

Lenoir News-Topic

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STRIKE OF THE COAL MINERS IS CALLED OFF

"We Are Americans; We Can't Fight the Government," Say Union Leaders as the Strike Order Is Killed

The strike of the coal miners has been called off and an official announcement to this effect was given out Monday afternoon by union officials. President John L. Lewis, head of the United Mine Workers of America, and his colleagues rescinded the strike order before the time limit fixed by the court, and it is presumed that the men will soon go back to work.

"Gentlemen, we will comply with the mandate of the court. We do it under protest. We are Americans. We cannot fight our government. That is all." This was the statement of President Lewis of the mine workers announcing the decision.

The leaders early in the day Monday agreed to call off the strike and later a message was received from W. B. Wilson, secretary of the department of agriculture, and Thomas T. Brewster, chairman of the operators' scale committee, by John L. Lewis, inviting the miners' representatives into a conference.

Mr. Lewis, on behalf of the mine workers, accepted the invitation of Secretary Wilson to meet the bituminous operators of the country in Washington today (Friday) morning at 11 o'clock and replied to Mr. Brewster, who requested a meeting of the central competitive scale committee with the operators of the district in Washington Monday, the 17th, "to negotiate a contract to be in force upon the termination of the contract now in effect," that the miners had already accepted the invitation of Mr. Wilson.

The invitation of Secretary Wilson was accepted, but the invitation extended by Mr. Brewster was rejected.

In the Federal court at Indianapolis last Saturday cancellation of the strike order was ordered by Judge A. B. Anderson. Violation of the war-time Federal food and fuel control act, as alleged by the attorney general's department, was affirmed by the court, who said that the strike was not only illegal but that under the circumstances it approached rebellion.

The court's order was so worded that failure to cancel the strike call or any affirmative word or action tending to "aid and abet" the continuance of the strike, would make them violators of the injunction and in contempt of court.

Under the order the union heads were to meet at Indianapolis Monday, draw up a cancellation order, submit it to Judge Anderson's approval, all by 10 o'clock Tuesday morning and have notice of it on the way to all local and district unions by 6 o'clock Tuesday evening.

Attorneys for the union asked postponement of a week, but Judge Ames, representing the government, objected. Then the government introduced five affidavits as evidence that the operation of the railroads was being interfered with and that contracts between employers and miners had been broken. The defense responded with its motion for dissolution of the restraining order and arguments followed.

A dispatch from Indianapolis Wednesday says the United Mine Workers of America, contrary to previous announcement, have decided to withhold their appeal on the ruling of the Federal court in injunction proceedings which resulted in the calling off the strike of coal miners Tuesday.

It has been generally believed that regardless of developments in the situation the miners would fight their case in the courts to the last ditch, and attorneys for the coal workers announced that their appeal would be filed within two or three days. However, Henry Warrum, chief counsel for the miners workers' organization, stated that the outcome of the conference of miners' representatives and coal operators with Secretary of Labor Wilson in Washington today would determine to a large extent whether the case is carried further. The miners' counsel have 30 days in which to file their appeal.

The decision of the miners is taken to indicate that they have accepted the government's assurance that the miners was not an attack against the right to strike, but was solely to prevent violation of the law, in this case the Lever act.

REVISED CASUALTY LIST NOW SHOWS 293,089 AS TOTAL

In the midst of the celebration Tuesday of the anniversary of the signing of the armistice, the tragedy of war again was emphasized by announcement of a revised list of American casualties, showing a total of 293,089.

The list includes 34,625 killed in action, including 382 lost at sea; died of wounds, 13,955; died of disease, 23,692; died of accident and other causes, 6,326; wounded in action, 215,489; missing in action, 2.

According to the Watauga Democrat Mr. W. C. Coffey of Boone mailed to Gov. Bickett last week a head of cabbage cut from his garden weighing exactly 22 pounds.

I. W. W.'S FIRE ON AND KILL NUMBER OF PARADERS

One of the boldest and most outrageous acts of the I. W. W. occurred at Centralia, Wash., Tuesday when paraders in the armistice day celebration were fired upon and three men were killed and six wounded, all veterans of the European war.

The I. W. W. hall was nearby and the soldiers instinctively made a charge on that building. Several arrests have followed and the I. W. W. are receiving rough treatment for their murderous attempt on the citizenship.

The whole city had turned out to celebrate the anniversary of the suspension of hostilities and a large parade was formed, headed by the city's boys who had helped bring about the glad day a year ago. Wearing the uniforms that sheltered them in the trenches in France and on the picket lines of the German border, the service men wear the cynosure of the hundreds of women and children who lined the streets.

As the column swung around the corner at Tower avenue and Second avenue, the band struck up a patriotic march. Then bullets came into the ranks from an unseen enemy. Men fell to the pavement and the tiny rivulets of blood showed the spectators what had taken place, the crack of the rifles of the assassins having been drowned by the blare of the band.

Tiny puffs of smoke from the roof of a nearby building indicated whence the bullets had come, and the nearness of the I. W. W. hall led to the quick decision that the heroes who had weathered the sanguinary battlefields of Europe had been slain from ambush by radicals who opposed the American system of government.

The marching soldiers did not linger to await the order to fall out, but with seeming intuition rushed into the nearby structure and sought their way to the roofs. The snipers had disappeared, but the service men sought highways and byways for all suspicious persons and then sent out pioneers into the timbered country around the city.

The I. W. W., it is charged, fired from roofs of buildings near their hall. After the shooting a mob ransacked the I. W. W. hall, tore down the front of the building and threw the furniture into the streets, where it was burned. The hall itself was not burned.

Following the shooting the outraged soldiers and citizens raided the I. W. W. meeting place and surrounding buildings, seizing several members of the I. W. W. and a quantity of arms and ammunition.

Immediately after the shooting a crowd of spectators and marchers seized a man they believed to be the ringleader of the I. W. W. They put a rope around his neck, threw the rope over the crossbeam of a telephone pole and started to haul him up. He was in the air only a brief period before the chief of police prevailed upon the crowd to let him down. The man was almost dead when rescued.

One I. W. W. was taken from the jail and hanged by the enraged citizens. A heavy guard has been thrown around the jail to prevent further hangings.

VICTOR L. BERGER IS DENIED A SEAT IN CONGRESS

Victor L. Berger of Milwaukee, socialist, was denied his seat in the House Monday by an overwhelming vote, the House holding he was ineligible for membership because of his open opposition to the war. The vote to unseat Berger was 309 to 1, Representative Voigt, Republican, of Wisconsin, being the only member to support the Wisconsin socialist, either during the debate or on the roll call.

After denying he seat to Berger the House declared that the seat was vacant, holding that Joseph Carney, Democrat, who contested Berger's election, did not receive a plurality in the election last year. Without a record vote the House also directed Speaker Gillette to notify the Wisconsin governor of the vacancy in the State election, so that a special election may be called to choose a new member.

SUGAR TO BE SOLD CONSUMER AT 18¢ CENTS POUND

A price of 18¢ cents per pound is placed on New Orleans sugar which is now available to the trade, according to advice received in Washington by Senator Simmons from the sugar division of the food administration. Under the price fixed the retailer is allowed 1 cent per pound, while the wholesaler merchant is permitted to receive one-half cent per pound. The wholesaler purchases the sugar from the refiner at 17 cents per pound, thus comprising the total of 18¢ cents to the trade.

\$600,000,000 OF ROAD MONEY IS NOW AVAILABLE

More than \$600,000,000 is available in the United States for construction of hard surface roads in 1920, according to a statement by the department of agriculture. This sum is more than four times the amount estimated for 1919. Expenditure of the fund, the department announced, is dependent only on the ability of the railroads to furnish enough cars to transport material. The department will institute a national drive to influence purchase and storage of road building material during the winter months and to overcome the open-top car shortage.

MOVED

LENOIR NEWS-TOPIC TO NEW QUARTERS

The News-Topic has moved office and plant to a new location—the Harshaw building on the corner of Mulberry and East avenue. The old location on West Harper avenue was outgrown and larger quarters were necessary. Moving has been a strenuous job and has caused this week's paper to go to subscribers late. However, everything is nearly straightened out now and there should be no more delays.

In moving the News-Topic has a location much better adapted to its work. All arrangements are better and the newspaper and job printing work can be handled more satisfactorily. In moving, the equipment from both the News and the old Topic plant have been combined and placed in the new location. In addition to combining these two plants new and up-to-date machinery and other equipment have been added.

The work of moving and putting up the presses, linotype and other machinery has taken up all the time of the entire force during the past week. This will account for the scarcity of local and county news in this issue. Next week things will be better, is the sincere hope of all connected with the News-Topic organization.

THINKS LEVER ACT SHOULD BE EXTENDED SIX MONTHS

Attorney General Palmer tells the House agriculture committee that extension of the Lever food and fuel control law for six months after the proclamation of peace is necessary to protect the country from high prices. "Unnatural economic conditions," the attorney general said, would be taken "advantage of by unscrupulous people" to make prices high unless the powers granted under the act are continued in force. These conditions, he said, prevailed throughout the world.

"The conditions in the country immediately following peace make it even more necessary that the law be continued than the conditions that prevailed and led to the enactment of the original act," said the attorney general.

"The act originally had for its purposes the increase of production, and to protect the people from war-time conditions that result in very high prices. Since the armistice prices have very largely increased, and unless the government control is continued over some commodities the after-war conditions may result in higher prices than during the war itself."

FIFTY-SEVEN FILED INCOME TAX RETURNS IN CALDWELL

Fifty-seven persons in Lenoir filed income tax returns last year, according to a list just sent out from the office of J. W. Bailey, internal revenue collector. The list does not designate those eligible to pay income tax. It merely gives the names of those who filed out and sent in the blanks. The list follows:

- Jas. A. Boldin, T. H. Broyhill, J. H. Beall, Mrs. L. R. Bernhardt, A. A. Blackwelder, Jas. G. Ballew, Jacob A. Bush, Jr., M. L. Cornwell, F. H. Coffey, M. M. Courtney, N. B. Clark, Benjamin Castine, R. S. Crisp, Harold Coffey, Lawrence H. Coffey, Wm. S. Craddock, Walter S. Covington, A. G. Ford, Julius C. Fletcher, J. C. Gure, Rufus L. Gwyn, Mary M. Gwyn, Vilgil D. Guire, Andy B. Goodman, C. H. Hopkins, Albert Houck, G. W. F. Harper, G. F. Harper, F. R. Hicks, Moses M. Harshaw, J. T. Ingram, Jr., S. S. Jennings, A. G. Jonas, Benjamin Jacobson, A. A. Kent, Walter J. Lenoir, George E. Moore, W. L. Minish, O. L. Moore, Joseph C. Moore, H. T. Newland, W. C. Newland, J. L. Nelson, Edgar D. Pulliam, L. E. Rabb, Edward F. Reid, Robert L. Steele, J. W. Self, J. C. Seagle, B. L. Stone, Mark Squires, David W. Turner, M. M. Teague, Lawrence Wakefield, F. C. White, T. M. White; John H. Beard, Valmesd.

MANY GRIEVE OVER DEATH OF MRS. TRIPLETT

Few deaths in Lenoir have caused the universal grief as that of Mrs. Moltan Triplett, who died Sunday afternoon of last week at the Richard Baker hospital in Hickory. Mrs. Triplett had been taken to the hospital several days prior to her death for an operation and treatment. She was thought to be getting along nicely until Sunday morning, when Mr. Triplett was telephoned that complications had set in and that the end was near. Mr. Triplett and the entire family went to Hickory at once and were at the bedside until the end.

Mrs. Triplett was 46 years old. She was a member of the First Baptist church and was greatly loved by many friends. Besides her husband she is survived by four children—two daughters, Misses Lucile and Mildred, and two sons, James and Woodrow. One son, Thomas, died less than a year ago from influenza. The funeral services were conducted from the home by her pastor, Rev. J. S. Hoyle of the First Baptist church, assisted by Rev. I. W. Thomas. Interment followed at Belleview cemetery.

GOV. BICKETT ISSUES A CALL FOR THANKS

Fruitful harvests, prosperous industries, the mighty triumph of spiritual forces, freedom from industrial strife and racial bitterness—these are the blessings for which North Carolina should return thanks on the day set apart for Thanksgiving in the nation, according to Gov. Bickett, who Wednesday issued his annual Thanksgiving day proclamation, which follows:

"Our forefathers established the beautiful custom of setting apart one day near the end of the harvest time to return thanks to Almighty God for the blessings of life.

"In this good year, 1919, how much have we for which to be grateful!

"Our soldiers who on last Thanksgiving day were far away in foreign lands have safely crossed the seas, and are at home again in happiness and in peace.

"The Lord of the Harvest has been good to us. Our fields have yielded bountifully. Our industries have thrived wonderfully. Prosperity smiles on farm and factory, bank and store. In every line of business endeavor we are prospering beyond the fondest dreams of our fathers.

"There has been also a mighty triumph of spiritual forces in our midst for which we should be profoundly grateful. The fruits of this victory are seen in the great forward movements of all the churches; in the finer educational advantages enjoyed by all the children of the State; in the growing demand for complete economic and social justice in taxation and all other matters; and in the larger opportunities offered on every hand to the average man and the average woman.

"Surely in this day God has given to men everywhere a bigger, broader conception of Christian service than they ever had before.

"North Carolina is singularly blessed in that in this time of turmoil she is almost entirely free from industrial and racial bitterness and strife. We should be deeply thankful for the spirit of friendship and good will that prevails among us. Let us pray for absolute justice for all, by which alone this spirit may be strengthened and maintained.

"Now, therefore, I, Thomas Walter Bickett, Governor of North Carolina, in obedience to the custom established by our fathers and in accordance with the proclamation of the President of the United States, do hereby proclaim Thursday, November 27th, a day of public Thanksgiving.

"Let this be a day of rest and rejoicing, observed by everybody. Let us not forget the orphan, the poor and the unfortunate. I earnestly trust that all the people will assemble in their places of worship and make this a real Thanksgiving Day.

"Done at our City of Raleigh, this the 12th day of November, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and nineteen, and in the one hundred and forty-fourth year of our American independence."

TELEPHONE COMPANIES CAN CONTINUE PRESENT RATES

In a decision last Friday the State corporation commission allows the Bell Telephone Company and the Asheville Telephone Company to keep in effect the long-distance and local rate allowed by the government. The decision is applicable to all other telephone companies in the State.

The order was made in response to a petition of the companies to be allowed to retain their war-time rates at the expiration of the four months allowed by Congress when the companies were turned back to the private owners. This period would expire Dec. 1. In ordering a retention of war rates the commission requires that all local and long-distance exchanges in the State make a complete financial statement on income and expenses from July of this year to Jan. 1, and quarterly thereafter.

Justification for the order is found in the exhibits of the companies, showing that during 1918 the Bell made only 2.13 per cent on its investment and with the exception of April and July of this year this income ran behind operating expenses. The order also says that no opposition was heard Sept. 25. There has also been a big increase in cost operation, which should be taken care of if the companies are to continue in business. The order says the commission does not prevent a city or an individual from bringing action asking for decrease in rates at any time.

PROSPECTS FOR SUGAR NOW SEEM TO BE GOOD

Chairman Lowry of the American Refiners' distributing committee, in the following telegram to Senator Simmons, holds out hope for sugar: "Replying to your telegram, would say that the allotments for North Carolina are now being made and the entire State should be taken care of in the near future. The chief cause of the complaint results from the longshoremen's strike, that has tied up shipping in New York harbor for the last month and prevented refiners from operating. Consequently all invisible supplies in the country and stocks were reduced to a minimum."

"Happiness," says Uncle Eben, "is de ability to forget about de shower in admirin' de beauty of de rainbow."

A sweet potato was exhibited in Gaffney, S. C., a few days that weighed 11½ pounds. It was of the Porto Rican variety.

COL. MERRIAM, ILLINOIS PIONEER, IS KILLED BY TRAIN

The following, taken from an Illinois paper, will be of interest to Lenoir folks because of the fact that Col. Merriam was the father of Mrs. Wallace Conley, who formerly lived here, Mr. Conley being the son of Mrs. Josie Conley:

"Col. Jonathan Merriam, Illinois pioneer, former political leader and delegate from Tazewell county to the State constitutional convention at Springfield in 1870, was killed yesterday by a Chicago & Northwestern passenger train at Wheaton, where he had made his home for many years. Col. Merriam, who was 85 years old, had started to walk downtown about 4:30 in the afternoon. He reached the railroad crossing at Wheaton avenue as the train, northbound, was approaching a few hundred feet away. He did not observe it. Few persons witnessed the accident. Death was instantaneous. The body was hurled clear of the tracks. It was taken to an undertaking establishment in Wheaton.

"Col. Merriam was one of the few remaining figures of the picturesque days when the history of Illinois and the nation was in the making. Born in Vermont Nov. 1, 1834, he traveled while still an infant in a prairie schooner to what was then America's frontier.

"His father bought a farm in Tazewell county. It was there he grew up. He wanted an education, so he chopped wood, did chores in his spare moments, and earned enough to pay his way through college.

"When the civil war came he was one of the first volunteers. Enlisting as a private, he climbed to a lieutenant colonelcy, serving with Col. Ripden Moore in the 117th Illinois infantry.

"Soon after the war he began an agitation for a revision of the State's constitution, pointing out the many defects of the existing constitution. Other men followed his lead. In December, 1869, the convention convened at Springfield. His work there made so great an impression upon the people that at the ensuing Republican convention to name candidates for congressmen Tazewell county sent a solid delegation for Merriam. Shelby M. Cullom, who represented the district, laughed at the soldier's claims. But Merriam received the nomination by a large majority. A Democrat was elected.

"In 1873 President Grant appointed Col. Merriam collector of internal revenue at Springfield. He held the office until 1882, when he resigned to enter the banking business at Pekin, Ill. He remained there eleven years.

"From 1894 until 1898 he served as member of the house of representatives in the State legislature. President McKinley appointed him collector of internal revenue at Chicago in 1898. He was reappointed by President Roosevelt in 1902. He resigned in 1906 to retire from public life."

"NO LET-UP UNTIL COUNTRY IS RID OF EVERY RADICAL"

Deportation proceedings have been instituted in a number of cities to rid the country of the evil radical caught in the nation-wide raids which have been in progress since last Friday, Attorney General Palmer has announced.

Instructions have gone to all department of justice agents, the attorney general said, to permit no delay in instituting formal hearings, preliminary to actual deportations. Assurances have been received from other government departments having to do with deportation that action would be taken to expedite the cases.

In the meantime the clean-up of the country will continue, Mr. Palmer announcing that there must "no let-up." The total number actually held on deportation warrants has reached about 400, while from some cities in which radical leaders were picked up reports had not reached the department.

Efforts of the department representatives, it was said, are being directed more particularly at the union of Russian workers. This organization, branded by the attorney general as the most dangerous anarchistic group in the country, was said to have wide ramifications, with the department agents still uncovering new evidences of its activities.

Opinion at the department of justice expressed seemed to be that the Russian union perhaps was constituting itself a self-appointed leader of all organizations which are preaching overthrow of the government. Literature seized was said to show that the organization accepts support from almost any source so long as it was working to defeat authority and destroy private property rights. Officials said they had evidence showing that leaders of the union had made overtures to other and lesser groups of radicals to join their organization, holding out promises of rewards when state and society are overthrown.

Because they are regarded as the most dangerous of all radical types those arrested in the recent raids are being held in \$10,000 bail, officials said. Peter Blanki and Adolph Schnabel, both former secretaries of the union of Russian workers, have been held in bail of \$15,000.

About 4 per cent of children are left-handed from birth.

A bolshevik report received through German sources says that 630 of the 1,060 inmates of Kresty prison in Petrograd have died of starvation.