CONFERENCE MAY YET END STRIKE

Attitude of Coal Miners Said To Be Weakening.

Proposed Minimum Wage Stipulation Opposed By Asquith—Only Bar to Peace.

London—The government's minimum wage bill, introduced by Premier Asquith in an endeavor to bring about a settlement of the coal strike, passed through the committee stage in the house of commons in virtually its original form.

Nearly all the amendments submitted had been withdrawn or defeated.

Whether the bill reaches the statute books is questionable, for it is likely that a conference of mineowners and miners called by Premier Asquith will result in an agreement, making the bill unnecessary. In this case the measure may be withdrawn.

It is believed that the labor leaders having failed to induce the government to define in the bill the minimum rates to be paid underground workers, prefer a settlement of the controversy without legislation.

It is clear that the strike movement is weakening. The attitude of the leaders now is in strong contrast to the spirit of defiance previously shown. They appear to have realized the uselessness of fighting both the coal mine owners and the government, while dependent upon their rapidly depleting union treasuries, and indications are that work in the mines will be resumed in a few days.

It was considered significant that Lloyds was ready to accept low rates of insurance against the strike continuing beyond March 31.

In the debate in the commons the miners' representatives intimated that if the government's bill were amended in the committee stage to provide for daily minimum of $1.25 for adults and 50 cents for boys working underground, the miners would not insist on the inclusion of their entire schedule and the way would be clear for the speedy passage of the measure and the settlement of the strike.

It had been generally believed that the government would make this concession to the miners, but Premier Asquith's refusal to accept a labor amendment inserting a clause covering the $1.25 and 50 cents minimum or to put any fixed rates in the bill changed the situation.

WANTS REID TO EXPLAIN.

Alleged Remarks of American Ambassador Roil Sir Henry.

London—Sir Henry Dalzell has decided to press his question in the house of commons as to the authenticity of the interview with Whitelaw Reid, American ambassador, printed in a New York newspaper, in which the American diplomatic representative was quoted as saying that conditions in England just now were similar to those in France before the revolution.

The question was withdrawn a few days ago, owing to pressure brought on Sir Henry by the government. The question was again submitted, however, in altered form, and passed by the speaker. As it now appears, it asks the secretary of state for foreign affairs "whether his attention has been drawn to the interview with the American ambassador to Great Britain, in the course of which he is reported to have expressed the opinion that general political conditions in the country at present are the same which prevailed in France before the revolution, and whether he will ascertain from the American ambassador whether the interview is accurately described?"

There is a general disbelief that Mr. Reid wa so indiscreet as to use the language attributed to him, and it is known also that the government has no wish to raise an issue with the United States over the matter.

Feet to Tag Criminals.

Los Angeles—A footprint system of criminal identification will be used by the police of Los Angeles in the future, according to an announcement made by Chief of Police Sebastian. Experiments were made by the detectives here with the result that the application of the Bertillon system to the feet was decided upon. The experimenters declared there was less chance of changing the appearance of the feet than that of the hands, and, therefore, that pedal identification was preferable to manual.

New Air Record is Made.

Augusta, Ga.—What army officers declare is a new record for aeroplanes was made by Aviator Walsh here at the army camp with a machine built to meet special specifications by the War department. In an unfavorable wind, Walsh carried fuel ample for four hours' flight, weighing 180 pounds, and 480 pounds added weight, an aggregate load of 660 pounds on the biplane, and climbed to an altitude of 910 feet in seven minutes.

Nippon Explorers Back.

Wellington, N. Z.—The Japanese Antarctic expedition has returned here. They report having seen nothing of the British Polar expedition of Captain Robert F. Scott. The Japanese reported all on board the Kainan Maru well. They were engaged chiefly in coast exploration on King Edward island.

ROBBERS GET $60,000 LOOT.

Hold Up Train in Mississippi and Blow Express Safe.

Corinth, Miss.—Mobile & Ohio passenger train No. 4, northbound, was held up and the express safe blown open and robbed seven miles south of Corinth by four men heavily armed and masked.

Bloodhounds have been telegraphed for and a posse has been organized to take up the pursuit.

It is reported the safe contained $60,000 in currency.

Where the robbers boarded the train is not known. Engineer Wilden and Fireman Kaufman first learned of their presence when two of the men crawled over the tender with revolvers drawn and commanded that the train be brought to a halt at a point designated. The command was obeyed.

In the meantime other members of the band had gained entrance to the express car and after subduing Express Messenger Snoddy, set the explosive, which was touched off when the train came to a stop.

After taking the contents of the safe, the four took to the woods without attempting to rifle the mail or molest the passengers.

No attempts will be made to penetrate the densely wooded river bottom where the men are believed to be in hiding, until the arrival of a detail of railroad officers and bloodhounds from Jackson, Tenn., who are coming aboard a special.

BRIBERY PROBE STARTS.

Four Mexico Representatives Formally Arraigned.

Santa Fe, N. M.—With the formal arraignment of Representative Manuel Cordova, Julian Trujillo, Louis R. Montoya and J. H. Lucero, arrested on a charge of soliciting a bribe of $5,000 for their collective votes for United States senator, the investigation by the lower house into the alleged corruption was begun.

The accused legislators, who are to be tried first by a committee of 15 appointed by the speaker, have employed counsel to defend them against the charge, which they now deny. Their defense will be that they were led into the trap as a result of a political conspiracy, believing they were going to attend a caucus at the time they visited a room in the hotel, where it is alleged they received $500 each on their promise to vote for a certain candidate for senator.

The investigation of the alleged bribery of the four members will be pushed vigorously by the committee and all the sessions will be public.

The men were formally served with warrants charging them with a felony. They are in the custody of the sheriff of Santa Fe county.

SMUGGLES DIAMONDS IN HAT

San Francisco Woman Admits Her Offense to Officers.

New York—Mrs. Banche Carson, a fashionably dressed widow of San Francisco, had diamond earrings concealed in her hat when she passed custom inspection on her arrival from India, according to a reported admission made to authorities.

Mrs. Carson declared only a package of unstrung pearls, for which she paid duty on the valuation of $850. Custom officers brought the woman from her hotel for further examination, asserting that the pearls were worth $7,500.

The woman broke down and admitted, it was said, that she had hidden two diamond earrings in her hat and had other jewelry which altogether the authorities valued at $20,000.

Mrs. Carson was held, charged with smuggling, in $2,000 bail.

Mrs. Carson gave her address as 925 Gough street, San Francisco.

Railroad Found Guilty.

Buffalo, N. Y. — The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western railroad was found guilty in the United States District court of violating the commodities clause of the Hepburn act, and was fined $2,000. The company was indicted on 20 counts and faced a maximum penalty of $100,000, the other charge being that it shipped free from Buffalo to Scranton, Pa., a quantity of hay for feeding mules in the mines. An appeal will be taken to test the constitutionality of the penal feature of the commodities clause.

Morgan May Buy Temple.

New York — Following J. P. Morgan's long sojourn in Egypt this winter, reports have reached this city to the effect that he is negotiating for the purchase and removal to America of the famous ruins of the Temple of Philae. The temple is threatened with destruction owing to the rise in the level of the upper Nile as a result of the enlargement of the Assouan dam. The cost of the work would be more than $8,000,000.

Great Earth Block to Be Pumped

San Francisco—The exposition officials have awarded the contract for the filling in of a submerged part of the world's fair site. Work is to be begun at once. One million cubic yards of earth is to be pumped from the bottom of the bay by suction dredges, the area to be filled covering several blocks.

300 Adrift on Ice Floes.

St. Petersburg—Three ice-breaking steamers are en route from the Neva in the direction of the island of Nargen, to the northwest of Revel, in the Gulf of Finland, where 300 fishermen are adrift on floating ice. They are in imminent danger of losing their lives.

STRAWBERRY PROBABLY MOST WIDELY GROWN OF ALL FRUITS

There Are Varieties Adapted to Almost Every Climate and Condition From Florida to Alaska—Well-Drained, Friable Clay Is Considered Best Soil—Northern Slope Preferred.

(By LE ROY CADY, Minnesota.)

The strawberry is probably the most widely-grown fruit in the world. There are varieties adapted to almost every climate and condition, from Alaska to Florida. Our cultivated kinds have been developed from the Chilian strawberry and the common wild strawberry. The alpine strawberry of Europe is the parent of the ever-bearing varieties which are now coming into prominence in some places. They, however, are not as yet of sufficient value to deserve much attention. The strawberry is one of the first fruits on the market in the spring, and hence is always welcome.

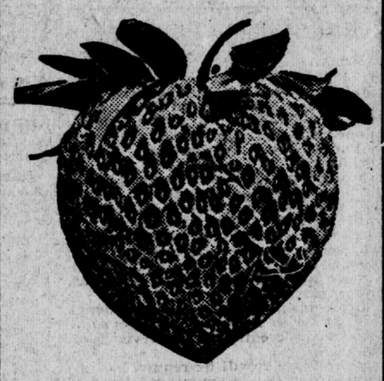
The best time to set a strawberry-bed is the early spring, as soon as the land is in good condition and the plants can be obtained. There is more moisture as a rule at that time; and this, combined with the cool weather of spring, gives better growing conditions than August planting. Plants may also be set in the fall, if extra attention and care are given them. It does not pay to set the plants in dry soil or in a dry season, unless plenty of water for irrigation purposes is available.

Any land that will grow a good crop of corn will grow strawberries. Sod land should never be used if it can be prevented, as it is likely to contain grubs and cut-worms, which will eat off the roots of newly-set plants. A well-drained, friable clay loam is probably best for strawberries—a soil that warms up easily and yet will hold sufficient moisture for the crop.

Strawberries require a rich soil, hence it is well to thoroughly manure the land that is to be used for the crop in the fall, and plow under from four to six inches deep. In the spring disk, drag and smooth thoroughly. This gives a loose soil in which to set the plants, and a firm sub-soil to hold the moisture, and yet open enough to let the roots through.

A northern slope is to be preferred, as the plants do not start so early in the spring. They thus escape the early frosts and they are not so likely to be dried out by the hot winds at fruiting time. Many growers, however, obtain good results on a southern slope, in spite of the disadvantages.

Some growers prefer to fruit the bed only one season; in this case, as soon as it is through fruiting, the bed is plowed up and some late crop, such as turnips or fodder corn, planted on the land. If it is desired to



An Excellent Specimen.

keep the bed fruiting more than one year, a plan like the following is often used: As soon as the bed is through fruiting, the plants are mowed with a horse mower or by hand, close to the ground, and then the bed is raked clean and the trash burned; or else, if it is very dry, the bed may be burned over without raking. If this is attempted, however, the leaves and straw must be very dry, so they will burn like a flash; otherwise injury will be done the plants. When the trash is disposed of, plow a furrow on each side of the row, leaving about one foot of row standing. Fill this trench with well-rotted manure, and cultivate the soil back. Then with a sharp hoe cut out all the weak and diseased plants left, leaving the plants about six inches apart. These will soon send out runners and form a new bed by fall. In this way much diseased foliage and some insects are gotten rid of. A good horse cultivator can often be used instead of a plow. The use to which the fruit is to be put will influence the picking. If for home or local use the fruit may be picked somewhat riper than if it is shipped a long distance. No matter where it is marketed, care must be used in picking to keep the patch picked clean every day.

Do not pick when the fruit or vines are wet, as this will cause the fruit to be soft and to spoil in transit. Many growers find it to be an advan-

Setting Strawberry Plants. The Setting of the Plant at the Left Is Too Shallow; That at the Right Too Deep; the Center Plant Is Properly Set, With Its Crown Even With the Surface of the Ground.

tage to take the fruit from the field to a packing shed and there repack, using only ripe, uniform-sized fruit in the package. Neatness of package, as well as quality of fruit, is a great factor in marketing.

PROFIT MADE IN CULTURE OF FISH

Care Need Not Interfere With Other Work on Farm—Tanks Must Have Clean Gravel.

To make a success in fish culture the tanks must be provided with clean gravel and the bottoms raked once a week. If the tanks are disturbed by fish hawks, bull frogs, mink or other pests, place strips of board across the tank and cover with wire netting that can be removed when cleaning. The food will scatter through the wire.

When the tank is ready to receive the fry, order from a commercial fish hatchery 10,000 speckled, square-tailed, brook trout fry that will cost from $3 to $5 per thousand, according to age. For four weeks after hatching no feed will be necessary. Nature provides a sack for fry to first consume. For the next six weeks skimmed milk curd may be fed three times a day; after that sheep and pigs' liver, poultry waste cut fine, or a commercial food made in the form of a meal containing fish and grain, at a low cost. This should be fed to the fish the same as poultry is fed.

Supposing the cost of tank and fry is $50 and cost of feeding $25, a total of $75, and 5,000 of the 10,000 fry grow to fingerlings the first season. By September the fingerlings are worth $25 per thousand, and will find ready sale if put on the market.

The producer has left the tank and $50 above the cost, with a chance to save many of the other 5,000 fry not reckoned. There are no fertilizer bills to pay, no spraying of trees, no waiting a year for returns, no working in the hot sun killing weeds—just a lot of wholesome fun that need not interfere with other work on the farm.

SPRAYING CALENDAR FOR APPLES

The Trouble.	The Spray.	Time of Application. First Spraying.	Second Spraying.	Third Spraying.	Subsequent Treatment	Remarks.
Bud moths, canker worms, case bearers, leaf rollers, crumpers, curculios, codling moths, scab, canker, leaf spot and orange rust.	XI	Just before the blossoms open.	Just after petals fall.	10-15 days later.		These applications are absolutely necessary for the production of clean fruit. A fourth spraying is often necessary later. In the case of orange rust, destroy cedar trees adjacent to orchard.
Apple Aphids.	I or II	When insects appear.				
Woolly Aphis.	II	When observed.				Expose roots and spray with solution 1-100 or tobacco stems may be used.
Borers, flat headed.	IV	In early March	Renew if needed.		Cut out borers where once started.	Cut spray well up main limbs. Head the tree low, keep it healthy, growing condition with cultivation.
Borers, round headed.	XIV or IV	In early March	Renew if needed.		Ditto above.	If IV is used, add 1 pint of crude carbolic acid to 10 gallons of mixture.
Borer, Twig.						Cut out infested twigs.
Frost Bark Beetle.						
San Jose scale.	VIII	In fall after tree is dormant.	In spring before buds open.		Prune back severely.	To be sprayed for only when insects are present.
Scurfy scale, oyster shell bark louse, Forbes' scale.	I or IV	Late May.				Ditto above.
Fall webworm.	V or VI	Second week in July.				
Apple blight.						Cut out and burn diseased portions.

In response to frequent requests for information concerning spray mixtures and their application on apple trees, the above calendar is given. Spray Number XI. indicates either Bordeaux mixture 50 gallons and Paris green one-half pound, or lead arsenate two pounds.

Spray Number I.—Kerosene oil, two gallons. Soap one-half pound and water one gallon.

Number II.—Black leaf one gallon, water 70 gallons.

Number IV.—Whale oil soap a pound, water one gallon. Dilute for tender foliage.

Number XIV.—White lead and raw linseed oil.

Number VIII.—Sulphur 15 pounds, lime 15 pounds, water 50 gallons. This can be applied only when trees are dormant, as the caustic effects will burn foliage.

Number V.—Paris green one pound, lime—fresh stone lime—four pounds, water 100 gallons.

Number VI.—Lead arsenate four pounds, water 100 gallons.

REBELS GET FEDERAL LEADER

Orozco Is Revenged on Former Rival—Refugees in Danger.

El Paso, Tex.—Word was received here that General Pancho Villa, the federal leader in the Laguna district of Mexico, had been captured by rebels and ordered shot and that a severe battle was fought at Gomez Palacio a week ago. Twenty-two hundred foreigners in the Laguna district are said to be trying to escape from the country.

News of the battle was brought in by three refugee Americans, the vanguard of the French, German and other foreigners fleeing from Mexico. Thirty-eight federal soldiers and ten rebels were killed in the fighting, it was reported. The engagement was not decisive. Torreon and Gomez Palacio, a large railroad station, are connected by streetcar. The latter was and is still in the hands of the so-called liberals, or rebels, while the former is controlled by the government troops.

Pablo Lavine, a supposed federal officer, was discovered to have been taking rifles and ammunition from Torreon to Gomez Palacio, and it was determined to attack Gomez Palacio at once. A force of 2,000 federal volunteers was assembled for the purpose. The federal regulars, numbering 1,800 men, declared that they were loyal to Madero, but that they would not leave the city to the danger from looters. The volunteer army was met on the outskirts of Gomez Palacio and thousands of shots were fired. The volunteers then retreated back to Torreon.

The report of the capture of General Pancho Villa came in a telegram from General Orozco to General Ponce at Juarez. The telegram repeated a report whcih Orozco had received from General Salazar at the front that Colonel Salazar, a semi-independent leader, killed, wounded or captured a portion of Villa's small force and said that he had overtaken and captured Villa and 29 of his men, with 29,000 pesos.

Villa was said to have offered to join the liberal movement, in reply to which Orozco, according to his telegram, ordered him shot. Orozco and Villa were personal enemies.

Villa, like Orozco, was one of Francisco I. Madero's trusted leaders in the revolution against President Diaz. When the present revolt started his attitude was a matter of speculation for some time. Both sides claimed him. Three weeks ago he declared himself loyal to his old chief, Madero.

WRECK AVERTED BY DREAM.

Section Foreman Has Vision of Washout; Finds It True.

Atlanta, Ga.—Awakening from a sleep in which he had dreamed that the nearby trestle on the Southern railroad had been washed away, although suffering from illness, a section foreman arose from his bed and went to South river, six miles from here, before dawn Monday morning, to discover that his dream was a reality.

The foreman found that the stream, swollen by heavy rains, had carried away a trestle spanning a 65-foot chasm. He knew that a passenger train from Atlanta to Columbus, Ga., soon was due to arrive at the opposite side of the river, but he had no means of reaching that point to warn the engineer of the danger, as the river is three-quarters of a mile wide.

Standing on the bank, the man repeatedly "hallooed" for half an hour. Finally he heard an answering shout, and called out a warning to J. E. Daniel, the man who had heard him. Daniel flagged the train just as it neared the brink of the stream.

Headland Makes Appeal.

Montgomery, Ala.—An appeal for aid came to Montgomery from the storm-stricken Headland, where two score homes were damaged and several lives lost in a tornado that swept over the town. Five persons were killed in Headland and a score or more hurt. Several of these cannot survive. The Alabama river will have flooded the lower business district of Montgomery within the next 24 hours if the present increase in the river's rise is maintained. Already much damage has been done.

Baby's Name is "Oceana."

Los Angeles—Oceana Thomas Turner is the name selected by Mrs. Leo Turner, of Tacoma, for her daughter, who was born at sea on the liner President, in a heavy gale. Captain Thomas of the President, suggested it. A parting assurance of the skipper, as his ship moved away from the dock was that he would be "on deck" for the christening and would act in the capacity of god-father when the President again returned to port.

Premier Quits Pekin.

Pekin—Premier Shang Tao Yi has left here for Nanking. The Southern delegates, with whom he came to Pekin, departed several days ago. Some foreign ministers, who have met Shang Tao Yi, consider him something of a visionary. The four powers' group of financiers are of the opinion that his financial policy is dangerous and accuse him of trickiness in negotiating the present loans with which he was entrusted.

Unrest in China Receding.

Nanking—The outlook in China is more hopeful than at any time since the outbreak of the revolution. Carefully compiled reports received here show that while the unrest is general, during the last week disorder has decreased steadily, and there is increased confidence in the restoration of trade.

MANY SEE LIVE STOCK EXHIBIT

Inland Empire Visitors Take Show By Storm.

Prize Yearling Steer From University of Idaho Brings $1.20 Pound—Oregon Man Buys.

Portland—Development of the livestock industry of the Northwest and of Portland as the distributing center for all the beef, pork and mutton products of Oregon Washington and Idaho was given further impetus by the magnificent exposition at the stockyards which was attended by every one of the 238 guests from the Inland Empire who arrived in the city on a special train, as well as by more than 6000 residents of the city.

The conspicuous ribbon badges of the Inland Empire delegation were everywhere in evidence. The Central Idaho and Eastern Washington visitors were an important factor in the days' program, and their stock exhibits proved important features of the day's prize distributions and sales.

It was a University of Idaho entry—a yearling Hereford—that brought the record price for a steer on foot ever paid west of Chicago. When George Warren, of Warrenton, Or., paid $1.20 a pound for the big prize winner of the show he paid more than ever has been paid in the history of the world, with the single exception of the steer "Advance," which brought $1.50 a pound at Chicago 12 years ago.

The animal weighed 1,080 pounds, and Mr. Warren wrote his check for $1,296. Then he got busy figuring what the price of porterhouse steaks would be if sold at the usual proportionate advance over the price at which he bought. He expects to be amply repaid for his investment by exhibiting his purchase at future fairs and livestock shows.

As this sale robbed the University of Idaho of its prize offering, officials of the college bought from Benson Bros., of Union, Or., a yearling White Shorthorn at 17 cents a pound. W. L. Carlyle, dean of the Agricultural college, declares that he will develop this steer into a prize-winner for next year's show.

All the Lake and Eastern Oregon people were elated over the showing made by their stock. Although the judges did not use the ribbon system in awarding prizes, announcement of the results soon were made known.

With the best portion of the prizes distributed among the Inland Empire stockmen, and the record sale of the whole western half of the United States going to one of their schools, the people of that district had reason to be elated. They lost no opportunity in voicing their delight to everyone on the grounds.

It was a busy day for the Inland Empire party. Quite a few of them had been detained at the banquet the night before until after midnight, and some of these were a little tardy in reaching the special cars provided for transporting them to the show grounds. Some missed the cars and came trailing to the show later in the morning.

Upon arrival at the exposition the visitors were given an informal reception by members of the Livestock Exchange and the Pacific Northwest Livestock association, under whose auspices the show was given. Speeches were dispensed with, as everyone was too eager to get a look at the fine sheep, cattle and swine.

The visitors just had time to chase through the stock pens and inspect the prize-winners casually before the auction sale started. Throughout the remainder of the morning interest centered in the sales ring.

Lunch was served on the grounds and again opportunity was given for viewing the exhibits before the afternoon sales opened. The early afternoon brought a constant stream of visitors from Portland and other nearby towns. In view of the small attendance last year, officials of the association feel jubilant over the presence of so many Portland people, neary half of whom were women.

Rurales Desert to Orozco.

Chihuahua Mexico—General Jose de la Lux Soto commanding 500 rurales garrisoning the city of Parral telegraphed to General Orozco that he and his men would join the revolution. His decision came speedily after Orozco had hinted at attacking him. Felipe Guiterrez, the new revolutionary governor of the state of Chihuahua, has drafted a bill to issue state bonds for a loan of $600,000 gold for the revolutionary army. A local bank is said to have agreed to furnish the money if the bonds are issued legally.

Knox Is Well Satisfied.

On Board the United States Cruiser Washington, at sea — Secretary of State Knox, who, with his party, came on board at Puerto Barrios, Guatemala, bound direct for La Guaira, Venezuela, is well satisfied with the results of his visits to Central American capitals. The secretary of state expects to arrive at La Guaira within two days, and in all probability, will reach Norfolk, Va., April 17 on his return journey.

$5,000 is Sent to China.

Washington, D. C.—The American Red Cross society sent $5,000 to China for the relief of the famine sufferers in the new republic. This makes a total of $55,000 sent since January 1.