

CONFERENCE WAS A FAILURE Settlement of the Coal Strike Apparently as Far Off as Ever

OPERATORS REJECT MITCHELL'S OVERTURES

They Refuse to Listen to Any Proposition Originating with Him

APPEALS ALL IN VAIN

The President Urges All Parties to Sink Private Advantage for Public Good

Calamity of a Fuel Famine in Cold Weather Presented by the President in Most Earnest Manner—New Information on the Situation Given by Carroll D. Wright. Something to Be Said on Both Sides—The Operators Make Demands

President Roosevelt's dramatic effort to end the coal strike and relieve the coal famine by bringing moral suasion to bear upon the coal operators and the striking miners in behalf of an amicable agreement came to a disastrous end in the president's sick room at the temporary white house shortly after 5 o'clock this evening.

Though the coal operators who came to Washington at the invitation of the president are asleep in their private cars in the railroad yard after spending the early part of the evening in an interchange of views as to the remarkable proceedings of the day and saying things about the president of the United States which, while good natured, could not by any stretch of imagination be regarded as flattering. In another part of the town, John Mitchell, the official representative of the striking miners and the lieutenants who came to Washington with him, are saying to their friends just what they said before the white house conference met this morning, which is that they have felt all the time that the president's characteristic act was a mere flash in the pan and would all end in a sharp crack and lots of smoke.

The operators with the exception of President Baer, will be back in New York tomorrow morning and Mr. Mitchell will have departed for Buffalo, both sides, so far as could be learned from their comment, more than ever determined to keep up the fight.

The six coal presidents called on Secretary Root at the Arlington late in the evening and had a long talk with him as to the situation. They went for the purpose of discussing with him their proposition that the president should send federal troops to Pennsylvania for the purpose of protecting non-union miners against the attacks of mobs of striking workmen. Secretary Root entered into a full discussion of the question from a constitutional standpoint. He argued that the federal government had no authority whatever to send its troops to the coal field inasmuch as there is no interruption of the United States mails as there was during the strike at Chicago during President Cleveland's administration and no request from the governor of the state as in the case of Coner D'Alene troubles in Idaho. These two cases were the only ones presented by the coal operators as forming possible precedents for the action which they desired President Roosevelt to take. Attorney General Knox is also of the opinion that the president has no authority to dispatch federal soldiers to the scene of the strike disturbances.

The coal operators do not hesitate to say that they regard as a grandstand play the president's intrusion upon a situation that in no wise concerned him as chief executive of the nation, and they significantly add that it is now "up to" him to make the next move in the game. This is probably what John Mitchell thinks also; and as for the public at large, so far as its views are indicated by those who are in Washington, they are also of the opinion that President Roosevelt must now take some radical step to put an end to the situation that he describes as intolerable and to carry out the promise implied in his public utterances on the subject of the coal strike and the private views which he is known to hold and to have expressed to members of the cabinet and to other men in public and private life who enjoy his confidence.

Nobody in Washington seems able to answer the question, what will the president do next? He has nothing to say himself at present, but it is well known that he had mapped out in his mind

John Mitchell, President of the United Mine Workers, P. C. Knox, Attorney General of the United States, George B. Cortelyou, Secretary to the President, Carroll D. Wright, Commissioner of Labor.

The conference marked the second step in the president's efforts to effect a settlement between the anthracite coal magnates and the miners. Every person who had been invited to participate was present with the exception of President Oliphant of the Delaware & Hudson road and President Cassatt of the Pennsylvania. Mr. Oliphant sent as his personal representative David Wilcox, vice-president and general counsel of the road, and President Cassatt sent a telegram to the president explaining that he was unable to be present.

During the conference the president was seated in a high-backed chair, his left leg extended at full length, resting upon a cushion. The president greeted most cordially each of the visitors as they appeared, and when all were assembled he stated to them in a brief preliminary way his object in calling them together. The president, fully realizing the importance of the communication that he was about to make, had prepared a carefully worded paper, setting forth in detail his position on the pending controversy.

The President's Earnest Appeal

The president said:

"I wish to call your attention to the fact that there are three parties affected by the situation in the anthracite trade—the operators, the miners and the general public. I speak for neither the operators nor the miners, but for the general public. The questions at issue which led to the situation affect immediately the parties concerned—the operators and the miners; but the situation itself vitally affects the public.

"As long as there seemed to be a reasonable hope that these matters could be adjusted between the parties, it did not seem proper to intervene in any way. I disclaim any right or duty to intervene in this way, upon legal grounds or upon any official relation that I bear to the situation; but the urgency and the terrible nature of the catastrophe impending over a large proportion of our people in the shape of a winter fuel famine impels me, after much anxious thought, to believe that my duty requires me to use whatever influence I may have to bring to an end the situation which has become literally intolerable.

"I wish to emphasize the character of the situation and to say that its gravity is such that I am constrained urgently to insist that each one of you realize the heavy burden of responsibility upon him. We are upon the threshold of winter, with an already existing coal famine, the future terrors of which we can only yet appreciate. The possibilities are so far-reaching, so appalling that it seems to me that you are not only justified in sinking, but required to sink for the time being any tenacity as to your respective claims in the matter at rest between you. In my judgment the situation imperatively requires that you meet upon the common plane of the necessities of the public.

"With all the earnestness there is in me, I ask that there be an immediate resumption of operations in the coal mines in some such way as will, without a day's unnecessary delay, meet the crying needs of the people.

"I do not invite discussion of your respective claims and positions. I appeal to your patriotism, to the spirit that sinks personal considerations and makes individual sacrifices for the general good.

When the president concluded the reading of his statement he said he did not expect that either party would be ready to submit propositions at this time, but he asked them to take into consideration what he had said and to return at 3 o'clock. He said he hoped that some proposition might be presented at that time which would furnish the basis of an adjustment.

The conference then terminated. It had lasted just fifteen minutes. The representatives of the roads came down stairs and went to their carriages. They refused to say anything except that they would meet again at 3 o'clock. They would not say where they were going to make their arrangements. When asked where they could be seen, President Baer remarked to the newspaper men: "Gentlemen, what we want is to get some place where you can't find us, and where we will not be interrupted. Then they drove away. President Mitchell and his party followed soon after, refusing to say anything. A little later Attorney General Knox left the White House.

Long before the hour fixed for the conference a large crowd had assembled outside the White House. The first official caller at the White House was Hon. Carroll D. Wright, commissioner of labor. He has made an investigation of the strike situation, and the president desired to obtain from him what he considered important features of the condition between the operators and miners.

Revelations by Commissioner Wright

In his talk with the president prior to the conference this morning, Mr. Wright told a number of things which are not contained in the written report which he made in connection with his investigation of the anthracite strike. Mr. Wright, it is understood, scored high marks in the pending struggle vigorously. He declared that it would be a great mistake unless this strike was settled in such a way as to bring about a complete reorganization of the anthracite mining industry from the viewpoint of capital and of labor.

It was, he said, little short of an outrage that the operators had attached to their pay-roll, on the piece basis, almost twice as many men as they needed from each of the pending strike vigorously. This redundancy of the labor market was doubtless intended to avert labor troubles; but instead of that, by reducing the annual income far below what it might normally be, and by its invitation to idleness, it had brought about existing troubles. The low aver-

age of income from this system had resulted in a class of labor far inferior, not only to that which had once operated the mines and had exhibited itself in the brutality and violence of the recent weeks.

The mechanical equipment of the mines themselves is not up to date, the commissioner added. There has been too much of a spirit on the part of the operators to see how much could be made out of the property without sufficient regard to broader obligations or ultimate results.

Commissioner Wright was inclined to believe, however, that there was not such a combination among operators as to bring them within the pale of trust proceedings, and that a legal investigation of this point would find the operators pretty well entrenched. The objections which they had to the "recognition" of Mitchell's union were not, the commissioner pointed out, wholly fanciful. There was danger in the union of hard coal with soft coal miners, the latter interest being so much greater. Proper discipline in the mines was threatened by too much unionism.

MITCHELL SPEAKS

He Proposes a Plan and Defends the Miners' Organization

After the president addressed the conference this morning Mr. Mitchell said:

"Mr. President—I am much impressed with what you say. I am impressed with the gravity of the situation. We feel that we are not responsible for this terrible state of affairs. We are willing to meet the gentlemen representing the coal operators to try to adjust our differences among ourselves. If we can not adjust them that way, Mr. President, we are willing that you shall name a tribunal who shall determine the issues that have resulted in this strike, and if the gentlemen representing the operators will accept the award or decision of such a tribunal the miners will willingly accept it, even if it is against their claims.

Inland Water-way Project Receives Official Sanction

Secretary of War Approves a Survey—Judge Douglas, Senator Pritchard and the Court of Claims

Washington, Oct. 3.—Special.—On the recommendation of General Gillespie chief of engineers, the secretary of war has approved a project for a survey of the territory between Norfolk, Va., and Beaufort, N. C., in order to determine the most advantageous route for the establishment by the government of an inland water route between the places named.

Again the story is abroad that Judge Douglas is desirous of receiving the appointment to the vacant judgeship on the court of claims. It is said that friends of the judge in Washington are backing his candidacy. The Star this evening prints a story to the effect that Senator Pritchard is suspected by Judge Douglas' Washington friends of covering the appointment. These Washington friends of Judge Douglas are badly mistaken.

Senator Pritchard is not bothering about this position, which he could get if he desired. His eyes are turned toward the new circuit judgeship that is to be established. When the time comes he will have the support of Elkins, McComas and others, who are residents of the fourth circuit, of which North Carolina is a part. This is what the Star said today:

"No decision is expected from the president for some days regarding the vacancy on the court of claims. The friends of Judge Robert M. Douglas of the Supreme Court of North Carolina are still urging his appointment, although he has never announced himself as a candidate. While not an applicant for the place, it is believed by his friends that if it came to him in the right way he would accept, and so a number of leading attorneys here have united in a petition to the president recommending the appointment.

"Considerable sentimental interest attaches to the consideration of Judge Douglas' name, on account of his marked resemblance to his distinguished father and the fact that he has been a life long Republican. One of the oldest and most respected Washington lawyers told an interesting story when Judge Douglas' petition was presented to him, illustrative of the practices of a generation ago.

"The narrator was then a student in one of the law offices here, and finding himself unable to keep up his studies any longer without some pecuniary assistance went to Stephen A. Douglas, with a letter of introduction from an old teacher. The senator at once ordered his carriage and drove the young man to one of the departments where a clerical position was discovered to which the young man was immediately appointed.

"How energetically Senator Pritchard will work for his constituent's appointment can not be predicted. There is a suspicion among the supporters of Judge Douglas that Senator Pritchard would like the position himself after the November elections have made certain his retirement from the Senate.

"Judge Douglas was for a short time the private secretary of President Grant."

The Trade Situation is Generally Favorable

Summing Up for the Past Nine Months Indicates Prosperous Condition in the Country at Large

New York, Oct. 3.—Bradstreet's tomorrow will say:

In the almost uniformly favorable returns of nine months' financial, commercial and industrial operations, the only depressing note is the growing sentiment of the coal situation which has passed out of local and state cognizance and become of national importance and interest. Much has been expected of the conference called for the latter part of the week at Washington and the entire community has hailed it with satisfaction as likely to result in the pointing a way out of the critical situation, in which the industrial world finds itself.

The returns of failures, clearings and other items bearing upon the results of three-quarters of year, operations at hand point to conditions having been largely favorable. Activity in stock operations and comparison with a period year ago, when deplorable occurrences at Buffalo had thrown a damper on general business activity do not entirely pain the immense increase shown in widely separated sections and the only remaining conclusion is that unprecedented fall trade, the moving of larger crops at higher prices, immense cattle receipts and unsurpassed industrial activity are characteristic with the numerous and heavy gains shown. Failure returns, too, are almost entirely favorable, the number of embarrassments being the smallest with two exceptions, in ten years and the liabilities being the lightest with one exception in twenty years.

Except for a few scattered pessimistic reports from the south advices from that section are generally of a fair to good trade with improved collection. New Orleans is an exception owing to numerous strikes already declared or threatened and retail business is reported paralyzed thereby. Some of the responsibility for the rush of cotton to market is said to be the scarcity of money which is noted at the Memphis market, but premature ripening is still claimed to be the main cause.

Wall street's apprehensions, caused by the financial stringency, have been relieved by the action of the treasury department and stock prices have developed general strength, even though money rates continue firm. The activity has lessened, and there is little evidence of any very extensive renewal of speculative operations. Covering of shorts and heavy purchases of stocks sacrificed under the influences of financial danger, served, however, to rally prices, in some cases materially and particularly firmness has been displayed in the soft coal group. The anthracite carriers were also favorably affected by President Roosevelt's effort to end the strike.

Bonds have been strong, with renewed purchases of semi-speculative issues. Foreign exchange is very firm, demand sterling advancing to 48 1/2. Estimated supplies of commercial bills, repayments of foreign loans and the advance of the Bank of England rate from 3 1/2 to 4 per cent on Thursday accounts for this tendency.

In the grain markets the feature has been the successful cornering of September wheat at Chicago, by which the prices were forced up 11 cents additional this week.

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ROBESON BEREAVED

An Useful Citizen Lost in the Death of E. K. Proctor, Jr.

Lumberton, N. C., Oct. 3.—Special.—Mr. E. K. Proctor, Jr., the most beloved man in Robeson county and one of the most useful, passed away today at 2:15 p. m. Mr. Proctor's death had been expected for two days, and only excellent medical attention and nursing sustained him so long.

A gloom is cast over the whole town, for the deceased was a many-sided man who counted his friends by the hundreds. He was a trustee of Wake Forest College and of Robeson Institute, to the latter of which he had often spoken of bequeathing a portion of his estate, upon his death, and to the success of which he had recently given much time and thought.

The funeral services will take place tomorrow at 11 o'clock, when it is expected that a number of distinguished visitors will be present.

Mr. Proctor was only forty years of age. His father is still living. He leaves one sister, the wife of Sheriff McLeod. His wife was Miss Lizzie Dick, daughter of the late James Dick of Greensboro. His oldest son is a student of Wake Forest College, whence he was called by the critical illness of his father.

Mr. Proctor's own death is not all the trouble in his home. One of the two-months old twins died two days ago; the other is sick, likewise little John.

COAL FROM ENGLAND

Large Orders Received, but Freights Are Advancing

London, Oct. 3.—Inquiries made at Liverpool show that large orders for Lancashire and North Wales coal continue to be received from America, but the exporters have great difficulty in getting freights, the rates for which have been increased \$1 during the present week. The president of the Miners' National Union, Mr. Burt, M. P., in his monthly circular to the Northumberland miners, refers to the coal strike in the United States. He says:

"Apparently the strike of 150,000 Pennsylvania miners is coming to an unsatisfactory end, because the men are returning to work in small batches, probably starved into accepting their employers' terms. They are the poorest and lowest paid laborers in the United States."

(Continued on 2nd page.)