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VOL. CX. NO. 39. SIXTEEN PAGES TODAY. RALEIGH, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, AUGUST 8, 1919. SIXTEEN PAGES TODAY. PRICE: FIVE CENTS.

PRESIDENT TAKES STEP WHICH IS EXPECTED TO BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF WAGE ISSUE

MEN MUST FIRST RETURN TO WORK AS PRELIMINARY TO WAGE CONSIDERATION

President Notifies R. R. Director That He Is Authorized To Take Up Demands On Their Merits

COUNCIL WILL ADVISE SHOPMEN TO DISREGARD NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 7.—(By The Associated Press.)—Announcement was made following a meeting here tonight of the executive council of union railway shopmen that the workers now on strike here and throughout the Southeast would be advised by the council to "disregard news from Washington" and remain on strike until demands for increased wages were granted.

Washington, Aug. 7.—President Wilson tonight notified Director General Hines that he was authorized to take up the demands of railroad shop employees for higher wages and decide them on their merits.

The President said that the letter sent him by Senator Cummins, chairman of the committee on interstate commerce, "had set me free to deal as I think best with the difficult question of the wages of certain classes of the railroad employees," but added:

"The chief obstacle to a decision has been created by the men themselves. They have gone out on a strike and repudiated the authority of their officers at the very moment when they were urging action in regard to their interests."

"The President's decision was announced tonight from the White House, in the form of a letter sent by him to Mr. Hines. The President said that 'until the employees return to work and again recognize the authority of their organization the whole matter must be at a standstill.'"

Hines Writes To Jewell.

Director General Hines notified the unions immediately that the railroad administration was ready to take up the question "as soon as the employees return to work." In a letter to B. M. Jewell, acting president of the railway employees department of the American Federation of Labor, Mr. Hines said:

"I enclose a letter which I have just received from the President relative to the wage matter. It is obvious that it is of the highest importance not only in the interest of public but in the interest of the employees themselves that they shall immediately return to work. The situation having been clarified by the definite indication that congress does not wish to take action in the premises, the railroad administration stands ready to take up the wage question on its merits with the duly accredited international officers and their authorized committee as soon as the employees return to work."

Will End Sporadic Strikes.

The effect of the President's decision, it was believed, would be to put a sudden end to sporadic strikes throughout the country denounced as illegal by union officials, but involving perhaps 80,000 men and to some extent normal traffic. It was taken for granted also that the menace of a general strike to compel higher wages was removed by the President's action.

If Increase Is Ordered.

If Director General Hines orders an increase in wages, since the railroad administration now is operating at a loss, either an advance in rates or a congressional appropriation bill will be necessary to provide the money. The fourteen principal railroad unions in a joint communication to the Director General have suggested the latter.

Today "Election Day" With Many.

Preceding the making public of the President's letter by only a few hours was an announcement by J. J. Forrester, president of the Brotherhood of Clerks, Freight Express and Steamship Employees, that the 450,000 men of the union would begin balloting tomorrow as to whether they should strike immediately or await further governmental action.

Wage Demands Justified.

The amount asked was 25 per cent. Conference between the shopmen's officers and the Director General were arranged, but even before they could be held men began to go on strike, which led the President to devote a considerable portion of his letter to condemning their hasty action which violated all agreements. Other unions also put in demands for more pay, with the exception of the engineers, who said they preferred a reduction in the cost of living.

No Funds to Pay Increase.

In the face of a growing deficit Mr.

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Charges Systematized Plundering of Transportation Lines By Big Interests

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SPEAKS TO LAWYERS AT STATE MEETING



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R. R. Wages Included.

To this extent, the matter of railroad wages will be included in the address, but a solution of the entire railroad problem will not be suggested beyond the suggestion already made to Congress by the President in his letter to the chairman of the Senate and House Interstate Commerce Committee.

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"I am going to see that when the President addresses Congress there will

Demand Made By Republicans That Definite Declaration Be Made To That Effect, Else Not Binding

SEPARATE RESOLUTION PROFFER IS REJECTED

Chairman Lodge of Foreign Relations Committee, at Head of New Movement, Says Reservations Might Be Valid If Not Objected To By Other Nations, But He Wants It Made Legally Certain; Senator Kellogg, Rep., Speaks Favorably of League; Willing To Try It

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Senator Lodge, chairman of the foreign relations committee, declared that while in general practice a reservation might become valid if objected to by the other parties to the treaty, he hoped there would be a definite declaration by the Senate that to make the treaty binding the other powers must accept the reservations made by this government.

The suggestion was seconded by Senator Brandegee, Republican, of Connecticut, and later Senator Borah, Republican, of Idaho, declared that "to a certain number" the opponents of unreserved ratification would insist upon such a course.

A resolution by Senator Pittman, Democrat, of Nevada, that reservations be embodied in a separate resolution and not made physically a part of the ratification, was opposed by the opposition leaders as "absolutely futile."

Senator Kellogg, Republican, of Minnesota, however, argued that unless reservations changed the meaning of the treaty, their adoption would not impair the binding force of the ratification.

Objection to French Aid Treaty.

As an outgrowth of objections to the special treaty with France, the Senate adopted a resolution by Senator Walsh, Democrat, of Montana, asking the judiciary committee whether there were any constitutional obstacles to that treaty's ratification. Some Senators have argued that because it obligates the United States to help repel any unprovoked attack by Germany on France, the treaty curtails the constitutional power of Congress to decide when the nation shall go to war.

In an extended legal argument, Senator Kellogg declared it was clearly established that treaties could be made obligating the United States to make war under certain circumstances. His discussion, however, was directed rather toward the obligations assumed under the league covenant.

Shantung.

Although the subject did not enter into the Senate debate, there was much informal discussion among Senators over President Wilson's statement on Shantung. Some of the more bitter opponents of the treaty declared the information given by the President was not sufficient to dispel suspicion of Japan's intentions in the Chinese province, but other Senators reserved their judgment and the extent to which the ratification fight ultimately will be influenced remained conjectural.

Abstract of Senator Kellogg's Speech.

Washington, Aug. 7.—Provisions of the League of Nations covenant imposing obligations on Congress do not violate the American constitution, and the covenant can be ratified with interpretive reservations without requiring re-submission to the other nations, in the opinion of Senator Kellogg, Republican, of Minnesota, expressed in a legal argument in the Senate today dealing with the treaty-making power.

Senator Kellogg said he was "willing to try" the league, though he did not believe it would permanently prevent war. He suggested reservations dealing with the Monroe Doctrine, domestic questions, and the power of Congress to decide questions of peace or war.

Citing the alliance of 1778 with France, the Jay treaty of 1794 and many other obligations entered into by the United States, the speaker said there was an "implied" reservation for various guarantees in the covenant which have been objected to on the ground of constitutionality.

"Respecting Article X, the question is somewhat different. I am not in favor of striking this article out of the league entirely, but there are some grave objections to this guaranty as it stands. I believe there should be some reservation constraining this clause in such a way that it shall be absolutely clear and certain that the function of the council is simply to serve in an advisory capacity so that the

CAN DEAL ONLY THROUGH HEADS OF ORGANIZATION

Hines Notifies Unions That R. R. Administration Is Ready To Take Up Question "As Soon As Employees Return To Work"; Believed That Effect of President's Decision Will Put An End To The Sporadic Strikes Over Country

TEXT OF WILSON'S LETTER TO HINES

Which Is Expected To Quickly End Strike Troubles in R. R. Circles

Washington, Aug. 7.—The President's letter to Director Hines follows:

"I am just in receipt of the letter from Senator Albert B. Cummins, chairman of the Senate committee on Interstate Commerce, which sets me free to deal as I think best with the difficult question of the wage of certain classes of railway employees and I take advantage of the occasion to write you this letter in order that I may, both in the public interest and in the interests of the railroad employees themselves, make the present situation as clear and definite as possible.

"I want legislative sanction. I thought it my duty to lay the question in its present pressing form before the committee of the Senate, because I thought I should not act upon this matter within the brief interval of government control remaining without their acquiescence and approval. Senator Cummins' letter, which speaks the unanimous judgment of the committee, leaves me free and indeed imposes upon me the duty to act.

"The question of the wages of railroad shopmen was submitted, you will remember, to the Board of Railroad Wages and Working Conditions of the Railroad Administration last February, but was not reported upon by the board until the 16th of July.

Delay Unavoidable.

"The delay was unavoidable because the board was continuously engaged in dealing with several wage matters affecting classes of employees who had not previously received consideration. The board now having apprised us of this inability at any rate for the time being to agree upon recommendation, it is clearly our duty to proceed with the matter in the hope of disposing of it.

Must Deal With Heads.

"You are, therefore, authorized to say to the railroad shop employees that the question of wages they have raised will be taken up and considered on its merits by the Director General in conference with their duly accredited representatives. I hope that you will make it clear to the men concerned that the Railroad Administration cannot deal with problems of this sort or with any problems affecting the men except through the duly chosen international officers or the regularly constituted organization and their authorized committees. Matters of so various a nature and affecting so many men cannot be dealt with except in this way.

Contrary Action Would Defeat Purpose.

"Any action which brings the authorized representatives of the organization into question or discredits it must interfere with, if not prevent, action altogether. The chief obstacle to a decision has been created by the men themselves. They have gone on strike and repudiated the authority of their officers at the very moment when they were urging action in regard to their interests.

Strike Was Premature.

"You will remember that a conference between yourself and the authorized representatives of the men was arranged at the instance of their representatives for July 28 to discuss the wage question and the question of a national agreement, but before this conference took place or could take place, local

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Objection to French Aid Treaty.

As an outgrowth of objections to the special treaty with France, the Senate adopted a resolution by Senator Walsh, Democrat, of Montana, asking the judiciary committee whether there were any constitutional obstacles to that treaty's ratification. Some Senators have argued that because it obligates the United States to help repel any unprovoked attack by Germany on France, the treaty curtails the constitutional power of Congress to decide when the nation shall go to war.

In an extended legal argument, Senator Kellogg declared it was clearly established that treaties could be made obligating the United States to make war under certain circumstances. His discussion, however, was directed rather toward the obligations assumed under the league covenant.

Shantung.

Although the subject did not enter into the Senate debate, there was much informal discussion among Senators over President Wilson's statement on Shantung. Some of the more bitter opponents of the treaty declared the information given by the President was not sufficient to dispel suspicion of Japan's intentions in the Chinese province, but other Senators reserved their judgment and the extent to which the ratification fight ultimately will be influenced remained conjectural.

Abstract of Senator Kellogg's Speech.

Washington, Aug. 7.—Provisions of the League of Nations covenant imposing obligations on Congress do not violate the American constitution, and the covenant can be ratified with interpretive reservations without requiring re-submission to the other nations, in the opinion of Senator Kellogg, Republican, of Minnesota, expressed in a legal argument in the Senate today dealing with the treaty-making power.

Senator Kellogg said he was "willing to try" the league, though he did not believe it would permanently prevent war. He suggested reservations dealing with the Monroe Doctrine, domestic questions, and the power of Congress to decide questions of peace or war.

Citing the alliance of 1778 with France, the Jay treaty of 1794 and many other obligations entered into by the United States, the speaker said there was an "implied" reservation for various guarantees in the covenant which have been objected to on the ground of constitutionality.

"Respecting Article X, the question is somewhat different. I am not in favor of striking this article out of the league entirely, but there are some grave objections to this guaranty as it stands. I believe there should be some reservation constraining this clause in such a way that it shall be absolutely clear and certain that the function of the council is simply to serve in an advisory capacity so that the

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