

## Final Effort Is Being Made To Avert The Big Railway Strike

### LEWIS MESSAGE ORDERS PUMP MEN TO CONTINUE WORK

Wilkesbarre, Penna.—Upon receipt of a telegram from John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, who conferred with President Harding at Washington, the general committee of the anthracite workers abandoned all plans for immediately calling an absolute strike, and the contemplated withdrawal of the pumpmen from the mines.

The committee adjourned indefinitely, leaving the anthracite situation as it was before it convened Monday morning, when it received the practically unanimous permission by referendum vote of the 150,000 idle miners to make the prevailing suspension an absolute strike. Labor officials and members of the committee expressed great elation over the tone of Mr. Lewis' message, although they declined to make it public.

"It appears that immediate developments in both the bituminous and anthracite industries may be looked for immediately as a result of the conference with the president and government officials," said Thomas Kennedy, president of the general scale committee and of district number 7 at Hazleton.

The miners' contemplated drive for funds will go on as planned yesterday, Mr. Kennedy asserted. As proof that the union is not abandoning the steps for preparedness in the event of an ultimate strike, he announced a meeting to be held at Hazleton, Thursday, when committees and campaigners will invade a dozen of the larger cities of the east with an appeal for "public financial subscriptions to the 'war chest' of the United Mine Workers of America."

**OFFERS OF MEDIATION.**  
Pittsburg, Penna.—Dr. Clifford G. Connelly, Commissioner of Labor and Industry, today sent a letter to leaders of district numbers 2 and 5, United Mine Workers, and to heads of all bituminous coal operators' associations offering the services of the division of mediation to settle the bituminous coal strike and calling a meeting of union leaders and operators for Pittsburg, July 6.

**RAILWAY STRIKE LIKELY.**  
Chicago.—A strike of the 400,000 railway shopmen of the country will be called for July 1 unless the railroad agree to stay the \$60,000,000 wage cut due the shop workers on that date and to restore certain working conditions formerly in effect, it was made known tonight through a telegram from B. M. Jewell, head of the Shop Crafts, to the Association of Railway Executives.

Decision to call a strike came late today after a lengthy discussion by the executive committee of the six

### WORKERS PETITION MINIMUM WAGE

Sydney, N.S.—A direct appeal to the stockholders of the British Empire Steel Corporation for the adjustment of various grievances will be made at their annual meeting at Montreal, Tuesday, it was decided by Sydney steel workers at two mass meetings here.

The petition of the workers, which included requests as to rates of pay and working conditions, was forwarded to President R. M. Wolvin, with a request that it be brought before the annual meeting.

The document sets forth in part that the steel workers "have been sorely tried during the past eighteen months" through unemployment, wage reductions and so forth, and states that the average wage of 75 per cent. of the men now ranges from 24 to 30 cents an hour, which, it is claimed, is insufficient to meet present costs of living.

### START NEGOTIATION ON WAGE REDUCTION

Montreal.—Wage schedule changes involving negotiations on the subject of the proposed wage cut for shop crafts will open probably next week between the Railway Association of Canada and the executive division No. 4 members of the executive, including R. J. Talbot, president of the division; Charles Dickie, general secretary; Frank McKenna, vice-president; Brotherhood of Railway Carmen; Mr. Rogers, of Moncton, representing the machinists, district No. 2; J. Corbett, London, Ont., Brotherhood of Railway Carmen; and Fred Harrison, of Montreal, representing the blacksmiths, are assembling in the city next Monday for the purpose.

### ENGINEERS' OFFICERS

Kitchener, Ont.—The Canadian Association of Stationary Engineers, who concluded their annual convention here, elected officers as follows: Past president, F. Harper, Kingston; president, H. Wright, Montreal; vice-president, H. F. Galloway, London; secretary, L. J. Ellis, Hamilton; treasurer, J. J. Sullivan, Ottawa; conductor, J. Arns, Woodstock; doorkeeper, H. Turner, Toronto.

### WAGE INCREASE TO TORONTO PRINTERS

Toronto.—An increase of three dollars per week is secured by the printers employed by the Toronto news-papers, under an agreement signed up after several weeks negotiation. The agreement which will extend for two years and nine months, or until March 31, 1925, makes the scale \$43.50 per week for the employees of the morning papers, and \$41 for those on the evening papers. The latter also secure a reduction of one and a half hours in the work week which will now consist of 46½ hours instead of 48, while the morning paper men remain on the 45 hour week basis. The other conditions remain the same as those called for under the old agreement.

### RAILWAY STRIKE IN DOMINION POSSIBLE

London.—It was the frank opinion of Tom Moore, of Ottawa, president of the Dominion Trades Congress, that those railway men employed on Canadian roads and virtually affected by the recent changes in the working and wage agreements of these corporations will adopt the same measures as their fellow workers in the United States and declare a general strike.

### CONFERENCE WITH LABOR BOARD IS NOW IN PROGRESS IN CHICAGO

Detroit, Mich., June 30.—Orders that would have sent 400,000 men, comprising the maintenance of way forces of 98 per cent. of the railroads of the country, out on strike at 10 a.m. July 1, in protest against a wage cut ordered effective that date by the United States Railroad Labor Board, were held up here late Thursday, by F. F. Grable, the grand president of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and Railway Shop Laborers, following a summons from the labor board to attend a conference of union leaders and railroad executives in Chicago, Friday.

### LARGE MAJORITY VOTES IN FAVOR OF THE SUSPENSION OF ALL WORK

All but a few of all strike ballots received here in the national referendum was completed and showed the union had voted 228,970 to 24,756 in favor of suspension of work. A total of 253,014 votes was cast, but 1,288 were void and thrown out.

It was estimated that approximately 75,000 are yet to come in, but, as it was pointed out, these could not change the result. Non-union maintenance men, as well as those in the organization, participated in the balloting.

### A Conference Arranged

Chicago, June 30th.—Intervention by the federal government under the authority of the Transportation Act, created to maintain the orderly course of the nation's transportation arteries, loomed as the final hope of averting the threatened rail strike of 400,000 shopmen, and possibly half a million more railroad workers.

Their ultimatum to the railway executives rejected, chief executives of the six shop crafts unions, which have called a strike for ten o'clock Saturday morning and the leaders of four other unions now polling a strike vote, prepared to answer the summons of the United States Railroad Labor Board to appear in a federal investigation tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock.

### Rapid Developments

Developments of the strike situation came in rapid sequence International presidents of the six shop unions announced telegrams authorizing their membership to walk out Saturday morning.

The labor board immediately recognized a threatened holdup of traffic and acting under the authority of the transportation act issued a citation to the strike leaders to come before it for official inquiry.

The association of railway executives, meeting here on other matters, considered and rejected the union proposal of a truce pending negotiations over wages and working conditions.

The executives declared that a strike would be against the orders of the labor board and against the United States government, and thus absolved themselves from further responsibility as to the present situation.

There is little likelihood, officials said, that any conference could be arranged to mend the differences of the employees and the roads, and most of the executives departed tonight for their homes. Executives of only 16 of the 23 roads cited were present at today's meeting, but they expected to appear before the board tomorrow.

### The Questions Involved

The July first \$60,000,000 wage cut and the modification of seven rules were the two questions involved in the shopmen's strike vote, which are conditions laid down by the labor board, according to the carriers' position. Defiance of those orders by the roads would be "to recognize your power and authority as greater than that of the government," said the executive's reply to the union ultimatum.

Ben W. Hooper, chairman of the labor board, who was credited with having taken the leadership in averting a threatened railway strike last October, tonight issued a statement declaring that "it is evident to every student of the situation that the railway labor organizations have no just cause for serious complaint at the treatment they have received at the hands of the federal wage tribunals during the war period and since." The statement said:

"The people of the United States are sick and tired of having railway transportation and traffic periodically interrupted by controversies between railway managements and employees. It was this feeling which moved congress to enact the Transportation Act of 1920.

### MANY RESOLUTIONS TO BE PRESENTED LABOR CONFERENCE

London.—The programme of the annual conference of the labor party, which opens on Wednesday at Edinburgh, promises a rich miscellany of debate, and is proof sufficient that the interests of the party, ostensibly a any rate, are far from confined merely to matters of weekly wage-earning. Resolutions tabled by local labor bodies all over the country range from Freemasonry to the activity of Japan in Siberia, from the nationalization of hospitals to the adoption of a "neutral international language."

A very familiar friend is the resolution demanding the nationalization of the essential means of production, distribution and exchange. Amendments to this, requiring "effective control by the workers" of the administration of industry, are almost as familiar. There are resolutions concerning armaments and treaties of war, the principal of these calling on socialists and labor parties of all nations to "refuse to support any war for the defence of the present commercial system."

Immediate recognition of the Russian Soviet government and grants from the British exchequer towards relief of Russian hunger are also in evidence. Glasgow would have a reduction in war loan interests of at least one and a half per cent. and laborers in other parts of the country advocate the familiar remedy of a levy upon capital.

**Honors to Labor Men.**  
Probably one of the most interesting debates will be pressed when the subject of labor leaders accepting privy councillorships comes under discussion. No fewer than nine resolutions concerning this have been put down, the wording of the resolutions showing striking diversity in the frame of mind in which the matter is approached. Motherwell and Wishaw trades council with austere simplicity will move "that all members of the privy council be expelled from the labor party."

### DECLARE VOTE IN FAVOR OF STRIKE

Chicago.—Railway union officials continued their conferences on the threatened railroad strike.

With informal statements by union leaders indicating that the referendum of shopmen, maintenance of way employees and clerks throughout the United States discloses a strong sentiment in favor of a strike as a protest against wage reductions, J. S. Smock, assistant to the president of the Maintenance of Way Men predicted the walkout would be called July 15.

Others said conferences with railroad officials probably would delay the call until August 1.

### TABULATING STRIKE VOTE

Detroit.—Tabulation of the strike vote taken by the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees and railway shop laborers following a wage cut, ordered effective July 1, by the United States railroad labor board, continued at the headquarters of the organization here today, with officials of the union predicting the final vote would show a large majority favoring the walkout, provided other union workers, whose wages also were cut, joined in.

"The wages fixed by the recent decisions of this board will purchase more than the wages received by them prior to the war. In other words, their wages have increased by a greater percentage than has the cost of living. In some instances the increase is strikingly notable.

"With but slight exceptions, the great carriers of the country have paid the wages fixed by the government tribunals. Now that the decreases have come, the employees should be good sports and accept the reductions.

**No Substantial Grievance.**  
"The employees do have one substantial grievance against certain of the carriers and that is the contracting of railway employees to so-called independent contractors. This is not simply a labor grievance; it is a public grievance. This policy carried to its legitimate end destroys the labor articles of the transportation act, treats the United States congress with contempt, deprives the public of lawful protection from railway labor troubles and grievously imposes upon the employees.

"It is highly gratifying however, that several of the carriers have withdrawn from the contract policy this week, and it is hoped that all the others will follow."

**Strike Against Government.**  
Railroad executives meeting here despatched a message to B. M. Jewell, head of the railway employees' department of the American Federation of Labor, declaring that the threatened strike of 400,000 shopmen set for Saturday would be a strike against the government and not against the railroads. The message said that all contentions in the case had been submitted to the Railroad Labor Board, which had rendered its decision.

The telegram was signed by T. Dewitt Cuyler, chairman of the Association of Railway Executives.

## Items of Interest from Overseas

### ELIMINATION OF TAXES UPON FOOD

Edinburgh.—In his presidential address to the 22nd annual conference of the British Labor party, which opened here, Frederick W. Jowett said the party not only stood for self-determination for Ireland, India and Egypt, but also desired to relate these claims to the economic facts so that the steady economic pressure at home, caused partly by the loss of foreign trade, had produced stagnation.

### AUSTRALIA HAS SHIPPING TROUBLE

London.—The federal government of Australia is again in trouble over its shipping line, says a Reuter despatch from Melbourne. The Australian Seamen's Union objected to a boatswain whom the office of the

Large Bay insisted upon engaging at Melbourne for the voyage to England, and the steamer was held up for a while in consequence. Finally the greater portion of the crew was secured at Sydney.

There has been trouble on more than one occasion between the Seamen's Union and the management of the Australian Commonwealth Line of steamers over the selection of crews of the Large Bay and the Hobsons Bay.

### THE BRITISH COAL MINING INDUSTRY

London.—The position of the coal mining industry, which is creating considerable uneasiness here, will be discussed at a special meeting of the National Executive of the miners federation in London next Thursday, when the existing agreement with the mine owners will come under review.

Reports received at the headquarters of the federation from the various coal areas show that there is a prevailing depression—one of the severest in the history of the industry. It is stated on the authority of Frank Hodges, secretary of the miners' federation, that the number of unemployed pit workers exceeds 100,000. Many mines are working only three or four days a week. As there are hundreds of actions by landlords to recover arrears of rent, large numbers of the workers out of employment are compelled to seek poor law relief.

### SEAMEN'S STRIKE

Calcutta.—The Indian seamen's strike, in which about 10,000 men are involved, continues.

### RAILWAYMEN'S VICTORY

As a result of continuous pressure by the National Union of Railwaymen, the Great Northern Railway Company has now applied and been granted exemption for permanent employees from the provisions of the National Unemployment Insurance Act. The men are pressing for the return of their contributions.

### RIGHT TO EDUCATION

Louth.—Lord Haldane, speaking at Louth, on Sunday, on education and economy to do anything that could stunt the development of knowledge. One reason for unrest was that the people were awakening to the sense that they had not an equal chance of the further education that was becoming more and more essential. They should arm the people with knowledge, and they would solve their own social problems quietly, peacefully and effectively.

### FARM WORKERS ON STRIKE

Farm laborers in South Carnarvonshire have gone on strike in demand of a weekly half-holiday. Lively scenes occurred when they visited farms in search of blacklegs.

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The Union officials have asked the shipping companies to agree to a conference, with a view to a settlement. Some of the stevedores and coolies who have been out have resumed work.—Reuter.

### TRIBUTE TO J. H. THOMAS

A mass meeting of all grades of railwaymen held at Inverness, protested against "the subtle and unscrupulous attacks of certain sections of the Labour movement on our Parliamentary general secretary, J. H. Thomas," and placed on record its protest against the activities of those rendered to this union and to the cause of Labour.

### ALL-ITALY STRIKE AHEAD

Rome.—By an overwhelming majority, the National Council of the Italian Metalworkers' Federation, meeting at Genoa yesterday, decided to call a national strike.

This action is taken in support of the metalworkers of Lombardy, who struck 10 days ago against a wage cut.

A resolution by Communists, urging a general strike of all trade unions, in joint action with the metal workers, was beaten by 47,000 votes against 27,000. It was decided, however, that the Strike Committee will keep in touch with the Labor Alliance, and consider jointly the advisability of giving a national basis, if necessary, to the metalworkers' struggle.