

850 Bodies Recovered At Oppau; 2,500 Injured Treated

LABOR LEADERS PLAN TO FIGHT, PRESIDENT SAYS

Barrett Contends That Conference is for Organization Purposes.

McMAHON HAS ARRIVED

Along With Him Came Several Officials of A. F. L. and Labor Leaders.

"We are not here to discuss plans to institute another strike here or anywhere in the South."

"We are here to make no demands that will engender a spirit of hostility industry."

"We are here simply to lay plans by which the South may be adequately represented in the affiliations of the American Federation of Labor."

This was the cryptic explanation given Thursday morning by James E. Barrett, president of the North Carolina Federation of Labor, of the purpose of the conference in Charlotte today to textile union officials from international headquarters, and labor leaders from four Southern states to plan for a campaign to organize the unorganized and to resist all effort to reduce the standard of living among Southern cotton mill workers.

The conference will not result in an organized fight for wage increase and a reduction of working hours, according to Mr. Barrett.

The leaders have no desire to widen the breach between employer and employee or to stir up a grater spirit of antagonism. They merely propose strengthening the Southern textile organizations and placing the members in position to better defend themselves against possible movements among mill owners to lower wages and bring about a reduction in living standards, officials at the conference stated.

THOSE PRESENT

International President Thomas F. McMahon, of the United Textile Workers of America, is here for the conference, together with a corps of organizers and officials from New York headquarters. Those who came with McMahon arriving at 9:20 o'clock, were Frank McCoskie, international vice-president of the textile unions; Thomas J. Reagan, Joe White, Edward F. Callahan, H. S. Price and Henry Jones, president of the Georgia and Alabama Textile Workers' Association, editor of the Journal of Labor, Atlanta, recognized as one of the most conservative as well as the most prominent of Southern labor leaders, is here as the personal representative of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Labor Federation. Mr. Jones was selected by President Gompers during his recent visit to Atlanta to come to Charlotte and assume general charge of the meeting here to-day.

McMAHON HERE

J. F. McMahon, of Raleigh, chairman of the executive committee of the State and Federal Reserve Bank, is here for the conference. He and Mr. Barrett are the two high officials of the State Federation taking part in the meeting.

The four States in which the campaign has been waged are the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, the latter being the textile States of the South. The meeting here will direct attention chiefly to the handling of details and consummation of plans for waging the membership drive in the South. Charlotte will be the southern headquarters.

Some of the leaders could give an idea of the length of the conference, though all agreed that it would last throughout the day with the probability of a hang-over session Friday. How long International President McMahon will remain in the city could not be determined, also, he will not be here but a few days at the most, however. He will take no part in the membership drive other than offer suggestions from New York headquarters.

The conference is being held behind closed doors, of course, and information concerning the proceedings depends upon statements of the officials. It was expected that a frank discussion of the textile situation, which leaders admit is unsatisfactory now from a union standpoint, will take up a major portion of the meeting time.

ONLY AFTER MEMBERS.

Press dispatches a few days ago from Washington stated that the conference would be waged for a reduction of the weekly working hours in Southern mills from 55 to 48 and for wage increases. A later dispatch from Atlanta, following a conference of leaders with President Gompers there, stated that the conference would be for the purpose of mapping out a campaign to strengthen the membership of textile unions.

The Washington dispatch also quoted President McMahon as stating the leaders would fight the employment of children in Southern mills. This state of affairs immediately brought a challenge from Southern mill owners for Mr. McMahon to specify the mills in which child labor is used. The employers' organization was to the effect that the employment of children under 14 is prohibited by laws in every Southern State as well as the national law.

MILL MEN LOOK ON.

The sentiment among mill owners favored the fighting of a movement to reduce working hours and increase wages. The possibility of a fight on the movement for increasing the Southern membership of the union was re-

Table with 2 columns: Date, Amount. Charlotte Bank Clearings for the week ending Sept 21, 1921: \$6,964,630.87. Sept 20, 1921: \$5,993,712.32. Sept 19, 1921: \$8,132,181.02.

REVIVAL AHEAD IN ALL BUSINESS HARDING INSISTS

Governor of Federal Reserve Board Honored Guest of the City.

WHY COTTON WENT UP

Nothing Board Did or Didn't Do Had Anything to Do With Boom.

That the future prosperity of the whole country, and especially the South, hinges upon the method of crop marketing and what prices prevail for the raw products of those districts "in which normally so large a part of the country's purchasing power lies," is the declaration of Governor W. P. G. Harding, of the Federal Reserve Board, who was the city's guest today and delivered an exhaustive address at the exposition grounds this afternoon on the subject of "What the Federal Reserve Board is and What it is Not."

Governor Harding declared that, "with proper co-operation on the part of merchants and bankers, the Federal Reserve Board has many opportunities and prospects, which nobody anticipated a few months ago."

He stressed also the necessity for pushing the foreign trade of the nation, notably as it relates to cotton and the main products of Southern farms. "Some means must be devised," he said, "for extending long time credits abroad to interesting American investors in foreign properties and securities in order that the exchange which now runs so heavily against other nations may be corrected."

The Federal Reserve system, as great as it may be, is not a panacea for all economic and financial ills, the distinguished financier asserted. There have always been years of prosperity and years of adversity, but the Federal Reserve system, as a great deal, does not in the way of preventing these natural waverings in economics, but to modify them and to hold them in check.

REVIVAL IS AT HAND.

Prosperity and depression are cyclical in their character, there is first the period of prosperity itself, he said, then there is liquidation followed by stagnation and finally by another revival.

"At the present time the process of liquidation is well advanced and the end of stagnation and the beginning of revival seems now to be susceptible of accomplishment in the near future."

"In the South, we are all rejoicing over the recent advance in the price of cotton. This advance is not due to any increase in the loans of the Federal Reserve Bank or to any expansion of the currency. As a matter of fact, the amount of Federal Reserve Notes in circulation today is about \$500,000,000 less than when cotton reached its lowest point last spring. The advance in the price of cotton is due to economic causes, to the operation of the inevitable law of supply and demand. After the last report of the department of agriculture, however, it is believed that the present crop is abnormally small and that probably less than seven million bales will be produced. In ordinary circumstances a crop of this size would have been calamity to the South, but owing to the large amount of cotton left in the hands of producers from last season, it will be a benefit because a more normal equilibrium of the market will be restored and therefore the debt-paying and purchasing power of the South this fall will be far greater than had been anticipated."

DEFLATION IN SUPPLY.

"I wish to emphasize, however, the fact that this happy result is due not to credit or currency expansion but rather to the deflation of the anticipated supply of cotton."

"Touching again upon the credit policies of the Federal Reserve Bank during the year 1920 and at the present time, I wish to remind you that a change in the discount rate is not necessarily a change in policy. Central banks in foreign countries are accustomed for generations to advance or reduce their rates of discount in accordance with changing conditions in their money markets and their action is accepted without popular protest. The discount rates of the Federal Reserve Bank during the year 1919 were below the market rates, as was the case during the greater part of the period when the country was at war. The discount rate, however, in a financial sense with the signing of the armistice and the exigencies of the Treasury seemed to require a continuation for some months of Federal Reserve discount rates which prevailed during the war."

WHEN RATES WENT UP.

"In January, 1920, however, Federal Reserve rates were advanced generally to 6 per cent, which, by the way, is the highest rate that has ever been charged by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. This advance in rates took place at a time when there had been ample opportunity to market the crops of 1919 and before preparations were made for planting the crops of 1920."

"The effect of this increase in discount rates at the Federal Reserve

BONDS FIXED AT \$1,450,000.

Chicago, Sept. 22.—Bonds for five alleged bombers, caught by police in the act of bombing a shoe repair shop a few days ago, have been fixed at \$1,450,000. Municipal Judge Hans said the figure has been made so large because the men had endangered the lives of women and children.

ROWAN WOMAN GETS TWO CENTS DAMAGES

Salisbury, Sept. 22.—Compensatory damages, 1 cent; punitive and vindictive damages, 1 cent. This is the amount given by a Rowan county jury to Mrs. Woodington for sufferings and other damages she sustained on account of W. A. Roseman, a local merchant, selling her husband extracts that caused intoxication. She sued Roseman for \$10,000 for alienating her husband's affections and the case consumed two days in Superior court. A ter deliberating for two hours the jury answered all issues in favor of the plaintiff, deciding that Roseman sold Woodington extracts and intoxicating liquors that she produced intoxication and that Mrs. Woodington as a consequence suffered injury in personal and property rights, and that she was entitled to one cent compensatory damages and one cent punitive and vindictive damage.

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PROPOSAL MADE BY CARRIERS IS FROWNED UPON

State Expert Thinks Fight Will Have to be Made Over Again.

INCREASE IS OFFERED.

Slight Modification of Original Offer; Ready to Lend Money.

GOV. HARDING IS HERE

Mooreville and Other Points Send Down Big Delegations.

Bankers from Two States Feature Day by Their Presence in City.

MOOREVILLE SENDS CROWD.

The Mooreville delegation was headed by E. H. Miller, president of the Mooreville Chamber of Commerce and A. B. Sandidge, secretary, who were largely responsible in stirring up interest in the enterprise and getting together several hundred of their fellow townsmen to come to Charlotte on a special train that went up early this morning from this city to bring the excursionists down. The special train stopped at all points between Mooreville and Charlotte and added to these places greatly to the number who were aboard at the starting-point.

These visitors together with the large number of bankers, business and industrial leaders from the two states, came here especially to hear Governor Harding make his address, made Thursday another eventful day at the exposition. Governor George J. Seay, of the Federal Reserve district of Richmond, Va., was another distinguished leader who was in the city today, being one of the honor guests at the American Trust Company's banquet.

The two States have sent to Charlotte for these occasions the cream of their banking and industrial leadership. Officials of National and State banks are here from every section of North Carolina and from many distant points in South Carolina. In addition to the bankers, cotton mill executives who are known throughout the State, and Eastern industrial centers who felt that the increase in rates to the Southeast would practically destroy their business in the South.

The second proposal of the railroads is some modification of the one made thirty days ago, but it is still in the opinion of representatives of the Traffic Association and the Corporation Commission. The probabilities, however, are that the new proposed rates will be published on or about November 15 or 20, the only course then left to the shippers is to again ask for a suspension of these schedules and carry the whole matter back to the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Representatives of the shippers do not believe that the schedule of the railroads carries out the spirit of the I. C. C. order. It removes the discrimination by an effective cut in freight rates at a time when the general tendency of prices is downward, and at a time when the Federal Commission is not allowing general increases in freight rates. The railroads have already delayed the effective date of the order over a year, and it will still further delay.

READY TO LEND MONEY

"The government has a billion dollars with the war finance corporation, which is ready to lend for the purpose of saving the farm crops," declared Col. James B. Young, Chairman of the North Carolina Committee, which has just organized for business. Farmers desiring to get these loans for the purpose of handling their crops, but for other purposes can make arrangements through their local bank for loans running up to six months and for not over six per cent.

Application blanks for these loans can be secured from James B. Young, chairman of the North Carolina Committee, at Raleigh.

The committee has organized and elected Dr. E. W. Kilgore, vice chairman and recommended H. L. Newbold, of the State banking department, for secretary. The other members of the North Carolina Committee are J. Elwood Cox of High Point, S. F. Austin, of Nashville and Charles E. Taylor of Wilmington.

No fixed quota has been set aside for North Carolina, but Colonel Young says the disposition of the national

LIGHTS OUT AN HOUR.

Darkness overwhelmed the big exposition for more than an hour Wednesday night. The lights were turned out, cutting out all lights in and about the building and interrupting the short run trolley service. The crowd was in a happy mood, however, and the band and singers carried on their service in the Federal reserve district, and to lend their distinguished presence to the exposition throngs.

The big warehouse was well filled despite the threatening weather outside. The suspension of the lighting service was the cause of many bright expressions from scores of men and women scattered over the building, and from every nook and corner some remark was made, creating a ripple of laughter up and down the aisles.

Some of the exhibitors confiscated candles, and the management brought automobile headlights into service, turning on the entrance and throwing the light down the aisles. This had an effect on the general setting, the brilliant lights creating heavy shadows and visitors tending their way up and down the passages.

The lights went out shortly before 9:30 and it was 9:30 o'clock before they came on.

Although most of the Winston-Salem visitors got away during the late afternoon, following the band concert and speaking program, several Twin City streamers were observed on the hats during the late afternoon of Wednesday night.

WINSTON PLEDGES SUPPORT.

Mayor James G. Hanes was the principal speaker of Wednesday afternoon. After an introduction by Colonel Kirkpatrick, the Twin City mayor spoke briefly, paying tribute to the promoters of the Carolinas exposition and promising the support of Winston at future exhibits of Carolina products.

"Winston-Salem will back any movement for the betterment of the State," he said. "Winston-Salem is delighted that Charlotte has done this thing for the Carolinas. If Charlotte wants to put on a bigger event next year Winston-Salem will be ready to help. Our people were astonished to see the bigness of this exposition. We are proud of the success of the affair and we are glad to see Winston-Salem our appreciation of the splendid reception Charlotte has given us today."

President Richard G. Stockton of the Winston Chamber of Commerce was brought to the platform and introduced by Colonel Kirkpatrick. He also pledged the support of Winston-Salem to the undertaking of the exposition officials on the success of the enterprise.

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MEMBERSHIP OF DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE MAY BE INCREASED

Britain Wants Six Delegates and All Countries Will Send Same Number; United States Anxious to Have the British Dominions Represented in Discussion.

DOMINIONS VITALLY INTERESTED

Many of the problems which will be discussed at the conference on Far Eastern questions are vitally related to Canada, New Zealand and Australia. The United States would like to be apprised directly of the view of those countries and to make sure that the representatives of those nations are informed first hand in Washington of the details of policy of the Washington government. Indeed, far more than appears on the surface, the conference is destined to have an important bearing on the relations between the United States and the British Empire. It is significantly recalled here that a whole parley is the direct sequel of the Imperial Dominion Conference when the opposition to the renewal of the Anglo-Japanese Alliance on the part of the British Dominions coincided with the expressions of the American press against the continuation of that pact.

DELICATE QUESTION.

The first cable dispatches from London would seem to indicate that not a

single representative of the British Dominions will be on the British delegation. This has occasioned much disappointment in the League of Nations and it is a fact that this may be due to a hesitancy on the part of Britain to have her Dominion governments discuss foreign affairs with other powers but the prominent part taken by General Smuts of South Africa in the Paris conference as well as the success of the British government in securing representation in the assembly of the League of Nations for its Dominions would seem to offset that impression. For years there has been agitation on the part of the Canadian people for a commissioner in Washington and in principle this plan has met with approval here but while the British government might not object to a Canadian commissioner in Washington, would they approve of an American commissioner at Ottawa? Although there is no parallel between the importance of Egypt over which England maintains a protectorate on the one hand and Canada on the other, it is a fact that an American commissioner possessing virtually diplomatic powers has been resident at Cairo for years. The whole problem is one of the delicate points between the United States and Great Britain which it had been expected here would be settled before the big conference began.

PROBABLE APPOINTEES.

Meanwhile speculation is developing as to who the additional two members of the United States delegation will be if the membership of all delegations is increased from four to six. It is assumed that another Democrat will be chosen to represent the United States, American ambassador to Great Britain is especially familiar with the problems to come before the conference and is not known as a partisan Democrat. His name is being mentioned repeatedly as a probable choice. Robert Lansing, former Secretary of State, is another Democrat, who is eligible, although it is said that he has already been engaged by the Chinese government as an advisor. As for the Republican members, John Bassett Moore, recently selected Justice of the New York Court, is spoken of for a place on the committee, while gossip at the Capitol is that Senator Knox of Pennsylvania, a former Secretary of State, might be added to the American delegation.

HARDING HANDS CRITICS ANSWER

Calls John Sharp Williams to Task for His Late Accusation.

"It was part of the duties of Mr. John Skelton Williams, when a member ex-officio of the Federal Reserve Board, to advise the Controller of the Currency, to pass upon the salaries even officers of Federal reserve banks and in a majority of cases, the salaries he is now criticizing are extravagant were approved by him."

So declared Governor W. P. G. Harding at the American Trust Company's banquet tendered at 1 o'clock in the city auditorium in honor of the distinguished head of the Federal reserve system and attended by more than 500 bankers, cotton mill executives, business men and merchants of the two Carolinas.

Mr. Harding confined his remarks, speaking only for a few minutes, to answering the attacks which Mr. Williams, former Controller of the Currency, in collaboration with The Manufacturers Record, has been making against the policies of the Federal board and which, more latterly, has turned into a crusade of criticism against the salaries now being paid officers of the New York City Federal bank.

Mr. Harding read the criticism of Mr. Williams and held it in his hand on the rostrum. "I am not able to say with absolute exactness whether the figures he gives are correct or not, I am unwilling to assume they are until

WORLD'S SERIES WILL START OCTOBER FIFTH

Chicago, Sept. 22.—The world's series will start October 5, it was decided today by the first game being played on the home grounds of the National League team.

In the event either Pittsburgh or Cleveland should finish first two games will be played in the National League city, the next two in the American League town, and so on. Both New York teams are at present leading the league. The details of the series were arranged today at a meeting of the league presidents with Judge Kenesaw M. Landis, Baseball Commissioner.

"Five games may be played, it was decided, the series going to the winner of five."

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NUMBER OF DEAD FROM EXPLOSION STILL MOUNTING

Estimate of 1,500 Stands as Number of Injured is Rapidly Increasing.

RECOVER 850 BODIES.

Nothing Remains at Oppau, Where the Plant Stood, Except Large Cavity.

850 BODIES RECOVERED.

Paris, Sept. 22.—Up to this morning, 850 bodies had been recovered from the ruins at Oppau where the plant of the Badische Anilin Company blew up yesterday, it was announced in Mayence dispatches.

Injured persons to the number of 2,500 had been attended.

It is reported, adds the advices, that the explosion occurred during experiments for the compression of a new synthetic rubber which had not been fully ascertained.

LOSS 150,000,000 MARKS.

Amsterdam, Sept. 22.—(By the Associated Press)—Total damage from the explosion in the Badische Anilin Company's chemical plant at Oppau yesterday is estimated at 150,000,000 marks, according to Berlin advices received here today.

OPPAU SWEEP AWAY.

Mayence, Germany, Sept. 22.—(By the Associated Press)—French troops and volunteer workers are engaged tonight in the ruins of the Badische Anilin Company's war-born chemical plant at Oppau, where hundreds of workmen were killed by an explosion yesterday morning. Estimates of the number of dead ranged as high as 1,500 early today, but definite figures were obviously impossible. More than 3,000 bodies had been recovered, however, and it was known that at least 1,500 persons were injured by the blast. Oppau was virtually swept away, and the explosion hurled desolation over a wide district on the west bank of the Rhine between Mannheim and Frankfurt.

Immediately after the blast, every means of rescuing injured and bringing the dead to the surface was utilized, but several minor explosions prevented workers from entering the grounds for a long time. Great clouds of chemical fumes hang over the ghastly scene of ruins, and the first men to enter the place were compelled to wear gas masks. The fumes spread as far as Mannheim and Ludwigshafen, and tended to heighten the fears of the frightened people.

NOTHING TO INVESTIGATE.

An investigation of the explosion has been ordered by the authorities, but those who have visited the ruins declare there is little upon which a finding can be based. The buildings of the Badische Company were constructed only a great hole in the ground marking the site of the main structure. It is a theory of those familiar with the plant that at least two gasometers exploded, and that nitrogen compounds stored in the buildings, or in process of manufacture, were detonated. Nitrogen products are unstable as a rule, and it is believed that the first explosion, which was relatively light, set off great masses of chemicals. Another theory is that nitrogen tanks let go, and that four others were set off by the concussion.

This is the second time Oppau has been destroyed. In 1883, a dam burst above the town and the place was swept by a wall of water.

The French forces in command of this city to Oppau and immediately sent for the sanitary staff of the army on the Rhine. He has organized kitchens to feed the families of victims of the disaster and the high commissioner has given 75,000 marks to the workers' syndicate to alleviate distress.

PRICE OF SOFT COAL SLIGHTLY ADVANCED

St. Louis, Sept. 22.—Prices of soft coal virtually unchanged since April 1, have been advanced 25 cents a ton here by some companies, according to an announcement today which declared the other concerns would make an equal advance on October 1. The increase is classed as a surcharge made necessary in handling small amounts, according to the announcement. The price now ranges from \$25 to \$25.25 a ton for various grades of coal for heating and cooking purposes.

FAIR

Charlotte and vicinity: Generally fair tonight and Friday; little change in temperature. Gentle variable winds. North and South Carolina: Generally fair tonight and Friday. No change in temperature.

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