

Foster Belittles His Old Syndicalism Views; Says He Has a New Pamphlet Ready

By a Staff Correspondent of The Sun.

PITTSBURG, Sept. 21.—When asked this morning about the Red pamphlet on "Syndicalism and Sabotage" attributed to him and quoted in editorials in THE SUN of Saturday and Sunday, William Z. Foster, secretary and moving spirit of the steel strike here, said he believed the document to be a forgery.

Later upon seeing the quotations in THE SUN he refused outright to repudiate the pamphlet.

"It's old stuff," said he; "it has whiskers on it. I haven't seen it for ten years. We know who's now sending it around, however. They've dug it up and reprinted it to discredit the men. In a day or two I'll have ready for you a new pamphlet. But you won't be fair. You won't print that, because it might be creditable."

Despite the radicalism in the pamphlet which bears his name there is no record here that Foster has ever voiced these sentiments in the present strike. He spent the better part of half an hour's speech to-night warning the men at a big Pittsburgh meeting to avoid violence.

sworn in as special deputies. This measure was taken, according to an official of one of the most important companies, purely as a measure of protection for the men themselves and for the plants. It is taken in record with the declared policy of fighting out the strike on the lines as they are drawn on the ground.

In addition to these men the companies have thousands of their own special officers regularly on duty at the plants. Every community has increased its police force in every possible way. These increases and additions of hundreds of special officers are for the most part friendly to the companies, insist that they are but taking reasonable precautions. The strike leaders assert that all this show of force only incites to violence.

Despite the protestations on both sides violence is an ever present possibility. The companies and the local authorities for the most part friendly to the companies, insist that they are but taking reasonable precautions. The strike leaders assert that all this show of force only incites to violence.

Point Used by Strikers.—This denial of the right of assemblies is proving one of the most valuable cards in the hands of the strike leaders. Their wrath centers on Sheriff Haddock of Allegheny county and on Mayor Lysie who are the chief enemies of the strikers. The Mayor has proclaimed that no meetings can be held within their jurisdiction.

They say these boys fought for democracy," sneered Foster, the leader of the strikers. "Upon what grounds have you forbidden these meetings?" the reporter for The Sun asked Mayor Lysie this afternoon.

"On the grounds that no meetings can be held without a permit," he replied, "and we are not giving any permits. I'm determined that law and order shall be maintained."

The Mayor had boarded up all the halls in his town early last night. At the time scheduled for the meeting this afternoon 2,000 strikers gathered at the edge of the city in an open field. The chief of police, with a big force of special officers, uniformed and ununiformed, descended upon the meeting.

Foster and Democracy.—Foster told of the arrests this afternoon, the fact that the men were being held without bail and uncommunicated, and cried: "If that's democracy, I want none of it." The situation, as well as it can be stated impartially, is: Both sides are making extravagant assertions. Both

are waving the American flag hard. Each is accusing the other of trickery and worse. Steel officials, for instance, charge that the whole movement is Bolshevism. They say that all of the malcontents are the non-English speaking element. The strikers refute this with a long list of American names. The strike literature and announcements, nevertheless, are printed in every dialect of southern and eastern Europe.

Mayor Lyle of McKeesport says scornfully that not more than twenty Americans were in the whole meeting that he broke up this afternoon. Even admitting that their adherents come largely from the foreign element the local leaders protest the patriotism of those men.

"They bought Liberty bonds up to the hilt," said Foster this afternoon. "They stuck through this war like any soldiers. They were fed up on the doctrine that they were helping the fight for democracy. Now they want to get some of that democracy."

"All this district is in the grip of the steel corporations. They own everything—officials, papers, schools, yes, even some of the churches. Our men resent bitterly the charge that they live like hogs because they want to live and raise families on it. It's the same charge that was made when we organized the Chicago stock yards. Yet when the men got better wages their bunk houses and the shacks of stores disappeared."

The men spread out into comfortable homes, while decent stores and picture theatres grew up. We're fighting for that class of men here, laborers getting from \$7 to \$4 cents an hour and trying to live and raise families on it.

"Every constitutional right they have is abused. They can't meet. When they are arrested bail is denied."

Grossness Strike Literature.—The strike headquarters is full of documents bearing out this sentiment. A copy of a Chicago paper contains photographs of three men in their coffins, about to be buried, and surrounded by weeping relatives. Many of the relatives in uniform. The picture described what happened to four organizers in Hammond, who were ruthlessly shot down by company guards when taking part in a peaceful meeting away from the plant.

Another frightful picture attributed to the missions of the company is a picture of a head of Mary Snelling, who bide fair to become the martyr of this strike. The picture shows her head crushed by clubs. Strike leaders allege she was thus martyred after she had been shot to death when guards attempted to break up a meeting.

Both these pictures are being circulated by thousands among the strikers. Nor is there any reason to doubt that other means of argument even more sensational are resorted to.

According to the tales which the men themselves repeat to their women folk they are striking "to bring booze back," "because they'll be killed if they don't," "because their pay will be cut if they don't," and "because their pay will be raised if they do." A powerful effort is being made to have it appear that President Wilson is behind them.

Secretary Foster played hard on the Wilson name at the meeting at Rankin this afternoon. He told his hearers that in the course of an hour's conference with the President in Washington Mr. Wilson had promised to do all that he could for the strike cause. He is also telling them that Judge Gary turned down his request for a conference with the President in Washington Mr. Wilson had promised to do all that he could for the strike cause. He is also telling them that Judge Gary turned down his request for a conference with the President in Washington Mr. Wilson had promised to do all that he could for the strike cause.

maintain vigorously that the union effort is merely for the vindication of the power of the American Federation of Labor. They accuse Foster of the most radical beliefs. They insist that in fighting the strike they are fighting the battle of American institutions. They say that their precautions against violence are more than justified by the previous records of the strikers and their leaders.

The strikers assert that the plants have been "fortified." Union leaders admit to-day that they had not been able to pin down stories the men have told of big shipments of rifles and of machine guns mounted in the plants. Huge stores of coals and provisions have been brought into many of the mills, but the company officials insist that they are merely enough for the guard which prudently dictates.

Will regard to the importance of the strike on the industry itself an important official said to-night: "If 80 per cent of the men go out it will mean that we will have to bank many free. If more than 50 per cent go out it will mean that the blast furnaces will be 'pulled.' They will go down absolutely. We cannot run them without adequate crews. If they go down it will take many days to start them again. The rolling mills also will be closed if there are not men to operate them."

It is this man's opinion that no one can foretell how far this shutdown will go until the end of the week at the very earliest.

Donora Looked on as Key.—"As Donora goes, so go the other plants in the American Federation of Labor in the Pittsburgh district."

That was the assertion made this afternoon by an official of the corporation after a prolonged meeting of heads of various departments hurriedly called this forenoon. When the big chiefs retired last evening, they had been informed that the Donora plant, at that late hour, was still 95 per cent loyal to the company and that no anxiety need be experienced on account of it.

Besides being one of the biggest and most important of the corporations, it is also the model as far as concerned its attitude toward the American Federation of Labor. Local company officers made the announcement on Thursday that it was actually at that time 100 per cent against the federation and that despite what happened to the other plants of the various corporations in this district the great Donora plant would be preeminent by keeping in continuous operation.

When the officials of the national committee met this afternoon, the strikers had been confronted with these declarations of the company officials the invariable reply was that Donora did not differ from any other plant and that the corporation officials were over-confident as to the Donora plant, as was also the case in a good many others.

Between the time the officials retired last night and 10 o'clock this forenoon something happened at Donora or something was discovered at that plant. Chiefs were notified by telegram and special messenger, while some were called even from church services they were attending.

Manufacturers Get a Scare.—It was then communicated to the leaders that Donora could no longer be placed in the van of the first division of loyal plants. An additional information reached the captains of industry it was seen that all previous plans had to be thrown into the discard and heroic efforts had to be made to prevent the great Donora plant from being captured by the enemy almost without a blow being struck in its defense.

As the first step in this new campaign most of the active sold operators and several company officials were hurried from this city in high powered automobiles this afternoon, with instructions to remain at Donora until it had been definitely ascertained whether the plant will remain in operation. This may be decided within the next twenty-four hours.

Monday morning, and I have no doubt that the wives, frightened, will carry their point. "These men will be absent, not because they belong to the Foster organization, nor because they have pledged to remain away."

"If all the men report at the plants Monday morning, the men will operate in full. If half the men put in an appearance, then the plants will operate half capacity. If fewer than half the men report for duty, then the plants will close and stay closed. I do not look, however, for any such contingency as only half of the men reporting or even less than half. I anticipate full crews with full capacity."

"Personally, I know the men wish to be left alone and that they have no interest in Foster, asserting that he has no real interest in them. For years certain union organizations, such as bricklayers and others, have worked in the Carnegie plants without the slightest opposition on the part of the operators and that is the principle of the 'open shop.' It is understood that principle that these plants will continue to be operated."

Sixty per cent of more than 5,000 employees of the Allegheny and West Penn steel companies at Brackenridge are expected to report for work at 8 o'clock to-morrow morning, when all departments of both plants are scheduled to resume operations after a two day suspension, in which time the men got an opportunity to vote on their attitude toward a strike.

Officials of both companies declared to-night that no difficulty was anticipated in operating mills to-morrow because the vote of the men Saturday showed they would return in large numbers. At the Allegheny Steel Company 75 per cent of the workers were expected back, company representatives said.

American Federation of Labor organizers said that the mill authorities would get "the surprise of their lives" and that only a few hundred men, mostly employees of the sheet mill departments, would report for work. As a proof of their assertion they pointed to a department in the West Penn Steel Company, where, they said, sixty-seven of sixty-nine men hold union cards and would walk out.

In this way the chiefs of the Carnegie Steel Company have planned to beat the American Federation of Labor. At first sight it looks as if the Carnegie people were inviting trouble by determining from the beginning to afford absolute protection to their employees. It is contended, however, that the only way to render a strike harmless is by firmly grasping it and that that is what they are trying to do.

Somewhat of a surprise was caused to-day shortly before Secretary Foster left the city to make addresses at Girard-dock and Rankin, when it was reported that six or seven large independent plants had been in negotiation with the organizing committee for some time and that they were now ready to "sign up."

Foster said these reports were true, but added that it would be some time before the terms of the corporations could be made public.

Says All Plants Will Start.—Lawrence E. Riddle, superintendent of the Isabella, Lucy and Neville Island plants of the Carnegie Steel Company and one of the six members of the Carnegie Steel Company's operating board, said to-night: "All the plants with which I am personally connected, as well as all the other Carnegie plants in this district, will resume operation to-morrow morning, according to my latest reports. I have kept in touch personally with my men, and I have found that the strikers are so far as concerned they are left alone, asserting that Secretary Foster and his crowd do not represent them."

"I have no doubt that some few men will not show up at some or all of the various plants in this district, as some of them have been intimidated by threats. I know of some cases where followers of Foster have gone to the wives of not a few of our workers and have urged them to keep their husbands away from the plants when they open

5,000 START STRIKE IN FOUR OHIO MILLS

Youngstown Ready for Possible Clash if Steel Plants Try to Operate.

THOUSANDS JOIN UNION Police Learn Stocks of Firearms Are Sold Out—Many Workers Imported.

Special Despatch to The Sun. Youngstown, Ohio, Sept. 21.—Five thousand steel workers on the day shift walked out to-day. The mills affected were the Republic Iron and Steel, the Sheet and Tube Company, the Brier Hill Steel Company and the Ohio and Union plants of the Carnegie Steel Company.

Youngstown to-day is recalling the riots of 1915. Labor meetings were held this afternoon and to-night in all parts of the city. Merchants handling firearms have reported to the police that their entire stock has been sold out. Special deputies have been sworn in and the police have made preparations to handle the situation as it develops.

Five thousand steel workers, the majority of them foreigners, joined the Iron and Steel Workers Union to-day. "The attendance at the meetings to-day and the great number who joined the union at this late hour, prove to us that the strike will completely tie up the steel plants in this district," declared J. E. McCadden, district organizer for the union.

Organizers expressed the fear that they will be unable to hold their men in check if the mills attempt to put to work the several thousand strikebreakers who have been imported. "We have warned the men repeatedly not to attempt any violence of any sort and to conduct the strike in a quiet, orderly manner," said Patrick A. Treat, organizer of the American Federation of Labor, "but if the mills put these strikebreakers to work I don't know what will happen."

Officials of the union and company officials differ widely in their views as to the number of men who will go out to-morrow morning.

"We will tie the mills up tighter than a drum," said McCadden late to-night. "There will be practically no one at work to-morrow morning."

"I don't believe many men will strike in our mill," said Thomas J. Bray, president of the Republic Iron and Steel Company. "But whether the men strike or not, we are going to operate the mills just the same. The same thing holds good for all the other mills in the Youngstown district."

Word was received to-night at the steel workers' headquarters, that the railroad switchmen planned a sympathetic strike in an effort to tie up all shipments of steel from this district. Approximately 35,000 men will be affected by the strike in the Youngstown district. "Many were seriously injured and many others were thrown into jail," the message concluded. "Similar events transpired at McKeesport at a meeting held on our own property. We protest against these outrages and appeal to you to restrain the State Constabulary from these unwarranted attacks."

GARY AND FARRELL REMAIN RETICENT

Await Reports on Attitude of the 268,000 Employees.

Robert H. Gary, chairman of the board of directors of the United States Steel Corporation, and James A. Farrell, president, spent yesterday at their country homes. Mr. Gary adhered to his policy of silence and issued no statement of the company's plans for combating the strike.

To each subsidiary has been given discretion to meet the situation as its officers see fit. The only general order which has been made public was the letter from Mr. Gary to the presidents of the various subsidiary companies directing them not to yield on the principle of the "open shop."

It is not probable any comment will be made on the strike until the corporation learns what percentage of its 268,000 employees responds to the strike call. These reports must come from plants in Pennsylvania, Ohio, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Connecticut, Alabama, California, Washington, Missouri, Kentucky, Kansas, Wisconsin, Minnesota, West Virginia, Delaware, New York and Ontario.

It was estimated, however, that the number of workers affected directly or indirectly by the strike will aggregate half a million. The average daily pay of the corporation's employees, including the administrative and selling force, is \$6.23, according to a recent report to the directors. This is an increase of 115 per cent since 1914, when the average was \$2.88. The average annual pay in 1915 was \$1,950.



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affected, but a struggle in which everything accepted in economics—even in government—may yet be at stake. This feeling of portentousness is shared by all connected with the steel industry. Every one is waiting to see what the first success of the strike will be in the morning and how far it succeeds in swinging either way during the coming week.

Laborers to Handle Big Jobs.—Admittedly the ranks of the strikers will be filled at first by the unskilled laborers, who number about 20 per cent of the total personnel of 200,000. The highly paid skilled men are for the most part contented with their lot. But they may be compelled to stop work, either because the mills are so deficient in manual labor to-morrow or next day as to compel a shutdown, or through that terrorism, definite or indefinite, which is always present in strikes with or without the countenance of the strike leaders.

To those who will go out on the first day in the morning must be added a casual number of men in all ranks who hold cards in the American Federation of Labor and who will strike from principle irrespective of their own interests and to sustain their comrades. To these also must be added a still larger number of those who without feeling one way or the other in the dispute will remain away from work in order to avoid the stigma of "scab" and the annoyances and social slights put upon their families whether or not they themselves are in actual peril in continuing to work with the company.

Assertions of the two sides as to the number of those who will respond to the first call vary from zero to infinity. This steel companies' officers say that in some cases their men are 100 per cent loyal, in others 95 per cent, and less. The strike leaders give no figures, but contend that the companies' officers have been misled by their subchiefs in the plants and that a great surprise is in store for them.

A collection of all information available on this subject to-night would seem to indicate that from 20 to 40 per cent of the men will quit. This will tie up many plants, mostly sheet steel makers. And it will enable many others to run.

A steel company officer says that he can run on reduced schedule with any number of his employees down to 50 per cent. If half the men quit, he says, he will have to close. The strikers believe that with 10 per cent of the workers militant to-morrow the strike will have been won.

Men Not to Be Transferred.—Steel officials give assurance that they will not ask their loyal employees to fight the strike for them. They will not be transferred from plant to plant and they will be asked to do only their regular tasks. They promise sternly that neither strike breakers nor outside labor will be brought in here. But they are making elaborate plans for the protection of those of their men who do remain loyal and want to go to work.

Thousands of these men have been

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