

HOPE OF AVERTING NATION-WIDE COAL STRIKE ABANDONED BY MINE WORKERS OFFICIALS

Operators Continue to Refuse to Meet With Miners to Negotiate With Interstate Wage Agreement.

(By The Associated Press.) INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., March 10.—Hope of a nation-wide coal strike being averted by the government's appeal for the operators and miners meeting in a wage conference seemed to have vanished today among officials of the United Mine Workers of America on account of continued refusal of mine operators to meet with the miners to negotiate an interstate wage agreement.

Union officials, however, refrained from any announcement on their future plans, but it was indicated that the policy committee might be called into session before April 1 to deal with all questions relating to the prospective strike. The personnel of the committee is virtually completed by various union districts, authorizing their officers to become members of the committee. In addition the committee includes the international officials and the members of the executive board, which now is in session here.

The union officials were optimistic that public opinion would be with them in the controversy with the mine owners and were hopeful that operators' refusal of the government appeal would be accepted as a defiant attitude on the part of the operators.

The insurgent movement of Illinois miners officials, is not yet viewed with alarm by the union officials here for they continued to make positive assertion that no single state wage agreement would be made by any district. Yet it was expected that when the policy committee is called into session that this question will be brought up for consideration.

As Frank Ferguson, the Illinois president, and eight other Illinois men are members of the committee, and his statements favoring the single state proposal were regarded as forecasting a fight in the committee. President Lewis and other administration forces opposing the single state agreement, however, were confident they had a majority within the committee.

PROMINENT ALBANY MAN DIES IN AUTOMOBILE

(By The Associated Press.)

ALBANY, Ga., March 10.—A. W. Muse, 73 years old, leading cotton warehouseman of this city, and vice president of two local banks, died suddenly at the wheel of his automobile while driving along a crowded block of a downtown street.

Passers-by saw him collapse and slide down under the wheel, and as he slid so the car swerved to one side and crashed into the rear of another automobile standing on the curb. He was rushed to the hospital, but to no avail, as death was probably instantaneous. Mr. Muse had been superintendent of the Albany Methodist Sunday school for six years and for 50 years was steward of that church. His wife died just one week ago today, and grief is believed to have hastened his death.

"SHOWER OF ROCKS" BAFFLE THE POLICE

(By The Associated Press.)

CHICO, Calif., March 10.—Showers of rocks that fell from the clouds at a warehouse here have baffled the police, neighbors and various official and unofficial investigators.

Today J. W. Churg, owner of the warehouse, posted the offer of a reward of \$200 to the person revealing the source of the rocks.

While the town marauders and vandals were examining the corrugated iron roof yesterday, a shower of large smooth rocks fell, sending the investigators scurrying for cover.

Others, standing on the street at the time, declared the rocks seemed to come straight from the clouds.

Those employed in the building reported that the mysterious bombardment of the roof had been occurring periodically for three weeks.

WANTS AUTHORITY TO FIX 1922 CROP PRICES

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, March 10.—The House Agricultural Committee was asked today by Representative Knutson, a publican, for early hearing on his bill providing for creation of a crop stabilization commission with power to fix the prices of 1922 crops of wheat, corn and cotton. The commission would be composed of the secretaries of Agriculture, Commerce and Labor and prices so fixed could not be less than the cost of production. The measure would give the commission authority to revive the United States Grain Corporation and include other farm products which in its judgment need stabilizing.

The life of the commission would be limited to one year, with an expiration, however, that it might be continued if its work proved beneficial.

INVESTIGATING SMUGGLING ON PACIFIC COAST

(By The Associated Press.)

VALLEJO, Calif., March 10.—A special board of inquiry at Mare Island today completed an investigation into an alleged conspiracy by which thousands of dollars worth of illicit liquor was smuggled into this country from the Orient and island ports.

The findings, which were kept secret, were forwarded to the Navy Department.

According to information at the navy several officers on transports were implicated in the alleged conspiracy.

GOVERNMENT MAKES IMPORTANT DECISION AS TO RADIO OPERATORS

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, March 10.—Allocation of twenty wave lengths among the various classes of wireless telephony senders and government control of establishment of all commercial wireless telephone transmitting stations are recommended by the three committees of the Government radio conference, it was announced today.

The recommendations do not provide for government control of receiving stations, which Secretary Hoover has said have increased into the hundreds of thousands in the last few months. Amateur transmitting stations under the committee's proposals would be given exclusive use of wave lengths from 150 to 200 metres and share with technical and training schools wave lengths of from 200 to 275 metres.

Other recommendations are that wave lengths below 6,000 metres should in a general way be reserved for radio telephone service but that those wave lengths which have become fixed in service for telegraph service within this range, such as S. O. S. signals, shall be retained. The committee's report expresses the hope and expectation that the radio telephone may ultimately keep the whole range from zero to 6,000 metres.

The committees further urge that the time periods assigned to the different transmitting stations for the various services be placed under the control of the commerce department and also that the radio telephone be accorded the status of a public utility.

The recommendations, it was announced, have been transmitted to interested organizations and committees for consideration and the full conference will meet again in two or three weeks to formulate its final report.

With respect to legislation the committee urge that the radio laws be amended to give the secretary of commerce adequate legal authority for the effective control of the establishment of all radio transmitting stations except amateur, experimental and government stations, and the operation of non-governmental transmitting stations.

The present development of the art of wireless telephony, the committee find, warrants the separation of twenty wave lengths and the full conference recommended that priority first be given broadcasting service and that broadcasting be divided into priorities in this relation, government, educational and public, private broadcasting including entertainment, news, etc., and finally toll broadcasting.

In addition to the wave lengths of 650 and 275 metres for the amateurs, additional wave lengths might be assigned to them for some opportunity in experimental work. The amateurs, under the recommendations, would arrange themselves as to the division of their wave bands between different varieties of amateur work.

POLICE GET 100 POUNDS OF DRUGS IN RAID

(By The Associated Press.)

NEW YORK, March 10.—One hundred pounds of narcotics and one alleged drug vendor were in the hands of the police today as a result of a raid on the headquarters of a drug peddling gang believed to have engaged in the wholesale smuggling of the habit-forming poisons.

The drugs seized were valued by Federal officials at \$20,000 wholesale prices.

Luigi Farmiglianti, 39, a grocer, was under arrest. It was in his Manhattan home that the Federal agents claimed to have found the contraband drugs last night. A passport was found in his house, the officers said, showing that Farmiglianti had made savings deposits totaling \$165,000 since March, 1921.

RUSSIA ROYAL CHILDREN VALUABLE FOR ADOPTION

(By The Associated Press.)

MOSCOW, March 10.—Little Princess and princesses by the score are valuable in Russia for adoption by wealthy foreigners. The parents, where they are any, are willing, and even anxious, to let their children go because of their own poverty and inability properly to care for and educate them.

The mother of little Chafi Khan, Prince Kadjar, a near pretender to the throne of Persia, is one of the many who are willing to part with their sons. Prince Kadjar's grandfather was one of two brothers who disputed the Persian throne. When he failed, he fled to Russia, where the family became of some political consequence.

U. S. DEMANDS BIG SUM FOR RHINELAND EXPENSES

(By The Associated Press.)

PARIS, March 10.—A demand from the United States that \$241,000,000 for its expenses in connection with the occupation of the Rhineland be paid before any reparations were paid, were presented to the Allied finance ministers at their meeting this morning.

RADIO MUSICAL PROGRAM TONIGHT

- Miss Marie Vierheller, pianist; Oskar E. Browne, violinist; Miss Mary Merker, soprano; William H. Oetting, accompanist, Pittsburgh Musical Institute. Selections: 1. Barcolle... 2. a. Waltz song from "Romeo and Juliet"...

TO RUSH BONUS BILL THROUGH THE HOUSE

Chairman Fordney Declares It Will be Passed—Says If Germany Had Won the War Taxes Would Have Been 20 Times More Than Bonus.

(By The Associated Press.) CHICAGO, March 10.—Declaration that the soldiers' bonus would be passed for humanitarian reasons and not as a political measure, was made by Joseph W. Fordney, chairman of the House Ways and Means committee, in a speech before a meeting of the American Wholesale Lumber Association today.

"We are going to report the bill Saturday morning, ask for a suspension of the house rules on Monday morning and rush it through before everything else," he said.

"The bonus bill as we have it now will pay the soldier a dollar a day for 500 days of home service or \$125 a day for 500 days of overseas service. He also can receive a 20 year paid up insurance policy in which he can borrow 50 per cent of his compensation from a bank.

"During the war, while these laws were over, 5,500 strikes were carried on. They were striking for shorter hours and more pay and they were doing it so successfully that up to November 14, 1918, not a single American ship had been fired during the war.

"You men sitting before me elected them and you marched with them to the depot. And you didn't go a damn step further. Suppose Germany had won the war. What do you think your taxes would have been? They would have been twenty times more than the bonus. During the war the Ways and Means committee authorized the issuance of over \$1,000,000,000 worth of bonds. Up to that time since the founding of this government, we had only spent \$1,000,000,000.

"Congressman Fordney also discussed the tariff, assailing the 'prohibitory, criminal impositions' which bore a heavy burden on the people. He said that the tariff on iron and steel was 37.62 per cent and that on sugar it was 42.12 per cent.

MRS. OBENCHAIN FACES FIERCE CROSS EXAMINATION

Tells Intimate Story of Love For J. Belton Kennedy With Whose Murder She Is Charged.

(By The Associated Press.) LOS ANGELES, Calif., March 10.—Madeline Obenchain, who yesterday sold out on the witness stand the story of her love for J. Belton Kennedy, for whose murder she is on trial, today faced the ordeal of cross-examination.

In her direct examination, Mrs. Obenchain detailed her acquaintance and love for the young broker from a point dating five years ago, gradually, under the direction of her counsel, reaching the climax, the night of August 5, last, when Kennedy was slain in her presence on the steps of his summer cottage in Beverly Glen, a suburb. She told of two shots and two strange persons running past her in the darkness.

She told of her marriage to Ralph Obenchain, Chicago attorney of the divorce he permitted her to obtain; of her coming to Los Angeles; of Kennedy's alleged plea for a secret marriage; because his mother objected to Mrs. Obenchain as a daughter-in-law; of the arrival here of Arthur C. Birch, of Evanston, Ill., jointly indicted with her for the murder of Kennedy, and of many details which linked these events together.

She consulted a diary frequently for dates and other data and made many intimate disclosures.

Once she said, when she had tried to change the subject after Kennedy had asked if she loved him, he declared: "If your lips won't tell that you love me, your eyes do."

Textile Workers Head Declares He "Will Fight It Out On These Lines If It Takes All Summer"

Rhode Island Textile Strike Has Developed Into War of Attrition—Neither Side Will Yield—Soup Kitchens Are Being Maintained in Mill Villages in Strike Area.



As Lady Astor succeeded in breaking through old British traditions, when she was elected to the House of Commons, Lady Rhonda has won her fight to sit in the House of Lords. Lady Rhonda, wife of Sir Humphrey Hadoworth, is the daughter of the late Viscount Rhonda, great Britain's wartime food controller. She is known as the "Coal Queen of Great Britain." She is active in the management of a dozen of more of England's biggest corporations which control practically all the coal supply in the British Isles.

GASTON COUNTY LEADS IN NEAR EAST CAMPAIGN

Five Counties Have Oversubscribed Quotas for Near East Relief Funds—Gaston County Has Raised Nearly \$12,000.

(By The Associated Press.) PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 10.—The Rhode Island textile strike now closing its seventh week, has developed into a war of attrition. This is the opinion expressed today by representatives of both manufacturers and workers.

"We will fight it out on these lines if it takes all summer," said William H. Derrick, of the Amalgamated Textile Workers, head of the strike organization in the Pawtucket valley, where more than one third of the 18,000 operatives are idle in the state as a result of the strike and ordinarily employed. Derrick announced his objective to be a 48 hour week, no reduction in wages and no discrimination against strikers returning to work.

"Just as fast as the employees demonstrate that they want to go back, or any considerable number of them, the mills will be opened," said Edward F. Walker, secretary of the Rhode Island Textile Association. The manufacturers propose a twenty per cent wage reduction and a 54 hour week. Approximately a score of their mills are closed.

Derrick claims that the Pawtucket valley strikers could carry on indefinitely without work. Seven soup kitchens in as many mill villages feed thousands of strikers daily.

Contributions continue to come in steadily from the outside, he says. The strikers continue to dwell in houses owned by the mills. Strike headquarters in Avonette have been leased for a year.

"If the mill owners evict our workers, they will have to drive out about 20,000 people, costing five to a family," Derrick declared. "Anyway, the weather is getting warmer and they can live in tents. Our organization is brand new dating back to the time when the strike began, but our workers are a unit. We have the mill owners licked right now."

Representatives of the mill owners responded that the expenses of the free soup kitchens were three times that in some of the strike fund daily, that hang-overs were being fed while legitimate workers in many cases were not and that only a small group desired to enter on a fight to the finish with the mills. Many, they said, wanted to go to work again but were afraid of the bludgeon and the blacklist.

Derrick declared that the reopening to date of mills closed by the strike had proved a failure. He claimed that in no instance had enough hands been obtained to make operation worth while. Mill owners on the other hand reported steady gains in the plants that had resumed.

Of 36 mills, Secretary Walker said that 20 had been completely closed at one time or another by the strike and that others were partially closed. Of the thirty which had been closed he declared twelve were now in operation to some degree.

Plants listed by Secretary Walker as having reopened after complete shut down were: Intebank Finishing plant, Arkwright, 50 per cent; Imperial Printing and Finishing Company, Bellefont, more than 50 per cent; Hope Company, Hope, 20 per cent; Crown Manufacturing Company, Pawtucket, 25 per cent; Home Bleach and Dye Works, Attleboro, Mass., 50 per cent; Royal Weaving Company, Pawtucket, 50 per cent; Slater Varn Company, Pawtucket, 20 per cent; United States Finishing Company, Pawtucket, 100 per cent; B. B. and Knight, Inc., Nottingham Mill, Providence, 100 per cent; Queen Dyeing Company, Silver Spring branch, 100 per cent; Woodsocket Falls Mills, 100 per cent.

The Woodsocket Falls Mills' employees, granting the 48 hour week with a wage cut of 6 to 10 per cent.

Attempts at arbitration of the strike difficulties have been suspended after the mill owners and strikers refused for the second time to accept a compromise early this week.

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 10.—The finishing department of the Crump-ton company's velvet and corduroy mill at Crumpton opened today after having been closed with the rest of the plant for almost seven weeks. National guard cavalry and coast artillery men as well as deputy sheriffs and police were on hand to provide protection for workers who wanted to go in. John A. Swan, superintendent of the mill, said that not a single employee reported for work. He said, however, that the department would be kept open in case any did decide to come in later.

(By The Associated Press.) PORTERVILLE, Calif., March 10.—Residents here were awakened about 3:20 o'clock this morning by an earth quake, which rattled windows, moved doors off their hinges and threw furniture around. People rushed into the streets, but no damage was reported.

ST. LOUIS, March 10.—The seismograph of St. Louis University today registered an earthquake believed to be about 1,000 miles in a southeasterly direction. Records of the tremors began at 5:15 a. m. and continued until 5:51.

LOS ANGELES, March 10.—A light earthquake shock was felt here at 3:27 o'clock this morning. The tremor lasted only a few seconds and no damage was reported.

FRESNO, CALIF., March 10.—An earthquake shock was felt here at 3:20 o'clock this morning, but no damage was done.

CONSTANTINOPLE, March 10.—Fifteen of the crew of the bolshevik transport Orki were killed and many wounded when the ship's cargo of land grenades exploded at Trabzon, on the Black sea. The explosion also did some damage to the town, where great quantities of munitions have been received lately from Russia.

GASTONIA CLUB TO CONDUCT GROUP LUNCHEON

District Rotary Meeting at Winston-Salem to be Featured by Series of Group Luncheons.

WINSTON-SALEM, N. C., March 9.—The Seventh District Rotary Conference, to be held here March 21 and 22, will be different from similar gatherings in the past in at least one respect.

"At the request of District Governor J. A. Turner, a series of 'group' luncheons and dinners is being arranged on the 21st day. There will be five 'group' luncheons and the same number of dinners, at different times, and on the 22nd day there will be a 'group' luncheon again. The members of the Rotary and the ladies will be assigned to these various affairs by cards.

"One Rotary club will be in charge of the program at each 'group' meal. On the first day, the Charlotte, Carolina, High Point, Spartanburg and Rockwell clubs will be in charge of the luncheons, while the dinners will be held by the Charlotte, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Raleigh and Wilmington clubs. On the second day the luncheons will be conducted by the American, Biltmore, Spry and Wilson clubs, those being a special 'ladies' luncheon on the second day. The special supper of the group will be the luncheon of the first day.

"Friendship and Good Will" is the dinner subject will be "Law, Progress and Boys' Work." The theme of the group luncheons will be "The Education of Rotarians as to Rotary." The talks will be particularly on these topics.

"Of course, music is going to be a feature of all the luncheon and dinner sessions. It would not be a Rotary Center, one without a great deal of emphasis upon the singing of Rotary songs and other forms of music and entertainment.

Letters coming in at conference headquarters daily indicate that not a single one of the fifty four clubs in the district will be without representation at the conference. The number in attendance is expected to be more than 1,000.

ROTARY CLUB HEARS APPEALS FOR RED CROSS

Appeals for the Red Cross from Mrs. J. W. C. Johnson, the secretary for Gaston county, and Miss Ruth Craven, district representative from South Carolina Red Cross headquarters in Atlanta, marked the regular Rotary luncheon held Thursday. Both ladies pointed out the great work the Red Cross is doing in peace times and urged Gastonians not to let the work suffer here for lack of support. Since the resignation of Miss Sherman some weeks ago, to take an work in Florida, the position of public health nurse has been vacant.

Major Bulwinkle, congressman from the Ninth district, was also a guest. Miss Blanche Holmstrom, of Community Service, explained the roller skating carnival to be held soon.

The most important item of business before the club was the District Rotary meeting at Winston-Salem, March 21 and 22. A full attendance was urged, and there will probably be 60 attending from Gastonia. A boom for President Spark as District Governor was launched by the local club, but was squelched by M. Spork who declined to be a candidate for the honor.

FRIENDS COME TO RELIEF OF BROKERAGE FIRM

NEW YORK, March 10.—Assets of the Laskerberg firm of 1008 W. 4th St., which failed in January, have been accepted for \$275,000 through contributions to the general creditors' fund. If successful, the fund will be \$1,200,000. The fund is being organized by the New York National League hospital fund, which has \$200,000 which General Henry D. Hughes, and B. Frank Bin Sargent, recently partners in the failed house, have made up the remaining \$75,000.

A meeting of the direct or held last night it was reported that the \$400,000 for which the firm failed, about \$1,000,000 was "in sight." There are other assets in securities and cash, amounting to about \$600,000.

C. A. Williams, secretary of the creditors' committee, declared during the morning that a great number of the direct or had offered to "settle to the extent of \$500,000," if promised they would not be prosecuted. He said that no offers had been rejected, and that all these offers could be promised.

THE WEATHER

North Carolina, rain this afternoon and probably tonight; warmer in extreme north portion tonight; Saturday generally fair and cooler.

DECISION TO EXEMPT JUDGES FROM INCOME TAX CAUSES REAL SENSATION

Chief Justice Clark's Opinion Causes Vocal Uprising—Exemption of Judges from Payment of Income Tax Expected to Be Far Reaching.

(By Brock Barkley in Charlotte Observer.) RALEIGH, March 9.—The staid and dignified supreme court has created a real sensation by its decision exempting the judiciary from the payment of an income tax.

The court rendered its opinion yesterday, and today Raleigh, officially and individually, has been expressing opinions, some in agreement with that of the court and some in disagreement.

Had the court contented itself with merely holding that under the constitution the commissioner of revenue could not collect an income tax from judges and constitutional officers, little in the way of comment might have occurred among the ordinary citizenry. But Chief Justice Clark's extraordinary opinion, containing his rather scathing attack upon the Revenue Commissioner Watts and the general assembly for the means provided and the method of operation for collecting the state's revenue, has caused a vocal uprising.

Unanimous Decision. The chief justice touched upon the unanimous decision of the supreme court, but he placed emphasis upon the way and means of providing the revenue for the state government.

The Durham tobacco case of last year was brought out again, and the system of taxing stocks and securities denounced as a violation of the constitution. Nothing in the present taxing system seemed to be satisfactory to the chief justice, in the opinion of many who commented on the court's action.

Formal statements from state officials were lacking today, though they had been asked to say, and it was intimated that one or more might be forthcoming yet in defiance of the system provided by the general assembly and which Tax Commissioner Watts is putting into operation.

There was no way of telling if the supreme court's decision exempting itself, the 22 superior court judges and constitutional officers from paying an income tax had proved a popular decision.

As a matter of fact, the decision itself remained in the background. Raleigh talk centered on the action of a supreme court justice in entering into a concurring opinion an attack on an executive officer of the State and the general assembly.

Despite the court's opinion, several judges have already paid their income taxes. Commissioner Watts said today he would within the next day or two return to these officials the amount of their tax, formally notifying them of the higher court's decision.

The aggregate amount of the tax had all the judges paid, would have been about one thousand dollars. Although the chief point brought out in the two opinions was the constitutional guarantee against the diminution of a judge's salary while in office, it was recalled by persons making comment today that the same general assembly which provided the machinery for collecting an income tax had also the salaries of the judges one thousand dollars.

The income tax case, however, is considered closed, but indications today were that Justice Clark's discourse might cause further talk for the next several days.

BUFFALO CLUB COMES TO GASTONIA MARCH 20

Will Have Six Exhibition Games in Gastonia—Earl Mack's Team to Play Here.

George L. Wiltse, former big league star, and his husky bunch of athletes, the Buffalo team of the International League will arrive in Gastonia a week from Monday, for spring training, according to advices received today. This means that on the 20th of March Gastonia goes on the spring training map. Local fans are hoping that the weather will get all the rain out of its system so the summer schedule in April with pleasant memories of real Piedmont climate.

Connie Mack and his Three-I League pennant winners, the Moline club, will be here from training camp at Morganton on March 24th and 25th for games with the Bisons and Gastonia fans will then have the opportunity of seeing some real baseball. The two teams will put up their best in the two games, so as to send a good record home, and there will be some classy baseball.

There will be six exhibition games here in all and it is expected the fans will flock from far and near to see each of them.

Cotton Market

CLOSING BIDS ON THE NEW YORK MARKET. NEW YORK, March 10.—Cotton futures closed steady. March 18.35; May 18.11; July 17.38; October 16.78; December 16.60.

TODAY'S COTTON MARKET

Cotton seed 5 1/2
Strict to Good Middling 17 1/2