

ASSOCIATED PRESS TELEGRAPHERS LEAVE THEIR KEYS AND JOIN THE RANKS OF STRIKING OPERATORS

Newspapers of The Country Seriously Grippled by Unexpected Action Taken Early Last Night. Men Leave Work at a Given Signal

STRIKE HAS ALMOST BECOME GENERAL THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

Business of all Kinds Seriously Impaired by One of The Greatest Strikes in The Labor World. Citizen Office Feels It as Well as Others

NEW YORK, Aug 12.—Melville E. Stone, general manager of the Associated Press, replied today to the requests of the telegraphers employed by the Associated Press. These requests were:

- Day work—Six days, eight hours: \$30 per week and overtime and extra at the rate of sixty cents per hour.
- Night work—six nights, eight hours: \$35 per week, and overtime and extra at the rate of seventy cents per hour.
- The vacations to remain as at present.
- A proportionate increase for chiefs and subchief operators.
- The telegraphers requested a reply by 7.30 o'clock this (Monday) evening. Mr. Stone's reply follows:

To Operators: I received this morning a communication from a large number of the operators in the service of the Associated Press, asking for a changed scale of wages and hours and requesting a reply by half past seven o'clock this evening.

The changes involved are so radical in their nature as to add over two hundred thousand dollars a year, and probably more to the expense of this organization. The Associated Press is mutual in its character, makes no profits and has no surplus fund out of which such a sum could be paid. Any such increase must of necessity be levied back upon the newspapers as a part of their weekly assessments. As general manager, I have no power to make such an increase either in salaries or assessments without authority from the board of directors, and it is obviously impossible to call this board together within the time named. The board consists of fifteen members scattered throughout the entire country.

At the same time, acting under authority heretofore granted me by the board of directors, I shall be very glad at any time to meet a committee of our own operators and confer with them respecting hours of service and compensation with a view to making some recommendation to the next meeting of the board of directors which shall meet any fair or just expectations of those in our operating service.

Even were I free to act, I think you must agree with me that a question of this magnitude should not be pressed to a conclusion within the limits of a few hours and without any opportunity for consultation between myself and representatives of our operating force.

(Signed) MELVILLE E. STONE, General Manager.

STRIKE WIDESPREAD

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—The strike of telegraphers which originated last Friday in Los Angeles, where it was directed against the Western Union Company, gradually spread eastward, and today reached New York City, where three spontaneous "walk outs" followed in rapid succession. These were directed against the Western Union, the Postal Telegraph Company and the Associated Press. In the latter instance the strike was first against the news organization and was fairly general throughout the country, excepting New England. With the stopping of work by a majority of union operators here, a situation unparalleled followed: the telegraph though by no means being tied up, was seriously handicapped.

Angelo upon the complaint of a traffic chief that an operator was maliciously delaying the transmission of telegrams. The fellow employees of this operator asked that he be reinstated; when the request was refused by the management of the office the men struck. Later the men in Chicago and various other cities struck, because they are unwilling to work with the non-union men employed to take the places of the strikers in Los Angeles. That the strike is not justifiable on this theory is proved by the fact that the officers of the union refused to order the men in Chicago to quit work. These men acted on their own motion. Further than this the officers of the union have ordered the men at Omaha and other places to continue to work. But it seems that matters have gotten beyond control of the union; the men seem to want to strike, and many of them are sore at President Small of the telegraphers' union because of his efforts to maintain peace. It is certainly manifest to a thoughtful mind that a union that refuses to permit discipline to permit discipline to be maintained, and that cannot itself be controlled by those whom it has entrusted with the management of its affairs is a rather dangerous organization. Sympathetic strikes are, as a rule, not countenanced by the more conservative unions nowadays, and are looked upon as bad things. In several cities the strikers have admitted that they have no grievances, but now that the strike is on they appear to have many grievances. As to the salary question and 8-hour day—every man wants the most favorable conditions possible under which to work, but they had the assurance from President Clowry of the Western Union, and General Manager Nally of the Postal company that any man having a grievance could bring it to their attention and that it would have consideration. I have not heard of an instance wherein the officials have failed to carry out this agreement.

Now, in the first place, if the Los Angeles operator was properly discharged—and there is no claim to the contrary—so that he be reinstated in to attack the discipline of the company. In the second place, a union...

A. P. STRIKERS WILL BE PAID UP AND FIRED

Melville Stone Issues Order That Above Steps Be Immediately Taken.

WESTERN UNION SAYS IT'S O K

Newspapers on the Southern Circuit Came Out Fairly Well After Midnight.

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—The Western Union people claimed to be doing business as usual in this city and to have all the help needed. In fact, they said that they could not use all the men seeking employment. On the other hand, the union men claim that very few competent men were working and that the company was being tied up. The Postal people claim to have \$5 out of a force of about 300 working tonight, and that they were doing business without serious delay. To this the strikers reply that the Postal had not more than 12 operators at work.

The strike against the Associated Press began at 8.30 o'clock (Eastern time), tonight. It was distinct from...

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SUPPORTING STRIKERS.

The following telegram was received early this morning by all railroad operators belonging to the O. R. T.

ST. LOUIS, Aug. 12th.—All operators:—

- Do not handle any Western Union business. We are supporting the C. T. U. This is a critical period all over the United States and Canada.
- (Signed) L. W. QUICK, Grand Sec. O. R. T.

OPERATORS IN THE NEW YORK OFFICES OUT

Majority of Both Western Union and Postal Men Walk Out.

STRIKE EXTENDED ALL OVER COUNTRY

Almost All Large Cities Af- fected, But No Disorders are Reported

(By Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, Aug. 12.—The strike of the telegraphers, which has affected many cities throughout the country, was extended to New York today, when men employed by both the Western Union and Postal companies quit work. The Postal strikers said that 90 per cent of their men were out.

The Western Union officials declare that 50 per cent of their day force left their keys. Extra policemen were called out to preserve order in the vicinity of the telegraph buildings, but there was little or no occasion for their services. The crowds were orderly.

The strike movement was extended during the day to Philadelphia, Baltimore, Buffalo, Pittsburgh, Montgomery, Ala., and Savannah, Ga. At Washington the Postal operators are out and the Western Union men are expected to follow early tonight.

The Walk-out.

At 1 o'clock the operators in the main office of the Western Union telegraph company went out. There had been rumors that such a move was in contemplation, but up to a few minutes before 1 o'clock there were no signs of the intended action. At exactly 1 o'clock the whistle sounded through the big operating room and practically every man left his key.

Secretary and Treasurer Melvory of the local telegraphers' union said the...

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SENSATIONS PROMISED IN STROUSE CASE

Spicy Charges are Made Against Chataqua Man- ager at Hendersonville.

INJUNCTION SUIT IN THE U. S. COURT

Owing to Absence of Prof. Sprouse Hearing is Post- poned Until Friday.

Sharply sensational evidence is promised in the injunction suit filed Saturday in the U. S. Court by Clarence B. Strouse against the Hendersonville Auditorium company to forbid its officers from carrying out their alleged purpose to prevent him from repeating his Chataqua series in the house and only for the fact that the attorneys for Prof. Strouse were so taken by surprise that they were unable to make answer to the affidavits furnished them by counsel for the Auditorium company, the exact charges against Prof. Strouse would have been made public yesterday afternoon at the hearing before Judge Pritchard to determine whether the injunction forbidding the defendant's officers from interfering with plaintiff's possession. As it was the character of the charges may be estimated by the statement of Judge Chas. A. Moore or counsel for Prof. Strouse when he asked for a continuance. He said: "The charges in these affidavits are of so serious a nature that no one else except Mr. Strouse can answer them. No man guilty of the conduct he is charged with ought to be allowed to conduct a Chataqua in any community. This is one of the most serious matters I have ever known in any lawsuit."

On Saturday afternoon Mr. Strouse through his attorneys, Hector and Hixon, Chas. French Toms and Moore and Hollins, filed suit and secured...

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THE STRIKE ORDER GIVEN AT 8.20.

All Operators: They have decided to stop work on the Southern circuits from Cj to Nu and Texas at 8.30 Eastern time.

WESLEY RUSSELL,
General Secretary Treasurer C. T. U.

At 6.35.

To all Operators: Mr. Stone has called for an operator from this office to talk to him on 'phone. We are going to repeat that message. Ourmen will say that we will stand by Russell's message and must know.

A. P. N. Y.

At 6.30 p. m.

Mr. Stone says the board of directors will meet September 18 and will be glad to lay the matter before them. Meantime he will be glad to meet a committee of his men at any time to consider theirgrievances.

At 6.40.

Operators South will wait at keys until 7.30 to get message to directors from Mr. Stone. Every one voted to leave at 7.30 tonight unless such message forthcoming.

At 6.45.

Atlanta says they are all ready to go out on the Southern and Western Texas circuits up to Rs at 7.30.

At 7 O'Clock.

All Operators: I will see what I can do about getting the matter before the directors by wire tomorrow.

M. E. STONE, General Manager.

At 7.45.

To All Operators: Have read Mr. Stone's telegram. You should ask him when he can present the petition of the Associated Press telegraphers to the board of directors to meet the operators' request. Ask definite answer by 7.30 tomorrow (Tuesday) p. m. Advise me of his reply and await further instructions.

WESLEY RUSSELL,
General Secretary-Treasurer.

HOW ASSOCIATED PRESS MEN QUIT

The foregoing bulletins which preceded the strike of every union telegraph operator in the South, and doubtless in the country, tells the story of one of the most far-reaching and disastrous strikes in the history of the labor world.

The Associated Press wire in The Citizen office, as well as the wires of other newspaper offices on this circuit, was closed promptly at 8.30 last night, and the paper was thrown on its own resources to gather news from any point which it could reach. For a time it was thought that the Western Union would be able to carry brief messages from Washington and other points, but the futility of this hope was shown when it was discovered that the Washington wire had been left open at some point between here and the capital, and that supply was cut off until midnight. It has to be a great calamity, however, which can cripple a newspaper entirely; in fact, nothing short of an earthquake or an explosion can prevent a newspaper from coming out on time. The Citizen appears this morning in a rather abbreviated form, but it feels that under the circumstances its readers will not be impatient. With the aid of the long distance 'phone and special telegraph messages from points not yet affected by the strike a fair amount of news was obtained. Manager Calvert got into communication with Washington shortly before midnight and succeeded in getting scattering messages from the Associated Press office. He materially helped this paper notwithstanding the fact that he had been working sixteen hours.

How long this strike will cripple the newspapers of the country cannot now be foretold, but it is thought that the Associated Press will not allow the present conditions to continue for any length of time. It should be understood that the Associated Press telegraphers have no particular grievance, their walkout being largely a sympathetic move with the originators of this strike at Los Angeles.

Manager Calvert's Statement.

Manager Calvert of the local Western Union office, in an interview with a Citizen representative last night said:

"This strike seems to have originated from the discharge of an operator in the Western Union office at Los Angeles upon the complaint of a traffic chief that an operator was maliciously delaying the transmission of telegrams. The fellow employees of this operator asked that he be reinstated; when the request was refused by the management of the office the men struck. Later the men in Chicago and various other cities struck, because they are unwilling to work with the non-union men employed to take the places of the strikers in Los Angeles. That the strike is not justifiable on this theory is proved by the fact that the officers of the union refused to order the men in Chicago to quit work. These men acted on their own motion. Further than this the officers of the union have ordered the men at Omaha and other places to continue to work. But it seems that matters have gotten beyond control of the union; the men seem to want to strike, and many of them are sore at President Small of the telegraphers' union because of his efforts to maintain peace. It is certainly manifest to a thoughtful mind that a union that refuses to permit discipline to permit discipline to be maintained, and that cannot itself be controlled by those whom it has entrusted with the management of its affairs is a rather dangerous organization. Sympathetic strikes are, as a rule, not countenanced by the more conservative unions nowadays, and are looked upon as bad things. In several cities the strikers have admitted that they have no grievances, but now that the strike is on they appear to have many grievances. As to the salary question and 8-hour day—every man wants the most favorable conditions possible under which to work, but they had the assurance from President Clowry of the Western Union, and General Manager Nally of the Postal company that any man having a grievance could bring it to their attention and that it would have consideration. I have not heard of an instance wherein the officials have failed to carry out this agreement.

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