

MINERS FAIL TO AGREE ON WILSON'S PROPOSAL

MINERS EXPECTED TO AGREE ON PLAN AT MEETING TODAY

Settlement Today Is Predicted—Conservatives in the Majority.

CAUCUSES ARE HELD BY RADICAL GROUPS

Proceedings Followed With Tense Interest by Officials at Capital.

OWNERS APPROVE PLAN
ST. LOUIS, Dec. 9.—The proposition of President Wilson meets with the unqualified approval of the mine operators, according to a statement by Thomas T. Brewster, chairman of the scale committee of the coal operators of the central competitive field, after a summary of the President's proposition had been read to him here today.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 9.—Settlement of the strike of coal miners tomorrow considerably was predicted late tonight by a high official of the United Mine Workers of America. It was declared that the conservative element was in the majority and that an agreement on the President's proposal for termination of the controversy was only a question of how long it would take to hear the arguments of all representatives who wished to speak.

This official, who strongly favors acceptance of the new plan for ending the strike, spoke enthusiastically of the fight made for adoption of the proposal by Acting President John L. Lewis and Secretary-Treasurer William Green, of the miners' organization, at today's meeting of the general committee of the miners at which the plan was presented. This fight, he said, was continued after adjournment of the conference at 6:30 o'clock tonight and it was believed that more than sufficient strength was mustered to vote down the radical element when the committee reconvenes tomorrow. Consideration of the question will be resumed at 9:30 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Lewis and Mr. Green, he said, "whole heartedly accepted the proposition made by President Wilson and entered into the fight for its adoption by the miners with all their strength. Settlement of the controversy, when it comes, will be greatly due to their efforts and it is only justice to give them credit for their fight."

In the majority, "The conservative element, which favors acceptance of the plan, is clearly in the majority and there is no question of the final outcome."

It also was learned that four extended caucuses in which so-called radicals from Indiana, Illinois and Western Pennsylvania participated, were held tonight. Except that plans were made for continuing the fight against adoption of the strike settlement plan, nothing could be learned of the proceedings.

The radicals it became known late tonight communicated their first attempt to defeat or postpone settlement of the strike by introduction of a motion to amend the resolution from the hands of the general committee and submit it to the locals of the organization for a referendum vote. This motion was voted down and believed to demonstrate the President's plan when it comes to a final vote.

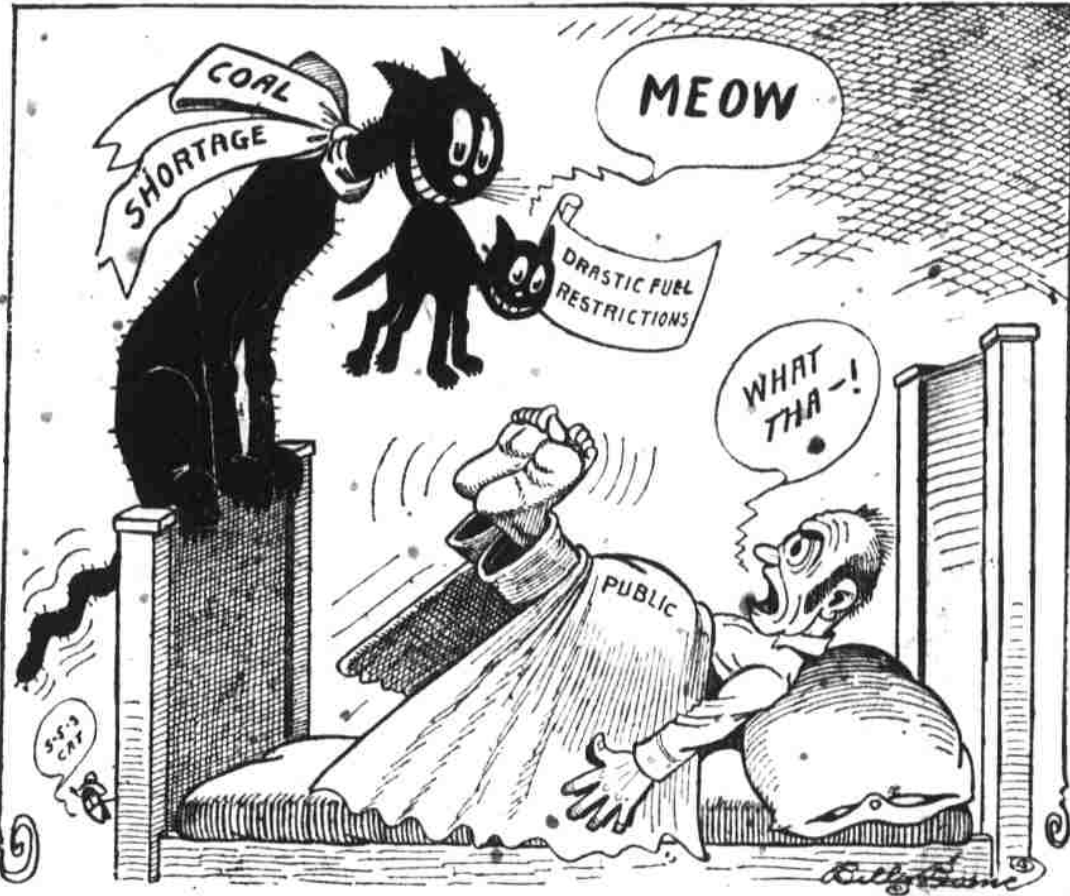
INTEREST TENSE
WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Proceedings in Indiana, where the United Mine Workers' union workers were considering President Wilson's proposal for the settlement of the soft coal strike, were followed with tense interest here today and tonight. The coal operators at the white house and the fuel administration and also at a meeting of the coal operators where reports from the miners' gathering were closely scanned.

An official message sent to the white house by Attorney General Palmer in Indianapolis was misconstrued and thereby resulted in a premature announcement that the miners had agreed to the President's proposal for the settlement of the strike. The message, which was sent by Mr. Palmer just as union representatives were beginning their meeting, as revealed the miners would promptly agree to the President's plan. Fuel Administrator Garfield refused comment throughout the day and would say nothing officially tonight after the miners had adjourned.

The coal operators at the informal session discussed the President's proposition at length, but adjourned until 10 o'clock tomorrow morning without reaching any agreement. While they generally were in favor of the proposal, there were intimations that provisions for retroactive wage awards to the miners without compensating increases in the government's fixed prices for coal would meet with disaster. The operators, however, already have accepted the straight 14 per cent. wage increase, which was rejected by the miners at the joint conference. Restrictions on the consumption of coal and power generated from coal were not relaxed or abated in any degree, nor were official steps taken looking toward their termination. The central committee of the railroad administration as agent for the fuel administrator continued to give its attention to the details of distributing fuel.

TRAINS SUSPENDED
WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Railroad trains were suspended in the face of heavy rain.

Look What the Cat Brought in --- By Billy Borne



HIGHEST COURT IN MEXICO IN CHARGE OF JENKINS CASE

Case Is Transferred From Puebla to the Supreme Court.

NO REPLY TO NOTE HAS BEEN RECEIVED

Senate Committee Decides to Continue Probe of Situation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—The Mexican supreme court has assumed jurisdiction over the case of American Consul Agent Wm. O. Jenkins, the state department was advised today by the American embassy at Mexico City.

The message gave no details other than the transfer of the case from the Puebla state courts had been made on motion of Jenkins' personal counsel and officials indicated that developments thus far had not been such as to cause any change in the American government's attitude, as outlined in the recent sharp note to Mexico renewing the request for Jenkins' release.

No reply to that note has been received, and administration officers make no effort to conceal their impatience.

In refusing the original request of the United States that Jenkins be released, the Mexican government said the consular agent's case was in the hands of the state courts of Puebla which had charged him with giving false evidence in connection with his kidnapping by bandits in October, and his subsequent release on payment of \$150,000 ransom, and that the executive department was powerless to act.

In its reply, the United States took the position that under the New Mexican constitution the federal supreme court alone had jurisdiction over cases of foreign diplomatic and consular representatives in Mexico. This also was the position of Jenkins' counsel in arguing the motion that his case be transferred to the supreme court.

Jenkins was released from the Puebla penitentiary last Thursday on 1,000 peso bond, furnished by J. Walter Hansen, and the state department was informed today that he had arrived in Mexico City from Puebla to confer with Summerlin relative to his case.

During the day members of the senate foreign relations committee conferred informally and decided that the investigation of conditions in Mexico by the senate committee should be continued both in Washington and on the border. The committee members also approved a telegram sent by Senator Fall, of New Mexico, chairman of the investigating committee, to H. T. Oliver, an American at Mexico City, in which the senator said President Wilson had not indicated his intention not to break off diplomatic relations with the Carranza government.

Senator Fall's telegram was in reply to a message from Oliver, asking for some word that would deny statements published in the Mexican capital that the New Mexico senator was trying to bring about intervention in Mexico. The telegram follows: "Your telegram received. You are fully authorized to repeat, and if necessary, publish in Mexico, my statement to you that although I have been called an interventionist, I am positively opposed to armed intervention in Mexico, except as an absolutely last resort and that my desire is for some friendly solution of pending questions between Mexico and

Premier to Introduce Irish Home Rule Bill

LONDON, Wednesday, Dec. 10.—Premier Lloyd-George will introduce the new Irish home rule bill in parliament Monday, according to the Daily Mail.

The newspaper adds that the bill provides for two legislatures with a co-ordinating senate, but that the powers to be allotted to the senate have not yet been defined. It says the fate of the bill will depend on the government's generosity in this respect.

For the first time in history there is every prospect of the Irish question being settled satisfactorily, according to a statement made in a speech tonight by Walter Hume Long, first lord of the admiralty.

FLOODS DO GREAT DAMAGE AT MANY PLACES IN SOUTH

Thousand Persons Homeless at Meridian—Streams Overflow Banks.

LARGE DAM BREAKS AT TALLASSEE, ALA.

Traffic Service Interrupted by Washouts—Flood Warnings Displayed.

(By The Associated Press.)
Torrential rains in various sections of the south tonight had brought many rivers to the flood stage and caused heavy property damage at several points.

A thousand persons were homeless and train service was indefinitely suspended at Meridian, Miss., due to the overflow of small streams south of the city. One negro is reported to have lost his life. The rainfall of 48 hours in the vicinity of Meridian totalled 10.10 inches.

The hydro-electric plant of the Montgomery Light and Power company at Tallassee, Ala., was put out of commission by a broken dam, leaving the city without lights or street car service. Heavy damage was reported in the vicinity of Montgomery, with railroad service impaired. Water was rising in north Montgomery from the flood of Alabama rivers.

High water on the Chattahoochee river, near Columbus, Ga., is said to have caused property damage, with a continued rise of the river predicted.

DAM GIVES WAY

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Dec. 9.—Yielding to the tremendous pressure of flood waters from the Tallassee river watershed, a 200-foot section of the hydro-electric power dam of the Montgomery Light and Power company at Tallassee, Ala., gave way at 6 o'clock this afternoon, releasing a flood of water that is pouring down into the Coos and Alabama rivers, which already were expected to reach their highest records.

The damage to the power company's dam is estimated at not less than \$25,000, and may probably go much higher, according to the extent of the break. At the time it went out, about 16 feet of water was pouring over the dam, which is 40 feet high and 675 feet long. At a late hour tonight, due to broken telephone connections, it was not known whether there had been any loss of life or other damage from the breaking of the dam.

Fears were entertained for the safety of the hydro-plant dam of the Fall Manufacturing company, six miles below the Tallassee structure, which had been abandoned earlier in the day because the rising river had flooded the plant and entered the mill proper.

Another hydro-electric plant in the immediate territory for which grave fears are entertained is the Speigler mill plant, where eight feet of water is said to be pouring over the dam. It furnishes power for the state prison and state cotton mills, which are worked by convicts. Tonight, too, extra precautions are being taken to preserve the lives of the convicts at Number Four camp, the property of which, except for a small part facing toward Montgomery, is under eight feet of water from the Coosa river. The river at the Montgomery-We-

TEXT OF THE PRESIDENT'S PROPOSAL TO THE MINERS

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 9.—The text of President Wilson's proposal to the miners follows:

"I have watched with deep concern the developments in the bituminous coal strike and am convinced there is much confusion in the minds of the people generally and possibly of both parties to this unfortunate controversy as to the attitude and purpose of the government in its handling of the situation.

"The mine owners offered a wage increase of 20 per cent. conditioned, however, upon the price of coal being raised to an amount sufficient to cover this proposed increase of wages, which would have added at least \$50,000,000 to the annual coal bill of the people. The fuel administrator in the light of these proposals has taken the position, and I think with entire justification, that the public is now paying as high price for coal as it ought to be required to pay and that any wage increase made at this time would result in the profits of the coal operators.

"In reaching this conclusion, the fuel administrator expressed the personal opinion that the 14 per cent. increase in all mine wages was reasonable because it would equalize the miners' wages on the average with the cost of living, but he made it perfectly clear that the operators and miners are at liberty to agree upon a larger increase provided the operators will pay it out of their profits so that the price of coal would remain the same.

"Efforts Failed.
"The secretary of labor, in an effort at conciliation between the parties, expressed his personal opinion in favor of a larger increase. His effort at conciliation failed, however, because the coal operators were unwilling to pay the proposed increase unless the government would advance the price of coal to the public and this the government was unwilling to do.

"The fuel administrator had also suggested that a tribunal be created in which the miners and operators would be equally represented to consider further questions of wages and working conditions as well as profits of the operators and proper prices for coal. I shall of course be glad to aid in the formation of such a tribunal.

"I understand the operators have generally agreed to absorb an increase of 14 per cent. in wages, so that the public would pay not to exceed the present price fixed by the

fuel administrator and thus a way is opened to secure the coal of which the people stand in need, if the miners will accept working under terms pending a thorough investigation by an impartial commission which may readjust these wages and prices.

"By the acceptance of such a plan the miners are assured immediate employment with a substantial increase in wages and are further assured prompt investigation and action upon questions which are not now settled to their satisfaction. I must believe that with a clear understanding of these points they will promptly return to work. If nevertheless, they persist in remaining on strike, they will put themselves in an attitude of striking in order to force the government to increase the price of coal to the public so as to give a still further increase in wages at this time rather than allow the question of further increase in wages to be dealt with in an orderly manner by a fairly constituted tribunal representing all parties interested.

Position Not Justified.
"No group of our citizens can justify such a position, and the miners owe it to themselves, their families, their fellow workmen in other industries and to their country to return to work.

"Immediately upon a general resumption of mining, I shall be glad to aid in the prompt formation of such a tribunal as I have indicated to make further inquiries into this whole matter and to review not only the reasonableness of the wages at which the miners start to work but also the reasonableness of the government prices for coal. Such a tribunal should within 60 days make its report which could be used as a basis for negotiation for a wage agreement. I must make it clear, however, that the government cannot give its aid to any such further investigation unless there is a general resumption of work.

"I ask every individual miner to give his personal thought to what I say. I hope he understands fully that he will be hurting his family and will be throwing countless other laboring men out of employment if he shall continue the present strike, and further that he will create an unnecessary and unjustified prejudice against organized labor which will be injurious to the best interests of working men everywhere.

(Signed) "WOODROW WILSON."

RECOMMEND TWO NEW BATTLESHIPS

And 11 Cruisers for 1921 Building Program.

The Navy General Board Advocates a Policy of Naval Expansion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9.—Recommendations of the navy general board for the building program for 1921 include two battleships, one battle cruiser, 10 scout cruisers, five destroyer "flotilla leaders" and six submarines.

The navy of the United States should ultimately be equal to the most powerful maintained by any other nation of the world, not later than 1925, the report adds.

The statement of policy as to the ultimate strength of the navy and the time when it should be achieved is a reiteration of the board's position as carried in its report to Secretary Daniels each year since 1915.

Contrary to his custom for the last few years, Mr. Daniels did not make public the board's recommendations when his own annual report was released, although it was attached to that document as it went to the President. Mr. Daniels did not himself recommend any building program, withholding this for later presentation.

In its recommendations made public today at the department the general board urged a policy of naval expansion that will guarantee protection of coast lines and the rapidly expanding merchant marine against any naval power in the world. Such protection, the board declared, can be had only by increasing American sea power to a point where it is "second to none" and maintaining it at that level.

The board further asserted that the navy having demonstrated that possession of a fleet powerful enough to protect its seaboard commerce, is vital to any nation in speed and armament of first line ships the board asserted it already was evident that first line ships of the American navy must have heavier armament than the 12-inch guns of the first dreadnoughts. These ships, the board said, were rapidly assuming the same relationship to the navy's superdreadnoughts that the older battleships bear to the first dreadnoughts themselves, with the time approaching when they can no longer be considered as effective first line ships. The German fleet, the board declared in this connection, was hand-lapped and not strengthened by the presence of pre-dreadnoughts of slow speed and lighter armament in the

SESSION TAKES UP NEGRO QUESTION

Discussed by the House of Southern Governors

Meeting With Commercial Congress—Special Speeches Made.

SAVANNAH, Ga., Dec. 9.—Questions pertaining to the negro and relations between the two races in the south were discussed in executive session by the house of southern governors, meeting here today with the Southern Commercial congress. Although the proceedings of the governors were not made public, it was evidenced by the speakers, who included prominent persons of both races.

Governor Bickett, of North Carolina; W. Woodruff White, of Alabama; Governor Cooper, of South Carolina; Dr. J. E. McCullough, of Washington; and A. T. Gerrans, a manufacturer of New Bern, N. C., were among the white speakers, while the negroes who gave the views were Giles B. Jackson, of Richmond, Va., a lawyer; Frank A. Hallion, of the negro national business league; Rev. E. L. Baskerville, Charleston, S. C.; Rev. M. R. Bledsoe, Americus, Ga.; Dr. R. H. Moton, of Tuskegee institute; and R. H. Wright of Georgia and Professor Benjamin F. Hubert, of Orangeburg, S. C.

Prior to the executive session, the house of governors discussed public health and recommended extensive measures for combatting tuberculosis. A tuberculosis clinic for each city with a population of 10,000 or more; visiting tuberculosis or public health nurses in each city of more than 5,000 population and a hospital bed for every annual death from the disease were recommended by the southern house of governors, meeting here with the Southern Commercial congress. The governors conference was presided over by Governor Roberts of Tennessee.

Today's session of the congress, whose purpose is the upbuilding of commerce, agriculture and industry, were divided into sectional meetings. Foreign trade through southern ports; war risk insurance; the American merchant marine, good roads, foreign credits, and municipal affairs were discussed.

General Pershing, who interrupted his inspection trip to address the congress yesterday, continued his journey today.

At the morning session at the auditorium, the address of Dr. George E. Vincent, chairman of the International health service, Rockefeller foundation, which has been scheduled for the night session of the house of governors, was delivered. Dr. Vincent's subject was "Commerce and Health."

R. J. Cholmely-Jones, director of the bureau of war risk insurance, spoke on "War Risk Insurance." Albert E. Fiske, chairman of the foreign trade commission of the congress, presented the report made by the committee upon its investigation of trade conditions in Europe immediately following the signing of the armistice.

WILL MEET AGAIN TODAY TO DISCUSS SETTLEMENT PLAN

General Committee Is in Session Several Hours During the Day.

CHARGES AGAINST MINERS DEFERRED

Palmer in the Court Room When Contempt Cases Come Up for Trial.

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., Dec. 9.—The general committee of the United Mine Workers of America, meeting here to consider President Wilson's proposal for ending the strike of bituminous coal miners, adjourned tonight at 6:30 o'clock without reaching an agreement. The committee will meet again tomorrow morning at 9:30 o'clock.

The miners had been in continuous session since 2 o'clock this afternoon, when John L. Lewis, acting president of the mine workers organization presented the proposal of President Wilson to end the strike which began more than five weeks ago.

"I have nothing to say," said acting President Lewis after the adjournment, "except that we still have the matter under consideration and will meet again at 9:30 tomorrow morning."

Personnel of Committee
The general committee of the miners is composed of eighty-four international and district officials and members of the organization's executive board and scale committee.

After the miners adjourned this evening it was reported that a big factor in the opposition to acceptance of the President's proposal was the belief on the part of many miners that it would require another session of the general convention of the United Mine Workers to make valid an agreement to end the strike.

It was pointed out that the last general convention, held in Cleveland, formulated the demands to be presented to the operators and voted that in the event they were refused, that a strike should be called. The plan approved by the general convention also provided that in case of strikes and subsequent proposals for a settlement, another general session would have to approve any action taken looking to an end of the tie-up.

The proposal, made public by Attorney-General Palmer this afternoon, provides for resumption of work by the miners at a 14 per cent wage increase pending final settlement of the wage controversy by a committee of five appointed by the President. This committee would include in its personnel one practical miner and its active mine owner or operator and would not only adjust the wage question as related to the increase of rents but also would adjust coal prices to meet the wage advance without allowing too great a burden to be placed upon the public.

Favored Plan
The attorney-general in making public the President's proposal stated that it had been prepared by the chief executive with a view to appealing to the miners generally throughout the country. However, he said before it was a committee of five appointed by the President. This committee would include in its personnel one practical miner and its active mine owner or operator and would not only adjust the wage question as related to the increase of rents but also would adjust coal prices to meet the wage advance without allowing too great a burden to be placed upon the public.

In order that the plan for settlement be submitted to the general committee this afternoon, the government this morning asked and obtained postponement of hearing of charges of criminal contempt pending in federal court here against the 84 union heads who form the general committee. At the same time Judge Anderson granted a motion by government attorneys for postponement of a federal grand jury investigation of alleged violations of the Lever law and anti-trust acts by both miners and operators. The content of the proceedings are set for hearing next Tuesday and the grand jury investigation for the following day.

Palmer was in the court room this morning when the contempt cases came up for trial but took no part in the proceedings. The government's request for postponement was made by C. B. Ames, assistant attorney general, and Assistant Attorney General E. A. Tamm. Judge Anderson made no comment on the contempt cases or on the government's request beyond remarking that when they should be brought up again.

Arguments Heated
That opposition to acceptance of the President's plan developed soon after the miners' session convened was evidenced by scraps of the speeches which could be heard outside the hall in which the meeting was being held in a local hotel. The argument during the afternoon was very heated and clearly indicated that the attitude of some of the delegates undoubtedly was delaying the final decision in favor of ending the final decision.

During the day acting President Lewis received a telegram from Secretary of War Woodruff.

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