

DISPOSITION OF WAGE DEMANDS IS IN HANDS OF PRESIDENT WILSON

FINAL PLANS FOR STRIKE MADE AND HEADQUARTERS OPENED IN 15 CITIES

Director General Hines Fails to Reach Agreement With Railroad Employes and Puts Matter Up to Wilson - Must Settle Matter Before Saturday Night If Strike Called For February 17 Is to Be Averted.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12—President Wilson will have a personal conference tomorrow with three representatives of the railroad brotherhoods to discuss the wage demands of the 2,000,000 railroad employes which are to be referred to him today by Director General Hines.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. — Disposition of the wage demands of more than 2,000,000 railroad employes today was in the hands of President Wilson. Decision to lay the matter before the President was made after Director General Hines and representatives of the employes had failed to reach an agreement.

Statements setting forth the views of both sides in the controversy — one giving the reasons why the unions demand an immediate increase in wages and the other explaining why Director General Hines could not agree to such increase on the eve of the turning back of the railroads to private ownership — were in course of preparation this morning and will be presented to Mr. Wilson today.

Just how much time the President will require for considering the statements is problematical, but it was believed it would be short. Whether he upholds the views of Director General Hines or decides that the demands of the employes are just and should be granted, the opinion was expressed that a settlement finally will be made through the machinery to be set up by legislation now pending which will govern the return of the rail properties to their former owners.

As prepared for presentation to the white house the statements did not include the separate grievances of the brotherhood of railroad trainmen and Mr. Hines arranged to confer farther today with W. G. Lee, president of that organization. Likewise, Mr. Hines will confer with a committee representing the maintenance of way employes, whose officers have called a strike to become effective February 17.

The action of the maintenance of way men in calling a strike has not been understood by railroad administration officials and the conference today was expected to clear up the confusion.

Just what bearing on this phase of the wage controversy, if any, the meeting yesterday between Mr. Hines and Attorney General Palmer had, had not been disclosed today. Neither Director Hines nor the attorney general would discuss the possibility of meeting the proposed strike through injunction proceedings similar to those employed in the recent coal miners' strike.

The break in the wage negotiations, which began here February 3, came yesterday after Director General Hines had reiterated his views that no wage increase should be made by the government now just as its control of the roads is about to end. The employes' representatives took the position that the wage demands had been held in abeyance since July because of the promise of the government that a reduction in the cost of living would be forced and that as living costs mounted instead of decreasing they now were justified in pressing their demands.

Final plans for the strike have been made, union officials here declared, and only an agreement between representatives of the men in Washington and President Wilson, they said, will avert the walkout. If such agreement is reached, it was said, it must come before Saturday night or the strike order cannot be rescinded before it becomes effective.

STRIKE HEADQUARTERS OPENED IN 15 CITIES.

DETROIT, MICH., Feb. 12. — Strike headquarters were opened in 15 cities today by divisional officers of the Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employes and Railway Shop Laborers, from which the nation-wide strike called for February 17 will be directed.

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OPERATIVES AT SPENCER MOUNTAIN WENT OUT ON STRIKE THIS MORNING

Rumors were rife on the streets this morning to the effect that serious trouble had taken place or was anticipated at Ranlo, just east of the city, where are located the Ranlo, Rex and Smyre Mills. So far the rumors are unfounded as to actual trouble. Shortly before noon a Gazette reporter was on the ground and there were no visible signs of approaching trouble. About 11:30 a force from the sheriff's office went to Ranlo to keep the peace should any disorder arise.

The rumors that came to Gastonia early in the forenoon probably grew out of the fact that a hundred or more strikers from the Spencer Mountain Mills, two miles east of Ranlo, who went out this morning, had congregated at the P. & N. station at Ranlo and made a slight demonstration, waving flags and cheering. There was no evidence of disorder in the crowd, however. Shortly after the 11 o'clock car passed Ranlo the crowd dispersed, some of them at least going back to Spencer Mountain.

For the past several weeks most of the operatives of the Ranlo Mill have been out on strike, though the mill has been operating a portion of its plant. The strike resulted from the management's refusal to recognize the textile union. Ejection suits were brought against the strikers and last Sunday was the final day for the filing of cash bonds by the defendants in these suits. The bonds as filed by Magistrate Adams totalled, it is said, around \$40,000. The bonds were not made and final notice was served yesterday on them that they must either make bond or return to work this morning. Of the forty houses involved it is understood that the occupants of 25 promised to return to work this morning.

As a matter of fact, on account of some sort of conference held last night and called by one of the agitators from Charlotte, these resolutions by the operatives were set at naught, and only one man went to work. Deputy Sheriff Kendrick had been promised that if he would withhold the ejection proceedings until this morning, they would go back to work or get out of the houses. There was some fear that when these former strikers left the mill at the noon hour there might be some trouble between them and those strikers who were still out and the Spencer Mountain strikers. However, the anticipated trouble did not occur.

A refusal of the management to recognize the union and to grant a ten per cent increase in wages was the cause of the walkout at Spencer Mountain this morning. The weaving department was the one affected. The spinning department is running today almost to capacity. It was stated at the mill office that about fifty per cent of the operatives were out. There had been no disorder there and none was anticipated.

When advised of the probability of trouble over the phone this morning Governor Bickett, it is understood, requested that the execution of the ejection warrants be delayed until after the strike.

(Continued on page 3.)

ROTARIANS FAVOR PARKS AND PLAYGROUND SYSTEM

Appoint Committee to Co-operate With Chamber of Commerce and Woman's Club In Important Matter - Also Want New City Hall - Interesting Meeting Held Yesterday.

Among other things considered by the Gastonia Rotary Club at its regular meeting at the Armington Hotel yesterday was the city's need of parks and playgrounds and of a new city hall. City Manager W. J. Alexander was a guest of the club and spoke on these needs, emphasizing especially the fact that Gastonia has long ago outgrown its city hall, built more than twenty years ago. He called attention to the fact that the building was not only antiquated but that it was entirely too small to accommodate the city's business.

In his talk Mr. Alexander also stressed the great need of parks and playgrounds. Following his address it was moved and carried that the club's president be authorized to appoint a committee of three on parks and playgrounds to cooperate with similar committees from the Chamber of Commerce and the Woman's Club. President Myers appointed on this committee W. P. Grier, chairman, S. A. Robinson and W. J. Clifford.

Fred M. Allen had charge of the program for the day and it proved most entertaining and instructive. In addition to the serious matters considered there were several humorous stunts which were enjoyed by the members.

W. A. Underwood, traveling representative of the United Drug Company was the guest of Rotarian J. H. Kennedy. He spoke very highly of Gastonia referring to it as one of the best towns he knew of anywhere.

MARRIED SOLDIERS ARE ORDERED TO COME HOME

Contended That Married Men Do Not Make Good Soldiers - 250 Soldiers in Germany Have Married European Girls.

AMERICAN HEADQUARTERS, Co. blez, February 1—Two hundred and fifty soldiers of the American forces in Germany who have married European girls have been instructed to start soon for America with their wives in accordance with a recent order of Major General Henry T. Allen in command.

In connection with this order it was also announced that army authorities would not consent in future to marriages of American soldiers on duty in occupied areas, officers contending that men without wives in Germany are better soldiers under the present circumstances. About 200 soldiers have married German girls since the American forces reached the Rhine, the others included in the order having married principally French girls or young women from Belgium or Luxembourg.

NO PREFERENTIAL PRIMARY IN FLORIDA.

TAMPA, FLA., Feb. 12.—There will be no preferential primary in Florida this year, the democratic state commission having made no provision for it and the republicans having already named delegates to the Chicago convention. The republicans are not instructed.

PETITIONS IN FAVOR OF JOHNSON.

BISMARCK, N. D., Feb. 12. — Petitions nominating Hiram Johnson, United States senator of California, for preferment for the republican presidential nomination to be voted on in the North Dakota primaries of March 16, were placed in circulation today.

TO STANDARDIZE CO-OPERATIVE METHODS IN TRADE.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12. — An All-American Farmer Labor Co-operative Congress opened here today for the announced purpose of "standardizing co-operative methods and promoting direct trade and co-operative banking and credits." Approximately 100 delegates were in attendance. The Congress will last three days.

MR. R. N. AYCOCK ELECTED ACTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Raleigh Banker Elected to Position in First National Bank - Will Assume New Duties March 1 - Growing Business of Bank Necessitates More Executives.

Effective March 1, Mr. R. M. Aycock, of Raleigh, for the past two years National Bank Examiner in North Carolina, and a banker of wide experience, comes to Gastonia as an active vice-president of the First National Bank. Mr. Aycock was elected to this position at a meeting of the directors of the bank Tuesday afternoon. This step is taken to meet the growing demands made by the increasing business of this institution.

OIL PRODUCTION SHOWS BIG INCREASE

(By The Associated Press.)

OIL CITY, PA., Feb. 12. — Oil production in the United States during 1919 was 366,255,611 barrels, an increase of more than 24,000,000 barrels over the previous year, according to the annual review of the Oil City Derrick, made public today. The figures are based on pipe line receipts reported monthly, estimates of pipe lines not reported, and estimates of tank car shipments from fields where no regular pipe line service existed.

PREDICT CONFERENCE REPORT WILL BE ADOPTED

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12 — While some opposition to the railroad bill as finally agreed upon in conference has developed, senate and house leaders predicted today that the conference report on the measure would be promptly adopted so that the legislation would be on the statute books before the roads are returned to private control March 1.

Chairman Esch, of the house interstate commerce committee, one of the authors of the railroad bill, and other leaders expressed confidence that opposition by house democrats would not delay passage of the measure.

They based their prediction on the fact that the bill, as re-written in conference, is substantially the same as the Esch bill recently passed by the house. Senate provisions to which there was objection, including the anti-strike section, creation of a transportation board and compulsory consolidations were stricken out in conference. The essential addition to the house bill was the fixing of a guaranteed return of 5 1/2 per cent.

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RUSSIAN LINER WAS TOTAL LOSS

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 11, Wednesday—A telegram received from Varna today says that the Russian liner Emperor Peter the Great, which struck a mine and was lost recently, had 700 Russian refugees on board from Odessa and Sebastopol, but that it is believed most of them were saved.

Fifteen divisional points have been selected and executive officers named to take charge of them, including J. C. Smock, Atlanta.

SEPAK-GRAY CHAIN HAS MORE THAN 100,000 SPINDLES IN ACTIVE OPERATION

Present Capital Is \$3,650,000 With Changes Contemplated That Will Total Four and a Half Millions - Mills Generally Recognized as Among Most Successful in the South - Mr. Separk a Fine Executive.

As a monument to the industry and far-seeing vision of the late Geo. A. Gray, generally recognized as the founder of the cotton mill industry in Gaston county, there are in active operation today humming and spinning their song of industry and contentment, 104,082 spindles in six cotton mills, the Gray, Arrow, Parkdale, Myrtle, Arlington and Flint. These mills represent at present an authorized capital of \$3,650,000. Contemplated changes will increase this to \$4,400,000. At a meeting of the stockholders of all the mills named above, except the Flint, held here Tuesday afternoon, resolutions were passed asking for amendments to the charters, authorizing the issuance of additional capital stock. Within a short time it is expected that the above mills will announce an increase in their capital stock.

The history of the Separk-Gray interests has been one of continual growth and expansion. There has been a policy of safe, sane building under favorable conditions and wise investments in holdings already under construction. As illustrative of this last policy, two years ago, the Arlington and the Flint, two of the best mills in the South, were taken over by the Separk-Gray interests. Controlling interest in these mills was purchased from L. L. Jenkins and L. F. Groves.

The Gray manufacturing Company was organized in 1905 with Geo. A. Gray, president and treasurer, L. L. Jenkins, vice-president, J. H. Separk, secretary and J. L. Gray, superintendent. In 1916, the Parkdale Mills, Inc., one of the best mill properties of this section was organized with J. Lee Robinson, president, J. L. Gray, vice-president and J. H. Separk, secretary and treasurer. The Arrow Mills, Inc. were organized in January, 1918, with J. Lee Robinson, president, J. L. Gray, vice-president and J. H. Separk, secretary and treasurer. The Myrtle Mills was organized in December, 1918, with J. L. Gray, president and J. Lee Robinson, vice-president and J. H. Separk, secretary and treasurer.

One of the outstanding policies of the Separk-Gray mills is the welfare work for the employes of the mills. This work has been developed to a high state of perfection. This policy was fully vindicated during the recent epidemic of flu when the two community workers, Misses Pickens and Potts, were on duty and succeeded in alleviating and checking the ravages of the disease. Miss Potts, the head of this work, is a graduate nurse and has had a rich and varied experience, having served with the American Expeditionary Forces as a member of the Army Nurse Corps.

One notable feature of Separk-Gray mills is that every one of the 104,082 spindles is in active operation. None of these are on paper. They are producing. A list of the Separk-Gray chain of mills is as follows:

Arrow Mills. Officers: J. Lee Robinson, Pres., J. L. Gray, Vice-Pres., J. H. Separk, Sec. and Treas.

Directors: J. L. Gray, J. Lee Robinson, J. H. Separk, T. L. Craig, S. N. Boyce, F. D. Barkley, L. L. Jenkins. Spindles, 12,000. Capital stock, \$150,000.

Flint Manufacturing Company. Officers: L. L. Jenkins, Pres., S. N. Boyce, Vice-Pres., J. L. Gray, Gen. Supt., J. H. Separk, Sec. and Treas.

Directors: L. L. Jenkins, S. N. Boyce, H. M. Cleveland, D. R. LaFar, J. L. Gray, J. H. Separk, J. Lee Robinson. Spindles, 23,040. Capital stock, \$720,000.

The Arlington Cotton Mills. Officers: J. Lee Robinson, Pres., S. N. Boyce, Vice-Pres., J. L. Gray, Gen. Supt., J. H. Separk, Sec. and Treas.

Directors: J. Lee Robinson, S. N. Boyce, J. L. Gray, D. R. LaFar, J. H. Separk, C. E. Adams, F. D. Barkley. Spindles, 25,352. Capital stock, \$350,000.

Parkdale Mills, Inc. Officers: J. Lee Robinson, Pres., J. L. Gray, Vice-Pres., J. H. Separk, Sec. and Treas.

Directors: J. Lee Robinson, Thos. L. Craig, J. L. Gray, L. L. Jenkins, P. D. Barkley, C. D. Gray, J. H. Separk. Spindles, 15,360. Capital stock, \$500,000.

Myrtle Mills. J. L. Gray, Pres., J. Lee Robinson, Vice-Pres., J. H. Separk, Sec. and Treas.

Directors: J. L. Gray, J. Lee Robinson, T. L. Craig, S. N. Boyce, J. H. Separk, F. D. Barkley, P. H. Eard. Spindles, 10,240. Capital stock, \$300,000.

Gray Manufacturing Co. Officers: L. L. Jenkins, Pres., Thos. L. Craig, Vice-Pres., J. H. Separk, Sec. and Treas., J. L. Gray, Superintendent.

Directors: L. L. Jenkins, J. H. Separk, J. L. Gray, Thos. L. Craig, F. D. Barkley, Geo. A. Gray, J. Lee Robinson. Spindles, 18,000. Capital stock, \$350,000.

JOHN SKELTON WILLIAMS ISSUES WARNING AGAINST ARTIFICIAL BANKING FIGURES

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12.—Warning that the prosperity and activity indicated by banking figures are artificial and deceptive was given today by John Skelton Williams in his annual reports as comptroller of the currency.

Remarkable that in 1919 there was not a national bank failure involving loss to depositors and that the banking power of the country has increased 900 per cent in the last thirty years, Mr. Williams added: "A large volume of money cannot mean increase of real wealth while there is decrease of production and the accumulation and movement of securities and currency represent abnormally inflated values put on diminished supplies of essentials."

"It is clear that no country can be enriched by merely increasing prices of products produced and consumed by its own people. We might prosper for the moment, if we could sell our products abroad at the higher prices and take payment in gold or in goods at normal prices but we gain nothing when we sell and buy at corresponding prices."

this country should adopt a policy of reasonable help and encouragement toward debtor countries, with no assets immediately available, but having fair prospects of being able to pay out if given time.

Praise for the part played by the national banks in financing the world during a time of stress was given unstintingly by the comptroller. He expressed hope that the conservative influence of the banks would lead manufacturers and business men to accept for the present smaller profits with a view to building up general prosperity and the habit of thrift and economy among the masses of the people.

PLANNING SUPER-DIRIGIBLES.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11—Two super-dirigibles, the largest in the world, are planned by the navy, and one of them now being built in England, will attempt a trans-Atlantic flight next fall, Captain Craven, director of naval aviation, today told the house naval committee. American naval officers and enlisted men who will fly the British-built ship to America are in England training for the flight. In asking \$2,700,000 for the construction of a second super-dirigible Captain Craven said this vessel would be fifty feet longer than the British hull craft, which is 644 feet in length.