

The Manager Of the B. & A.

By VAUGHAN KESTER

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"Wages can't go back until the business in the shops warrants it. If you will continue to work under the present arrangement, good and well. If not, I see no way to meet your demands. You will have to strike. That, however, is an alternative I trust you will carefully weigh before you commit yourselves. Once the shops are closed it will not be policy to open them until fall, perhaps not until the first of the year. But if you can afford to lie idle all summer it's your own affair. That's exactly what it means if you strike."

He jumped down from the car and would have left them then and there, but Bentick stepped in front of him.

"Can't we talk it over, Mr. Oakley?" "There is nothing to talk over, Bentick. Settle it among yourselves." And he marched off up the tracks, with McClintock following in his wake and commending the stand he had taken.

The first emotion of the men was one of profound and depressing surprise at the abruptness with which Oakley had terminated the interview, and his evident willingness to close the shops, a move they had not counted on. It dashed their courage.

"We'll call his bluff!" cried Bentick, and the men gave a faint cheer. They were not so sure it was a bluff after all. It looked real enough.

There were those who thought with a guilty pang of wives and children at home and no pay day, the fortnightly haven of rest toward which they lived. And there were the customarily reckless souls, who thirsted for excitement at any price and who were willing to see the trouble to a finish. These ruled, as they usually do. Not a man returned to work. Instead they hung about the yards and canvassed the situation. Finally the theory was advanced that if the shops were closed it would serve to bring down Cornish's wrath on Oakley and probably result in his immediate dismissal. This theory found instant favor and straightway became a conviction with the majority.

At length all agreed to strike, and the whistle in the shops was set shrieking its dismal protest. The men swarmed into the building, where each got together his kit of tools. They were quite jolly now and laughed and jested a good deal. Presently they were streaming off uptown, with their coats over their arms, and the strike was on.

An unusual stillness fell on the yards and in the shops. The belts as they swept on and on in endless revolutions cut this stillness with a sharp, incisive hiss. The machinery seemed to hammer at it, as if to beat out some last-lag echo. Then gradually the volume of sound lessened. It mumbled to a dotage of decreasing force, and then everything stopped with a sudden jar. The shops had shut down.

McClintock came from the office and entered the works, pulling the big doors to after him. He wanted to see that all was made snug. He cursed loudly as he strode through the deserted building. It was the first time since he had been with the road that the shops had been closed, and it affected him strangely.

The place held a dreadful, ghostly inertness. The belts and shafting, with its innumerable cogs and connections, reached out like the heavy knuckled tentacles of some great lifeless monster. The sunlight stole through the broken, cobwebbed windows to fall on heaps of rusty iron and heaps of dirty shavings.

Since an early hour of the evening the people had been gathering at the rink. It was also the opera house, where during the winter months an occasional repertory company appeared in "East Lynne," "The New Magdalen" or Tom Robertson's "Caste."

"When do you suppose I'll get a chance to build steam again, Mill?" "Oakley says we won't start up before the first of September."

CHAPTER XV.

THE first weeks of the strike slipped by without excitement. Harvest time came and went. A rainless August browned the earth and seared the woods with its heat, but nothing happened to vary the dull monotony. The shops, a sepulcher of sound, stood silent and empty. General Cornish, in the role of the avenger, did not appear on the scene, to Oakley's discomfiture and to the joy of the men. A sullen sadness rested on the town. The women began to develop shrewish tempers and a trying conversational habit, while their husbands squandered their rapidly dwindling means in the saloons. There was large talk and a variety of threats, but no lawlessness.

At intervals a rumor was given currency that Oakley was on the verge of starting up with imported labor, and the men, dividing the watches, met each train, but only familiar types, such as the casual commercial traveler with his grips, the farmer from up or down the line, with his inevitable paper parcels, and the stray wayfarer were seen to step from the Huckleberry's battered coaches. Finally it dawned upon the men that Dan was bent on starving them into submission.

Ryder had displayed what for him was a most unusual activity. Almost every day he held conferences with the leaders of the strike, and his personal influence went far toward keeping the men in line. Indeed, his part in the whole affair was much more important

than was generally recognized. The political campaign had started, and Kenyon was booked to speak in Antioch. It was understood in advance that he would declare for the strikers, and his coming caused a welcome flutter of excitement.

The statesman arrived on No. 7, and the reception committee met him at the station in two carriages. It included Cap Roberts, the Hon. Jeb Barrows, Ryder, Joe Stokes and Bentick. The two last were an inspiration of the editor's and proved a popular success.

The brass band hired for the occasion discoursed patriotic airs, as Kenyon in a long linen duster and a limp, wilted collar presented himself at the door of the smoker. The great man was all blandness and suavity—an oily suavity that oozed and trickled from every pore.

The crowd on the platform gave a faint, unenthusiastic cheer as it caught sight of him. It had been more interested in staring at Bentick and Stokes. They looked so excessively uncomfortable.

Mr. Kenyon climbed down the steps and shook hands with Mr. Ryder. Then, bowing and smiling to the right and left, he crossed the platform, leaning on the editor's arm. At the carriages there were more greetings. Stokes and Bentick were formally presented, and the congressman mounted to a place beside them, whereat the crowd cheered again, and Stokes and Bentick looked, if possible, more miserable than before. They had a sneaking idea that a show was being made of them. Ryder took his place in the second carriage, with Cap Roberts and the Hon. Jeb Barrows, and the procession moved off uptown to the hotel, preceded by the band playing a lively two-step out of tune and followed by a troop of bare legged urchins.

After supper the statesman was serenaded by the band, and a little later the members of the Young Men's Kenyon club, attired in cotton flannel uniforms, marched across from the Herald office to escort him to the rink, where he was to speak. He appeared radiant in a Prince Albert and a shiny tile and a boutonniere, this time leaning on the arm of Mr. Stokes, to the huge disgust of that worthy mechanic, who did not know that a statesman had to lean on somebody's arm. It is hoary tradition, and yet it had a certain significance, too, if it were meant to indicate that Kenyon couldn't keep straight unless he was propped.

A wave of fitful enthusiasm swept the assembled crowd, and Mr. Stokes' youngest son, Samuel, aged six, burst into tears, no one knew why, and was led out of the press by an elder brother, who alternately slapped him and wiped his nose on his cap.

Mr. Kenyon, smiling his unwearied, mirror-smile, seated himself in his carriage. Mr. Ryder, slightly bored and wholly cynical, followed his example. Mr. Stokes and Mr. Bentick, perspiring and abject and looking for all the world like two criminals, dropped dejectedly into the places assigned them. Only Cap Roberts and the Hon. Jeb Barrows seemed entirely at ease. They were campaign fixtures. The band emitted a harmony destroying crash, while Mr. Jimmy Smith, the drum major, performed sundry bewildering passes with his gilt staff. The Young Men's Kenyon club fell over its own feet into line, and the procession started for the rink. It was a truly inspiring moment.

Since an early hour of the evening the people had been gathering at the rink. It was also the opera house, where during the winter months an occasional repertory company appeared in "East Lynne," "The New Magdalen" or Tom Robertson's "Caste."

The place was two-thirds full at a quarter to 8, when a fleet courier arrived with the gratifying news that the procession was just leaving the square and that Kenyon was riding with his hat off and in familiar discourse with Stokes and Bentick.

Presently out of the distance drifted the first strains of the band. A little later Cap Roberts and the Hon. Jeb Barrows appeared on the makeshift stage from the wings. There was an applause murmur, for the Hon. Jeb was a popular character. It was said of him that he always carried a map of the United States in tobacco juice on his shirt front. He was bottle nosed and red faced. No man could truthfully say he had ever seen him drunk, nor had any one ever seen him sober. He shunned extremes. Next the band filed into the balcony and Ryder appeared, followed by the wretched Stokes and Bentick. A burst of applause shook the house. When it subsided the editor stepped to the front of the stage. With words that halted, for the experience was a new one, he introduced the guest of the evening.

(To Be Continued.)

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NO MORE LICENSE FOR BUCKET SHOP

Board of Councilmen Pass Repealing Ordinance

Committee Instructed to Bring in a Measure Prohibiting Geese Running at Large.

STREET WORK ORDERED DONE.

The board of councilmen last night voted to repeal that portion of the license ordinance fixing a tax on bucket shops and after this year, if the board of aldermen concur in the action of the lower board, bucket shops will necessarily have to cease operation. The council also took up the sewerage matter; decided to rid the city of dogs and transacted a great deal of business in the two hour session. All members were present.

Mayor Yeiser read a letter from Supt. W. J. Hills, of the N., C. & St. L. road, asking to be permitted to put in a team track at Sixth and North streets. The matter was referred.

Mayor Yeiser read a letter from the board of public works stating that only \$2,261.10 remains in the treasury for street work and that unless some arrangements be made improvements on streets must necessarily cease. The estimate of the city engineer for the amount needed is \$11,050. Mayor Yeiser suggested that the contingent fund be drawn on and the improvements continued.

On motion of Councilman Katterjohn the board of public works was instructed to proceed with the improvements, the city to provide for the financial part.

Solicitor Campbell stated that he thought in October he would take legal action in the courts to collect back taxes and would probably place several thousand dollars in the treasury which would "help some."

Three petitions from milk men for a refund of license were referred.

Mayor Yeiser read a report from the auditor and treasurer stating the financial condition of the city. He did this to show the boards where they stand. It was filed.

Mayor Yeiser read a report, the result of correspondence with Manager John S. Blecker, of the Paducah Traction company, stating that he was preparing to inaugurate a half-fare system for the benefit of the school children. Mayor Yeiser stated that he thought no complication would result after the traction company had made the proper arrangements.

Mayor Yeiser stated that he wanted to make a speech; that it might be taken to "tread on some one's toes." He cited the fight made on the "bucket shops." Mayor Yeiser made himself plain. He did not think that bucket shops should be licensed, and urged that the ordinance licensing such places be repealed.

President McBroom stated that if the license was made \$10,000 per annum it would it would serve to drive them out. The motion to repeal this ordinance carried.

Solicitor James Campbell filed a contract with the Paducah Traction company to the city relative to widening the Cross creek fill. The company agrees to either build or to pay for the building of the culvert. The company wants to extend tracks out Broadway to Nineteenth street. This is one condition the city provided in the ordinance. The contract was received and filed.

M. J. Friedman was ordered refunded a deposit of money, \$12.50, for a quart liquor license which was refused.

Petitions from hucksters for a refund of license were referred.

The ordinance committee was instructed to draft a measure governing the blowing of factory whistles within the city limits.

An ordinance providing for a driver for the engine at No. 2 fire station was ordered drafted.

The matter of repairing the alley off Third street between Husbards and Caldwell streets, was referred.

Fire Chief Wood was ordered to employ a farm hand at \$20 per month to raise corn on the pest house property.

A bill for \$15 for automobiles was presented. The ordinance says no charge shall be made for the numbers, yet the city clerk had been selling them at 50 cents each to pay for the tags. The matter was favorably acted on.

Clerk Henry Bailey stated that he had to secure an additional 800 poll tax books. The bill was referred.

The report of the finance committee showing a total of \$4,600.85 expenditure for the half month, was filed.

A bill for \$7 for serving subpoenas in cases in which the city is involved from Wade Brown, deputy United States marshal, was referred.

Ordinances Acted on.

Ordinance for the abolition of dry wells. Second passage.

Ordinance for the sale of a fran-

chise for car tracks on Broadway from Seventeenth street to Nineteenth street, and thence on Nineteenth street to the Mayfield road. Second passage. Councilman Crane voted nay.

Ordinance for the improvement of West Clay street. Second passage.

Ordinance for improving Jarrett street in Mechanicsburg. Second passage.

A petition to permit an obstruction to an alley near the Well distillery on Bridge street. Councilman Herzog stated that the obstruction would interfere with the convenience of property owners, and that a remonstrance had been filed.

The board refused to permit the closing of the alley. The distillery company wanted to extend its building.

An offer from Mrs. T. H. Puryear to sell the city 100 feet of property necessary to open Tenth street from Broadway to Kentucky avenue for \$70 a foot. The mayor was ordered to buy the 100 feet at once at the price agreed on.

A petition for grading and grave-ling Kincaid avenue in Mechanicsburg from Bridge street 600 feet south, was referred to the committee for an ordinance.

A petition for the improvement of the Pool road in Littleville was referred to the committee for an investigation. It is stated that the street has not been dedicated.

A dedication of property for an alley between Myers, Farley and Clement streets in Mechanicsburg, was referred. No property owners desire the city to build an alley, but one or two property owners refuse to dedicate.

The committee was granted further time in securing property for sidewalk improvements on West Broadway.

A petition for water mains on Madison street from Seventeenth street to Nineteenth street, was favorably acted on.

A report of the extension of water mains on Madison street from Sixteenth to Seventeenth street was filed.

License Applications.

An application from George Denker to keep a saloon at 741 Harris street was read. A petition from thirty-one residents agreeing to the saloon was read; also a remonstrance from eleven property owners and residents. The license was granted.

Application from Oscar Denker, at 1043 Kentucky avenue, was allowed. Application from J. M. Keas, 825 Washington street, deferred. Application from V. J. Levy, 128 South Third street, for saloon and quart license. Action deferred.

On motion the city engineer and committee were ordered to draft an ordinance for the No. 2 sewerage system as agreed on in the joint meeting of the boards.

President McBroom stated that an assistant to Engineer Washington should at once be employed, and urged the matter of employing one.

President McBroom suggested to have a No. 3 sewerage district, for the south side, mapped out, now that Engineer Alvord is here. He spoke strongly for the employment of an engineer at once. No action was taken, but it is understood that the committee will take the matter up at once. Several deeds and transfers of lots in Oak Grove cemetery were ratified.

Councilman Duvall reported that a sewer at Seventh and Boyd streets had been cleaned out but the drainage is defective. He moved to have the street improved by graveling. The motion to draft such an ordinance was adopted.

On motion the board of works was directed to spread lime near Seventh and Boyd streets.

The motion to keep the council chamber locked carried. Secret meetings are alleged to have been held in the council chamber, the room being left filled with beer bottles.

Councilman Hill stated that geese are running at large in portions of the city and have ruined several lawns. He suggested that some remedy be adopted.

Councilman Kolb wanted an ordinance adopted to prohibit dogs running at large.

Councilman Oehlschlaeger said he would like to have an ordinance adopted to keep chickens in the yards or proper place.

The motion to adopt a "goose ordinance" carried.

Councilman Van Meter thought that residents should be permitted to kill dogs when the dogs trespassed on property.

The motion to appoint a dog catcher to take up unlicensed dogs carried.

On motion the board adjourned.

Helping Him Out.

As soon as we can find a good place for it we are going to use the word strabismus.—Baldwin (Kas.) Republican.

It rhymes with isthmus, if that'll do you any good.—New York Mail. Does it? Or has the New York Mail's rhymster got it?—Boston Globe.

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