

# STEEL STRIKE GROWS

## End of the First Week Finds Men More Determined Than Ever

TELEPHONES  
Business Office.....52  
Editorial Rooms.....292

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# 90,000 SHIPYARD WORKERS TO STRIKE

## COAST SHIPBUILDERS ARE FACING GIGANTIC WALKOUT

San Francisco, Sept. 27.—Plans are being made to call a strike Oct. 1, which will affect over 90,000 workers employed in the shipyards on the Pacific coast, as a reply to the United States shipping board, who have refused to allow the coast shipbuilding companies to put new wage increases into effect.

Delegates from the Metal Trades councils in the coast shipbuilding centers will meet in Tacoma Sunday, at which time they will attempt to reach definite decisions regarding the proposed strike. James O'Connell, chairman of the Metal Trades department of the American Federation of Labor, stated that the strike was certain unless the shipping board order was revoked.

Union officials in the various Pacific coast cities predicted that the men would go out, while some local unions of the shipbuilding crafts already have gone on record in favor of a strike. In Seattle it was said the men probably would follow the action to be taken in Tacoma.

**Agreeable to Employers.**  
The agreement for a wage increase of 64 cents a day, effective Oct. 1, was reached between the Pacific Coast Shipbuilders' Association and their employees on Aug. 16 and, according to Mr. O'Connell, the association had requested repeal of the shipping board's order, so that it might carry out its agreement with the workers.

The San Francisco bay district will be most affected by such a strike, as about 40,000 men are employed in the shipyards here.

Approximately 7,000 men would be affected in the Los Angeles harbor district, it was estimated.

At Seattle, union leaders estimate 25,000 men will answer a strike call if issued, while at Tacoma the number is given as 4,800.

Portland has about 10,000 shipyard workers, and shipyard operators confirmed the statements of union men that a strike was expected there.

**STRIKE IS CERTAIN.**  
Washington, Sept. 27.—A strike of shipyard employees on the Pacific coast is certain unless the navy department and the shipping board revoke their joint order prohibiting wage increases after Oct. 1. James O'Connell, president of the metal trades department of the American Federation of Labor, said.

Workers on the Atlantic coast will join in a strike unless the order is changed, O'Connell said. A meeting of the executives of 15 international unions affiliated in the shipbuilding industry will be held here Monday to decide on action, and Mr. O'Connell has arranged for a conference Tuesday between representatives of the shipbuilding employees and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt and Director Ackerson of the Emergency Fleet corporation.

**SEATTLE WOMAN SHOT BY MASKED MAN**  
(Special United Press Wire.)  
Seattle, Sept. 27.—Mrs. Edna Silfiana died in a hospital here after being shot by a masked man who slipped from a closet in a hotel, where she had gone with a man companion to inspect some whiskey which was offered for sale. The masked man escaped.

## Mine Workers' Convention Most Successful Ever Held

With the declaration that the twenty-seventh annual convention of the United Mine Workers of America, which closed at Cleveland, O., on Sept. 23, was the most successful ever held by the organization, J. T. Taylor of Lehigh, one of the delegates from Montana to the convention stopped over in Butte today on his return home. Delegate Taylor asserts that more than 2,000 delegates were in attendance and that during the meeting a number of matters of importance to the miners were taken care of.

The miners, according to Mr. Taylor, expressed full sympathy with the steel workers and on orders from the convention President Lewis sent 16 organizers to the Pittsburgh district to work under the direction of the steel workers' organization.

The report of the scale committee as adopted by the convention is as follows:  
We, your scale committee to whom

## MERESSA IS PEEVED AT COURT

Dissatisfied With Sentence for Murder, and Says Should Be Hung or Else Turned Free.

Emile Meressa, who was convicted last week of murder in the second degree was given the sentence this morning, which the jury fixed for him—40 to 80 years at Deer Lodge.

Meressa was pensive and made quite a speech in court. He maintained that it ought to have been either first degree murder or nothing.

He said he was either innocent or guilty. If innocent, as he maintained, he was entitled to acquittal; and if guilty, there wasn't any such thing as a second degree about it. In the latter case, he said, he ought to hang.

Meressa said he had not been permitted to take the stand and explain how he got the wounds which the officers found on his person when he was arrested.

**DENIES REPORT.**  
(Special United Press Wire.)  
Washington, Sept. 27.—Secretary of the Interior Lane denies the report that he is planning to resign. "I had not thought of it," he said.

## ANTI-BANNER LAW CAUSES FUN INFALLS

"Mother" Hubbard Insists on Ordinance Over the Opposition of Organized Labor. Aimed at Workers.

(Special to The Bulletin.)  
Great Falls, Sept. 27.—Considerable amusement has been stirred up in Great Falls over the new anti-banner law passed by the city council last week. Labor men who were present protested at the measure, and one threatened a general strike, but Mr. Hubbard, affectionately known in the electric city as "Mother Hubbard," insisted and the new charter of freedom was whirled through with a whoop.

We do not know, at this distance, just what the Employers' association have in mind, or why they should allow one who is so patiently their creature to foist such a piece of tyranny upon the people of Great Falls, or do we suppose that the said people have any intention of putting up with the same. Modern business lives by advertising, and since the law, to be equitable—if such ordinance can ever be said to justify such nomenclature—must bar out all banners, there is likely to be something doing before long.

In fact, already the banners advertising various things on the street cars are off, according to the Great Falls Tribune, and this is only the beginning, but it is said amongst the labor men that whatever the Montana Power company may do about it, labor will see to it that its rights are preserved and that the petty-fogging peanut politics of local hate agents will not be allowed to interfere with the prosecution of a strike or the advertisement of a meeting. The labor movement in our sister city has conducted itself properly and with due regard to the very sensitive state of political and economic affairs at this critical time.

It has tried to be reasonable, but it is said in Great Falls, that if the city council has mistaken this for cowardice, they have made a sad mistake. Laborers' Great Falls is organized for the economic fight and is now turning to the political end of the matter. Such arbitrary nonsense as this banner ordinance is regarded by most, as duck soup for the political arm.

## THE WEATHER.

Fair and cooler.

## ENGLAND IN THROES OF STRIKE

Entire Transportation System Paralyzed When the Trainmen Walk Out. Over 500,000 Workers Affected.

(Special United Press Wire.)  
London, Sept. 27.—Great Britain is involved in the most extensive strike in the history of the country. The stoppage of the entire railway system at midnight last night, opened the first battle in English history directly between the government and organized labor.

Both sides are highly organized and are prepared to fight to a finish. With more than 500,000 men affected, the country's whole transportation system paralyzed, the government's first preparation was to prepare against starvation. The food ministry sprung a big surprise when it revealed the existence of big secret food reserves in London, which are sufficient to supply the city for six weeks. The government has established a virtual food dictatorship, which is endowed with almost unlimited powers.

Motor lorries, which were stationed in all parts of the country, began operating early this morning between seaports, food depots and the inland cities. The difficulty of the milk distribution offers the worst problem, but an attempt will be made to operate a few trains for this purpose. It is believed the nation's babies will be spared suffering. The navy will be used to help feed the country for the first time in history of England, the sea forces having been called to serve in such capacity.

## ADELINA PATTI IS DEAD.

(Special United Press Wire.)  
London, Sept. 27.—Adelina Patti, the famous opera singer, died at Breckentire, Wales, this morning.

## MEDIATOR EXPECTED.

Hyle Davis, government mediator from Washington, is expected in Butte Monday to pour oil over the troubled industrial waters.

(Continued on Page Five.)

## PICKETS' GRINS WIN WORKERS OVER

Men Heading for Work at Gary Steel Mills Forced to Pass Long Lines of Fellow Workers.

Chicago, Sept. 27.—It takes a distinct and peculiar temperament to ooze by the pickets that surround the cold furnaces of Gary and South Chicago. There are no arms visible nor threats of violence to be heard. And yet the picket line of spike-haired mill workers keeps its strange hold on the workers. If it weren't for the picket lines there'd be thousands of union men and "union sympathizers" who would be gunshooting eagerly back to the job this morning and tonight.

In Gary the picket lines consist of soft-voiced, gentle-speaking men. Later it may be different, but you have to hand it to the lines around Gary now—they stand almost to a man a collection of even-tempered, peace-loving working men with a persuasive grin on a work-furrowed face and an art all their own. The non-striker starting from home—after a long row with the missus usually—hands in the street feeling rather out of sorts. It must be remembered the non-striker isn't necessarily an idealist with fine notions about prosperity and government to keep his spirit up. He's either a rather ambitious variety of laborer who's had a spell of bum luck preceding the strike or a hen-pecked species driven to put on the old square cap, shoulder the knapsack and fare forth strike or no by the all-powerful storm and strife—the wife.

There were scores of them in Gary and South Chicago last night. They usually took the side streets as far as they could, and entered the main highway only when they had to.

And here the picket lines began. "Hello, Billy, where you going?" "Ay, there, George, what's your rush. Watch yer step, brother. Say, Bill, what 're yuh ditchin' us for, hey?" The non-striker tried to brazen it out. But there were such a lot of them, two feet apart all the way down the street and on both sides of the street. All were sort of whispering into his ear as he shuffled.

(Continued on Page Five.)

## WOMAN WAS KILLED WHILE PROTECTING CHILDREN

(Special to The Bulletin.)  
Pittsburgh, Pa., Sept. 27.—The national steel strike at the close of the first week, with the industry crippled, resolves itself into a contest in which the 25 international unions of the American Federation of Labor are waiting for a coup by the railroad men and miners, to bring the entire industry to a shut down and force government intervention.

This coup will not mean the official sanction of the railroad brotherhoods, but local action, such as indicated by the preparations for a strike of railroaders at Altoona and Johnston, Pa., and the unofficial strikes of soft coal miners at points where the steel industry gets its coal supply.

One of the strategic roads is the Bessemer and Lake Erie, a steel trust railroad connecting the ore ports and the important Carnegie plants in the Monongahela valley. The Pennsylvania and Baltimore and Ohio railroads are also vital to the maintenance of the steel industry.

Members of the national committee for the organization of the iron and steel workers refuse in any way to comment on charges made by spokesmen for the old order, that they are seeking socialization, and William Z. Foster, who is the target for considerable abuse as a syndicalist, recently told newspaper men that he had no time to bother with theories.

"I'm just an organizer," said Foster. "I'm not a steel man, I'm an organizer. I helped to organize the packing industry and then moved on. After I got through with this strike I'll take up something else."

John Fitzpatrick as chairman, and Foster as secretary-treasurer, get all their authority from the co-operating international unions. These big internationals have large funds at their disposal. The extent of the campaign and the amount of expense involved can be judged from the fact that nearly \$1,000,000 has been contributed by the newly organized steel workers within the last three months, of this approximately \$700,000 has been sent to the internationals in which the men have been segregated according to their craft.

The national committee has received \$300,000, most of which has been spent to keep 50 organizers in the field, engage halls and pay fines. The arrival of John Brown of West Virginia at the head of 16 of the best organizers of the United Mine Workers of America, has stimulated the moral of the steel workers and is an important step because these men come from fields where they have organized the same type of toilers that are engaged in the steel industry.

"Mother" Jones and Joseph D. Cannon of the M. I. M. and Smelter organizers say advice have been sent to all central labor unions throughout the country to be ready if called upon to bring relief to the 350,000 steel workers already involved in the strike.

Extension of the strike to the fabricating shops which will involve another 100,000 workers, is expected. With the steel workers gaining ground daily in their strike against the United States Steel corporation, efforts are now being made to extend the strike.

(Continued on Page Five.)

# WORKERS VS. CAPITALISTS

## INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE RETURNS

American Soldiers Were Subjected to Most Horrible Cruelties in Army Prisons in France.

New York, Sept. 27.—The congressional committee which was sent overseas to investigate reports of the army "prison horrors" have arrived in the United States. The party which is composed of Representative Royal C. Johnson of South Dakota, chairman of the committee, Oscar E. Bland of Indiana and Henry D. Flood of Virginia, bring reports of the most "outrageous cruelties perpetrated on American soldiers" in prisons of the American expeditionary forces in France.

(Continued on Page Two.)

## CASUALTIES ON THE VARIOUS FRONTS

WORKERS.		
	Killed	Wounded
Farrell .....	4	11
Buffalo .....	1	....
Newcastle .....	1	....
Pittsburgh .....	9	....
Garry .....	....	25

## WORKERS FAVOR SYMPATHETIC STRIKE

Members of Steamship Unions Vote Power to Executive Committees to Call Men Out.

## KEEPS PEOPLE GUESSING AS TO NEW MARKET MAN

Speculation is rife as to the identity of the man selected by Mayor Stodden for the position of market master to take the place made vacant by the resignation of T. C. Truscott. The mayor admits that he has made his selection, but declines to make any announcement of whom he has selected until the next regular meeting of the city council, when he will present the name for approval or rejection. City Building Inspector Sam Billings is now acting as market master.

## Copy of Original Strike Order Received in Butte

A copy of the original order calling the steel strike has been received by the Bulletin from Pittsburgh. The order is printed on a handbill in several languages in addition to English. The order is as follows:

**STRIKE, SEPTEMBER 22, 1919.**  
The workers in the iron and steel mills and blast furnaces, not working under union agreements, are requested not to go to work on Sept. 22, and to refuse to resume their employment until such time as the demands of the organizations have been conceded by the steel corporations.

The union committees have tried to arrange conferences with the heads of the steel companies in order that they might present our legitimate demands for the right of collective bargaining, higher wages, shorter hours, and better working conditions. But the employers have steadfastly refused to meet them. It therefore becomes our duty to support the committee's claims, in accordance with the practically unanimous strike vote, by refusing to work in the mills on or after Sept. 22, until such time as our just demands have been granted. And in our stoppage of work let there be no violence. The American Federation of Labor has won all its great progress by peaceful and legal methods.

**IRON AND STEEL WORKERS!**  
A historic decision confronts us. If we will stand together now like men our demands will soon be granted and a golden era of prosperity will open for us in the steel industry. But if we falter and fail to act this great effort will be lost, and we will sink back into a miserable and hopeless serfdom. The welfare of our wives and children is at stake. Now is the time to insist upon our rights as human beings.

**STOP WORK SEPT. 22.**  
**NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR ORGANIZING IRON AND STEEL WORKERS.**