

PRESIDENT DEFENDS 8-HOUR DAY ACTION

Mr. Wilson Says Question Not Arbitrable and Cites Vote in Congress.

NEW JERSEY FOLK CHEER

Executive Says Real Commercial Strength of Business Men Comes From Such Measures as Federal Reserve Act.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., Sept. 23.—Today President Wilson actively opened his campaign for re-election with a speech replying to Republican criticism of his settlement of the recently threatened railroad strike.

With emphatic gestures, before a large crowd assembled at Shadwell Park, he defended the eight-hour day and declared also that the Nation must be freed from the possibility of interference with its commerce by strikes from various parts of New Jersey interrupted the President with hand-clapping and cheering.

Harmony of Interests Desired. "The chief object that is upon the domestic horizon is the unsatisfactory relations of capital and labor," the President said, adding that "so long as labor and capital stand antagonistic the interests of both are injured and the prosperity of America is held back from the triumph which are legitimately its own."

Mr. Wilson spoke of the bright future for American business and then launched directly into a discussion of the railroad situation. Without directly mentioning Charles E. Hughes, the Republican nominee, the President brought in the Republican party by saying that about 70 Republicans supported the eight-hour law in the House of Representatives and that Republicans put no obstacles in the way of the passage of the measure.

Eight-Hour Law Defended. "This was because the proposal was reasonable and was based upon the right," asserted Mr. Wilson. The President met the arguments that the railroad question should have been arbitrated with the flat statement that he did not believe the eight-hour day an arbitrable question.

Means of preventing a repetition of the threatened railroad strikes were taken up in detail. The President said: "It will be intolerable if at any time any group of men, by any process, should be suffered to cut society off from the necessary supplies which sustain life."

After talking for 20 minutes about the railroad problem the President discussed business generally. He said that business men in America have had their real commercial strength at their service by such measures as the Federal reserve act and now are on their mettle.

Business Men Are Audience. President Wilson's speech in part follows: "I have recently been through an experience which distressed me. I tried to accommodate a difference between some of the employees of the American railroads and the executives of American railroads, and the distressing thing I discovered was that on one hand there was unlimited suspicion and distrust of the other side, and that that suspicion and distrust returned by the other side in full measure."

"The executives did not believe in the sincerity of the men, and the men did not believe in the sincerity and fairness of the executives, and while arbitration was being discussed I had this sad thought: Arbitration is a word associated with the interests of the interests. It is an alternative of war. There ought to be no such thing as the contemplation of hostility as between men whose interests are the same and who should co-operate."

Real Reconciliation Desired. "And, therefore, it came upon me with a force that it had never had before that the real problem of capital and labor was to bring the two sides to an understanding and belief in one another, that the real problem of the next generation, if America were really to realize her energy, was to be this real, genuine, fundamental reconciliation between capital and labor. I did not realize until I held those conferences just how far apart they were in that particular and indispensable part of our National life, the transportation of our country, and when I did realize it, I saw that there was a great task that was worth any man's while to attempt to bring the minds of the country together, to see that the men understood one another, and to see that they had some assurance that they were speaking the truth to one another. I never had franker conferences in my life than I had with the representatives of the two sides."

"You would know that when the public began to notice this controversy I already had been going on for some time. I had been watching it with great anxiety and when it became evident that an accommodation was not going to be reached, I felt it my duty to try my hand at the difficult task of accommodation, because I knew how much was involved, not only in the immediate effects of a great strike such as was threatened, but also in the ultimate effects, the soreness left, the resentment that would remain, the feeling of hostility that would be engendered; and so I asked the privilege of consulting with them."

Points Regarded as Simple. "Before I consulted with them, I, of course, made myself acquainted with the points at controversy and I learned that they were very simple indeed; that the men demanded an eight-hour day and that in the regular day, the men alleging that that was the only way they could obtain a genuine eight-hour day, by making the railroads pay more for the time beyond the eight hours than they paid for the time within the eight hours. I saw at once that there was one part of this that was arbitrable, but that in my opinion there was another part that was not arbitrable. I do not regard the question of the principle of the eight-hour day as arbitrable."

"The first thing I told both sides before I requested their opinion was that I stood for the eight-hour day. I received no suggestion of any kind from either side as to what the basis of settlement was to be except that the railroad executive did suggest that Congress give them some sort of assurance that if the 8-hour day went into operation they would get increased rates for the carriage of their freight. I pointed out to them that it was impossible to tell whether they would need increased rates for the carriage of their freight."

"We believe in the eight-hour day because a man does better work within eight hours than he does within a more extended day, and the whole theory of it, a theory which is sustained by abundant experience, is that his efficiency is increased, his spirit in his work is improved, and the whole moral and physical vigor of the man is added to."

"This is no longer conjectural. Where it has been tried it has been demonstrated. The judgment of society, the vote of every Legislature in America that has voted upon it is in favor of the eight-hour day."

"And therefore, I said to those gentlemen on both sides at the very beginning: 'The eight-hour day ought to be conceded.' But they said, 'It will cost us an immense sum of money.' Then I said, 'How do you know how much it will cost?'

"80-Cent Gas" Case Quoted. "You remember there was a case decided by the Supreme Court of the United States. It was known as the '80-Cent Gas' case, where, by legislation, the price of gas was fixed at 80 cents for the unit of the supply of gas, and the law was contested upon the ground that it was confiscatory, and therefore unconstitutional."

"And when the appeal reached the Supreme Court of the United States, the law was upheld until you try to manufacture gas at 80 cents whether it is confiscatory or not. Go ahead and make it 80 cents and sell for 80 cents and then if it proves impossible to conduct your business upon that charge, come back and discuss with us the confiscatory character of this act. And it may be remarked in passing that the company never went back to the railroad executives."

"You are asking that the result of the eight-hour day be predicted and the prediction be made in the hands of big men asking for an arbitration of a conjecture, of an opinion, of a forecast of the figures of experts based upon an entirely different experience. I would like to ask me personally to arbitrate such a question I would say I am not competent to arbitrate it."

BILLINGS IS FOUND GUILTY OF MURDER

Jury Takes Eight Ballots and Recommends Sentence of Life Imprisonment.

FOUR OTHERS TO BE TRIED

Defendant in San Francisco Bomb Case Says Verdict Is Not Right. Sentence Is to Be Pronounced Tuesday.

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept. 23.—Warren K. Billings, tried here for the murder of Mrs. Myrtle Van Loo, one of the 10 persons killed by the explosion of a bomb during the San Francisco preparedness parade, July 23, was today found guilty of murder in the first degree by the jury that heard the evidence.

Life imprisonment was recommended. Billings will be sentenced Tuesday, it was announced. The jury was out just four hours, from 10:50 A. M. to 2:50 P. M. Most of that time was spent at lunch at a cafe. The jury reported its verdict almost immediately after returning to the Hall of Justice.

Other Cases Pending. Assistant District Attorney Brennan, after the verdict had been returned, said that he hoped to be able to use Billings' testimony in the prosecution of Thomas J. Mooney, his wife Rena, Israel Weinberg and Edward Nolan, who are under indictment in connection with the bombing of the building in which Billings was convicted. Earlier in the day Brennan had made the statement that he considered Billings only a tool in the hands of bigger men and that if he were convicted, he (Brennan) would be the first to go to the Governor and ask for a pardon or commutation of sentence. If Billings would consent to tell what he knew of the bomb conspiracy.

Jury Takes Eight Ballots. The jury took eight ballots before arriving at a verdict. The verdict came as a surprise to Billings and his attorney, Maxwell McNeill, it appeared. "They might as well have hanged me as given me life," Billings said. "If I was guilty enough to convict, why didn't I get it in full?"

Crowds of Billings' friends came to him after the verdict was read and the police had escorted the jury home. Most of them were prominent in radical circles and leaders in the International Workers' Defense League, which financed his defense.

"The fight is not over yet," he was told. Mrs. Belle Lavin, his former landlady, who was arrested at the time he was taken into custody, but who was later released, came over and kissed him. Mrs. Lavin was also landlady of the McNamara brothers before they pleaded guilty to dynamiting the Times building in Los Angeles.

Billings was arrested here July 26, four days after the explosion of a bomb at Stewart and Market streets, which killed 10 persons and injured more than 40, during a preparedness parade. Weinberg was arrested with him. Edward Nolan was taken into custody the following day and Mooney and his wife were taken into custody at Guerneville, Cal., and brought to San Francisco.

Five Persons Indicted. Indictments were returned against Billings, the Mooneys, Weinberg and Nolan. August 1 several indictments were returned against each of the five persons. Billings' trial, the first of those of the indicted persons, began September 11.

The trial proceeded with considerably more expedition than had been expected in view of the large number of witnesses subpoenaed by both prosecution and defense.

The state's principal witness was John McDonald, a waiter who identified Billings as a man whom he saw, on the day of the preparedness parade, get down a suitcase at the corner of Stewart and Market streets where the explosion subsequently took place.

The theory of the prosecution was that the bomb was enclosed in a suitcase. Billings' chief defense was an attempt to establish an alibi.

CLARKE COUNTY DEMOCRATS ORGANIZE

YOUNG LOGGER KILLED

SCHEDULES MUST WAIT

INTERSTATE COMMERCE BODY POSTPONES CERTAIN TARIFFS.

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2 EXPLOSIONS MYSTERIOUS

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470 Cars of Pears Shipped

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A Hotel of Dignity

PRE-EMINENT in location and environment, The Portland offers to the guest every comfort and luxury of modern hotel life. Its welcome is genuine and spontaneous, without suggestion of obtrusiveness. The guest instantly feels the atmosphere of hospitality and good cheer. Its service is as nearly perfect as long experience and time-honored tradition can make it. Efficiency is maintained at a high standard.

We invite you to enjoy "Portland service."

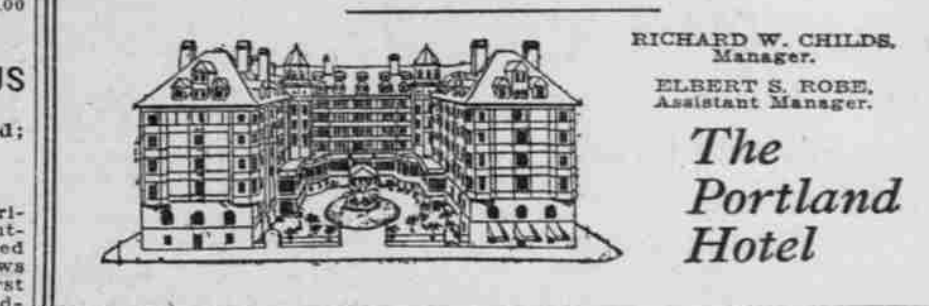


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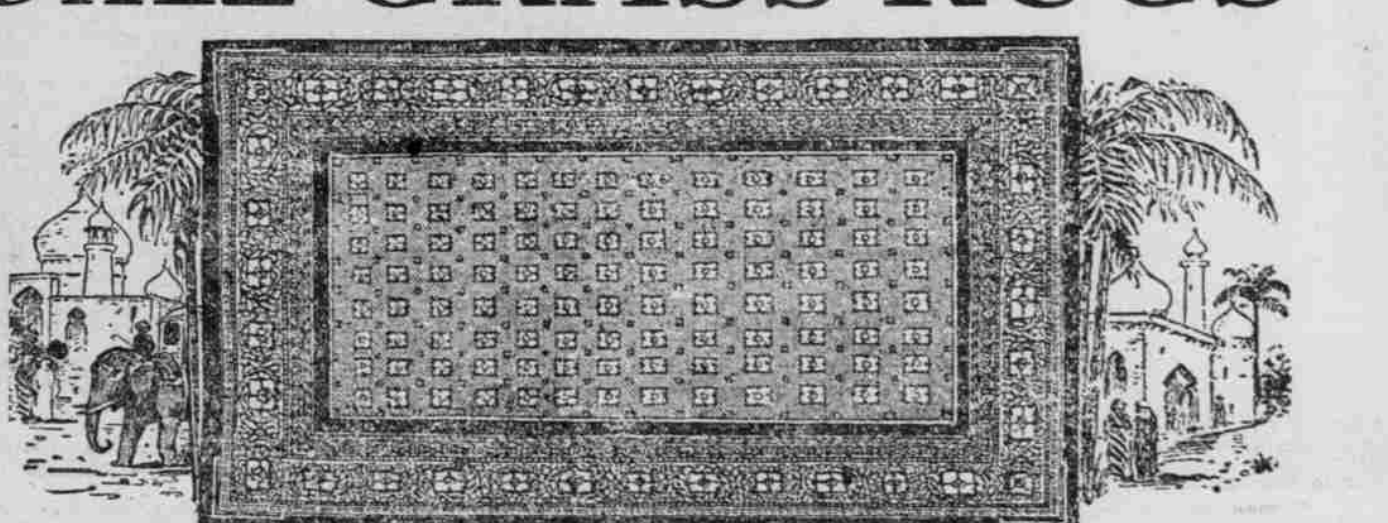


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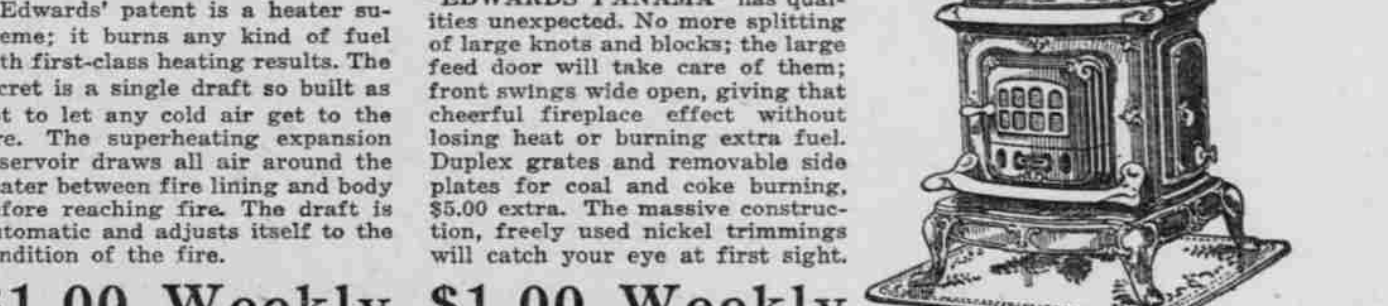
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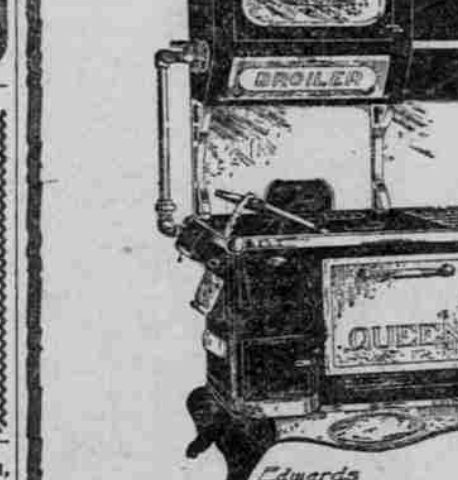
Edwards' patent is a heater supreme; it burns any kind of fuel with first-class heating results. The secret is a single draft so built as not to let any cold air get to the fire. The superheating expansion reservoir draws all air around the heater between fire lining and body before reaching fire. The draft is automatic and adjusts itself to the condition of the fire.

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GUARDS STILL IN MILITIA

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