

ANYTHING MAY HAPPEN IN U.S. R. R. INDUSTRY

Vice-Grand Chief of Brotherhood of Engineers Says Things Are at Critical Point

(By Laurence Todd, Staff Correspondent, The Federated Press)
Washington.—"We are always hopeful, but anything—literally anything—may happen in the railroad industry of this country at any time now."
This was the comment of Herman W. Wills, vice-grand chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers, upon the seething, volcanic disquiet of the railway workers at the long delay of the award of the Railroad Labor Board, at the moment when President Wilson had taken alarm and had telegraphed an urgent "hurry up" call to the board to save the country from industrial chaos.
Wills refused to discuss the plans of the train service brotherhoods. He indicated that plans must be altered momentarily to meet with the necessities of a situation which changes too rapidly for even the consultations of the union leaders to keep up with its demands. A storm is brewing. Old seasoned leaders are facing it with courage, with determination to stick it out and never to run. But they do not predict that they will go through without getting hurt. They will be thankful to bring their organizations through alive.
Thousands of men quit their jobs, on the engines, the trains, the switches, in the shops. Union officials protest. The strikers answer with the old question which has become a defiant, growing "challenge, a threat—"What about that living wage we have waited ten months for?"
Hundreds of thousands of men look forward to September 1, when the

railroad companies are to take full responsibility for making the roads pay dividends. They believe that on that on the organized shopmen, by closing day the companies will declare war down one-third to one-half of the railroad shops with the purpose of starving the men into submission to lower wages and longer hours. They remember the long years during which there were no unions and no union agreements in the shops, and when every man was held to an iron discipline by the management. They are bitter at the return to private operation and the approach of a terrible struggle.
In the train service brotherhoods the bitterness is almost as great, although they have had union conditions for a score of years. They find "wrecking crews" of agitators going from point to point, urging the men to break away from the brotherhoods and go out on independent strikes. They are told that some of these crews are furnished free transportation. They believe that the companies are trying to incite a big strike and revolt against the brotherhoods. In order that, in the confusion of a fight between outlaw strikers and loyal brotherhood members, neither element will be able to resist the companies' plans for a "pacification" that would involve the use of state and federal armed forces.
The brotherhood men are caught between their desire to live up to their wage contracts, under severe provocation to break them because the wages are below the line of a decent livelihood, and their fear of a disruption movement backed by the companies. That is why they may yet legalize a general railroad strike.

Lord Dewar, recently returned to London from central Africa, says that even that country is being affected by the high cost of living. Before the war a wife sixteen hands high could be bought for 4 spearheads, whereas she now costs 8 spearheads. In the cattle districts the price of a wife at present is 8 cows, instead of 4.

SEAMEN ARE THREATENING REPRISALS

Delegates to the International Seamen's Congress at Genoa are threatening reprisals against countries whose votes defeated the convention establishing a 48 hour week. They propose organizing a vast campaign at the International Seamen's meeting, which will convene at Amsterdam on August 5, in order to compel British ship-owners, who form the bulk of the opposition, to capitulate.
A merchant marine strike may be organized affecting all countries not adhering to the principle of a 48 hour week, according to views expressed by delegates at Genoa, and at the same time, countries adhering to that principle would be forced to boycott those who insist upon opposing it.

MADDOO APPEALS TO N.Y. METAL TRADES COUNCIL

Act Energetically, Intelligently and Unitedly Against Reaction

A letter written by William G. Maddoo, in which he appeals to all labor organizations to exert themselves "energetically, intelligently and unitedly against the re-establishment of reaction in America," was made public in New York last week.
The letter, under date of June 17, was in reply to a communication from John J. Mulholland, secretary of the Metal Trades Council of New York City and vicinity, which informed Mr. Maddoo that more than 145,000 wage-earners represented by the council recommended you as the most popular candidate for president that the democratic party could possibly name.
After thanking Mr. Mulholland for the "unsolicited and unexpected endorsement," the letter continues:
"We are facing problems in this country and in the world which require not only the highest order of statesmanship but the most patriotic and enlightened support of an intelligent electorate. These questions must be met squarely and directly. Evasion and equivocation, appeals to blind passion and selfish partisanship have lost their magic. Men and women are thinking these days, and thinking deeply, and it is only that party which has the courage to explicitly declare for liberal and progressive policies and that candidate who is fearless enough to espouse them vigorously and sincerely, which will command the respect and secure the votes of a majority of our countrymen in the coming election.
"The rights of humanity must be put above the rights of property, but the rights of each should be protected within its just limitations.
"As I said in a recent letter to the Metal Trades Council of Brooklyn, 'we cannot look with complacency of indifference upon the restoration to power of these selfish forces of reaction which have been reasserting themselves with such vigor and volubility in America, and throughout the world.' I hope, therefore, that your organization, and all organizations of labor, will exert themselves energetically, intelligently and unitedly against the re-establishment of reaction in America, and in favor of those forces which truly represent the interests of the great masses of the common people, and thereby secure to our country the benefits and blessings which the continued triumph of genu-

Stage & Music

EFFECTS OF MUSIC UPON TIRED MINDS

Music As Preserver of Health Not Reached Full Share of Appreciation

While the remedial effects of music upon tired minds and bodies or even upon certain forms of acute disease have frequently been noted, music as a preventive of sickness and preserver of health has not received its full share of appreciation. The reason may be that it is not easy to realize a danger avoided, or the many ills we have escaped by a cheerful stimulation of the nervous system at the right time; just as we may never know by what a narrow margin some fatality has been missed, the comparatively few misfortunes that really happen to us loom disproportionately large compared with the many unseen perils happily averted. Hence, direct evidence of music's beneficent properties is hard to obtain; its pleasure-giving qualities are taken for granted, but its hygienic value is difficult to trace. The testimony of a famous choral conductor upon this point carries, therefore, tremendous weight.
Dr. Henry Coward, whose Sheffield chorus toured the globe, besides earning countless laurels at home, has lately stated that in that densely populated Yorkshire city where the influenza scourge made fearful ravages among the inhabitants during the terrible winter of 1918, fatalities were fewer among the choral singers than in any other section of Sheffield residents, and that the schools where singing was made a special feature were visited much less severely by the dreaded epidemic. Without attempting to explain the reasons, as an eminent musician he naturally rejoiced in the gratifying and incontrovertible fact.
Given such a splendid demonstration of music's hygienic possibilities, it needs no special medical knowledge to discern through what channels these healthful currents would flow. Oxygenation of the blood by good methods of breathing, better muscular development, increased vitality and self expression, building up a greater power of resistance to insidious ills, are among the happy causes and effects that made such a gratifying record possible.
Dr. Coward has recently been adjudicating at Festivals in Alberta and Saskatchewan in co-operation with Mr. H. Fricker of the Mendelssohn choir, and will have heard the best the west can produce in the way of choral singing. He also came in contact with the work done in the schools, and his influence and encouragement should be priceless at the stage where school boards and parents are beginning to realize what music means in the education of young Canada. When so much that is cut and dry has to be dealt with in the school curriculum, and the number of subjects to be treated is almost stupefying, the mental powers can gain and regain elasticity through the medium of music. Both the intake of the ear and the outgo of the voice are contributive to well being, the whole human organism feeling the benignant effect of well ordered sounds. Song is a safety valve, a health preserver and a health promoter, and though not as instinctive perhaps as in other lands where outdoor life fosters it more fully, yet there need be no limit—except for climatic conditions—to the opportunities for music making and music loving.
Musical gifts are distributed equally in all populations; that is to say, there will always be found the special aptitudes and the eager receptivity in every community. Not only present happiness but future health depends upon making the best use of our opportunities. All the forces of Nature are on our side and time at our service; in the ample provision it makes for hours of work and recreation, and in the musical sense, for its exquisite contribution to the beauty and rhythm of life.

BELGIAN TRADE UNIONS SHOW STEADY GROWTH

The Belgian trade union movement has emerged from the war with an increased membership over the 1913 figures, according to European statistics printed in the Monthly Labor Review, issued by the United States bureau of labor statistics.
In 1913 Belgian trade unions had a membership of 128,759. Last year the membership was 512,500.

The turmoil of the war drove these workers from one place to another and it was impossible for the trade unions to keep in touch with them. The organizing staff remained intact, and after the armistice the unions issued an appeal to workers to join the union, establish an eight-hour day and a daily minimum wage of 1 franc (19.3 cents).

AGRICULTURAL BOARD'S DELAY RESULTS IN INCREASED DEMANDS

London.—Whether the decision just made by the Agricultural Wages Board to grant farm workers a minimum wage of \$12.50 a week will avert the threatened revolt of the farmers, is considered doubtful by leaders of the group. In the interim in which the Board has delayed a final decision on this demand the farmers have decided to raise their demands to a \$15 minimum and a 48 hour week.

Enormous meetings of farm workers have been held weekly in Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Surrey all through the spring. The farm workers, who two years ago had no organization whatsoever, now report that in the south of England district alone they have a weekly income from members' subscriptions of \$50,000.

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FRENCH GOVT FORMS UNION OF STRIKE BREAKERS

General Agricultural Confederation to Rally Peasants Against Labor

At the same time as the French authorities are proceeding against the Confederation of Labor to secure its dissolution, they are busily trying to organize all other sections of the community against labor. The impulse to organization in ranks other than industrial labor has shown itself in France as everywhere and the natural tendency of this impulse is to organize along-side of labor or in close relations with it.

Thus, in France recently, the Confederation of Intellectual Workers has been formed on the model of the Confederation of Labor; the Union of Technical Workers has entered into close federal relations with the Confederation of Labor; and the Federation of Civil Servants has decided to join the Confederation of Labor.

The French authorities have been very busy countering this. The Federation of Civil Servants has been forbidden to join the Confederation of Labor, and a law on the subject limiting the functions of the Federation is being put forward. The "Civic Union" has been formed for the purpose of organizing strike breakers. And now a "General Agricultural Confederation" has been launched to rally the peasants against the labor propaganda which has been going on in their midst. The nature of this organization can be judged from the fact that at its inauguration 181 senators and 505 deputies took part.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS GO ON STRIKE TO FORCE RECOGNITION

Galesburg, Ill.—To combat the general move on the part of employers to maintain the non-union shop and to win recognition of their own union, over fifty telephone operators and about fifteen line men have gone on strike. The company has flatly refused to recognize the union and insists on the "open" shop. The strikers refuse to discuss any other angle of agreement until the union shop is recognized.
The struggle against the "open shop" movement has involved bakers and contract electrical workers in Galesburg also. It is expected that building trades workers will join the other workers on strike for a recognition of union shops.

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ESTABLISH PLACE-MENT SERVICE IN PENNSYLVANIA

Establishment of a teacher placement service within the Pennsylvania state department of public instruction has been announced by the superintendent of that department, who said the step was necessary to meet the shortage of teachers which the schools of the state face.
Massachusetts and Minnesota have teachers' employment and registration bureaus, and the plans for the Pennsylvania bureau will be modeled along similar lines. There will be no fee for the service, and actual and prospective school teachers will be asked to register.

MUSICIANS AT CHICAGO STRIKE FOR INCREASE

Allied Amusement Asso. Refuse to Sign Contracts For 50% Increase

Chicago.—Refusal of the Allied Amusement association, an organization of the moving picture proprietors of Chicago, to sign new contracts on the basis of a 50% increase in pay has resulted in between 500 and 400 musicians going out on strike. The Chicago Federation of Musicians decided to demand a 54% increase before signing contracts for the year beginning July 1st. After some conferences the first class theatres, including the vaudeville houses, agreed to pay the new scale. Many moving picture proprietors signed individual contracts recognizing the new scale but certain syndicates have thus far refused to pay the increase.
A local newspaper announced that the moving picture operators' union refused to co-operate with the musicians. President Joseph Winkler of the Musicians said that the operators and the stage employes sent delegates with the representatives of the Federation of Musicians to visit the houses which refused to grant the increase and made clear to the managers that they would not work if non-union musicians were employed. The average wage of Chicago musicians in amusement places is \$41.85. "We have received only a 35% increase in the past five years," said President Winkler, "while government statistics show that the cost of living has gone up 104% in that period. The increase we demand will bring the average wage up to about \$60 but that does not keep pace with the increase in the cost of living."

TRADE UNIONS HELP EX-SERVICE MEN IN INDUSTRY

In a written reply to Mr. Mills in the House of Commons, Dr. Macnamara says he has read a report of Earl Haig's speech, and gives figures which, he says, shows an improvement as regards the absorption of ex-service men in industry.
"With regard to the general attitude of the trade unions, so far as it affects the training of disabled men," continues Dr. Macnamara, "I am glad to say that many unions have been helpful, but there has been opposition from the branches and members of some of the unions.
"With the help of the trade unions which have given their assistance and encouragement, we have been able to do a great deal and to reduce the amount of unemployment."

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