president of the Western Union. Automatic transmitting machines are gradually decreasing the number of men employed, but not the cost to the company, he said.

To employ as many men as possible during the depression occasioned by the war, he said, that the company ceased buying the machines and were carrying in his division alone 600 more men than were justified by strict business requirements.

To many criticisms of the company called to his attention, Mr. Carroll insisted that he wanted the commissioners or an examiner to come to the office and see for themselves.

"The correspondence and the whole shop are open to you," he declared. He added that despite the business depression of 1914 in his division alone he increased 1,033 salaries and decreased only 52. Forty-eight of the reductions applied to employees whose class of work was changed.

Touching the subject of overwork and "speeding up," Mr. Carroll stated that the average of all operators in his division in the year 1914 was between 600 and 660 words an hour.

BUDAPEST NEWSPAPER GIVES THE LIST OF RUSSIAN LOSSES

VENICE, April 14.—(Via London.)—The Russians, after the Easter battles in the western passes of the Carpathians, according to the Budapest newspaper Anap, were forced to retire in order to recover from their enormous losses. During their offensive, which commenced in January, the newspaper adds, the Russians lost 50,000 men killed and 10,000 prisoners.

Toll of Lives Taken at Neuve Chappelle Battle

LONDON, April 14.—(12:50 p. m.)—Field Marshal Sir John French reports the British losses in the three days' fighting at Neuve Chappelle as follows: Killed, 190 officers, 2,337 men; wounded, 359 officers, 8,174 other ranks; missing, 23 officers, 1,728 men. Field Marshal French's report continues: "The enemy left several thousand dead on the field and we have positive information that upwards of 12,000 wounded were removed by train. Thirty officers and 1,657 of other ranks were captured."

FIFTEEN KILLED IN A COLLISION

DETROIT, Mich., April 14.—Fifteen persons were killed and about 20 injured late today in a collision between a Detroit city street car and a freight train. Most of the dead are foreigners, four of them being women.

The street car was heavily loaded with passengers homeward bound from their day's work. As it approached the crossing the conductor ran ahead to see if the track was clear. He signalled the motorman to wait, but apparently the latter misunderstood his meaning and ran the car onto the tracks. The freight struck the car fairly in the middle, smashing it almost to bits. The wreckage was pushed along a hundred feet, several of the dead and injured dropping along the street before the train could be stopped. It was several hours before many of the injured could be extricated from the wreckage.

No Danger to Crew in New American Submarines

NEW YORK, April 13.—It was announced today that a new form of storage battery is being made for the United States submarine L-8, under construction at the Portsmouth, N. H., navy yard, which will do away entirely with the chief danger now existing in the operation of submarines—the danger of the crew of chlorine poisoning. Other improvements are claimed for the new battery, among them being the lengthening of the vessel's under-sea cruising radius to 150 miles. It is claimed that in addition to eliminating the peril of chlorine poisoning, the submarine could remain submerged for 100 days without danger to the crew.

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Engineer Goss of Syracuse escaped from the robbers and ran his engine eight miles to suspension bridge for help. The robbers had disappeared when a posse arrived on the scene.

Goss secured a posse of detectives and was back to the scene within half an hour. Hundreds of armed men began scouring the country for the robbers, but none of them have been arrested. Several shots were fired at the train crew. The stolen goods were worth thousands of dollars.

The automobiles came from the direction of Buffalo and a call for help was sent to this city. Every highway leading into the city was guarded but no trace of the machines was found.

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Neither event fully satisfied the curiosity of the public on matters with which the minds of the people have been occupied in recent weeks. The house of commons sat for only 35 minutes and the expected statement of the

RETREAT CUT OFF

Villa Forces Have Obregon's Army Surrounded at Celaya. IS A DECISIVE BATTLE

In the Struggle in Which It is Estimated 45,000 Men Are Engaged, the First Fruits of Victory Are With the Army of General Villa, and the Result of This Important Conflict Will Indicate Which Major Faction Is to Dominate Mexican Affairs—Funston Arrives at Brownsville to Take Charge of the Border Situation.

WASHINGTON, April 14.—General Villa appears to have gained the upper hand in the first day of the battle with the forces of General Obregon near Celaya and its vicinity, according to consular advices to the state department today from San Luis Potosi. From other points as well, it is reported that in the struggle in which officials estimate 45,000 men are engaged, the first fruits of victory are with the army of General Villa.

General Obregon is declared to have been surrounded and his retreat cut off from all directions, according to one report. As the firing line is extensive, detailed advices have not reached here from General Villa's headquarters and the final outcome of the fighting still is in doubt.

Victory for Villa would mean the resumption of communication by rail way and wire between Mexico City and the American border, while success by General Obregon would divide the Villa-Zapata forces and destroy their communication between the northern and southern sections of the country. In many quarters here it is believed the result of the struggle will have an important bearing on the general political situation in Mexico, indicating which major faction is to dominate.

The state department's advices were summarized in the following statement: The department is in receipt of advices dated April 13, from San Luis Potosi, stating that heavy fighting around Celaya favors the Villa forces, which have surrounded Obregon and two of his subordinate commanders. The line extends from Celaya through Queretaro to La Griega. It is estimated that 45,000 troops are engaged. Obregon's retreat is said to be cut off at La Griega.

"The San Luis Potosi district is quiet and in undisputed Villa control. Trains are in operation from San Luis Potosi to Agua Calientes, east of San Luis Potosi, to Las Palmas and south to San Felipe. Trains also arrived occasionally from Saltillo."

BROWNSVILLE, Texas, April 14.—Major General Frederick Funston, who arrived here today from San Antonio to take charge of the border situation created by the siege of Matamoros, said his coming was due to reports that the Villa army was arriving and that a crisis in the fighting may be expected soon. The day passed, however, with no bombardment of Matamoros.

Both the Carranza garrison and the Villa officers still assert their opponents lost several hundred killed in yesterday's sortie from Matamoros. Conservative reports, however, indicated that the killed on both sides did not extend fifty.

OLDEST INDIAN WOMAN DEAD.

GREAT FALLS, April 14.—His answer, an Indian woman, claimed by her relatives to be 106 years old, died in an Indian camp, near here, today. She had been blind for 10 years.

Noted American Aviator Killed by New Machine

WASHINGTON, April 12.—Cecil Malcolm Peoli, an aviator, was killed at College Park, Md., near here, today, while making a test flight in an aeroplane of his own invention and in which he had planned flights from Washington to New York and from New York to St. Louis. The machine fell 300 feet and Peoli's skull was fractured. The cause of the accident has not been determined. Peoli was the first man to fly across the Andes mountains in South America. The wrecked machine is said to have been the largest in the country. The dead aviator was 22 years old and came here from Los Angeles, where his mother lives.

Strong Force of Turks Driven Off By British

LONDON, April 14.—(9:30 p. m.)—The Turks, according to an official report, issued by the India office, who had collected a force of 11,000 regulars with 28 guns and some 12,000 Kurds and Arabs, attacked the British positions at Kurna Ahwaz and Shaliba, in Mesopotamia, on March 12. They were driven off, however, leaving 300 prisoners and two guns in the hands of the British troops. The British casualties, according to the report, were 92 men more or less wounded.

Kaiser's Visit to Francis Joseph

GENEVA, April 13.—(Via Paris, April 14.)—Information has reached Geneva tending to confirm the reports that Emperor William paid a visit last month to Emperor Francis Joseph. According to this information, Emperor William hastily determined to visit Emperor Francis Joseph upon receiving from Prince von Buelow, the German ambassador to Italy, a message to the effect that negotiations between Austria and Italy concerning territorial concessions by Austria as the price of Italy's neutrality, had failed.

Emperor William at once ordered that his special train be prepared and, accompanied by two officers, set forth for Vienna, traveling incognito by way of Munich. The train was stopped near the castle at Schoenbrunn, on the outskirts of Vienna, to which Emperor William went by motor car.

With Francis Joseph were Baron von Burian, Austria-Hungarian foreign minister, and Count Tisza, the Hungarian premier. Emperor William is said to have conversed with them for three hours.

Consider Draft of Reply to Germany's Complaint

WASHINGTON, April 12.—President Wilson and Secretary Bryan had under consideration tonight a draft of a reply to be made to the memorandum of Count von Bernstorff, the German ambassador, relative to the question of preventing shipments of arms to the allies unless foodstuffs were permitted to reach Germany's civilian population. "We have the whole subject under consideration and I am not prepared to discuss it," was all Secretary Bryan would say. The question having been raised as to whether the communication from the German ambassador was by direction of his government, the embassy announced today that the document had been sent pursuant to instructions from the Berlin foreign office.

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