

PRESIDENT WORKS ON STRIKE MESSAGE

Appeal to Congress for Preventive Legislation Definitely Decided On.

OPERATION IS DISCUSSED

Problem of Keeping Railroads Open if Strike Is Called Proves Difficult and Opinion Is Divided on Details.

(Continued From First Page)
duced as amendments to the bill, which already has passed the House, increasing the Interstate Commerce Commission from seven to nine members.

Although on the surface a National railroad strike was nearer tonight than it ever had been, confidence was expressed in official quarters that the steps under contemplation would have the effect of preventing the walkout.

The President, realizing the disaster which would come to the country if the railroads are tied up, said he determined to prevent a strike at any cost. In his conferences with executives he strongly urged that they change their hitherto unyielding attitude and when he saw the employees he declared that all suggestions from the executives should be given most careful consideration.

Joint Session to Be Held.
Final arrangements for the appearance of the President before Congress were not completed tonight, but he discussed the question fully with the Democratic steering committee of the Senate and the members agreed with him that he should address a joint session.

The time of his appearance depends largely upon further conferences tomorrow with the executives and the employees. At today's conference the railroad presidents did not formally present the statement agreed on by them last Friday night, which amounted to a flat refusal of his plan of settlement.

This statement has been signed by all the executives, but its presentation was withheld in the interest of peace. President Wilson was informed verbally of its terms, however.

Throughout the day there appeared to be some possibility that an agreement might be reached on a plan which would include concession of the eight-hour day, but postponement of its effectiveness until the railroad heads had an opportunity to prepare for it. Hope of persuading the railroad managers to agree to such a plan had not been given up tonight.

Railroads Make Statement.
After their conference with Mr. Wilson, the executives gave out a statement in which they said they had laid before the President a "suggestion" in the nature of a proposition for progress toward solution of the questions at issue.

Although it seems certain that there will be opposition from Republicans in Congress to the legislative suggestions of the President, Administration leaders think it will be possible to get the laws through within a short time. The visit of the brotherhood heads to the White House came within half an hour after the President had left the capitol. They hastened from their hotel to the Executive Mansion and arrived shortly after 7 o'clock, while the President was at dinner. Their conference with the President lasted until 11 o'clock. He handed one copy of the railroad's counter proposal to A. E. Garretson, spokesman for the employees, and said he would not discuss it in any way. It is known, however, that the brotherhood men gathered that he did not strongly approve of it. Conversation about strike order followed, and then the brotherhood heads departed.

Call at White House Secret.
Every effort was made to keep the call at the White House secret. The union heads returned to their hotel singly and by separate routes. News that copies of the strike order sent out yesterday were in the hands of the railway president occasioned no surprise among the brotherhoods. After it became known yesterday that they suspected three of their number as acting as spies for the railroad heads, they said frankly that they expected the strike order soon would be in their employers' hands. More than 6000 copies of the order, it was learned today, were mailed out of Washington last night and each of the committee of 60 also received a copy. Copies in the hands of the executives are supposed to have been mailed back here from nearby points.

Labor day was agreed upon as the time for the tentative strike order to become operative, it developed today, after careful study of the proposed dates. It finally was chosen on account of the belief that a demonstration by the 2,000,000 or more union men who will march in Labor day parades in behalf of the brotherhoods would have the effect of winning much public support for the strikers. By Labor day the strike order will have been scattered to all points on all divisions of the country.

Although the strike order is for 7 o'clock next Monday some lines affected probably would not be tied up before some time that night if the order were released.

Every member of the brotherhood, whether an employe on a passenger, freight, or mail train, is subject to the strike order. Brotherhood heads indicated last week that supply trains running to the Mexican border, some passenger trains and possibly some milk trains would be exempted. Tonight they declared that all trains would be tied up.

"We hope to tie up all freight and passenger trains," one of the leaders said. The strike order is brief. It is addressed to all members of the four brotherhoods, is signed by the various general chairmen, and reads as follows: "Sirs and Brothers: This is to advise that the vote of the employes in train and engine services on the eight-hour day and time and one-half over-

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Resinol Ointment and Resinol Soap also greatly help to clear away pimples and dandruff. Sold by all druggists. For trial free write to Resinol, Dept. 22-R, Baltimore, Md.

GRANT AND TAXES MAY BE LIMITED

Attorney-General Brown Sees Possibility of Maximum Valuation at \$2.50.

FEDERATION IS COMMEMDED

Speedy Collection of Back Taxes and Quick Sale of Lands That They May Again Be Put on Assessment Rolls Advised.

EUGENE, Or., Aug. 28.—(Special).—George M. Brown, Attorney-General of the state of Oregon, intimated at a meeting of representatives of the Oregon and California land grant counties held in Eugene tonight that there is a probability that the Federal Government in the payment of back taxes on Oregon and California lands may take the position that the taxing power of the state was limited to \$2.50 an acre and that assessments based on the relative value of other lands in the counties were not valid. He said the collection of the back taxes was a subject of great concern and he recommended that the counties take steps to procure the payment as speedily as possible.

While in Washington last Spring Attorney-General Brown said he consulted the Secretary of the Interior Department and the secretary indicated the view that as Congress had provided for the sale of the lands by the railroad company at \$2.50 an acre, the amount possibly could not be assessed for a greater amount. At the time, as the representative of the state of Oregon, the speaker said, he had held out for the payment of the taxes on the full value.

Plan to Sell Lands Commenced.
Attorney-General Brown cited the provision of the act of Congress reserving title to the Oregon and California lands in the Government, providing the taxes shall be paid as determined by the secretary of the Interior Department. He commended the plan to form a federation of the land grant counties for the purpose of "having these lands sold and the proceeds used to pay the back taxes on the tax roll."

Referring to the act of Congress he reviewed the history of the federal lands. He said that when the litigation was first suggested he advised against it, fearing the creation of greater reserves within the state and the removal of the land from taxation. He called attention to the act of the Legislature providing for the forfeiture of California lands and asserted that the state of Oregon, through the Legislature, invited Congress to do the thing that it has done.

Act Regarded as Valid.
Attorney-General Brown read section 12 of the act of July 25, 1866, the saving clause of the original land-grant act, which, he said, gave the Government the power to declare by statute the railroad company and to revert title to the United States Government. He based his view upon the assumption that the act of Congress in reverting title in the Government was valid, and asserted that the Oregon and California lands are not subject to taxation. "It is sufficient if the title is in the United States, the exemption from taxation attaches," he said, "and the citations in support of the statement."

Attorney L. E. Bean represented the Federation of Oregon Port Districts at the conference. The federation at a meeting held in Marshfield went on record favoring the placing of the lands on the tax rolls. Mr. Bean said: "So far as the people of Oregon and the land-grant counties are concerned, one of two things is true: Either it is legal or it is illegal to tax these lands. If it is legal, we certainly want the lands on the tax rolls. If it is illegal to tax them, then anything we may do in writing the lands on the tax rolls or otherwise in of no avail and should not be a matter of concern to administrative officers of the Government."

Agreement to Pay Important.
"As a matter of fact, last year's tax was levied after Judge Wolverton had declared the lands forfeited absolutely to the Government, and the railroad had declared its belief the tax would be void. Now the Supreme Court has reversed Judge Wolverton, declaring that the railroad has an interest in the land and Congress has passed the reversion act, recognizing the title of the railroad and agrees to pay the railroad \$2.50 an acre for all the land to be reverted."

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The President reached the Senate office building a few minutes before 4 o'clock. He was ushered down one of the long corridors to a committee-room where the committeemen awaited him. Senators present were: Kern, Indiana; Owen, Virginia; Chamberlain, Oregon; Owen, Oklahoma; O'Gorman, New York; Thomas, Colorado; Reed, Missouri; James, Kentucky, and Williams, Mississippi.

The conference continued two hours and a half. As the President left the committee-room he passed a group of newspaper correspondents and was about to leave the building. He turned suddenly, however, and summoned the newspaper men.

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"Just when the President will come before Congress will depend upon developments in the railroad controversy," said Senator Kern. "But should he send word that he will call a joint session it can be quickly arranged."

Senator Kern would not discuss details of the conference further than to say that the whole matter was thoroughly talked over. Senator Chamberlain of Colorado, when asked how long Congress might be detained by the legislative proposals, said: "If everything proposed is passed we will be here until December."

Senators of both parties were informed during the day of the general outline of legislation which is being worked into shape for submission to Congress. Senator Newlands is consulting informally with his colleagues on the Interstate Commerce Commission, but will not summon the committee in formal session until a draft is presented of the bill covering the proposals which the President and his advisers have in mind. Deliberations on this subject will be resumed tomorrow.

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Quality

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the favorites in a million homes and built up the biggest pure-food business on the Pacific Coast.

Swastikas are made of the purest ingredients in big sunlit plants, under the supervision of men who are famous all over America as Masters in the art of baking.

Remember there's a Swastika Biscuit for every taste and all taste delicious.

Pacific Coast Biscuit Co. Portland, Oregon

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Railway Attorneys Shift.
A. C. Spencer Succeeds W. W. Cotton on O.-W. R. & N.
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LADD ESTATE COMPANY PRINCIPALS. What did you decide? A home of your own right now? Or another indefinite period of renting? Very likely a year ago you nearly decided to buy and build, but you found SOME reason why you shouldn't do it right then. Don't put it OFF this time. If you do, another twelve months will pass by and again you'll find another excuse. You'll get the habit of procrastinating and that usually means a life of renting and moving. The two go together. Decide right now that you will have a home of your own. Lots of people who have put it off for years are taking action now, realizing that construction costs are going higher almost daily and that the sooner the contract is let, the bigger will be their saving. This fact is causing many to buy, and the more who buy the higher property values will go on desirable homesites. Don't be one of those unlucky persons who seems to always pay the highest price for everything they get, merely because they wait and wait until demand is at its height. We'll never be able to offer you a better proposition than we can now. Prices are based on present, not future, valuations, and with the Ladd Thrift Plan offering 6% money, you can realize why immediate action is advisable. Take that action today. F. N. Clark & Co. SELLING REPRESENTATIVES Concord Bldg 2nd & Stark. Westmoreland Dunthorpe