

STEPS ARE TAKEN TO END RAIL STRIKE

(Continued from Page 1.)

Department of justice officials to be able to a desire for fuller knowledge as to the agencies which caused the unauthorized walkouts. Many official reports from strike centers have indicated activity of the I. W. W., and officials said that it was proposed to determine whether this or any other organization was carrying

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out a program that would bring it within federal statute. Mr. Palmer declared that if federal action was taken, the government would not enter the controversy as a supporter of either side. Its action, he said, would be governed by its responsibility to the people. It was indicated again that the department might employ criminal statutes if it decided on legal proceedings. Agents of the department reported I. W. W. fomentation in a score of places, officials declared. They were said also to have revealed that the members were offering financial and moral support to the strikers. Officials also had under consideration measures for feeding communities which might be cut off by the strike. Federal district attorneys and field agents were instructed to deal with individuals and firms "making exorbitant profits out of the situation" under the profiteering statutes.

With respect to movement of the mails and emergency food supplies, Mr. Palmer said it had been suggested that the government resort to motor transportation if necessary. The army transport service of the army is ready to move "to the aid army is ready to move" to the aid according to announcement by the council of national defense. **BROTHERHOOD HEADS BUSY** CLEVELAND, O., April 12.—While brotherhood leaders were doing their best to turn the flank of the switchmen's strike, labor union officials of the crafts in the railway shops tonight were reported to be laying plans for a city-wide walkout from railway shops Thursday. A scheme is said to be under way to form a "Cleveland Shopmen's Association, and to cut loose from the American Federation of Labor. The switchmen's strike spread tonight to the car repairers, one of the six shop crafts affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, 200 of whom walked out in the Collingwood shops of the New York Central lines. Cleveland railroad terminals tonight were tied up, not a switchman or yardman being at work. The car repairers quit to enforce demands for 67 and 72 cents an hour and in sympathy with striking switchmen. Passenger, mail and milk trains continued to move on almost normal schedules. Passenger, mail and milk trains continued to move on almost normal schedules. Butchers, marketmen and grocers outside each other for available stocks in local packing house and commission markets, prices in many in-

stances reaching new high levels. Meat prices jumped two to five cents a pound and vegetables from 15 to 25 a crate over Saturday. **Gompers and Lee Speak.** Nearly 400 members of five local lodges of the Brotherhood of railroad men met and were addressed by Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor and W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood. Mr. Lee outlined the situation and dwelt on the start of the trouble in Chicago. He said the strike of the Chicago yardmen's association was unauthorized and "illegal," and that the principle underlying the strike was destruction of the brotherhood and the switchmen's union of America; and called on the men to remain at work and carry out their contracts. Mr. Gompers urged the men to remain loyal to their union principles, carry out orders of their leaders and help smash the "insurgents." He said he was in sympathy with the men's wage demands to meet the high cost of living but said the method used by the strikers can gain nothing and only discredit labor. He advised the men to return to work and settle the wage matter in a business-like manner. **Effects Uncertain.** Mr. Gompers said this might appear slow but it would win in the end. He tendered the assistance of the American Federation of Labor in upholding the banner of labor and pledged his every effort to help the old organizations maintain their high standards and resist the attacks of those intent on wrecking them. On leaving the meeting many men said they were in doubt, some said they would be back tomorrow and others declared they would stay out "until the railroads came across with more money." Mayor H. L. Davis, issued a proclamation calling attention to the gravity of the situation facing the city and placing an embargo against Bolshevik, I. W. W. or anarchist agitators coming here. Secretary of Labor Wilson was appealed to for aid in ending the strike of switchmen here, in a message sent by the newly formed Cleveland yardmen's association. The message requested him to send federal conciliators.

RIVER VESSEL IN NEW HANDS

Grahamona Goes on Columbia Service, Two Other Boats May Follow

The well known steamer Grahamona that for years glided up and down the Willamette has been sold to a company that will divert the vessel to the run from Portland up the Columbia and Snake rivers to Lewiston, Idaho. Those old favorites, the Pomona and Oregon, may also join their companion boat in the Columbia service. The same company that has acquired possession of the Grahamona now holds options on the other two vessels. Should the two latter boats also pass under the control of the new company it will leave the Willamette without a boat to enter the river service should navigation from Portland to Salem and Corvallis be revived. It was the fading away of the hop industry along the river and the increased cost of fuel and labor that interrupted steamer service on the Willamette. It was during the war that sailings were voluntarily discontinued. Should the Pomona and Oregon not be purchased under the pending options, an effort may again be made to restore them on their runs on the upper Willamette.

SALEM LEGION TO HAVE GUNS

War Department Assigns Army Rifles to Posts Throughout Nation

The war department is now engaged on plans for the distribution this year of about 100,000 army rifles to the posts of the American legion throughout the country. Provision was made for the distribution of the rifles, valued at about \$2,600,000, by legislation recently enacted by the congress. It is said some of the guns will be received by the Salem post. In addition to the loan of rifles, the bill provides for the sale to post of the American legion of "blank ammunition in suitable amounts for said rifles" and further specifies that the rifles be "obsolete or condemned army rifles" and that the number distributed shall not "exceed 10 such rifles to any one post." The posts of the American legion requested these obsolete rifles for use "in connection with the funeral ceremonies of deceased soldiers, sailors and marines and for other post ceremonial purposes." The rifles to which the bill refers are to be put having been included in the bill. The rifles will be stripped of bayonets and other appurtenances, as was done in the loan by the government of obsolete rifles to the high school cadets in Washington. No distribution can be made until some system for handling the loan will have been devised.

INDUSTRIES ARE CRIPPLED DETROIT, Mich., April 12.—Detroit went back to war-time lightless nights tonight and industrial plants received their second blow in six months, in the form of a general shutdown as the result of the railroad tie-up. Approximately fifty thousand factory workers went home temporarily jobless tonight when power was shut down to all but those industries classed as "essential" by the Detroit Edison company. One hundred strikers at Saginaw and 80 at Battle Creek returned to work today. The number of unemployed in other Michigan manufacturing cities was placed at 18,000.

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At the change of shifts late today four full switching crews were working in the yards of the Southern Pacific company, four at the Union station yards and three in the yards of the Oregon-Washington railroad and navigation company. The embargo on freight shipments had not been lifted, but some freight was moving. Of the men working today about half were strikers who had returned to work and half were new men, railroad officials said.

FRISCO RETURNING TO NORMAL. SAN FRANCISCO, April 12.—Conditions in the Pacific coast states, arising from the unauthorized strike of railroad switchmen, were reported tonight as "steadily improving" by railroad company officials, while leaders of the men on strike contended they were "holding their own." If it were true that every knock-a-boost, think how high Burleson would be.

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