

Labor Troubles Will Strike East With Spring Season

Chicago Plans Subways Lined by Stores—Cowboy Millionaire Stirs Up Politicians—Illinois Women Try to Win Suffrage With Beauty Squad.

BY JONATHAN PALMER.

CHICAGO, March 27.—As the country east of the Alleghenies suffered most severely from the money panic of 1907-8, so it is likely to feel more keenly than the West the stress of the labor troubles to be precipitated April 1 and May 1. Chicago will begin to feel the effect of wage differences at the end of this month, but it is not to be the storm center of the labor scenes, such as featured the historic and violent upheavals of past years. The West is fortunate in that the bituminous coal interests signed a two-year agreement last year, hence there is to be no strike of soft coal miners in Ohio, the Pittsburgh district in Pennsylvania, Indiana, Illinois and Iowa, unless, possibly, here and there for local reasons. There is the menace, of course, of a sympathetic strike of the bituminous miners if certain developments should come in the coal-ette field, but that contingency is considered remote.

Appeal to Rank and File.

Wholesale grocery employees, steamfitters and a few other unions may start trouble at the end of this month, but the real, large interest in labor affairs locally will not come until May 1. At that time the agreement with ironworkers, masons, plumbers and a dozen other labor unions expires, and the temper of the employers just now warrants the forecast of a disturbance of wide-spread possibility. Building contractors are stubbornly opposing the demands of the labor leaders and are banding together for a hard fight when the crisis comes. They are personally appealing to the rank and file of labor with suggestions that the wages and conditions the leaders would exact are unwarranted and unfair. Increases asked for range from 25 to 75 cents a day. Some of the unions making such demands are bricklayers, structural ironworkers, plumbers, electrical workers, tilers, sheet-metal workers, steamfitters, helpers and building laborers. Electrical contractors are wrathful over a cool, brief, pointed notice they have received from the union. It reads like this:

"We wish to notify you that on and after April 1, 1909, our wages will be 25 cents an hour. As soon as working rules are perfect will mail you a copy."

It is the arbitrary spirit implied in this notice which the contractors resent. It leaves the alternative of compliance or strike in the most cold-blooded fashion, and it is that attitude which promises to put a check on Chicago's activity.

New Chicago Underground.

Pleasant dreams have come to the Chicago straphanger. The wise men who are mapping out a system of subways for the business district have cast his horoscope and foretold the day of his emancipation. If he will contentedly hang onto his strap a few years longer, they say, he will thereafter always have a seat and live happily evermore. And the prayer of the straphanger is that he may not be jarred out of that dream.

Not only is the hope of a subway held out, but it is to be so far ahead of the New York underground transportation system that the two are not to be spoken of in the same breath. It is a pleasant prospect for a city where nearly a third of the 2,000,000 or more inhabitants converge every working day into a territory little more than a mile square; where the elevator men of fabled nature are wont to cry "All out for Chicago" when they reach the ground floor of skyscrapers. When the dream comes true, there is to be no more noise from elevated trains roaring over lofty structures, no more blocking of traffic, no more delays in getting to work and getting home again and no more people crushed to death at crossings.

Streets Along Subways.

If the plans be carried out in all their splendor, there will be a sub-Chicago quite as interesting and picturesque as that at the surface of the streets. In several of the streets it is proposed that the subway shall extend from curb to curb with sub-sidewalks and sub-show windows, where merchants may have an extra story for the parade of wax figures dressed in Paris gowns. What a chance to get away from the sweltering heat of the summer! What opportunity for a ramble in artificial moonlight in broad daylight!

Seriously, the report goes on to say that at the present rate of growth, Chicago in 1940 will be a city of 5,400,000 inhabitants and that the number of streetcar riders will be much larger than it is today. This conclusion is arrived at from figures which show that streetcar traffic in the last few years has increased much more rapidly than the population. In the year 1940 it is estimated the number of passengers will be 2,200,000,000, or more than 25 times the present population of the whole United States. A four-track subway will cost \$2,500,000 a mile, but that is reckoned small outlay compared to the prospective annual receipts of \$110,000,000 in streetcar 5-cent fares 20 years from now.

Off the plains of Kansas there came to Chicago five years ago a young

man who is setting the politicians of Illinois by the ears. He is Chauncey Dewey, the picturesque millionaire who became mixed up in a cattle war in the Sunflower State in 1905, in which the Berry family was wiped out. Dewey and some of his cowboy associates were arrested for the killing and the legal battle that ensued was notable in its day. The defendants finally were purged of the charge by the Supreme Court of Kansas and young Dewey put aside his boots and spurs and his leather hat and belt and came to Chicago. Almost immediately he plunged into politics in a small way and since then his power has grown until he has corralled, branded and claimed as his own the political forces of his ward and has his scouts out to round up others.

Mr. Dewey leaped into party prominence last summer, when he spoiled Uncle Joe Cannon's chances for a solid delegation from Illinois at the National convention for the Presidency by swinging the delegates of his home district for Taft. He was the only man in the state who had the courage to try such a thing. His business and success made a hit with Frank H. Hitchcock, and that gentleman began to cultivate a high political regard for the former cowboy. It is credibly reported from Washington that Mr. Hitchcock would like to divorce Dan A. Campbell from the postmastership of Chicago, and hand it over to Fighting Chauncey with the \$8000 salary attached.

Mr. Dewey does not need the money. He would have to save the entire stipend for a period of 200 years to double what he has now. There are hundreds of other "perfectly good" Republicans who need just such a job. Mr. Campbell would like to hold on to it. Perhaps he will, but the hobnobbing of Mr. Dewey with the powers in Washington has stirred up the animal from Chicago to Cairo. He is looked upon by the old-timers more or less as an upstart and an interloper. The place-seekers probably are borrowing trouble. Those who know Mrs. Dewey say he is not craving any job himself, but that he wishes to be consulted in the distribution of Illinois patronage to the end that his influence may still further be broadened. Like a cowboy, he loves excitement and the fight. Like a politician, he yearns for power.

Win Suffrage by Charms.

In the story of last week it was said things were shaping for some picturesque doings by woman suffragists at Springfield while the present Legislature is in session. Since then it has been frankly announced by the leaders in the movement that they are still women in all municipal affairs in Chicago that there are to be no London does, no chaining of members to seats, no haranguing from wagons and that sort of thing. After studying the members of the Legislature, many of whom are young men and others elderly gentlemen who love to be flattered by a pretty woman, it has been decided that the best campaign will be one of loveliness, gentleness and smiles.

Some of the foremost advocates of woman suffrage, notably Mrs. Catherine McCulloch, will tackle the proposition along the lines of logic. Where reason is the better thing to be appealed to, she will furnish the argument. Not along the lines of logic, but of the subject of the franchise are to be reinforced and backed up by younger matrons and a few lassies whose chief argument will be their womanly charms. This kind of campaign has been successfully used by women in previous years to get what they wanted out of the legislature. It is expected to be particularly effective in this instance.

Put Beauty Squad to Work.

It is proposed to send a beauty squad to Springfield—girls with pretty eyes and engaging manner, girls who talk fascinatingly, if not profoundly. Encouraged by the active interest of Mrs. Clarence Mackay and other society women of New York in this movement, the fashionable set of Chicago is not so backward about allying itself with the suffrage people as it used to be. Members of clubs who five years ago would hardly have dreamed of offering their services in the cause are lending their encouragement now. And so the lobby at Springfield is to be a lobby of pulchritude. Little dinner parties, hotel tete-a-tetes and other entirely becoming entertainments of an informal sort are to figure in the tactics, and if smiles do not bring suffrage the day of it will be put off, that's all.

New Way to Collect Taxes.

That hybrid word "taxi-cab," for which the entomologist will try in vain to find a defense, has brought about a peculiar innovation, presumably by the association of ideas or sounds. Somebody over in the county collector's office got the word swinging in his mind, and he thought of taxi-van. Why not since his sole task is the collection of taxes? It occurred to him that a van might be put into use to coax back taxes out of delinquents. The idea "caught on" immediately, and the touring of the taxi-van is now a daily spectacle in Chicago. Police wagons and hospital ambulances and wrecking vehicles are old stories. The curious ones have deserted them and turned their attention to the taxi-van.

It is a short, sharp and decisive method, this taxi-van business. A route is made out each day. It includes the

establishments of those who are in arrears. Following this route, the van backs up in front of a store. A man goes inside and suggests it is about time to settle. No time is wasted in parleying. If the delinquent doesn't toe the scratch several hussies are summoned and store equipment and goods are bundled into the van in the street. This proceeding always attracts a crowd, and it is not a good advertisement for any business man. To minimize its effect he hurriedly dashes off a check for arrearages and any penalties, hands it to the collector and pleads for the return of his wares. He gets them, and the wagon moves off elsewhere.

Whoever thought of this device is a genius in his way. It is interesting what effect it has had on delinquents. A good many thousands of dollars in taxes is being added to the city's exchequer. Having the van back up to a store is like having a yellow flag hung out there. The very effectiveness of the practice will result finally in its abandonment, for the reason that there will be no occasion to use it.

Fans Praying for Deliverer.

If there is such a thing as thought waves beating against a distant surf, Portland must have had peculiar sensations the last few weeks. Baseball fans are as a rule not given to praying, but they can long and yearn about as intensely as the next class. They have been thinking of and yearning for one Fiedler Jones to come back and lead the White Sox to another pennant. Still another big class of fans has been yearning for one John Kling to send out of Kansas City the word that he is coming back to the fold of the Cubs for another season. Despair succeeded hope when the backstop with the voice announced the other day that he is done with the diamond, and that the Cubs must look elsewhere for "first aid to the injured."

It would be hard for one not living in Chicago to realize what a blow it is to the Chicago baseball crank that Jones finds Portland and Kling finds Kansas City so attractive in a business way that they are unwilling to sacrifice themselves on the altar of the great American sport. The pangs of disappointment are peculiarly poignant because Chicagoans have acquired so strongly the habit of expecting pennants, and it so happens that more than to any other two players perhaps, they have learned to look to Jones and Kling as the saving graces.

WANTS JUDGE BEAN TO STAY

Too Valuable a Man to Leave Oregon Supreme Bench.

PORTLAND, March 27.—(To the Editor.)—Having noticed that a petition is being circulated among the lawyers of Portland to have Judge Robert S. Bean appointed to fill the Federal judicial position lately created in the District of Oregon, I deem it the duty of persons interested to make known their views as to the desirability of such appointment.

Judge Bean has been a member of the Supreme Court of the State of Oregon for 18 years and has become thoroughly acquainted during that time with his duties as a member of our court. At the time of his election to the supreme bench Judge Bean was Chief Justice, and I believe residing at Eugene at that time. There was opposition to his becoming a candidate for the position of the supreme bench made by residents of his circuit, for the reason that they had confidence in the administration of his office and regretted his departure. His conduct on the bench has been such that the people of the State of Oregon cannot well lose his services. Prior to his appointment there were some charges of partiality, but since his election there has never been any complaint made against our Supreme Court, but on the contrary, everyone has had confidence therein, and has considered Judge Bean, he being the oldest member, the stalwart of our bench.

Since it has been published that a petition was being circulated, several attorneys have mentioned to me that there might be a disposition on the part of persons interested in circulating the petition to have Judge Bean leave our Supreme Court in hope that a person more subservient to certain corporate interests might be appointed to fill the place now occupied by him. The people of the State of Oregon are only slightly interested in the Federal appointment in comparison with their interest in who occupies the position which would be vacated by Judge Bean. Not only have our citizens respect for and confidence in our Supreme Court, but since Judge Bean's occupancy of the bench the decisions of the court are recognized and followed by judges in all the other states.

Like each and all of the other lawyers knowing Judge Bean, I would cheerfully join in any movement for his betterment, but I doubt whether his service as Federal Judge would be of any considerable benefit to the people of Oregon in comparison with the good he can do by remaining on our bench. The Federal appointment is for life, but I believe that Judge Bean might consider that he can occupy his present position for life should he desire so to do. The Supreme Court of the State of Oregon cannot spare Judge Bean. Respectfully,

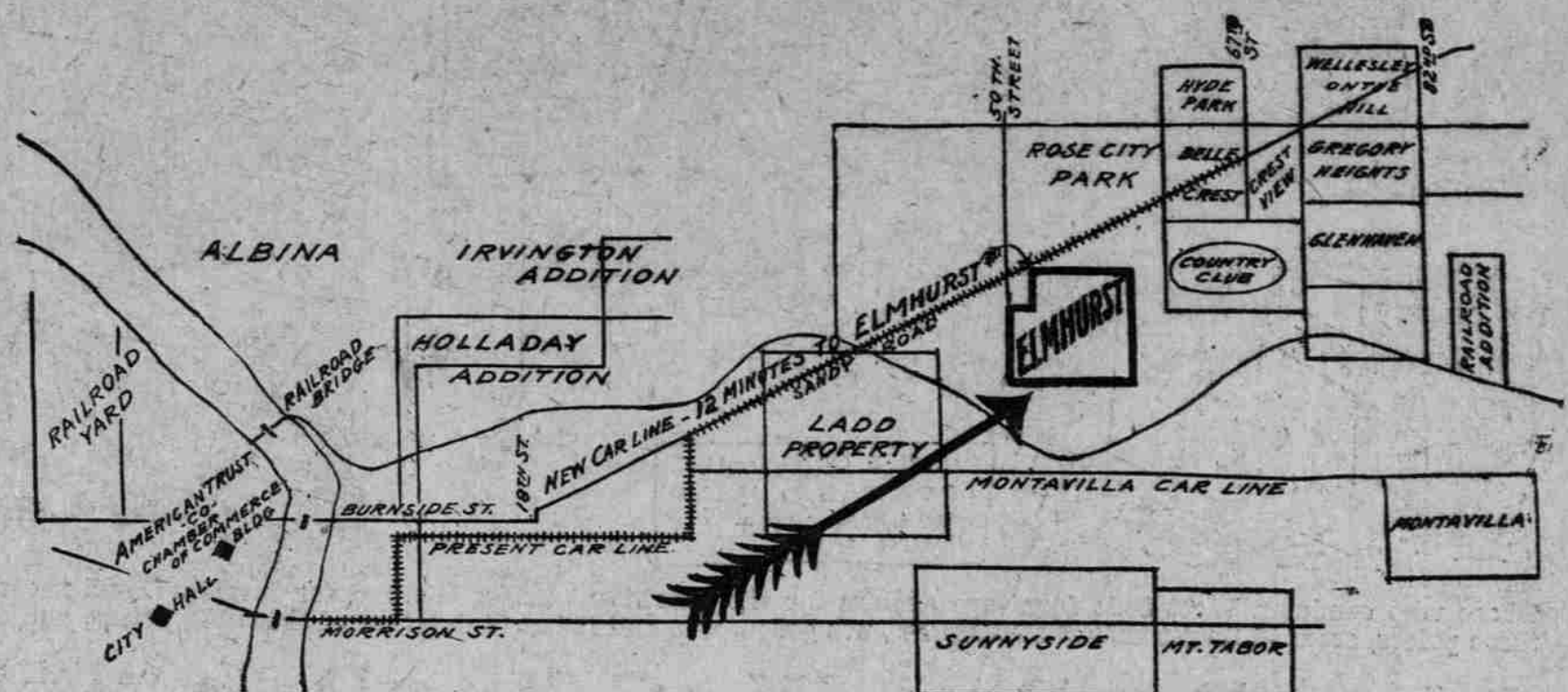
GEORGE W. JOSEPH.

A Pacific Coast Number.

"The Marvelous Pacific Coast" is going to be the scope and title of the August issue of the World's Work Magazine. It will tell of the growth of the country and its resources in every aspect. C. M. Keys, financial editor of the World's Work, is leaving New York shortly for an extended trip over the Pacific Coast. He is to make for the World's Work an appraisal of the country and its progress.

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