

300,000 SOFT COAL MINERS QUIT WORK

Threw Down Tools Last Midnight

Collieries in Many States Idle as a Result

Have Many Grievances, Including Wages With Companies — Opinions Differ as to How Long Trouble Will Continue—Big Stocks of Fuel Reported Stored.

(Associated Press.)

New York, March 31.—Three hundred thousand organized miners in the bituminous coal fields of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas went on strike.

The miners, members of the United Mine Workers of America, declared the walk-out was not a strike, but merely a suspension of work pending an arrangement between themselves and the operators, of a wage scale for another year—the old scale having expired with the month of March. The men demand an increase of pay in some instances of five cents a ton, and in other instances, more, and certain changes in work conditions.

Confidence was expressed by the operators that there will be no general coal famine, large supplies of fuel having been secured in anticipation of the walk-out. While the miners predicted the suspension would be cut short by a prompt signing of wage scales, some of the operators maintained the mines might be kept closed for a month or sixty days or longer.

The conditions in the various states were as follows: Illinois—900 mines closed and 75,000 miners quit work at 5 p. m.; a joint conference on wages called for next Monday in Chicago; operators say men demand increase of ten cents a ton, which would mean an annual increase of \$14,000,000 in expenses in Illinois.

Indiana—18,000 miners ordered to quit at midnight; conference arranged for next Wednesday at Terre Haute; miners say shut-down will be short-lived.

Pennsylvania—Approximately 40,000 men ordered to quit at midnight; temporary scale allowing a five-cent run-of-mine a ton increase hoped to be reached by Saturday; discussion of the powder question to be held in Abeyance.

Iowa—Every mine in Iowa ordered closed at midnight; a five-cent run-of-mine a ton increase announced from Brazil, (Ind.), the centre of the Indiana coal district, where it was announced the men's demand for a five-cent increase would be granted.

Ohio—All miners ordered to quit at Lorain, Ohio, one steel plant shut down and three out of work 4,000 workmen, the manager announcing a shortage of coal.

Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Arkansas, comprising the southwestern interstate fields, 35,000 miners quit; early settlement hoped for, but miners assert they have fund of \$400,000 to draw on.

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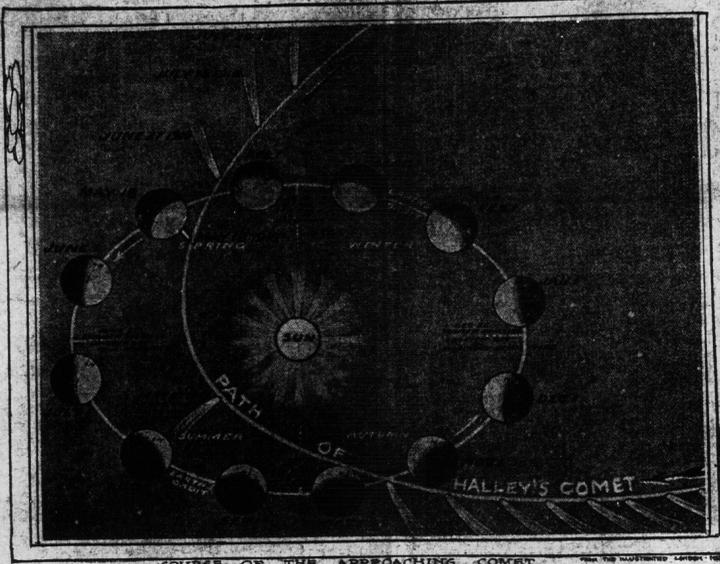
The first victory by the men was contained in an announcement from Brazil, (Ind.), the centre of the Indiana coal district, where it was announced the men's demand for a five-cent increase would be granted.

Among the Empress' passengers was A. Piers, steamship manager of the C. P. R. Atlantic lines. Mr. Piers said that the prospects were bright for the building of one or more large C. P. R. liners for the Atlantic trade that will surpass anything in the Canadian service for speed and size.

The Empress sailed at 1 o'clock for St. John.

Toronto, March 31.—(Special)—Left for Halifax this afternoon in charge of Captain Carling, Sergt. Skinner and Q. M. Sergt. Blake Foster. New recruits are badly needed and special effort will be made to get them.

THE EARTH AND THE COMET AND SOME CHEERFUL SPECULATION



(By Camille Flammarion.)
Our readers have learned of the glacially experience of the modern Ghiboulle who, through fear of Halley's comet, committed suicide the other day in Hungary, preferring, he said, to kill himself in advance rather than to be killed by the wandering star. At the moment when more than one person is disquieted by the event of the night of May 18-19 next, and when the attention of the entire world is concentrated on the deeds and actions of the comet, while astronomers are actively studying and vivaciously discussing the problem of comets, we think it is interesting to review here the suggestions which Mrs. W. H. Pickering, of the Observatory of Harvard College, has just made apropos of Halley's comet and its approaching meeting with the earth.

The most important question for the majority of the inhabitants of our planet is to know whether the gigantic tail will be so extended as to envelop the surface of the globe or ever to envelop us entirely in its waves of vapor. It is difficult to find anything up to the present time, but we can recall that in almost all its previous appearances this celebrated comet has spread in space an elegant tail, sometimes immense but generally of medium length. Nevertheless, on the occasion of its last visit, in 1835, a remarkable phenomenon occurred; during its perihelion passage, which took place on November 36, the comet lost its tail, so that when it reappeared on the other side of the sun it had the appearance of a round nebula, without an appendage, and it was only when it reached the distance of the planet Mars, that a hair tail was formed. The interplanetary wanderer had been found on August 5, 1835, and it was on October 2 that astronomers began to witness the birth of the first tail.

We see that if things pass as in 1835 it may be possible that the tail will not reach our world, because it will disappear after the perihelion passage, which will take place on April 20. On the other hand, Mr. Barnard, the astronomer, of the Yerkes observatory, has already measured the length of the present tail, on February 3 and February 10, and has found that it same date the width of the head was 307,000 kilometres. The same astronomer remarks as to this fact that the considerable extent of the tail two months before perihelion "gives hopes" that we will be completely immersed in that appendage on the date of May 18.

He who lives will see.

TORIES LOOKING FOR A MOSES

Meeting at Ottawa Yesterday to Discuss Convention Plans Not a Love Feast

MANY FACTIONS

Many of the Faithful Reported Against a Round Up of the Party for Fear of an Open Rupture—Another Conference Next Week About It.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Ottawa, March 31.—The Conservative committee appointed to arrange for the proposed dominion party convention in Ottawa next June, met in Mr. Borden's office today to discuss plans and prospects of the convention.

The only official announcement given out at the conclusion of the meeting was that the committee would meet again next week.

It is common gossip, however, around the corridors that the recent discussions within the party ranks on the question of leadership, and the difficulty in finding out just where they are at on questions of policy and party cohesion, have led a good many members of the party to favor an indefinite postponement of the convention. It is believed that under the present conditions a convention might result in the public display of lack of harmony and in factional fights. Time to heal the breach and restore party discipline is desired.

It is also thought advisable to wait for a year nearer to the general elections to formulate a campaign platform. Meanwhile it is hoped that something will turn up in the shape of a pillar of light to lead the Mosaic-like opposition out of the wilderness. The whole question will be threshed out at a further meeting of the committee next week.

RECORD CUSTOMS RECEIPTS AT MONTREAL

Over \$16,000,000 Collected for Past Fiscal Year, an Increase of Over \$3,000,000 Over Previous Year.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Montreal, March 31.—For the fiscal year 1909-10, which ended today at the customs house of the port of Montreal, the collections of duties on imports surpassed all previous records.

The total collected during the fiscal year was \$16,525,229.78, against \$12,625,086.02 in the previous twelve months, being an increase of \$3,900,143.76. The average monthly increase was \$325,211.93.

The biggest day in the year was on April 19, when \$1,605,339 were collected.

VIRTUAL SURRENDER BY THE UNITED STATES, SAYS LEADING AMERICAN TRADE JOURNAL

New York, March 30.—The leading American trade newspaper, the New York Journal of Commerce says: "The industrial ambitions of Canada have been frequently referred to, but it needed an incident like that just closed to illustrate how profoundly they have modified the relations between the two countries. It is admitted that the arrangement just concluded was preceded by the virtual surrender of all the important demands on which the United States delegates had been instructed to insist."

JAIL SENTENCE FOR SUSSEX SCOTT ACT OFFENDER

George Doherty Sentenced to a Month—Zion Lodge Holds Card Party and Dance.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Sussex, N. B., March 31.—The Scott act campaign people have started the ball rolling in earnest. Thirty days in jail without the option of a fine was handed out to Geo. Doherty by Stipendiary Folkens today. The case will be appealed. Hereafter, when convictions have been secured, the Scott act officials will ask for imprisonment.

MOTHER'S DEATH CAUSES BOY TO COMMIT SUICIDE

North Easton, Miss., March 31.—Believing that his mother's constant care for him during a two years' illness had hastened her death by apoplexy Wednesday, Frederick B. Hall, eighteen years old, son of Samuel W. Hall, today killed himself by shooting. The boy was just recovering from an attack of nervous prostration when his mother died. Mother and son will be buried together.

O'BRIEN'S "ALL FOR IRELAND LEAGUE"

Movement Inaugurated at Cork with Enthusiastic Meeting; Founder Scores Redmond's Policy and Praises His Own.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Cork, March 31.—A large and enthusiastic meeting at city hall today, inaugurated the "All For Ireland League," the object of which William O'Brien, M. P., said in the course of a long speech, was to enable the Irish people to choose between his policy which reconciles Catholic and Protestant fellow countrymen, and John Redmond's, which sets them against each other.

Mr. O'Brien characterized the Nationalist party as "a mere puppet, detestable sectarian secret society, whose avowed purpose was to build up a system of Catholic Orangism more inexcusable than its Protestant forerunner."

Lords Dunraven, Rossmore and Castle-town sent letters approving the movement.

Trieste, Austria, March 31.—The fiercest tornado in years, accompanied by a heavy snow, has caused immense damage and loss of life in Southern Austria. A passenger train was blown off the rails near Muggia, and rolled down an embankment, killing four persons and injuring eighteen. Steamship navigation has been suspended and great damage done in the new harbor. Several steamers of the Austrian Lloyd line, dragged their anchors and narrowly escaped disaster.

ANOTHER BRITISH CRISIS IS NEAR

FORGET STILL FULL OF FIGHT

New Move Made to Oust R. E. Harris from N. S. Steel & Coal Company INVOKES BYE-LAW

Montreal Magnates Serve Notice on President to Call Special Meeting of Shareholders to Discuss Removal of Man They Are After.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

New Glasgow, N. S., March 31.—Rudolphe Forget and his friends do not show signs of letting up in their war on the Nova Scotia Steel & Coal Company management.

Immediately after the election of R. E. Harris this morning to the presidency, a letter was served on him, signed by Rudolphe Forget, J. W. McConnell and others, stating that they constituted more than one-fourth in value of the shareholders of the company, and requiring him to call a general meeting of the shareholders of the company to consider and, if deemed advisable, to pass a resolution removing R. E. Harris, one of the directors, and appointing some other qualified person in his stead.

This is done under two by-laws, one of which provides that it shall be incumbent on the president to call a general meeting of the shareholders whenever required to do so in writing by one-fourth in value of the shareholders; another setting forth that the company may by resolution remove any director before the expiration of his period of office and appoint another qualified person in his stead.

The Montreal men went west on the Maritime express today.

TERRIBLE DEED OF SPRINGFIELD, MASS., ROBBER

Kills Woman Teacher, and Fatally Wounds Another When Refused Money.

Springfield, Mass., March 31.—His demand for money ignored, a masked burglar, who had entered the drawing room of the Dow homestead on Round Hill early this evening, shot and killed Miss Martha B. Blackstone, 39 years old, a guest and a teacher in the Jefferson avenue primary school, and probably fatally wounded Miss Harriet P. Dow, a fellow teacher, in whose home the tragedy took place.

Miss Blackstone was shot through the heart as she ran screaming into an adjacent room. Miss Dow's skull was fractured and trepanning will be resorted to in an effort to save her life. The murderer escaped.

With Mrs. Sarah J. Dow and a sister, Miss Lucy J. Dow, Miss Harriet Dow and the slain girl were alone in the house. All were in the drawing room when the unknown robber entered the house from the rear and suddenly appeared before the frightened women, threatening them with a revolver and demanding money. Mrs. Dow retained her composure and replied: "We have no money," but Miss Blackstone, in flight, jumped to her feet and ran screaming into a reception room to the right of the living room. The burglar fired at Miss Blackstone, the bullet entering her left breast. Death was instantaneous. The murderer hardly paused to see his victim fall before he turned the revolver on the group, shooting Miss Harriet Dow in the head. The murderer ran toward the front door, leaped over the piazza railing and disappeared.

The police have no clue as to the identity of the murderer.

P. E. I. HOUSE BOWLS OUT BILL TO PERMIT AUTOS TO RUN

Charlottetown, March 31.—(Special)—In continuing the debate on the budget in the house of assembly today, a member of the opposition made a questionable statement, and on a vote of the house, 14 to 12, was requested to retract his statement. The bill introduced to amend the present auto bill, so as to allow the running of these machines in this province, was thrown out while in committee.

Liberals Force the Fighting

General Belief That Election Will Come in May

Premier Asquith to Apply Closure to Debate on Lords' Veto Resolutions—Significant Speech of Churchill.

Canadian Associated Press.

London, March 31.—Premier Asquith's notice of motion applying the closure to the debate on the veto resolutions in committee coupled with the intimation that similar action will be taken subsequently in regard to the budget has created a general impression that the government has decided to accelerate the crisis, and so if a general election is necessitated, which is the almost universal view, dissolution will be in May.

Conferences between the cabinet and Nationalists have occurred in the last few days, but up to the present they seem to have failed, Redmond insisting that they withhold, at least, the final stages of the budget until the lords have dealt with the veto resolutions, despite the promises of a remission of the whisky tax in 1911-12 budget. But, of course, desperate as the situation of the government appears, there is still time for an arrangement.

John Dillon had a long talk with Lloyd George today. Meanwhile corroborative evidence of the belief that an election will come at the end of April is found in the active preparations of all parties.

It was noticed, too, both the tone and tenor of Churchill's speech in the commons tonight appeared to bear testimony to the failure of the government to bring the Nationalists into line.

Perhaps, however, the Nationalists may be conciliated by the home secretary's hint that the cabinet may ask the king to create enough peers to pass the veto resolutions.

Churchill declared that unless the commons carries the budget it is idle to look to the king or country to carry the veto. It is now necessary that the crown and commons, acting together, shall restore the balance of the constitution and restrict forever the veto of the lords.

A further stage in the debate on the veto resolutions was reached today when Sir Robert Finlay moved the official opposition amendment. After Sir W. Robson had replied for the government there were a number of excellent speeches. The discussion was closed for the day by Winston Churchill.

Liberals Forcing the Fight.

(Associated Press.)

London, March 31.—The official opposition amendment to Premier Asquith's resolutions on the veto power of the house of lords was moved in the house of commons today by Sir Robert Finlay. It declares in favor of a strong and efficient second chamber, and expresses willingness to consider proposals for the reform of the upper house, but declines to proceed with the government proposals, which would destroy the usefulness of any second chamber.

Winston Spencer Churchill, the home secretary, made an important contribution to the debate. He declared that when the veto resolutions were disposed of, they would advance with the budget, regardless of the consequences. Unless the house of commons carried the budget, it was idle, he said, to look to the king or to the country to carry the veto bill, but he predicted that at the proper time, and under the proper circumstances, they would succeed in carrying both the veto and budget measures to the steps of the throne.

Mr. Churchill closed with a significant statement. "The time for action," he said, "has arrived. Since the lords have used their veto to affront the prerogative of the crown and have invaded the rights of the commons, it has become necessary that the crown and the commons acting together should restore the balance of the constitution and restrict forever the veto power of the house of lords."

CUT REFEREE'S BILL FROM \$9,000 TO \$90

New York Central Road Paid the Bill and Wanted It Back from New York City—Declined Offer of \$5,000 and Got the Minimum.

New York, March 31.—D. Cady Herrick's fee of \$9,000 for nine days' services as referee in the Eleventh avenue litigation between the city and the New York Central Railway was cut today to \$90 by Archibald Watson, the corporation counsel. Mr. Herrick had already been paid by the railroad, which then sent a bill to the city. Mr. Watson thought the bill excessive and offered to compromise at \$5,000. The railroad refused, whereupon the corporation counsel cut the bill to \$10 a day allowed by the law.

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the Functions of the Petroleum and Albertite A. F. Bentley, M. P. P.

ly how any possible disputes arise as to the rights given in were to be adjusted. from the lease. "And it is furnished and declared by and between hereto that if at any time the continuance of this lease or after the expiration or sooner determination any dispute or controversy shall be the said lessor and the lessee or concerning the construction or meaning of these presents or covenants, provisions, clauses, conditions herein contained or as to any matter or thing in anywise relating to this lease, the same shall be referred to a third party, to be named in writing by the parties to the lease, and if they cannot agree, then to be appointed in writing by or on behalf of each party in difference, or by an umpire to be by said arbitrator in like manner appointed before or upon their reference."

Despite of this clearly outlined procedure in case of dispute, the bill put the bill through by a majority vote.

It seems to be no precedent previous to 1908 for such legislation, but it is the first time the present government has introduced along this line, but not touching the enormity of the present bill as ever in my opinion been introduced by any government. It is not a bill of the party, but a bill of the commonsense of the people, and it is at large is interested in, but a bill of the safety of the province in the hands of a government that does not pass an act prejudicial to the interests of one company, and in favor of the interests of the party who is able to get its supporters vote for a measure. The public is likely to sit up and notice as to what possible mischief would be produced by the passing of the bill. The people will also inquire what the act will have upon investors if given by the province of New Brunswick are treated as school-boy harem at any time be set aside or worthless by vicious legislation of the kind.

A. F. BENTLEY, Fredericton, March 28, 1910.

RE THAN 4,200 PASSENGERS ON WAY TO THIS PORT

Ship Companies Running Out Boats--C. P. R. Sends Out the Montrose.

More than 4,200 passengers in four ships are on the way to this port and five more during the next week or ten. The C. P. R. liner Empress of Canada sailed from Liverpool on Friday last, carrying 1,800 passengers, 450 tons of mail and 400 tons of cargo. The C. P. R. liner Corsican sailed from London and Liverpool on Saturday last, carrying 1,200 passengers and 1,000 tons of cargo. The Empress of Canada is expected to arrive at St. John on Sunday last.

Miss Black, of London, and Miss White, of Halifax, are expected to arrive at St. John on Sunday last.

Among the Empress' passengers was A. Piers, steamship manager of the C. P. R. Atlantic lines. Mr. Piers said that the prospects were bright for the building of one or more large C. P. R. liners for the Atlantic trade that will surpass anything in the Canadian service for speed and size.

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BIG LINERS REACH HALIFAX TOGETHER

Empress and Corsican Arrive at Midnight With Big Passenger Lists; Former Sailed an Hour Later for St. John.

(Special to The Telegraph.)

Halifax, March 31.—The Empress of Britain, of the C. P. R. line, and the Corsican, of the Allan line steamers, came up the harbor together at midnight from Liverpool. The Empress with the mails had 1,800 passengers and the Corsican a large number of emigrants.

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