

RAILROAD PRESIDENTS MEET TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION

MEET DEMAND MORE WAGES

Chairman of General Managers' Association Says the Roads are Fair-Minded on Question of Increase Asked

SOME HAVE ALREADY SETTLED THE MATTER

Demands of the Telegraphers of the Illinois Central Have Been Submitted to Mediation of Knapp and Neill.

SITUATION ON BIG FOUR

New York, Dec. 7.—Railroad presidents, just how many could not be ascertained, held a conference in New York today concerning the attitude of the trainmen and conductors of the east in their proposal for a ten per cent increase in wages.

George F. Baer, president of the Philadelphia & Reading railroad, declined to make any statement.

W. H. Truesdale, president of the Lackawanna, said he had not seen any demands from the men, but that he was inclined to think there was no cause for trouble.

W. G. Besler, chairman of the General Managers' association, said: "The railroads are fair-minded on the wage question, and if that feeling is reciprocated by our men, there will be no occasion for trouble."

Increases Granted.

Detroit, Dec. 7.—In regard to a report emanating from Lansing, Mich., that the Michigan Central railroad had increased the wages of its trainmen and telegraph operators, December 1, the Michigan Central said:

"The conductors and brakemen were given an increase of approximately 15 per cent several weeks ago. The negotiations extended till nearly the last of October, but the increase was made effective October 1.

"The operators were also offered an increase that affected fifty offices on our lines, but they declined the offer and are trying to negotiate an interview with the general manager."

"At the offices of the Pere Marquette railroad it was stated today that telegraphers received a 5 per cent increase September 1; that the firemen have closed negotiations for a 5 to 7 per cent increase effective October 1, and that the trainmen, switchmen, linemen, machinists and engineers have almost completed negotiations that look promising for an increase on January 1.

Submitted to Mediation.

Chicago, Dec. 7.—The demand of the Illinois Central telegraphers for an increase of 10 per cent in wages was refused here today by officials of the road. At the request of the railroad officials it was agreed to submit the matter to the mediation of Chairman Knapp of the interstate commerce commission and Federal Labor Commissioner Neill.

Cincinnati, Dec. 7.—A hitch has arisen in the negotiations for a new wage scale between the officials of the Big Four railroad and a committee of telegraphers of the road and no conference was held today. The Big Four has definitely declined to grant to the telegraphers the privilege of enrolling on their scale of wages and rules the telephone operators.

MUIR CONVICTED.

San Francisco, Dec. 7.—Walter Muir, a stock broker, was convicted today of embezzling \$200 from J. E. Moulton, a client from whom he accepted the sum with orders to purchase stock. Muir was tried and acquitted on a similar charge some time ago after an alleged shortage of \$20,000 was found in his accounts, and he was brought back from Denver, where his capture was effected.

TWENTY-FIVE MEN KILLED A GREAT MASS OF FLAMES Terrible Disaster at Hamburg, Germany, Caused by Explosion of Gas Tanks.

Hamburg, Dec. 7.—The explosion of two gas tanks in the so-called "Kleines Grasbrock" on the Elbe front this forenoon was followed by an extensive fire and the loss of many lives. The explosion was due to a leak in a new gas meter. Escaping gas entered the retort house, where it came in contact with the fire, causing a terrible explosion. A large number of workmen were engaged in rebuilding and enlarging the plant. Twenty-five men were compelled to flee the scene. They disappeared near the gasometer. They were shot up in a mass of flames which worked up to a great height. Firemen appeared quickly, but were unable to approach in large force because of the isolated position of the establishment. Late tonight that all of these are dead, and four men were reported injured, several perhaps fatally. The fire spread rapidly and threatened the heat and so dangerous their position that the firemen were compelled to withdraw. A terrific explosion soon occurred and the tower became a mass of flames, which leaped hundreds of feet in the air, sending fragments of

JOHN DREW IS INJURED



JOHN DREW. Famous Actor Who Was Injured by a Fall from a Horse in New York Yesterday.

New York, Dec. 7.—John Drew, the actor, was thrown from his horse while riding with his daughter on the bridge path in Central park today and was seriously injured. The horse trampled on the actor as he lay on the ground. Mr. Drew was carried to the Presbyterian hospital. The extent of his injuries is not known. Miss Drew was holding her father's head in her lap when an automobile party stopped and volunteered to take the actor to the hospital.

NEWHOUSE SPECIAL BREAKS ALL RECORDS RUNNING EAST

Eight Hundred Miles Made by Salt Lake Man in Less Than Eight Hundred Minutes.

New York, Dec. 7.—All eastbound records between New York and Chicago on the New York Central railroad for trains carrying passengers were broken today by the special carrying Samuel Newhouse of Salt Lake here on his trip to catch a steamer for Europe, where a brother is dying. Approximately the train traveled the distance in 17 hours and 30 minutes as against 18 hours, which the Twentieth Century limited makes.

NO SYMPATHETIC STRIKE

Gompers to Meet Hawley of the Switchmen's Union at Cincinnati on Friday.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 7.—President Frank T. Hawley of the switchmen's union of North America will leave tomorrow night to meet President Samuel Gompers of the American Federation of Labor at Cincinnati on Friday, when the situation relative to the switchmen's strike in the northwest will be discussed.

INSPECTOR LET OUT FOR GOOD OF SERVICE

Washington, Dec. 7.—Secretary Nagel today directed the dismissal from office of George E. Baldwin, a Chinese immigration inspector at Baltimore.

PAN-AMERICAN BANK

Congress Will Be Asked to Grant Charter to Proposed Institution.

Washington, Dec. 7.—Congress will be asked to grant a national charter to the proposed Pan-American bank, which New York capitalists propose to establish, with headquarters in New York and branches throughout Central and South America.

CHANGE OF PLANS.

New York, Dec. 7.—The recent federal court Standard Oil decision is said today to have changed the plans of the proposed copper merger and there may be some delay in effecting the combination.

Message Is Read to Both Houses

LITTLE FAULT SEEN IN MESSAGE

President's Effort to Economize in the Government Expenditures Approved Even by the Democratic Members

CONGRESS ADJOURNS DUE TO LACK OF EMPLOYMENT

President Tells Congress That Country Is in High State of Prosperity, but the Cost of Living Is Increased.

NOT DUE TO THE TARIFF

Washington, Dec. 7.—Having assembled and received the president's annual message, congress today found itself literally "out of work" and in consequence adjourned until Friday, when, if some of the various committees fail to provide something to do, adjournment will be taken until Monday.

The formality of reading the message aloud consumed an hour and a half in each house. When the conclusion was reached, the house immediately adjourned, but the senate went into executive session. Little fault was found with the message among Republicans, who seemed to agree that it was as satisfactory a document as the President could prepare and remain consistent with the party's campaign pledges.

The Democrats approved the President's effort to economize, but deprecated his suggestion that the Monroe doctrine had practically become obsolete.

"The message is written in the President's customary terse, vigorous style," commented Representative Payne, majority leader in the house, while Representative Clark, minority leader, thought the message was "too long" and that it was comparatively brief, "as discussion of times and important matters is relegated to special messages."

In both houses the message was subjected to most careful scrutiny. Following the custom the message was referred to the committee of the whole to be prepared for "revision" by various committees whose business is to deal with subjects discussed by the President in his message.

Perhaps the most important question presented to this administration is that of economy in expenditure and sufficient revenue to meet the deficit. Following his message, and he discussed the methods taken to meet the deficit. The President said that he had no intention of revising the tariff until the facts are at hand upon which such revision can be undertaken.

Speaking generally, he says the country is in a high state of prosperity. He notes the increase in the cost of living, but says the tariff is not the cause. In those products of the factory and farm there has been no increase in the tariff, and in many instances a very considerable reduction, the president declares.

Zelaya Must Be Punished.

"The relations of the United States with all foreign governments have continued the normal basis of amity and good understanding and very generally satisfactory."

President Taft says the Zelaya government of Nicaragua has kept Central America constant in amity, but it is unnecessary, he says, "to rehearse here the sad tale of unspeakable barbarities and oppression alleged to have been committed by the Zelaya government. Recently two Americans were put to death by order of President Zelaya himself. They were reported to have been regularly commissioned officers in the organized forces of a revolution, and, as such, according to the modern enlightened practices of civilized nations, they would be entitled to be dealt with as prisoners of war."

"This government proceeded with deliberate circumspection to determine the exact truth in relation to the reports and upon the course to be pursued most consistent with its dignity and its moral obligations to Central America and to civilization."

Concerning the far east the president says this government preserves unchanged its policy of supporting the forces of a revolution, and, as such, Reorganization of the department of state upon modern lines in furtherance of our foreign trade and American interests abroad is recommended.

SWITCHMEN LOSE STRIKE

St. Paul Jobbers Advise Their Customers That the Railroads are Handling Freight.

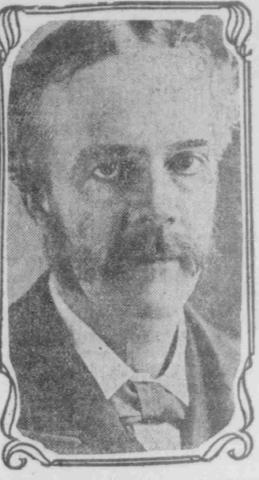
St. Paul, Dec. 7.—Fifteen prominent jobbers and manufacturers, constituting a committee of the Jobbers' Union and the Manufacturers of St. Paul, today made a personal inspection of the terminals and transfer stations in the Twin Cities to ascertain actual traffic conditions as a result of the switchmen's strike.

After a tour in a private car, the committee gave out a statement that "the freight is being moved in a satisfactory manner and, although normal conditions have not yet been reached, the handling of business above normal was being handled at some points."

KILLED BY FOOTPADS.

Couder D'Alene, Ida., Dec. 7.—A man supposed to be John H. Billings was murdered by footpads last night and his body was found by children today. A letter from Mrs. Emma Weyer of Kingman, Kans., who is believed to be his daughter, was found in his pocket.

TARIFF REFORM IN ENGLAND PROBABLE



FORMER PREMIER A. J. BALFOUR Leader of the unionists in the great struggle now going on in Great Britain.

GOVERNMENT NEEDS FUNDS

If Successful at the Poll the Unionists Will Endeavor to Protect the Manufacturers Against Foreign Competition

COLONIES WILL BE GIVEN PREFERENCE

Cotton and Wool Will Be Free, but There Will Be a Tax on Wheat, Flour, Bacon and Maize—Other Features.

VIEW OF A FREE TRADER

London, Dec. 7.—The Birmingham Daily Post tomorrow will publish an article from inspired sources outlining the tariff reform proposals that are likely to be made by the Unionist government if the Unionists are successful at the elections, prefacing it with the remark that the country's financial necessities are much greater than they were in 1906, when Joseph Chamberlain started the movement.

Rob Saloon and Street Car and Suspect is Placed Under Arrest.

After a pause of about 36 hours, holdups resumed activity in Salt Lake, last night, and within an hour had succeeded in robbing a saloon and a street car. They showed themselves to be experts at the art, and were but little exercised when they quietly took money out of a cash drawer and emptied a conductor's change bank.

Being outside the city limits, the case fell on the sheriff's office for attention and in less than thirty minutes after the first holdup, a young man, who gives his name as J. W. Head and who carried a heavy revolver, had been placed under arrest.

HOME RULERS EXPECT TO PROFIT IN THE END

Political Crisis in Great Britain Will Redound to Advantage of Ireland.

London, Dec. 7.—John E. Redmond, leader of the Irish party, has forwarded a manifesto to T. P. O'Connor, president of the United Irish league of Great Britain, who is now in New York, addressed to the friends of Ireland in the United States, and dealing with the British political crisis.

Mr. Redmond congratulates Mr. O'Connor on the success of his mission in America and expresses the gratitude of the Irish party at the warm response of the American people to Ireland's appeal. The manifesto says:

"Never has the situation confronting Ireland been so opportune as this. It has been recently described by Rosebery and Lansdowne as the granting of home rule to Ireland. All that is necessary to enable Ireland to profit by this opportunity is that the unity, discipline and efficiency of the party be maintained."

"But the Irish party is threatened with grave dangers. Against it are arrayed great and wealthy interests and the Unionists have declared their intention of opposing it in every constituency in Ireland, with the avowed purpose of exhausting the party's funds. This policy was tried against Farrell in 1886 and failed ignominiously, thanks to America's generosity. So far as voting is concerned, it will fall more ignominiously now than in 1886, but the extra expenditure involved will severely tax the party's resources. We therefore would welcome the ever-generous support of our friends in America and trust it will not fail us until victory has been won."

GRAND JURY LOOKING INTO PHENIX COMPANY AFFAIRS

George P. Sheldon, Deposed President of the Concern, Sick Unto Death.

New York, Dec. 7.—Acting upon the recommendation of H. O. Hotchkiss, state superintendent of insurance, whose preliminary report yesterday disclosed such alleged extraordinary irregularities in the management of the Phoenix (fire) Insurance company of Brooklyn, the district attorney's office began investigation before the grand jury today.

Four witnesses were examined by Assistant District Attorney Nott, all former business associates of George P. Sheldon, deposed president of the company. Lawyers following the case point out that the first matter to be investigated will be in connection with alleged specific irregularities in the use of the company's funds by its former president. And, if any indictment is found, it is said, it will be upon a charge of larceny.

Edwin A. Carter, connected with a brokerage firm with which Sheldon is said to have dealt, was a witness before the grand jury today. R. T. Doramus, receiving and note teler of a bank; Charles F. Coster, secretary of the Phoenix insurance company of Brooklyn, and Frederick T. Cutler, a bookkeeper in the brokerage firm referred to, also testified.

Harry Evans, president of the Continental Insurance company, who was elected chairman of the executive committee of the Phoenix insurance company of Brooklyn, today intimated that other witnesses besides President Sheldon may be deposed as a result of the disclosures. Mr. Evans added, however, that the Phoenix insurance company of Brooklyn was sound and that the stockholders need have no fear.

Mr. Sheldon is still in a critical condition at his home in Greenwich, Conn. Greenwich, Conn., Dec. 7.—Communication with George P. Sheldon, formerly president of the Phoenix insurance company of Brooklyn, concerning the affairs of that company, is impossible, owing to his critical illness.

Mr. Sheldon contracted ptomaine poisoning six weeks ago. This developed into an inflammation of the muscular tissues of the heart and was complicated by an affection of the kidneys. Today his chances of recovery were said to be slight.

ANSWERING want ads. Weather Today: Snow.