

EAST AND WEST SUFFER FROM RAILROAD STRIKE

Railroads Seriously Tied Up by Unauthorized Strike of Employees; President Gompers Says the Strike is a Mistake

An unauthorized strike of railroad employes which started two weeks ago in the Chicago switching district by the discharge of a yard conductor has spread until it has affected over 25 railroads and has thrown out of work hundreds of thousands of men.

Two "outlaw" organizations, branded by the established brotherhoods as "rump" unions, had sprung up to challenge the right of the labor heads to lead their men.

The brotherhood of railway trainmen declared in a statement that the railroads could not grant wage increases demanded by the strikers, because the Cummins-Esch transportation act prohibits increased compensation to employes without approval of the railroad board to be appointed by President Wilson. The President appointed this board Monday and it is now making investigations.

Union men throughout the country were urged to report to Chicago to serve as strike-breakers. Many of the large cities of the West and East are seriously menaced by the almost complete tie-up of the railroads by an unauthorized strike of the railway men. New York is perhaps suffering the most inconvenience, and from all reports the city is facing a real food and fuel famine should the strike continue.

Attorney General Palmer has instructed his office to make every investigation to see if the strike comes under the head of being contrary to law and if so prosecutions will follow. Independent of either the investigation by the department of justice or the creation of the labor board, the government entered the railroad strike situation directly Monday through orders sent by the postoffice department to its inspectors and railway mail officials throughout the country for prompt reports on any obstruction or delay of the mails.

While the strike in the west seems to be on the wane, it is apparently spreading in the eastern part of the country.

Union labor's co-operation in an effort to break the unauthorized strike of railroad workers was pledged by representatives of the four big brotherhoods in conference with the representatives of the eastern roads. A statement given out after the meeting characterized the strike as a "mob movement" and asserted it was "bound to break."

In New York city the freight service on the railroads over which come the bulk of the city's food and fuel virtually was paralyzed and passenger service, already seriously curtailed, is still further crippled.

The first act of the Federal intervention came Monday when armed United States troops went into Jersey City to unload stranded mail trains, and department of justice agents extended their investigations into every corner of the New York district. Mail train schedules were generally disrupted, and motor trucks were pressed into service for postal first aid in all important sections.

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LENOIR POPULATION SHOWS GAIN OF ONLY 11 PER CENT

Census Figures Give 3,718, a Gain of Only 354 Persons in 10 Years; Much Doubt Expressed as to the Correctness

Lenoir News-Topic, Lenoir, N. C. Census Bureau announces Lenoir's population 3,718. R. L. DOUGHTON.

Lenoir is wrought up over the announcement of the census bureau that the population has grown only 354 persons during the past ten years. The announcement came yesterday in the above telegram from Congressman R. L. Doughton, and it was the cause of much comment here during the remainder of the day. The population had been estimated at anywhere from 4,500 to 6,000, and the census figures came as a disappointment.

The figures are seriously doubted in many quarters. Some have said that the increase given by the census bureau would hardly represent the number of houses erected here during the past ten years. Another cites the school children. The second month of the school for the year 1919 had 541 children enrolled. The same month for the year 1919 shows an enrollment of 760, or an increase in nine years of 219. At the present the school enrollment is 820, or 279 more than it was nine and a half years ago. While the school district covers a slightly larger territory than the corporate limits of the town, it is not believed that the number outside the corporate limits would make a very great difference in the enrollment.

Another fact mentioned in connection with the new census is that the manufacturing plants are employing a great many more men than they were employing ten years ago. In addition to this, the Steele cotton mill has been erected and is giving employment to an additional number of people.

There is a movement on foot for a police or individual census. This matter will probably take some definite form within the next few days.

DEATH AND DESTRUCTION BY CYCLONE IN UNION

Death and destruction and suffering and want were strewn in the wake of a cyclone which tore furiously through the northern part of Union county early Monday night, sweeping almost everything in its path before it. Three are known to be dead, with the possibility of other deaths being reported. Eight others are injured, some of them seriously, and a score or more are homeless.

Hundreds of thousands of feet of valuable timber were mangled in the storm's fury. Schoolhouses and churches were lifted from their foundations and swept away, entire orchards were demolished and hundreds of giant trees, torn up by the roots, line the countryside.

Robert L. Polk, 30, a farmer living near Ebenezer, was killed and several members of his family were injured when the storm struck their home and tore it into splinters.

Two small sons of Luther Williams, a farmer living four miles from Unionville—Hilton, 6, and Aubrey, 5—were the other victims. The two boys were killed as they slept, when the storm took the roof from their home and heavy timbers fell across the bed. It required six strong men to remove the timbers.

Entire families fled their homes in terror as the roaring instrument of death and destruction swooped down upon them without warning. Farm dwellings, barns, corn cribs and other outhouses were picked up and swept away.

CLAUDE KITCHIN IS STRICKEN WHILE MAKING SPEECH

Representative Claude Kitchin of North Carolina was stricken with paralysis last Friday while making a speech in the House in opposition to the peace resolution. He had been indisposed for several months and had had a slight stroke of paralysis in December.

A Washington dispatch says that during his speech Friday Mr. Kitchin seemed to lose his voice. Those about him cried "Louder, louder!" but in vain. Then friends near noticed that he could not pick up his papers. But in spite of those unusual things Mr. Kitchin proceeded until through, but his last few sentences were not coherent.

Mr. Kitchin was taken to his home. His face and left hand and leg are affected. Doctors say the paralysis was caused by a blood clot on the brain, and it is hoped that it will have disappeared in ten days, when it will be possible to tell more accurately about Mr. Kitchin's recovery. Latest reports say his condition is improving.

MRS. DANIELS NAMED TO REPRESENT U. S. AT MEETING

Mrs. Josephus Daniels, wife of the secretary of the navy, has been appointed by President Wilson as the official delegate to represent American women at the eighth congress of the International Woman Suffrage Alliance in Geneva, Switzerland, in June. Thirty-one nations will be represented.

SUFFRAGE IS SUBJECT OF TRAINING SCHOOL DEBATE

J. C. Horton, Prominent Watauga, Dead at Sixty Years of Age; Other Items of News from Boone

(By J. M. Downum)

A debate was given at the Training School on Wednesday of the past week on woman suffrage by four young men, Messrs. Ralph Bingham and Jordan Billings defending the affirmative and Messrs. Jennings Motzer and Robert Castle the negative. The young men had given considerable thought to the subject and made a good impression on their hearers. Rev. S. M. Huggins, the new pastor for the Baptist churches of Boone, Blowing Rock and Cove Creek, was at chapel exercises of the school on Friday and made a good talk to the students on following Christ. Mr. Huggins preached his first sermon as pastor of the Boone church on Sunday at 11, the morning sermon being especially appropriate, typifying, as he said, his purpose in taking charge of the work, the subject being "Service," and in this taking Christ as a model.

Mr. J. C. Horton, who lived east of Boone, died Saturday morning and was buried on Monday of this week. Mr. Horton was about 60 years of age and was, when in health, one of Watauga's most valuable citizens, as well as most prominent men. He held an important government position for a considerable time, and possibly no man in the county was more popular than "Crit" Horton, as he was familiarly known. Some years ago he was stricken with paralysis and since that time his previously manly form and brilliant mind had been only a wreck of former days. He seemed to continue to go down gradually to the end, but even in his weakened condition he kept up his interest in public affairs until he was compelled to take to his bed some months before his death.

CONDITION OF WINTER WHEAT IS MUCH IMPAIRED

A severe winter, the Hessian fly and an unfavorable seeding period caused a heavy decline in the condition of winter wheat in the principal producing States. A department of agriculture forecast last week placed the crop at 587,617,000 bushels, compared with 731,636 bushels last year. The acreage planted was not as great as the year before, but a larger crop than forecast was anticipated.

In the principal producing States—Kansas, Illinois, Missouri, Indiana and Ohio—the condition of the crop on April 1 ranged from 59 to 73 per cent of a normal compared with a ten-year average range of from 79 to 90. For the country as a whole the condition was 75.6 per cent of normal, compared with 99.8 last year and 84.1 the average for the last ten years. The decline from last December was 9.5 points.

In the great central winter wheat belt the crop condition is very low and considerable abandoned acreage will be shown, according to reports reaching officials in Washington. The percentage of acreage abandoned this year will be reported by the government in May.

There were 38,770,000 acres sown to winter wheat last fall, compared with 42,301,000 acres in 1918 and an average of 32,300,000 acres for the past ten years.

LIEUT. J. C. GILMORE RECEIVES FRENCH MEDAL

Lieut. J. C. Gilmore of Chattanooga Saturday received through the war department the croix de guerre with palm, a decoration bestowed upon him by the French government for gallantry in action, says a Chattanooga paper.

Lieut. Gilmore went overseas with the Thirtieth division but was transferred to the Twenty-seventh division, which, with the Thirtieth, comprised the Second army corps of the American army. He served with the 106th infantry. After those two American divisions had smashed the center of the Hindenburg line, in the fall of 1918, and were pursuing the Germans, Lieut. Gilmore, in charge of a platoon, had his attention called to the disappearance of an enemy soldier under a culvert. With a few men he approached the culvert and ordered anyone underneath to appear and surrender. A German major and 15 men surrendered promptly. The enemy officer had in his possession important maps and papers disclosing plans of the Germans. It is for this exploit that Lieut. Gilmore has been decorated by the French government.

Notice that a decoration had been awarded him was received some time ago by Lieut. Gilmore, who, in civilian life, is a salesman for the National Biscuit Company, but the cross did not arrive until Saturday.

Lieut. Gilmore is well known here, he and Mrs. Gilmore having spent some time here with Mrs. Gilmore's mother, Mrs. J. M. Hickerson. Mrs. Gilmore was Miss Gene Hickerson, and was a member of the local school faculty at the time of her marriage. Mrs. Gilmore is a niece of Mr. W. L. Minish.

"FARMER BOB" IS AGAIN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESS

Says He Will Make Another Race in the Eighth District—His Opponent Will Be Dr. J. I. Campbell of Norwood

H. E. C. Bryant, Washington correspondent of the Charlotte Observer, says Representative Doughton announced Monday that he would be a candidate to succeed himself in the November election.

Those who have kept in close touch with Mr. Doughton for the last two years know that he would like to retire from Congress, but friends have prevailed on him to make one more fight for the party in the Eighth district. He pulled off his coat and rolled up his sleeves Monday, and will go to work.

"I will be elected by an increased majority," said he. "The Democrats poll many Republican votes. I shall give me loyal support and I will stand on the Democratic platform adopted by the State convention last week an disupport the national administration. Our record for a decade is fine and I am sure no Democrat will want to swa phorses now. The Democrats will win in the Eighth congressional district, the State and nation. I have no doubt about that."

RAIL ADMINISTRATION WANTS \$420,727,341 TO WIND UP

Congress was asked formally last week to appropriate \$420,727,341 to wind up the affairs of the railroad administration. In requesting the fund Walker D. Hines, railroad administrator, placed the loss resulting from the government's experience in Federal control at \$900,478,756. In addition the government has \$966,808,363 owing it by the roads, the money having been advanced for operating expenses and betterments. Ultimately this fund will be repaid. Mr. Hines explained that no allowance had been made in his request to cover any claim the roads might have against the government for maintenance of the lines because the net amount for this purpose could not yet be estimated.

The interstate commerce commission reports that railroad operating revenues for February, the last month of Federal control, fell \$8,651,000 below operating expenses, and thereby increased the government's deficit in operation.

BODIES OF 87 AMERICAN SOLDIERS RETURNED

Bodies of 87 American soldiers, who died in service on foreign soil, reached New York last Thursday. The bodies were those of enlisted men, most of whom died during the war at aviation and base camps in Great Britain. They were brought home by the government for delivery to relatives and friends and for final interment in cemeteries of their native land. From the New York port they will be shipped within a few days to virtually every State in the Union. Each body, encased in a metal-lined, flag-draped casket, will be accompanied by a soldier guard made up as far as possible of men who served in the same organization as the deceased. These guard of honor will remain with the bodies until the earth finally closes over the former comrades. Then they will return to the base in New York to make the formal report that will officially close the record of those who, when their country called, responded to the limit of their power.

DEMAND AND SUPPLY IN THE OVERALL MARKET

So great has been the demand for overalls that the supply has been depleted and reports today were that dealers had marked up the ordinary \$2 variety to \$6. This caused a storm of protest and measures of reprisal are being considered for this new form of profiteering.—News item from Birmingham, Ala.

The next step, logically, is the fig-leaf. Well, the weather will soon be favorable; but we wonder if forehanded, prudent and conscienceless profiteers are not already beginning to take options on all the fig trees.—Greensboro Daily News.

REPUBLICANS OF EIGHTH NOMINATE DR. CAMPBELL

The Republicans of the eighth congressional district met in Statesville. H. W. Wellborne of Ashe county presided as chairman and George Kesler of Concord was secretary. The names placed before the convention as candidates for Congress from this district were H. M. Wellborne of Ashe county, S. H. Williams of Concord, O. F. Pool of Taylorsville, and Dr. J. Ike Campbell of Norwood. On the eleventh ballot Dr. J. Ike Campbell was nominated to make the race against Congressman R. L. Doughton.

A PORTABLE CHURCH

A portable church has been bought and will be erected at Sunset Park, Wilmington. It will remain in one place awhile and then moved from place to place.

Who would have imagined that while the treasury officials were still discussing the issue of a two-cent piece, the nickel would have solved the problem by dropping to that value?—Boston Transcript.

NELSON BUYS LOT AND PLANS BIG GARAGE BUILDING

Will Erect Two or Three-Story Building on the Bernhardt Lot, Corner South Main Street and Harper Avenue

Another big building—automobile sales, service station and garage—is assured Lenoir in the purchase of the Bernhardt corner property on South Main street and Harper avenue by Andrew S. Nelson, Caldwell county dealer for the Overland and Willys-Knight automobiles.

No plans for the new building have been drawn, but Mr. Nelson gives assurance that the building will be in keeping with the aggressive spirit that is now dominant in Lenoir. Preliminary plans are for a two-story building, but these may be changed to one of three stories, Mr. Nelson says. The first or street floor will house the sales rooms, with entrances from both Main street and Harper avenue. The garage will also be located on this floor. If the third story is added this space will be given over to a painting, finishing and upholstery department.

The property is ideally located for this line of business. It is one of the most valuable business sites available in the city, giving a frontage of nearly 100 feet on Main street and about 150 feet on Harper avenue.

With the erection of this new building the Overland and Willys-Knight automobile will have a home and service station second to none in western North Carolina. Another six-cylinder automobile agency and a truck agency will be taken on and sold in connection with the above cars, Mr. Nelson says. The garage and service station will be equipped with the idea of serving the particular cars an trucks sold from this establishment.

Mr. Nelson is out of the city this week on business in connection with the plans for the new building. Soon he will be able to make a definite announcement as to the size and plans for the structure. It will be forty to sixty days, he says, before he will be able to get all plans ready and construction work to going.

MR. DOUGHTON FAVORS GOOD ROAD ACROSS MOUNTAINS

According to a Washington correspondent Representative Doughton is interested in putting a good road across the mountains from North Wilkesboro to Marion, Smith county, Virginia. He says that a link of 60 miles there would connect the north and south or west and south and save many miles and hours to automobiles and other fast-moving vehicles. It would give the people of parts of West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina outlets to the rest of the world that would be worth thousands of dollars annually. It would greatly help the country west of Roanoke and the country east of Asheville.

Mr. Doughton has figured out that it would connect up roads totaling 1,000 miles in such a way as to make that route most attractive to all tourists.

The way proposed would pass through Grayson county, Virginia, and cross the Iron and Blue Ridge mountains. It would open up a beautiful mountain section.

Some of the 60 miles in mind are already for use and it would require about 40 or 45 more.

HICKORY MAN BUYS INTO LENOIR ELECTRIC COMPANY

Mr. Walter T. Carpenter of Hickory has bought a part of the interest of Mr. N. S. Dasher in the Lenoir Electric Company and will assume management of the company May 1, succeeding Mr. Floyd Blackwell, who has resigned to enter the service of Mr. Rufus L. Gwyn, automobile dealer. Mr. Carpenter is now superintendent of the Hickory telephone company.

Mr. Carpenter, says the Hickory Record, served more than a year in France in charge of a light and power station for the American army, several years with the Pacific Bell company and is a thoroughly equipped telephone man. Better than this, he is a splendid young fellow and his many friends in Hickory regret to see him leave.

INCREASE AUTHORIZED IN THE STOCK OF CREAMERY

Announcement has been made in Hickory by W. J. Shuford, president and manager of the Catawba Creamery Company, that the stockholders had authorized an increase in the capital stock to \$300,000, of which \$200,000 shall be common and \$100,000 preferred, and \$25,000 shall be issued at once. It is also planned to move the creamery from its present site to a point on the railroad so as to have track facilities. The plans also contemplate a packing plant for this section, the creamery already being in the meat business on a small scale.

FILE SUIT TO ANNUL MARY PICKFORD'S DIVORCE

A suit to set aside the decree of divorce granted to Mary Pickford, now Mrs. Douglas Fairbanks, will be filed this week by the attorney general of Nevada, who has been investigating the circumstances under which the decree was granted.

We, the people, are now paying those large donations to institutions which Mr. Rockefeller advanced for us in December and for which he got the credit. Gasoline 32c per gallon.

GRANITE FALLS IS BUSY BUILDING, MANUFACTURING

Big Warehouse of Granite Falls Mfg. Co. Is Well Under Way; Liberty Shirt Mills Turning 'Em Out Every Day

Granite Falls is busy. New buildings are under way and manufacturing plants are going at full tilt. The newest enterprise, the Liberty Shirt Mills, is turning out dozens of shirts every day. There are other evidences of hustle on every hand.

The big warehouse and cotton storage building of the Granite Falls Manufacturing Company has taken shape and an army of workmen is busily engaged on the wood work and walls. This big warehouse was planned along the most modern lines and meets in every way the plans and requirements of the insurance regulations. The building is divided into five different sections, and a fireproof wall runs between each section. The inside measurement of each section is as follows: Section 1, 60x90 feet; section 2, 60x112 feet; sections 3, 4 and 5 are 40x144 feet each, giving a total floor space of 29,760 square feet on the main floor. The basement contains 11,560 square feet. A siding runs along the entire length of the building on one side and a wide platform for unloading and loading cotton, level with the main floor and with the floors of freight cars on the siding, will connect the cars and building.

The entire building will be built of brick and concrete, with each section fireproof and independent of the other.

The building is being erected by the owners under the management and supervision of Mr. Blackwelder, a member of the firm of the Granite Falls Manufacturing Company. The plans were for the completion of the building by June 1, Mr. Blackwelder says. However, it will be later in the month before it is completed and ready for use, he says.

One of the hustling enterprises at Granite Falls, and one in which much pride is taken, is the Liberty Shirt Mills. This is one of the newest enterprises in the county and is the first shirt manufacturing plant to be located in this section. Silk shirts, other dress shirts and work shirts are being turned out at the rate of about 75 dozen every day. The company has 25 machines in operation.

Mr. D. C. Hickman, secretary and treasurer, is in charge of the plant and directs the sales end. Until the present month the output has been sold in North and South Carolina, he says, but beginning with this week representatives have been sent into Alabama and Florida. There has been no trouble to find a ready sale for the entire output, Mr. Hickman says, and with the increasing capacity of the plant plans have been made to cover a larger territory.

Granite Falls postoffice is located in permanent quarters now. The building recently vacated by Moore & Hoke has been fitted up and the postoffice fixtures have been installed. For several months the postoffice was located in the rear of the Bank of Granite building.

Mr. C. S. Starnes, manager of the Granite Falls drug store, is planning many improvements in the new future. Already a large fountain has come in and will be put up within another few weeks.

The friends of Mrs. W. Z. Veasey will be pleased to learn that she is rapidly recovering from an operation for appendicitis, which took place at Hickory last week.

U. S. IS TO PROSECUTE PROFIT-EERS IN THIS STATE

Special Agent Handy of the department of justice, stationed at Raleigh, whose is to supervise the activities against profiteering and combinations to fix prices throughout the State, announces that cases are pending which will bring the workings of the government along this line nearer home. There are a number of indictments pending in some of the leading North Carolina cities, the cases to come up before the spring sessions of Federal courts.

Laws are still on the statute books against hoarding, profiteering and the use of food grains for the manufacture of beverages. In many States heavy fines have been imposed, ranging from \$100 to \$2,500, while prison sentences have been imposed in many instances. The law applies not only to profiteering in foodstuffs, but in wearing apparel also, according to a dispatch from Raleigh.

TREATY DEFEAT WAS BOUGHT, SAYS PALMER

"Three-quarters of a million dollars killed the treaty of peace and the league of nations covenant," charged Attorney General A. Mitchell Palmer at Macon, Ga., in his address in behalf of his own candidacy for the presidential nomination in Georgia.

"With the majority vote purchased in Michigan," he continued, "Senator Lodge organized the foreign relations committee and refused to report the treaty. If the Democrats had carried Michigan—if the Republican party had spent, say, only a couple of hundred thousand dollars—the Democrats would have organized the Senate and the foreign relations committee would have reported the treaty and it would have been passed. It took months of struggle to get these Democrats to desert the party."