

PRESIDENT HARDING TO USE POWER TO MAINTAIN TRANSPORTATION AND PROTECT RIGHTS OF WORKERS

No Matter What Clouds May Gather or Hardships May Be Necessary, Government by Law Must and Will Be Sustained, Says President in Message to Congress—Federal Commission to Make Investigation of Coal Industry Recommended.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 18.—(By the Associated Press.)—The text of President Harding's address to congress on the industrial situation was as follows: Gentlemen of the Congress: It is manifestly my duty to bring to your attention the industrial situation which confronts the country. The situation growing out of the prevailing railway and coal mining strikes is so serious, so menacing to the nation's welfare that I should be remiss if I failed frankly to lay the matter before you and at the same time acquaint you and the whole people with such efforts as the executive branch of the government has made by the voluntary efforts of its good offices to effect a settlement.

PRINCIPAL POINTS IN PRESIDENT HARDING'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS ON STRIKE SITUATION.

Right of employees and employers to conduct their business recognized and "warfare on unions of labor" deplored. National investigation for constructive recommendations as to conduct of coal industry declared necessary. Government commission to advise as to fair wages and conditions recommended. Immediate legislation to establish temporarily a "national coal agency" with necessary capital to purchase, sell and distribute coal urged. Each-Cummings act in establishing railroad labor board declared inadequate, with little or no power to enforce decisions. Action recommended to make board's decisions "enforceable and effective against carriers and employees alike."

tuting the necessary forces in all ways operation, shall be permitted to choose a course which imperils public welfare. Neither organizations of workers or working men's unions may escape responsibility. When a public service is so vitally affected that responsibility and public interest require that the means of organized capital or organized labor.

Workers' Rights Denied. Another development is so significant that the hardships of the moment may well be endured to rivet popular attention to the necessary settlement. It is fundamental to all freedom that all men have unquestioned rights to lawful pursuits, to work and to live and choose their own means of livelihood. In these strikes these rights have been denied by assault and violence, by armed lawlessness. In many communities the municipal authorities have been unable to maintain law and order. Liberty is a mockery and the law a matter of community contempt. It is fair to say that the great mass of organized workmen do not approve but, if they seem helpless to hinder. These conditions cannot remain in free America. If free men are to be free, they must have the freedom of a hundred millions is surrendered to the small minority who would have it.

The suspension of the coal industry dates back to last April 1, when the working agreement between mine operators and the United Mine Workers came to an end. Anticipating that expiration of contract which was negotiated in 1920, the government's sanction in 1920, the president administration sought, and in last October, conference between the operators and miners in order to facilitate either a new or extended agreement in order to avoid any suspension of production when April 1 arrived. At that time the mine workers declined to confer, though the operators were agreeable, the mine workers accusing their declaration on the ground that the union officials could have no authority to negotiate and after their annual convention.

Harding concludes: "No matter what clouds may gather, no matter what storms may ensue, what sacrifices may be necessary, government by law must and will be sustained. Wherefore I am resolved to use all the power of the government to maintain protection and sustain the right of men to work." The necessity for such a searching national investigation with constructive recommendations is imperative. The government's efforts are clearing, but unless we find a cure for the economic ills which are afflicting the country, we shall be faced with like menacing situations on next April on the expiration of the wage contracts which now are being made.

There is existing law by which to settle the prevailing disputes. There are statutes forbidding conspiracy to hinder interstate commerce. There are laws to assure the highest possible safety of railway service. It is my purpose to invoke these laws, civil and criminal, against all offenders. The legal safeguarding against like menacing and disruptive situations when no passion sways, when no prejudice influences, when the public welfare may be asserted against any and every interest, is the power of the government itself.

Government's Efforts Fail. It is to be noted that when the suspension began large stocks of coal were on hand, mined at wages higher than those paid during the war. There was only the buying impelled by the government, but a belief that coal must yield to the post-war readjustment. When the stocks on hand began to diminish as to menace industry and hinder transportation, approximately 10,000,000 bushels were initiated by the government in the hope of expediting settlement. These included individual and district tenders of settlement on the parts of some of the operators. The dominant groups among the operators were insistent on having district agreements, the dominant mine workers were demanding a nation-wide settlement. The government, being without authority to enforce a strike settlement in the coal industry, could only volunteer its good offices in finding a way of adjustment.

Need for Inquiry Evident. The need for such investigation and independent consideration is revealed by both operators and mine workers. The government's efforts are clearing, but unless we find a cure for the economic ills which are afflicting the country, we shall be faced with like menacing situations on next April on the expiration of the wage contracts which now are being made. The need for such investigation and independent consideration is revealed by both operators and mine workers. The government's efforts are clearing, but unless we find a cure for the economic ills which are afflicting the country, we shall be faced with like menacing situations on next April on the expiration of the wage contracts which now are being made.

It is not my thought to ask congress to deal with these fundamental problems at this time. No action would contribute to the solution of the present industrial situation. There is existing law by which to settle the prevailing disputes. There are statutes forbidding conspiracy to hinder interstate commerce. There are laws to assure the highest possible safety of railway service. It is my purpose to invoke these laws, civil and criminal, against all offenders. The legal safeguarding against like menacing and disruptive situations when no passion sways, when no prejudice influences, when the public welfare may be asserted against any and every interest, is the power of the government itself.

Proposals in Declined. The disputants all endorsed the suggestion of a fact-finding commission. The anthracite operators promptly accepted the suggestion, but the majority of the bituminous mine workers refused to resume work under the arbitration plan. By majority vote the operators filed an acceptance, but a considerable minority declined the proposal. Under the circumstances, having authority to demand compliance, the government had no other course than to invite a resumption of production under the rights and obligations to the controversy with assurance of government protection of each and every one in his lawful pursuits. This fact was communicated to the governors of all coal-producing states and with two exceptions assurances of maintained law and order were promptly given. In some instances concrete proof of effective readiness to protect all men, strikers and non-strikers alike, was promptly given. But little or no production followed.

Curbing Profiteering Thought. The administration earnestly has sought to restrain profiteering and to secure the rightful distribution of such coal as has been available in the emergency. There was no legal power for price control. There has been cordial co-operation in many fields, a fine revelation of business conscience stronger than the temptation to profit by a people's misfortune. There have been instances of that refusal, I rejoice to make grateful acknowledgment of those who preferred to contribute to national welfare rather than profit by a nation's distress. If it may have your approval, I recommend immediate provision for temporary national coal agency with needed capital to purchase, sell and distribute coal, which is carried by the railroad labor board directly affecting approximately 600,000 men. The agency's decision is not for discussion here. The decision has been lost sight of in subsequent developments. In an event, it was always possible to appeal for rehearing and it is always a safe assumption that a government agency of adjustment deciding unjustly will be quick to make right any wrong.

Breakdown is Threatened. Under these conditions of hindrance and intimidation there has been such a lack of care of motive power that the deterioration of locomotives and the non-compliance with the safety requirements of the carriers is threatening the breakdown of transportation. This very serious menace is magnified by the millions of bushels of coal, and other producers of perishable foodstuffs, and comparable losses to farmers who depend on transportation to market their grains at harvest time. Even worse is the hindering of transport of available coal when industry is on the verge of paralysis because of a coal shortage, and life and health are menaced by a coal famine in the great centers of population. Surely the threatening conditions must impress the congress and the country that no body of men whether limited in numbers and responsible for railway management, or powerful in numbers and consti-

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"THE BLACK PAINTHER OF PARIS" ALSO "A SCANDAL IN BOHEMIA" BILLY LLOYD SINGING LATEST SONG HITS. DE LUXE SUNDAY CONCERT Direction SALVATORE SANTAELLA 12.40 NOON TOMORROW. Programme: "Capriccio Espagnole" (Caprice on Spanish Themes), "Alborada", "Cortana", "Scintille", "N. Rimsky-Korsakov Op. 34", "Serenade", "The Act II. of the Opera 'Cyrano'", "Valse Bluette" (Air de Ballet), "Der Geist des Wajowodan", "Overture" by J. Grossmann.

COMING—GUY BATES POST in "THE MASQUERADER"—COMING NOW PLAYING TODAY. DIRECTION GUS A. METZGER. NEWS COMEDY.

Because of these things, because of the impressions of many cases of unjustified profits in the industry and because public interest demands investigation and demands the finding of facts to be given to the public, I am asking at your hands the authority to create a commission to make a searching investigation into the whole coal industry, with provision for its lawful activities and bestowal of authority. At the expiration of each phase of coal production, sale and distribution, I am asking that on behalf of mine workers, mine operators and the American public I appoint the way to continuity of production and the better economic condition of the industry in the future.

Law Held Inadequate. The law creating the railroad labor board is inadequate. Contrary to popular impression, it has little or no power to enforce its decisions. It cannot call a strike and manifestly cannot enforce its decisions. The enforcement of compulsory arbitration, against all offenders alike, is my purpose. The legal safeguarding against like menacing and disruptive situations when no passion sways, when no prejudice influences, when the public welfare may be asserted against any and every interest, is the power of the government itself.

Wherefore I am resolved to use all the power of the government to maintain protection and sustain the right of men to work. The necessity for such a searching national investigation with constructive recommendations is imperative. The government's efforts are clearing, but unless we find a cure for the economic ills which are afflicting the country, we shall be faced with like menacing situations on next April on the expiration of the wage contracts which now are being made.

all the power of the government to maintain transportation and sustain the right of men to work. by Mrs. Edna Geer, Linn superintendent, and E. H. Castle, Benton superintendent. The Linn and Benton institutes will take place on the same three days during the last week in November. In co-operating counties.

Gold Vein Is Found. GRANT'S PASS, Or. Aug. 18.—(Special.)—A small pocket of gold, seven miles from Kerby, yielded over \$1200 in free gold. Two prospectors stumbled on the vein and took the metal out in three days.

Institutes to Co-Operate. ALBANY, Or. Aug. 18.—(Special.)—Linn and Benton counties will join in bringing outside talent to the annual county teacher institutes next November. Such was the outcome of a conference held here.

Northern Pacific Railway Company Will Employ Men at Rates Prescribed by the United States Railroad Labor Board as Follows: MACHINISTS 70 cents per hour. BLACKSMITHS 70 cents per hour. SHEET METAL WORKERS 70 cents per hour. ELECTRICIANS 70 cents per hour. STATIONARY ENGINEERS Various Rates. STATIONARY FIREMEN Various Rates. BOILERMAKERS 70 to 70½ cents per hour. PASSENGER CAR MEN 70 cents per hour. FREIGHT CAR MEN 63 cents per hour. HELPERS, ALL CLASSES 47 cents per hour.

Men Wanted. Mechanics and helpers are allowed time and one-half for time worked in excess of eight hours per day. Strike conditions prevail. Young men who desire to learn these trades will be employed and given an opportunity to do so. A strike now exists on the Northern Pacific Ry. Apply to Any Roundhouse or Shops or Superintendent. NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY AT TACOMA, WASH. Resinol products at all druggists.