HARDING PLEASED WITH SETTLEMENT IN PACKERS' CASE

By David Lawrence
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Washington, March 25.—President Harding was a happy man yesterday. His administration had settled the first industrial controversy that has threatened to disturb the economic peace of the country. Mr. Harding met the representatives of both the packers and their employes and expressed his gratification over the amicable outcome.

Secretaries Davis, Hoover and Wallace of the departments of labor, commerce and agriculture, who handled the negotiations for the government, were there, too and it was really an unusual sight—employer and employe joyful over the result.

Broadly speaking, there is a deeper significance in the settlement in the packer troubles than appears on the surface. Members of the cabinet were careful to point out that some of the morning papers today gave a wrong impression when they endeavored to interpret the policy of the Harding administration as one favoring wage cuts. The reduction in wages in this case was entirely a matter between both parties to the controversy and was neither suggested by the administration nor pressed by it as a point of special interest to the government.

STANDARDS HELD INVIOLATE

But there was a principle laid down which may be of guidance in industrial disputes in the future and which has a world of meaning to the business world in America. It is simply that union labor is not unwilling to accept reductions in wages if there is no attempt at the same time to use the economic situation as a means of breaking down the standards which union labor acquired for itself during the war.

The packers say they could have stood a strike. The men naturally didn't want to be thrown out of employment at this time, but they would have endured great sacrifices if the packers had insisted on abrogating the eight-hour day and other advantages which have nothing to do with compensation, but which have a great deal to do with the conditions of work.

PEACE NOT PERMANENT

Of course, it cannot be said that permanent peace has been attained as between the packers and their employes. A more accurate description of the settlement would be to call it a six months' truce, but the psychological effect of the agreement today is the confident hope that a recurrence of controversy may be handled later on in the same way as it was this time.

For the next six months, at any rate, the employes accepted a reduction in pay of about 8 cents an hour, while the packers agreed not to make any further wage reductions without submitting them to arbitration.

The packers granted the eight-hour day which had previously been the standard, and agreed to submit any changes in work hours to the administrator, Judge Alschuler, who has been virtually the dictator as between employes and employers in the packing industry since the war. The Alschuler agreement, which became effective in 1917, was to have ended a year after the proclamation of peace between the United States and Germany. The uncertainty about the date has caused controversy, and while the packers insisted the war was over, union labor thought that technically war conditions remained.

NEW AGREEMENT DESIRED

The truth of the matter is, that labor wanted to retain the advantages of the Alschuler agreement and the packers wanted to get rid of it. Finally, the understanding was reached to continue the agreement for another six months, after which it will be definitely terminated and a new agreement will have to be written. The controversy may break out anew then. Still the men think they will be in a better position at that time to insist upon terms similar to the Alschuler agreement than they are today. The packers have their own views on the subject. Meanwhile there is an industrial truce. Both sides are happy and expectant.

President Harding and his cabinet maintained throughout the confidence of employes and employers. Union labor had a chance to size up the Harding administration in an industrial dispute and didn't find it so "reactionary" after all. Secretary of Labor Davis didn't appear to have all the background necessary for an effective mediator in this particular industry, but he showed a sympathetic understanding of the problems of the working man, while at the same time he called upon Secretaries Hoover and Wallace and experts who know the packing business intimately to give him advice.

RAILROAD PROBLEM NEXT

The administration's next industrial problem will probably be the railroad controversy and there, too, it is not so much a question of high wages as labor standards that the workingmen want preserved. If any administration policy can be glimpsed in the packer episode, it is that President Harding is anxious to maintain equilibrium between capital and labor by preventing employers from taking too much advantage of the present economic situation in their attempts not only to reduce wages, but to break up union organizations and eliminate the standards won by labor through years of bitter struggle.

Portland Vet in Civil Service of U. S. Pensioned

M. R. Chambers of the Portland land office is the first Portland man to be retired under the law recently passed by congress putting civil service employes on the pension list.

Chambers is retiring this month after 16 years in the service, one half of which were spent in Portland as special agent for the field division. He is 70 years of age.

Employes of the local general land office have presented Chambers with a Shrine ring in appreciation of the years he has spent with them.

Someone Must 'Dig' To Print Claims on Woman's Jury Bill

Salem, Or., March 25.—Failure of the legislature to make provision for the preparation of arguments for the voters' pamphlet relative to the referred women jurors bill will make it incumbent upon those interested either in the adoption or defeat of the measure to plank down the cold cash at the rate of $110 per page for any arguments which they desire to make on this measure. This is the dictum of Secretary of State Kozer today after discovery of this apparent oversight on the part of the lawmakers.

In referring the measure to the people, the legislature directed the secretary of state to set aside two pages in the official voters' pamphlet for an affirmative argument and two pages for a negative argument. It neglected, however, to provide for the appointment of a committee to prepare these arguments or to designate anyone to be recognized in submitting copy for these reserved pages, and the secretary of state has no choice but to treat all comers alike and require pay.

Monday will be the last day on which these arguments may be filed. So far only one argument has been filed, the affirmative argument on the emergency clause veto measure.

Tunnel for Project On Tieton River to Be Made Deeper

Yakima, Wash., March 25.—Completion of the tunnel for the temporary channel of the Tieton river during the period of construction of the dam, and the discharge for the reservoir after the dam is complete, will be the first work undertaken at Rimrock, according to F. T. Crowe, constructing engineer, who made a preliminary survey of the job.

The tunnel has been driven about 1000 feet through solid rock and was thought to be complete when work closed down in 1917, but it has been decided to locate the dam several hundred feet lower on the stream and the tunnel must be driven 700 feet to meet new conditions. Crowe will direct the expenditure of $625,000 at the dam this year.

Irrigon to Perfect Irrigation System

Irrigon, Or., March 25.—The Irrigon Commercial club at its regular annual meeting named a committee to perfect a better irrigation system for the town properties and railroad park, held under lease by the district farm bureau. A committee was also appointed to make a membership drive and collect funds for carrying on the publicity in connection with the Umatilla Rapids Power Site association. The following officers were elected: M. F. Wadsworth, president, M. E. Doble, vice president; N. Seaman, secretary-treasurer; F. L. Wait, B. B. Laen and H. C. Wolfe, executive board.

Galveston Gasoline Drops to 21 Cents

Fort Worth, Texas, March 25.—(I. N. S.)—Retail gasoline dropped 2 cents to 21 cents here today.

TARIFF MEASURE STRIKES PRUNING HOOK OBSTACLE

Washington, March 25.—(I. N. S.)—Snags were encountered today by the plans of Republican senators and representatives from Western and Middle Western states to jam through congress at the approaching extraordinary session the emergency tariff bill passed at the recent session and vetoed by former President Wilson.

That the measure will have to be modified materially, and given that conciseness President Harding is known to favor, if it is to be passed again, some of the most influential Republican leaders of congress predicted.

VIEWED AS JOKE

Weighted down by amendments fastened upon it by the senate, the bill as it was disapproved by former President Wilson was regarded as a joke by a number of Republican senators and representatives who now entertain the fear that any attempt to repass it without the dotting of an "i" or the crossing of a "t" would prove disastrous to the Republicans.

These same members of congress, who were fearful lest Mr. Wilson sign the bill at the close of the last session and thereby put the Republicans in a political hole, are urging upon President Harding that it be cut to the bone so as to provide only for the "two-inch" measure he advocated for taking care of a comparatively few agricultural products.

OPPOSITION EXPECTED

The declaration of Senator Willis (R., Ohio), following an hour's conference between the president and himself that the president does not favor particularly the emergency tariff bill in the form in which Mr. Wilson turned it down, did not occasion much surprise at the capitol, where it was anticipated the sponsors of the idea to shove the measure through would soon find themselves in difficulties.

The danger of another Democratic filibuster against the bill is but one of the obstacles in the way of its early and speedy passage. Cloture rule or restriction of debate, is not always easy to invoke in the senate, however.

The fear is entertained that there may be delay in getting even a "two-inch" bill through as a means of affording protection for the year's harvest of wheat and other agricultural products.

TO AID FARMERS

The energies of Republican leaders of congress will be bent toward giving the farmers all the aid possible, as favored by the president, but the question has been raised by some of them if any emergency tariff measure can have any more than a psychological effect upon the serious agricultural situation confronting the producer.

The tariff, like the tax question, is regarded as certain to engage the attention of congress for many months to come, and while Republican leaders refer to the adage that it is a long lane that has no turning they admit they have not yet been able to see a turn in or an end to the tariff and tax lane ahead of them.

Hurried Conference Held by Attorneys For Mrs. Stillman

New York, March 25.—(U. P.)—A hurried conference of attorneys for Mrs. "Fifi" Potter Stillman was held here today to marshal additional evidence in the divorce suit of James A. Stillman, president of the National City bank. Additional evidence must be filed before noon tomorrow.

Participating in the conference were Louis S. Levy of New York and John F. Brennan of Yonkers, representing Mrs. Stillman, and John E. Mack of Poughkeepsie, guardian for 2-year-old Guy Stillman, named as co-defendant with his mother.

Later, it was understood, Mack was expected to meet Stillman's counsel.

The principal new development, discussed at this conference, was the affidavit recently filed by the plaintiff containing copies of five letters alleged to have been written to Mrs. Stillman by Fred Beauvais, French-Canadian guide, who is charged by Stillman with being Guy's father. In these letters Beauvais is purported to have made several references to "our child."

Belongings of Lost Trapper Discovered

Lebanon, March 25.—A party of four men of the Cascadia section have made another search for the body of Mr. Sweeny, the trapper, who was lost in the mountains a few months ago and undoubtedly perished. His gun, shoes and a small pack which he carried were discovered beside a tree, but no other traces of him were found. Little hope exists of finding the body before the snow melts.

White Shrine Unit Is Organized in Salem

Salem, Or., March 25.—With a charter membership of 64, the second largest organization of its kind in the state, Willamette White Shrine No. 2 was installed here Thursday night. A large delegation of Portland Shriners attended the installation ceremonies.

Million for Roads In Douglas County To Be Considered

Roseburg, Or., March 25.—The committee appointed by the Douglas county court to designate the main roads and highways to be improved by the proposed bond issue and the amount of money to be expended on each has prepared a tentative list, which will be reported at a meeting Wednesday. The county court has issued a formal notice calling on each road district to appoint a delegate to this meeting, when a program agreeable to all will be adopted.

The committee decided the bond issue should be in the neighborhood of $1,000,000. Half of this amount is required by the state highway commission to meet its propositions. If the program is carried out it will mean a comprehensive scheme of connecting up the various communities with the market centers.

Ruby Henderson, arrested on a warrant from Fresno charging her with the theft of an automobile from George Denton, was released Wednesday evening on telegraphic instructions following a settlement. Denton, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Silkwood, parents of the girl, arrived here Wednesday from Fresno and Mrs. Henderson promised to return the car.

HERO WILL MARRY GIRL HE RESCUED

Boston, March 25.—(I. N. S.)—When Mounted Officer William J. Lamb of the Back Bay dashed down the Fenway Bridle Path and stopped the runaway horse ridden by Miss Gertrude M. Galla, Wisconsin Rapids, Wis., heiress, there began a romance leading to a bridal path. For next Wednesday the officer and Miss Galla are to be married.

The bride-to-be is a student at the conservatory of music. Lamb was a senior naval lieutenant in the war and joined the police force 18 months ago.

Some months ago he was patroling the park when Miss Galla's horse, frightened by a broken rein, bolted. Lamb gave chase and rescued her.

Dr. Ausplund Enters Pen

Salem, Or., March 25. — Dr. A. Ausplund, Portland physician, convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to a term of from one to 15 years in the state prison, several years ago, has begun serving his sentence.