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STEEL WORKERS' STRIKE

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR WILL CO-OPERATE.

Federation Will Aid Morally and Financially --Association's Defeat Would Mean Death Blow to Unionized Labor.

Pittsburg, Aug 10.—Although President Shaffer's strike offer does not go into effect until tonight, already hundreds of men are laying down their tools and the strike leaders are greatly encouraged.

Over 300 men at the Riverside plant of the National Tube works at Benwood, W. Va., quit this morning when their turn was finished and announced they would not return to work. They are the first men in the country to obey the strike order. The mill will be operated as a non-union plant.

No accurate idea, however, of the number of men who will obey the order can be obtained until tomorrow night, but there are points where sentiment is divided and an accurate count can only be had when the men take their stand tomorrow night.

Telegrams from McKeesport announce that 150 men today began dismantling the big Dewees-Wood plant. Several cars backed into the yard. a number of rolls were taken down and loaded on them. The strikers claim only the old machinery will be removed and that the corporation is not serious. As a counter move an independent plant, backed by local business men, is proposed. The Enterprise lodge of the Amalgamated is said to have pledged $80,000

The Dewess Wood officials announce today the men would be paid off today and after two weeks notified their services would not be required.

President Shaffer was the principal speaker today at an immense strike demonstration at New Castle, where he was given an enthusiastic welcome. He will also deliver the main address at McKeesport tonight.

The American Tin Plate company announced today its intention to dismantle and remove to Monessen some of its mills tied up by the strike. The mills are not named. It is understood the Monessen plant will be made one of the largest the company has. The announcement has created a profound impression.

GOMPERS' DECISION.

Pittsburg, Pa., Aug 9.—President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor, after a two days' conference with President Shaffer and his associates, issued a formal statement tonight specifically pledging the federation to the moral and financial support of the Amalmagated association. His written review of the train of events leading up to the industrial quarrel sustains the course of the Amalgamated association and declares that nothing remains for labor but to battle for the cause of unionism.

President Gompers was at strike headquarters again this afternoon with Secretary Morrison and was closeted with the advisory board of Amalgamated association for more than three hours.

GOMPERS' STATEMENT.

This evening he gave out the following statement:

"Since the arrival of Secretary Morrison of the American Federation of Labor, and myself, we have been in almost continual conference with the advisory board of the Amalgamated association. We made a thorough investigation of the present strike, the cause which lead to the strike; the present situation of the country and we unhesitatingly declare our judgment that the position of the Amalgamated association is absolutely justified and essential to its continuance and effectiveness as a union of the workers in the trade, as well as the protection of rights and interests of its members.

"It is true that the Amalgamated association, in the first conference, asked that the United States Steel corporation sign the union scale of wages for all the mills operated, owned and controled by that company, but it is also true that the request was withdrawn and one substituted so that the union scale should apply to those mills only in which the members of the Amalmagated association are employed; in other words which are well known to the union mills. This, the United States Steel corporation refused to concede, insisting that the scale should apply only to those mills which were union last year, and refusing to allow two mills to be included, which by a species of hectoring and systematic opposition of the company has become non-union during the year

"It appears that the company took the position it did with an avowal that it would not allow the extension of the union to non-unionists. Such a position and avowal are tantamount to declaring that, notwithstanding the growth of the craft, the organization has reached a status beyond which it could not extend.

"WE SOLEMNLY PROTEST"

"Organized labor advances or recedes; never stands still. It therefore follows that if the trust, by its great wealth, can prevent the extention and growth of the Amalgated association, it encompassed its disintegration and destruction. The only powers then standing between the trusts and workers as a protector are the tender mercies of its directors. Against such a calamity the sense of justice and humanity revolt, and against it we solemnly protest.

"We shall stand by the Amalmagated assciation in the present conflict to the full extent of our power, both morally and financially; we shall aid in every lawful way the men on strike or who may come out on strike to maintain the workers in their right to organize, and the extension of their organization, so that the only power which stands for their protection and advancement against the avarice of concentrated wealthy, may be perfected and perpetuated. When the overweening rich combine for avarice, power and tyranny, is it not the duty of the workers to unite for home, justice, right and humanity?

"If the trust should succeed in its purpose to crush the Amalgamated association the victory would be dearly bought.

COMPARISON WITH BOERS.

"The fight of the brave Boers may end in their undoing, but the spirit of justice, the love of freedom and right suddenly looms up in another part of the world. These principles find lodgement in the hearts of other men who will carry on the battle until they are enthroned in the conscience and everyday life of all peoples; so with the Amalgamated association, an organization may be defeated in a contest, but it will not be conqured.

"The Amalgamated association will not be crushed; she will not be conquered, she must not even be defeated."

A recent dispat from Baker City to the Oregonian says; General R. Cosgrove, of Le Seuer, Minn, passed through the city yesterday on his way to visit Senator Chandler's ranch near Durkey, in this state. Mr. Cosgrove is a prominent man in Minneseta, where he is known as a breeder of famous Hereford stock. He has just concluded an arrangement with the O. R. & N. Co. to use a portion of the experimental farm at Walla Walla as an experimental breeding station for Herefords. He will send out some choice young animals to be kept on the farm this winter. It is the intention of Mr. Cosgrove, if the experiment proves a success, to establish a large breeding farm in Eastern Oregon.

An Eastern writer makes a long argument to prove that a married couple cannot live on $25 per week. If he is correct, there must be a great number of lively dead couples "in our midst."

DROUTH AND IRRIGATION

EFFORTS TO MAKE IRRIGATION A POLITICAL QUESTION.

Result of Drouth in Middle West has Been a Revival of Discussion of National Aid to Irrigation.

One result of the terrible drouth in the West has been a sharp revival of the discussion of national aid to irrigation, says a Washington special. The advantages enjoyed in the limited territory where the land is artificially watered have been emphasized in such a marked degree that the whole subject of irrigation has been brought to public attention. For several Congresses earnest efforts have been made by Western members to secure recognition of irrigation as a national improvement. Some little progress has been made in the way of appropriations for surveys and reports, but the friends of irrigation are now preparing to make a stronger appeal, basing their claims upon the tremendous damage done to the corn crop and the animal industry by the recent drouth.

It is claimed that the project of watering the arid lands of the West by diverting the water of rivers and other streams into irrigation ditches will afford an outlet to much of the surplus capital of the country, if congress will give the subject the same consideration that is paid to river and harbor improvements. One feature of the present census is the statistics gathered on the subject of irrigation. In a bulletin just issued at bureau and prepared by L. G. Powers, Chief Statistician of Agriculture, some interesting figures are submitted with regard to irrigation in the Territory of Arizona. In this far Western territory irrigation antedates its occupation by white men. For ages the agricultural Indians practiced irrigation of a primitive kind and the white settlers have since improved on these methods with most satisfactory results. The report is in part as follows:

"Of the 72,268,800 acres of land surface of Arizona, only 1,935,327, or 2.7 per cent, are included in farms in 1900 and only 254,521, or 0.35 per cent are improved. Of the improved land; 227,890 acres are located outside of the Indian reservations. The importance of irrigation is demonstrated by the fact that irrigated land outside the Indian reservations has an acreage of 185,396, or 81.4 per cent of the corresponding improved land. The progress of agriculture during the decade ending with 1900 is attributable to the successful application of irrigation to the growing of hay and forage, cereals, vegetables, fruit and other crops.

"Within the ten years from 1890 to 1900, 545 miles of canals and ditches were constructed, at a cost of $1,508,469. Out of this total $512,000 was expended in ditches into which no water had been turned before June 1, 1900. Aside from this amount $250,000 is represented in canals which were completed within the last few years, and what uitilize only a small quantity of the water appropriated for them. The acreage under these ditches, which in the near future will be brought under cultivation, will undoubtedly be much larger than the area now irrigated by all the ditches constructed since 1889 In 1890 the acres irrigated, outside of the rerervations, numbered 65,821; it 1900 they numbered 185,396, By the opening of new ditches and canals between 1890 and 1900 26,297 acre were added to the irrigation area. By the enlargement of the canals previously constructed, and as the result of more inteligent methods of water distribution, 93,278 acres were added to the productive area of the Territory. The total increase in irrigated land in ten years was 119,575 acres. Most of this land was public domain in 1890.

"At a low estimate its present average value is $30 per acre, or $3,586,250. Irrigation has added this large amount to the farm wealth of the Territory.

"The average value of arable lands under ditch, but not yet prepared for irrigation, is $7.93 per acre, while that of good irrigated lands is $43.50. The difference, $35.67, is average value per acre added by irrigation. There has been a large profit over the cost of ditch construction—$24 per irrigated acre. This profit would have been much larger and the cost per irrigated acre materially less if the ditches had been constructed only after due consideration of the factors involved.

"The development of the Territory by reclaiming its arid but fertile lands presents problems of water storage of great importance.

"While no reservoirs of impor- has yet been constructed in the Territory, the future reclamation of large areas of fertile lands depends upon the storage of flood waters on the sites which nature has provided. When perfected these reservoirs should be sufficiently extensive to provide water that will last through temporary drouths."

Electric Line to Cove.

La Grande, Ore., Aug 8.—A company will be incorporated here this week by about a dozen of the proinent men of this county for the purpose of building an electric road connecting La Grande with the town of Cove, 16 miles away on the eastern side of the Grande Round valley. All the impediments to success of the road have been thoroughly canvassed and there seems to be no sufficient reason why it should not succeed from the first. The cost of grading will be very small, since the country between here and the Cove is almost as level as the floor, and the power necessary to operate the rolling stock can be secured at a minimum of cost.

Cove has a number of streams flowing down the mountain side, the largest of which carries even at this time of year 12 feet of water, not less than a half foot in depth, or at least five cubic feet. The flow is rapid, the fall being between 400 and 500 feet to the mile. By utilizing about two miles of the stream above the irrigating ditches ample power can be secured to operate all the rolling stock the road would need in any reasonable length of time. By the same power electric lights will probably be furnished to the towns of Cove, Nibley and Alicel.

The business status of the enterprise is practically this: A company in Utah with unlimited capital back of it has offered assurances of assistance if the local company will do its part. It expects the local company to complete a survey and to purchase the right of way and the land at each end of the line for buildings. When this is done the outside company will build and operate the road.

It has been estimated that the road can be built and equiped at a cost of $6000 per mile. As it will not run direct to Cove, but will extend over a distance of about 20 miles, the total cost will be in the neighborhood of $120,000. The roundabout course is necessary to include on the route the towns of Island City and Nibley and the rich fruit and beet land lying north of the Grande Ronde river.

The road will undoubtedly cause the division of the large land holdings into small tracts and encourage country residences on the part of many who now live in town.

The land along the line is exceptionally fertile and is valued at from $40 to $100 per acre. It is capable of a high degree of cultivation and any agency that causes its division into small holdings will be for the benefit of the county at large.

Cove, which is rather a thickly populated farming community than a town, is perhaps the richest section in Eastern Oregon. Lying upon a gentle slope in a semi-circle of hills, it is especially adapted to fruit and produces more of that crop than all other sections of the county combined. It is the desire on the part of La Grande to secure the trade of this rich section, coupled with the desire on the part of Cove to be in direct comunication with a market that has prompted the building of this road.

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