

OPERATORS DEFY WESTERN UNION

Chicago Employes Are in Favor of Strike.

WOULD AFFECT WIDE AREA

Reinstatement of Expelled Union Employes Demanded.

HIGHER WAGES WANTED

Mass Meeting of 800 Operators Pass Resolutions Defining Their Attitude—Secret Organization of Union Has Been Active.

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—(Special.)—Open defiance of the Western Union Telegraph Company was voiced at a mass meeting of its employes held in Musielans Hall, 134 Van Buren street, this afternoon. More than 800 operators were packed in the hall, and many of them favored calling an immediate strike on the company unless the men who have recently been discharged for joining the union are at once reinstated.

Resolutions practically announcing their membership in the Commercial Telegraphers' Union of America were adopted by the operators, and the executive committee of the union was instructed to notify the company that a continuation of its alleged discriminating attitude will be resented.

Strike May Be General.

President S. J. Small and Secretary Wesley Russell of the National organization attended the meeting, and urged the men in the local office of the Western Union Company not to take hasty action until the union is ready to act in all large cities. President Small said after the meeting that the operators in 22 cities had joined in the movement and that if a strike were declared it would not be confined to Chicago.

The men have been secretly organizing for about two years. President Small asserts that recently nine old employes of the company have been discharged in the local office because of their activity in union affairs.

Demand Increase in Pay.

The first demand to be made will be for the reinstatement of those men, and it is asserted that the operators will insist on having an answer to the request they made two months ago for an increase of 10 per cent in salaries. This petition for a wage increase was signed by more than 700 employes in the Chicago office and forwarded to H. C. Clowry, president of the company, in New York.

The petition was ignored, according to the employes, and they declare that the time has arrived when they must assert themselves. The operators declare that the wages paid by the Western Union Company are 10 per cent less than paid by the competing company, and by private concerns.

UNION IS READY FOR TROUBLE

Portland Operators Say Plans for Strikes Have Been Made.

This news, according to Portland operators, is more serious even than is indicated in the dispatch. The Telegraphers' Union for the past two or three years has been secretly organizing in all parts of the United States and is supposed to control somewhere in the neighborhood of 60 per cent of the total operators of the country. The union is reported to be extremely strong on Puget Sound and in San Francisco.

In Portland its strength is absolutely unknown even to those who are avowedly union members. There are very few "open" members here. This comes of the peculiar method this union has resorted to in proselyting. The union is composed of two classes of members—"open" members and "secret" members. Men who occupy positions with private concerns and telegraph companies who do not place any embargo on union men induces nonmembers to agree to join. Each is furnished with proper application blanks, which he forwards to a National officer of the union. This official and the applicant himself are the only ones, consequently, who are aware that the nonmember has joined the ranks of the union. These secret members remit their dues directly to this National official, who credits the members, and, after deducting the National organization's percentage, returns in a lump sum the balance of the secret members' dues to the proper local unions.

Strength Is Kept Secret.

It can thus be seen that the union strength of the National organization or of any of the local organizations is absolutely unknown to everybody save this one man, who is pledged not alone not to reveal the secret members' names, but not even the exact strength in any city or district. This rule is applied so strictly that even the National officers themselves cannot tell, except in round numbers, the strength in a particular section of the country.

In case of a strike, the service in Portland would be paralyzed in two ways. First, no union operator would work a wire on which the "sending" operators

out of Chicago or intermediate points were not union members, and turn their backs at any intermediate point would refuse to handle any "scab" matter filed with him which had been received from Chicago or from a nonunion operator at any intermediate point. The second way would be that in order to break the backbone of the strike, the Western Union would probably call in from the outside—Portland as well as other towns—all operators who remained faithful to the company.

Operators Now in Demand.

At the present time there is a great scarcity even of mediocre operators throughout the country, so great has been the expansion of the telegraph business in the past few years, and the withdrawal of very few operators from the "provinces" would seriously handicap the expediting of messages. What the outcome of the strike would be is problematical. If the operators, who are waiting another three to five years, at their recent rate of organization, they would probably have had no difficulty in enforcing any demand they saw fit to make. At the present time they have to contend with



Mayor Schmitz, of San Francisco, Who Is Urged to Take a Firm Stand in Conference on Japanese Question.

the fact that many of the operators remember with wholesome respect the terrible strike of '83, when the Western Union succeeded in disrupting the Telegraphers' Union, and also according to recent issues of their monthly official paper, they have in their strike fund something less than \$50,000, a mere bagatelle to what would be required to make a fight against their huge opponent. The question, in short, is whether they could sufficiently cripple the telegraph service, so as to appear to bring matters to a head. The union appears confident that it can, while the telegraph company is confident it can maintain a semblance of a service until it has exhausted the union's resources.

GERMS IN PICTURE HATS

EXPENSIVE HEADGEAR MADE IN VILE SWEATSHOPS.

Miss Helen Mahon Denounces Conditions Under Which Art Creations Are Manufactured.

CHICAGO, Feb. 10.—(Special.)—Beware the picture hat; it's full of germs. Also the cost to the purchaser bears no fair relation to the wages paid those who made it.

The ornate bonnet of the kind that costs from \$5 to \$6 was held up to public scorn and denounced as a "sweatshop-creation" this afternoon by a woman milliner, Miss Helen Mahon, in an address before the Women's Trade Union League at Hull House. Miss Mahon gave statistics tending to show that the labor conditions in the millinery trade have deteriorated during the last few years to the level of some of the worst sweatshop conditions in the sums.

When the Federal authorities hold sessions in Chicago for the investigation of the "social, moral, economic and physical conditions" under which women and children are employed in all the great cities of the country, Miss Mahon will she said, take the witness stand and tell the story of "the slumming and sweatshop" of the millinery trade.

There are no more abject industrial slaves than the Chicago sisters of the women who in Paris and London are called art milliners. The four employes known as the copyist, the maker, the preparer and the saleswoman, get between them \$6 a week in pay and they produce exclusive of the work of the buyer and designer, 48 picture hats in six days. These hats average \$25 to \$30 each and bring about \$100 in the open market. It is clear, therefore, that the real worker does not get any adequate pay for her lot, especially as she gets work only in certain seasons of the year, and is liable to be unemployed more than half of the time.

THIRSTY OHIOANS CAUGHT

Springfield Police Make Sensational Raid on Saloon.

SPRINGFIELD, O., Feb. 10.—The police, with the aid of the fire department, this afternoon raided a saloon and with ladders scaled the walls of a five-story building and captured 21 men who had escaped from the place and taken refuge on the roof.

The police attempted to go up to the roof through the building, but found their way barred by a steel trapdoor. The men on the roof refused to surrender, but when the fire department arrived with ladders the officers ascended with drawn revolvers and no further resistance was encountered.

SCHMITZ URGED TO STAND FIRM

Hundreds of Messages Sent to Him.

EXCLUSION IS DEMANDED

San Francisco Will Not Be Satisfied With Treaty.

WILL NOT YIELD AN IOTA

Roosevelt and Root in Conference. President Proposes Compromise, but Schmitz Denies Any Proposition Has Been Offered.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 10.—Mayor Schmitz and the members of the San Francisco School Board were in conference twice today, and formally agreed on the policy they will pursue in connection with the question of the Japanese and San Francisco schools. The Mayor and members of the board have refused to make any statement as to what position they will take when they call at the White House tomorrow to confer with President Roosevelt and Secretary Root.

In a telegram, however, to the California Exclusion League tonight Mayor Schmitz declared the league has not made any arrangements up to date of any kind. More than 300 telegrams were received by Mayor Schmitz and the members of the board today urging them to stand firm for the exclusion of the Japanese coolies from the United States.

Message From Exclusion League.

A telegram received today by Mayor Schmitz from the president of the California Exclusion League in part reads: "Morning papers absolutely false. Have made arrangements up to date of any kind. Story false like all other statements made about me. Have refused to give any statement to reporters. President has refused to see me until conference completed, and he is showing friendly spirit. I am a Californian trying to do my duty to my state. Cannot succeed if hampered by hostile press of San Francisco."

Meet Roosevelt Today.

At tomorrow's conference the Californians will present their views to President Roosevelt in writing, and a final and definite agreement probably will not be reached until Tuesday. Secretary Root spent two hours at the White House tonight discussing the school question with the President, and it can be authoritatively stated that the President tomorrow will assure Mayor Schmitz and the School Board that if they will agree to end the agitation by abolishing the Oriental schools, the President will in turn use his influence to secure a treaty with Japan that will exclude the coolie labor from this country.

"It can be stated positively," said Mayor Schmitz tonight, "that President Roosevelt has made no definite proposition to us. We discussed the matter with Mr. Roosevelt yesterday, and he understands our position. There has been no change in the situation since that, and cannot be until after tomorrow's conference."

POLICY FUNDS NOT USED

President Orr, of New York Life, Issues a Statement.

NEW YORK, Feb. 10.—A circular letter to policy-holders by Alexander E. Orr, president of the New York Life Insurance Company, was made public today. Mr. Orr declared the company's affairs are being economically conducted. Concerning the reports that the policyholders' funds were used in favor of the tickets for trustees at the recent election, Mr. Orr declared the company's representatives were forbidden to use such funds or to take up the time of salaried employes in business houses and that to the best of his knowledge "not a dollar of the policyholders' money was improperly used."

On the subject of the company's finances, Mr. Orr says that in 1906 there was a heavy shrinkage of bonds of exceptional quality, but the company suffered little as a result, because its statement placed the bonds at their book value. About this depression, he asserts that the assets of the company increased nearly \$3,000,000 in 1906, and the gross assets over legal liabilities are nearly \$100,000,000 more than they were at the close of 1905.

FIRST TRAIN IN WEEKS

Snow Blockade in Montana Finally Railed.

MISSOULA, Mont., Feb. 10.—The first train from Wallace, Idaho, to Missoula for two weeks arrived today. The snow blockade on the Coeur d'Alene branch of the Northern Pacific has been the worst ever experienced. In many places the road was covered by 40 feet of snow, particularly in the Bitter Root Mountains. The train which arrived today had four feet of snow on top, from which may be

EVENTS OF COMING WEEK

At the close of the last week the naval bill was before the House and the Army in the Senate and both will be proceeded with at the earliest opportunity by the two houses respectively. The Senate will continue its work on the Army bill, but the House will devote Monday to legislation for the District of Columbia and will not resume work on the appropriations until Tuesday.

When the Army bill is again taken up the first subject of consideration will be an amendment authorizing the Army officers to accept reduced pay for transportation and allowances expected the debate on that point will continue. This matter disposed of, the bill will be speedily passed.

The general debate in the House on the naval bill will give place on Tuesday to speeches under the five-minute rule, and it is not expected that the measure will consume much more time. In the House the post-office appropriation bill will next receive attention, while in the Senate the bill for the Philippine agricultural school will follow the Army bill, and it will in turn be followed by the agricultural appropriation bill.

Senator Lodge will make an effort in the Senate on Tuesday to secure consideration of the Philippine agricultural bill.

Resume Thaw Trial.

Monday morning the trial in New York City of Harry K. Thaw will be resumed with the defendant's wife on the stand. District Attorney Jerome will probably begin his cross-examination of Mrs. Thaw on Tuesday.

Boston on Tuesday evening, Representative Julius Kahn, of California, will discuss "The Japanese Question," and will argue in favor of the exclusion of Japanese coolies.

Opening of Parliament.

The British Parliament reassembles February 12, in the presence of King Edward and Queen Alexandra at a full state ceremonial. The reopening has aroused intense interest in London as the government intends immediately to inaugurate measures to check the powers of the House of Lords. King Edward has insisted that the speech from the throne be kept secret, and while the address will doubtless refer to the long list of pending Parliamentary measures, it is probable that some reference to the House of Peers may be included. The Irish question also is likely to occupy the attention of the session, the government being about ready to submit the proposed reform measures.

Elaborate preparations have been made for the street parade and the gorgeous ceremony in the House of Lords.

Take Up Colonial Issue.

The Exclusion League arranged last year between Great Britain and the United States will be discussed at length in the Westminster League on Thursday, February 12, when Premier Balfour will make an address on the subject to the British Ministry for the colonies. The arrangement is unpopular in Newfoundland.

Thursday, the National American Woman's Suffrage Association will meet in convention in Chicago.

Judged the amount of snowfall during the time the trains were held in the drifts. Although the road is now clear of snow, there is still great danger to bridges and to the King of the Mountains from snow besides the floods that may be experienced when the thaw comes.

JAPANESE TOLD TO LEAVE

WOODBURN SECTION CREW DELIVERS ULTIMATUM.

White Laborers Object to Southern Pacific Filling Their Places With Little Brown Men.

WOODBURN, Or., Feb. 10.—(Special.)—Considerable feeling was engendered here by the Southern Pacific Company laying off white men employed on the railroad section at this point, and replacing them with eight or ten Japanese.

The feeling ran so high that from 50 to 75 Americans called at the section house last night and warned the Japanese to leave the town.

There was no violence and the brown men promised to leave. They were given until this morning to depart, and left for Portland within the limit specified. A Schiwbauer, the section foreman, refused to work with them, and resigned his position yesterday.

The Japanese decided to go before the premises of a visit from 400 to 500 citizens was carried out.

It is reported that there will be warrants sworn out tomorrow for the arrest of the ringleaders of the crowd that drove the Japanese out.

WILL DROP 38 MIDDIES

Naval Academy Reports Many Others Deficient in Studies.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.—A report received at the Bureau of Navigation of the Navy Department regarding affairs at the naval academy, shows that 28 midshipmen will be dropped on account of deficiencies. It will be turned back and 7 slightly deficient will be warned and continued with their present class. The 28 vacancies will be filled by appointments between now and March 1.

CUT THE TARIFF ON WHEAT

Mexico, Fearing Crop Failure, Wants Cheap Breadstuffs.

CITY OF MEXICO, Feb. 10.—Fearing a wheat famine in the country in consequence of the bad crops, the finance department has considerably decreased the customary tariff on wheat imported from the United States. The duty that wheat will have to pay from February 15 to June 1 will be \$1.50 for 100 kilograms.

GIGANTIC THEFT MADE POSSIBLE

No Record Burning of \$5,000,000 Stamps.

LAX SYSTEM IN TAX BUREAU

Comptroller Glynn, of Albany, Makes Investigation.

WERE IN CHARGE ONE MAN

No Attempt Was Made to Guard Tax Stamps and Only Record of Their Destruction Is Word of Single Employee.

ALBANY, N. Y., Feb. 10.—Comptroller Martin H. Glynn made public tonight the results of an investigation which he has been making into the condition of the Stock Transfer Tax Bureau of his office with reference to the handling and disposal of \$5,000,000 worth of the stamps issued by the department for use in the transfer of stocks under the act of 1905.

According to the comptroller's statement, more than \$5,000,000 worth of the stamps have been destroyed, either in process of manufacture or by actual burning, without adequate record or supervision in the two years since the act was passed, and there was only the personal word of a single clerk, salaried at \$350 and not under bond, to certify the fact that they were destroyed at all.

Under Ordinary Lock.

The stamps were printed by Quayle & Son, of this city. The plates were in the custody of the Comptroller's representative, and each day were delivered to Quayle. The paper first used was of an ordinary commercial sort, which Comptroller Glynn said was stored in the Quayle shop, under an ordinary lock, in an ordinary room, and while sheets were counted out before printing, there was no safeguard to prevent their being extracted.

The Comptroller declares the count of sheets does not tally, the explanation being that some of it was used for other purposes. The first issue was found to be susceptible of counterfeiting, and in May or June of last year the printing of these was stopped, and a new issue was begun on patent paper.

"When the new paper, which was to defy counterfeiting, came to hand," said the Comptroller, "it received no better safeguard, but was left in the Quayle shop. And the Comptroller's seal with which the bundles were sealed was apparently as carelessly treated."

A statement was made to him by Watkins, the Comptroller said, adding: "He says that early in October he took all that remained of the old issue of stamps from the vaults down to Quayle's shop in Green street, boxed them up, and they remained there without guard or watching at least one night. The safe deposit people say, however, they were not returned until December 23.

Burned Without Counting.

"There were over 2,000,000 in this lot—1,250,211 which had been returned by the Bank of Manhattan County to the official distributors of the stamps, and 1,000,000 which had never been issued. I do not know how long they remained at the Green-street shop, but, according to Watkins' statement, they were brought back here to the Statehouse on December 29. Two days before I assumed office they were burned in the furnace downstairs without being counted or checked up, and without saving a single stamp, who was in no way legally responsible for their care. The record of the burning of December 29 was not entered until December 31, the day before I took office."

RIOTERS BEAT ITALIANS

Assault on Motorman Enrages Passengers on Streetcar.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 10.—Police reserves were called out tonight to quell a streetcar riot on Sutter street between Fillmore and Devisadero streets. The motorman of an outboard Sutter-street car, obeying an order recently issued by the United Railroads, stopped his car because four Italians persisted in hanging onto the running board on the locked side of the car. They were finally induced by angry passengers to come inside, and the motorman threw on the current.

One of the Italians then stepped up behind the motorman and knocked him senseless with a blow of his fist. A quick-witted passenger succeeded in bringing the car to a stop within the block, and the passengers, about 100 in number, proceeded to give the Italians a fearful beating. The police reserves were called out, and they had to use their clubs to restore order.

PRESIDENT SENDS ADVICE

Writes Letter Setting Forth Ideas on Duties of Mothers.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Feb. 10.—Mrs. E. H. Merrill, of this city, president of the New York State Mothers' Assembly, is in receipt of a letter from President Roosevelt in which he defined the place of the

STRANGE CASE GEORGE EDALJI

Conan Doyle Turns Detective Himself.

MYSTERY NEW DREYFUS CASE

English World Stirred Over Recent Startling Disclosures.

EFFORT TO RIGHT WRONG

His Majesty's Criminal Courts Believed to Have Blundered and Young Lawyer Has Suffered an Unjust Imprisonment.

Special Cable to the New York Times.

LONDON, Feb. 10.—Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, the creator of that wonderful and world-beloved character, Sherlock Holmes, is walking in the footsteps of his literary child and practicing the art in which Holmes so greatly excelled. He is endeavoring to right what he conceives to be a grievous

wrong. With all the energy and all the skill he can command, and with no other motive than a desire and a determination that justice shall be done the man who, he believes, has suffered and is suffering punishment for another's crime, he is working day and night to vindicate the character of George Edalji, a young lawyer of Birmingham, restore to him his good name and secure for him satisfactory reparation for the great injury done him through the blundering operations of one of His Majesty's criminal courts.

"A Dreyfus Case in Little" is the phrase which inevitably suggests itself to any one who follows the ramifications of this Staffordshire tragedy. The victim of an anonymous but daring hostility for years, young Edalji was in 1905 convicted of serious crimes and sentenced to seven years' penal servitude. At that time the neighborhood of Great Wyrley was in a state of panic over a series of outrages, chiefly the brutal maiming and slaughter of horses and cattle and the circulation of unsigned letters spreading scandal and threats. The police of the district were active against Edalji.

Expect to Release Edalji.

Sir Conan Doyle has summoned the attention of the whole English world to the events of the Great Wyrley case, and the proceedings of the Quarter Sessions Court, which convicted Edalji, and the persistence in support of his sentence of two Home Secretaries and their advisers. As a result of his efforts, Sir Conan believes that he will succeed in his aim, and that within a very short time Edalji, who now is living the life of a convicted felon, released from prison on ticket-of-leave, will stand among his fellows a free man purged of the disgrace that has attached to him since October, 1902.

The method adopted by Sir Conan of the kind he has made famous in his literary work. He visited the scene of the crimes, saw the accused, studied the contemporary accounts of the trial, and then sat down and wrote for the Daily Telegraph an analysis of the evidence, applying the principles he has made familiar through his employment by Sherlock Holmes. His story of "The Strange Case of George Edalji" reads like a new adventure of Sherlock Holmes; the keenness of its scrutiny of facts, the brilliancy of its deductions, the literary art which builds up in the reader's mind a progressive conviction that the accused man is innocent, make a tale which, were it fiction, would be as breathlessly interesting as any of the author's stories, and which, being an accurate statement of an actual case loudly calling for rectification, is doubly thrilling.

Makes Case National Issue.

Sir Conan has made a national issue out of an affair in which, until he took it up, the British public had only a languid interest. A month ago there were comparatively few persons who knew enough about the matter to form opinions on the merits of the contention that Edalji was guiltless of the crimes of which he was convicted—that of maiming a horse and that of writing a letter threatening the murder of a police sergeant.

Today it seems to be the general belief of intelligent people in this country that Edalji had nothing whatever to do with those offenses. Dr. Doyle apparently has convinced the British public of Edalji's innocence, and it is believed that the Home Office is rapidly advancing toward the same conclusion.

They told me at the Home Office today that recent developments in the Edalji case were being minutely examined, and that a decision would be announced as soon as possible. A decision favorable to Edalji is generally expected.

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TRY STEVE ADAMS TODAY

IMPORTANT MURDER CASE TO BEGIN AT WALLACE.

Man Who Made Confession in Steuenerberg Case, Charged With Death of Fred Tyler.

BOISE, Idaho, Feb. 10.—(Special.)—The trial of Steve Adams will begin at Wallace tomorrow. He is charged with the murder of Fred Tyler, on the St. Joseph River, in August, 1904. Adams is the man who made a confession in the Steuenerberg case and afterward repudiated it and sued out a writ of habeas corpus to escape from the hands of the state, though he would have been released at any time upon making a demand.

In his confession he told of this Tyler murder, saying it was committed at the instance of one Simpson, the man who is so badly wanted in connection with the murder of the former Governor. That was the first knowledge the state had of the facts of the crime, though it had always been laid to the door of Simpson. Adams told several persons the story, and two or three of these will go on the stand and testify.

It is not believed by the prosecution that the defense will attempt to delay the trial. Though D. F. Richardson, of counsel for Meyer and Haywood, is defending him, and J. H. Hawley, counsel for the state in the greater case, is assisting in the prosecution, it is not thought the policy of delay will be adopted, as in the other cases it gets the theory that the defense hopes to get some points in this trial on the extent of the state's information, thus affecting the Meyer case.

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