

MINERS WILL ACCEPT ANY PLAN AGREED ON BY THE COMMISSION

Acting President John L. Lewis of the United Mine Workers of America Announced To-day, Prior to the Beginning of Hearings Arranged by the Commission.

MINERS' AGENTS WILL GIVE ALL AID

The Statement by Lewis Said That the Miners Would Accept Unreservedly Whatever Might Be Agreed On by the Commission After Hearing.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—Bituminous coal miners will accept unreservedly any decision made by the president's coal commission in settlement of the coal strike, John L. Lewis, acting president of the United Mine Workers of America, declared at the opening today of the first public hearings of the commission. Mr. Lewis added that the miners' representatives would assist the commission's inquiry.

Mr. Lewis' assurance was given in answer to a question by Chairman Henry H. Robinson.

Thomas T. Brewster, chairman of the scale committee of the operators in the central competitive field, replying to the same questions by the chairman, said he could make no promises for the operators until the commission had given answers to 10 questions propounded by the operators.

Chairman Robinson said the commission would take up the questions and furnish a statement to the operators. The commission then adjourned until tomorrow.

Among the operators' questions were whether the commission's award would be final and binding on both miners and operators; whether the commission would act upon matters brought up by either side; as to its authority to fix wages up or down; whether it would consider it had power to make retroactive awards concerning wages and prices and whether it was willing to sustain its decisions if they would consider that the prices so made would not hold after the expiration of the Lever food and fuel act.

Mr. Brewster said the questions were submitted to "clarify the situation."

NATIONAL CONCILIATION PLAN

With Regional Boards of Inquiry and Adjustment.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—President Wilson's second industrial conference resembled to-day after a several weeks' recess, prepared to consider the mass of suggestions and proposals for stabilization of the nation's industrial situation. These accumulated during the holiday adjournment and came in response to a request to the public for constructive criticism of the conference's tentative plan made public Dec. 29. Several of those who had suggestions to make offered to appear in person, and the program for hearing these will probably be announced late to-day or tomorrow.

The plan for settling industrial disputes favored by the conference provided a national conciliation tribunal at Washington and regional boards of inquiry and adjustment. Some of its suggestions have been adversely criticized by officials of the American Federation of Labor and representatives of other union labor organizations.

MINE FOREMAN KILLED IN POWDER BLOW-UP

Another Man Injured and Heavy Loss Caused Near Williamson, W. Va.

Williamson, W. Va., Jan. 12.—The powder magazine of the Randolph mine, in the suburbs of Williamson, blew up this morning. James Childers, the mine foreman, was killed and another employee was seriously hurt.

The loss is said to be heavy.

The explosion shook the town and broke many windows.

MAY SCUTTLE MORE SHIPS.

Officers of German Navy Are Said to Be Considering Plan.

Copenhagen, Jan. 12.—A plan to scuttle the German warships not yet turned over to the allies is being considered by officers of the German navy, according to information received by the majority socialist party leaders. A Berlin message quotes the Freiheit as declaring that a "high German officer" had so informed the leaders.

FRANCE PARTLY CUT OFF.

Violent Storms Have Disrupted Telegraph Service.

New York, Jan. 12.—Violent storms in France have caused serious interruption to the telegraph service between France and foreign countries, the French cable company announced today. Long delays are to be expected, it said.

NOT UNMIXED JOY OVER PEACE SIGNING

British Newspapers Regret Failure of United States to Participate in Formal Act—There Are Some Gloomy Forebodings.

London, Jan. 12.—Ratification of the treaty of Versailles fails to elicit any expressions of joy from the London press. Editorials in this morning's newspapers express, at best, qualified satisfaction, while some journals strike a distinctly doleful note.

"It is no time of triumph or soaring hopes," says The Telegraph, which gives some reasons for its troubled view, adds: "The omission of America's signature to the ratifying document stands for the bitter disappointment of the hope that a glow of promise for humanity a year ago. It is true, the league of nations exists by the terms of the treaty, but the world knows that unless and until the United States adheres to the league and participates in its actions not a tithe of the usefulness and moral authority it should possess will belong to it."

The newspaper also cites the absence of Russia from Saturday's ceremony and says: "Until the sky in that direction grows clearer there can be no world peace nor any hope of it."

Doubts of the reality of peace behind the formal act of ratification are expressed by the Daily News.

After noting regretfully that America "which did so much to make peace," has no part in the final act, The News continues: "Assuredly this drab agreement is not the peace to which men looked forward with straining eyes and heart a short year ago. It might almost seem as though the darkness of the time had the power to turn peace itself into a mere, mean, anti-climax to the ghastly horror of war."

"Are we now peace?" asks The Graphic, which says nobody can answer this question with a hopeful affirmative. The paper cites in proof of this statement the present industrial unrest, the troubled state of India, Egypt and Ireland, and the socialist conspiracy to destroy by relentless class warfare the whole existing structure of society."

The Chronicle, deploring the cause of the league of nations, says it is being "much weakened by the action of the American Senate."

In commenting upon the ratification of the treaty, the Manchester Guardian says: "So far there is cause for rejoicing. The supreme and overwhelming need of Europe is for peace."

Characterizing the peace as "largely formal and leaving the door wide open for a renewed struggle," the newspaper criticizes the enormous indemnities exacted and the provision for handing over men accused of violations of the laws of war as possible sources of trouble.

STEAMER AFRIQUE SUNK IN BAY OF BISCAY

Steamer Ceylan, Standing Nearby Picked Up Two Boats with Survivors—Others Seen on Rafts.

Paris, Jan. 12.—The French steamer Afrique, bound from Bordeaux to Dakar, sank in the Bay of Biscay about 3 o'clock this morning after a struggle to keep afloat since last Saturday, when she sprang a leak during a storm. The steamer Ceylan, standing nearby, picked up two of the Afrique's boats with their occupants. Some rafts with survivors were also seen after the Afrique went down, it was reported by wireless.

PRECIOUS METALS DECREASE.

Reserve Stocks in United States Dropped During 1919.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—Reserve stocks of precious metals in this country were more than \$441,000,000 in the calendar year 1919, according to a statement to-day by the federal reserve board.

Gold exports amounted to \$368,144,545, of which \$94,114,189 went to Japan, \$36,560,000 to Argentina, \$40,045,265 to Hong Kong, \$39,109,769 to China, \$30,300,000 to Spain, India, and \$29,779,000 to Britain. Imports totaled \$76,343,046, most of it coming from Canada and Hong Kong.

Silver exports were valued at \$239,001,051. British India taking \$109,180,718; China \$77,583,267, and Hong Kong \$10,225,351 for coinage purposes. The growing European demand of silver for currency was shown in \$15,635,886 exports of silver to England; \$6,388,197 to France, and \$2,094,084 to the Netherlands. Imports of silver were \$80,389,536, of which \$63,303,437 came from Mexico.

POINCARÉ TO BE SENATOR.

Accepts Election from Department of the Meuse.

Paris, Jan. 12.—President Poincaré has written a letter to the electors of the department of the Meuse accepting the senatorship to which he was elected by that department yesterday. The president was not a candidate, but received a few votes on the first ballot and was chosen almost unanimously on the second ballot.

TEN PER CENT WAGE INCREASE

Is Made by Eaton, Crane & Pike Paper Company.

Pittsfield, Mass., Jan. 12.—The Eaton, Crane & Pike Paper company to-day announced a 10 per cent wage increase effective Jan. 5. About 1,400 hands are affected.

GERMAN STRIKE IS INCREASING

Despite Appeal of Government to Railroad Men to Resume Work

REGULATIONS ARE THREATENED

Telegraph Employees Are on Strike in Several Districts

Berlin, Jan. 12 (via London).—The government has issued a manifesto urgently calling upon the striking railwaymen to resume work immediately, pointing out, among other things, the consequences of the strike on 400,000 war prisoners "whom your action on the threshold of the homeland is shutting out from wife and family."

The manifesto concludes with the announcement that special regulations will be proclaimed, if necessary, to cope with the situation. It is announced that the freedom of the press, the right of assembly and the right to strike have been suspended by order of the president in districts where the railway strike is in progress.

Meanwhile, the railwaymen of Benthien, Rasthor and other upper Silesian towns have gone on strike. The strike is actively in progress in the entire Rhennish Westphalian region. The telegraph employees are on strike in the Düsseldorf, Dortmund and Münster districts.

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BRITAIN SENDS ENVOY TO BERLIN

Makes Prompt Move to Resume Former Relations With Germany

LORD KILMARNOCK LEFT LONDON TO-DAY

Consuls and Consuls-General Will Be Appointed by Both Countries

London, Jan. 12.—Lord Kilmarnock left London for Berlin this morning to assume his duties of British diplomatic representative at the German capital.

His departure marks an important step in the re-establishment of diplomatic relations between Great Britain and Germany, which will be effected almost immediately. Consuls and consuls general will be appointed shortly by the two governments. Germany will be first represented there by a chargé d'affaires, but it is believed the rank will soon be raised to that of minister, instead of ambassador as formerly.

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TRIED TO SNAP WILSON FROM LOAD OF MAY.

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—Attempts of enterprising motion picture camera men to obtain photographs of President Wilson using the method which resulted in pictures of William Hohenzollern, former emperor, in his garden at Amerongen, reaching the world, were frustrated to-day by White House secret service officers.

The camera men concealed themselves in a wagon load of hay which was driven slowly by the White House while the president was on the lawn in his wheel chair. Before they could get their cameras into action, however, the secret service men stopped the wagon and investigated.

After the photographers had convinced the officers that they had not had time to make pictures, they were allowed to go.

EX-GOV. JOHN A. MEAD DIED IN RUTLAND

Was One of the Most Prominent Citizens of Vermont, and Was Possessed of Considerable Wealth.

Rutland, Jan. 12.—John A. Mead, ex-governor of Vermont, died this morning at his home on Washington street after a short illness of pleuro-pneumonia and stomach trouble. He had been in failing health for some years. Ex-Gov. Mead was one of the leading citizens of Vermont and was a man of considerable wealth.

In 1916 he gave the Mead chapel to Middlebury college, the building costing \$75,000, and some years to that he donated a community house in Rutland.

At the time of his death Ex-Gov. Mead was president of the Baxter National bank, president of the Rutland Manufacturing company, president and chairman of the board of directors of the Howe Scale companies of New York and Illinois; a director in the Trap Rock corporation of New York; trustee of Middlebury college; deacon in the Congregational church; vice-president of the Congregational club of western Vermont; member of Roberts post, G. A. R. (having served as staff officer for Generals Alger, Vesquez and Gilman during the term of each as commander-in-chief of the order); member of the Sons of the American Revolution; member of the Vermont lodge, No. 1, members of Rutland lodge, No. 79, F. and A. M.; member of the Mystic Shrine, and a charter member of Rutland Valley grange.

John Abner Mead was born in Fair Haven, April 20, 1841, and was the only child of Russell Rowley Mead and Lydia Ann Congdon. His father was a successful merchant in West Rutland till his death in 1875.

Ex-Gov. Mead was educated in the common schools of Malone, N. Y., at Middlebury college and College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City. He was a member of the National Guard, and served during the Civil war, he having enlisted in Co. K, 12th Vermont volunteers. After the war he practiced medicine for a time and then embarked in business.

In 1888 he reorganized the Howe Scale company, of which he became president, and the phenomenon of that enterprise is largely due to his energetic and wise management. He had been connected with several other large corporations; in the old National bank of Rutland, as director and treasurer, in the Rutland railroad as treasurer and director, in the Baxter National bank as president, and the John A. Mead Manufacturing company, as president. He was a Republican; senator from Rutland county, 1892; first mayor of the city of Rutland, 1893-94; commissioner to World's Columbian exposition, Chicago, 1893, by appointment of Gov. Woodbury; represented Rutland City in the legislature, 1906; lieutenant-governor, 1908, and governor of Vermont, 1910; delegate-at-large to National Republican convention, Chicago, 1912.

In 1872 ex-Gov. Mead married Mary M., daughter of Honorable and Mrs. Mary M. B. Sherman of Greenwich, R. I. He is survived by his wife, one daughter, Mary Sherman Huggan, the wife of Carl B. Huggan, vice-president of the Howe Scale company, and one grandson, who bears the name of John Abner Mead Huggan.

He was a member of the Vermont State Spiritualists' association.

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the Vermont State Spiritualists' association in Montpelier during its sessions that have been in progress for the last two days, and in which the final adjournment occurred last evening: President, Mrs. Effie Webster, Montpelier; vice-president, C. H. Ingalls, Montpelier; Grover C. Hall, Barre; secretary, Miss Gertrude Pearson, Montpelier; treasurer, Mrs. Ellen Ward, Barre; executive committee, Charles Ormstrong, Montpelier; Mrs. Benjamin Bailey, Montpelier; Mrs. J. B. Hutchins, Barre; E. J. Felling, Montpelier; Mrs. Ida Young, Barre; auditors, Mrs. Hutchins and Jay Smith, St. Albans.

Rev. William Whitney gave the address last evening and conducted readings before a large audience in the A. B. hall, where the annual meeting has been conducted. During Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Nettie Holt Harding spoke and gave readings. Both speakers gave strong addresses, bringing home to their audience the need of leading a religious life. Mrs. Harding stated during the course of her remarks that the only organization that was doing the true religious work is the Salvation Army, that the creed or forms of ceremony do not bring conversions. Other speakers during the two days' sessions have been Mrs. Effie Webster of Montpelier, Mrs. Wheaton, and Mrs. Webster during one of her talks gave some interesting statements connected with the veteran workers in Vermont, having a tribute to those who have finished their life work.

ELLERY F. LABELLE.

Died Saturday Night from the Effects of Influenza.

The death of Ellery F. Labeledle occurred Saturday night at 6:30 after a long illness from the effects of influenza. The deceased was 44 years of age, and was born in North Berlin, N. Y. He leaves a son, Harold, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Labeledle, one brother, Walter F. Labeledle of this city; two sisters, Mrs. Wheaton and Mrs. Andrew Derocher of Montreal.

The funeral was held this morning from the home of his parents on Main street, the remains being taken by auto ambulance to Essex Junction for services and burial.

CHARGED WITH FORGERY.

Brandon Man Accused of Forging His Mother's Name.

Brandon, Jan. 12.—Charles Forest, a brother of George Forest, who was sentenced to the house of correction at Windsor Saturday for stealing chicken, was arrested Saturday afternoon by Sheriff Sanford of Middlebury and charged with forging his mother's name to a check. He was taken by Sheriff Sanford to Middlebury, where he will be given a hearing.

M'LEOD—STEBBINS.

Granville Man and Lisbon, N. H. Woman United in Marriage.

John A. McLeod of Granville and Carrie Stebbins of Lisbon, N. H., were united in marriage Saturday night at 6 o'clock at the home of the officiating clergyman, Rev. Bert J. Lehigh. The single ring service was used and the couple were unattended. Mr. McLeod is employed in Springfield and Mr. and Mrs. McLeod will reside there.

FOUND DEAD IN ALLEY.

Unidentified Man with Knife Wounds Picked Up in Boston.

Boston, Jan. 12.—An unidentified man, believed to be the victim of a card game dispute, was found dead in an alley in the north end of the city today. He had been wounded in the neck and behind the ear, probably with a knife. He was a foreigner.

LIQUOR MEN LOSE PETITION

U. S. Supreme Court Holds It Has No Jurisdiction in Suit

TO TEST CONSTITUTIONALITY OF LAW

Action Was Brought by the New Jersey Retail Liquor Dealers

Washington, D. C., Jan. 12.—The supreme court to-day denied permission for the New Jersey Retail Liquor Dealers' association to bring original proceedings in the supreme court to test the constitutionality of the national prohibition amendment and enjoin its enforcement in New Jersey.

The court held it had no jurisdiction. In seeking to bring the original proceedings, the association alleged that the prohibition amendment interfered with the state police powers, and was a violation of the fifth amendment prohibiting the taking of private property without just compensation. Chief Justice White in disposing of the motion, however, ignored these contentions and devoted himself entirely to the question of jurisdiction. He said the court held that no right existed by which a citizen of a state could sue that state without its consent. In this instance the state of New Jersey denied that permission.

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