

The Portland Evening Journal

VOL. I. NO. 64.

PORTLAND, OREGON, FRIDAY, MAY 23, 1902.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

MILLOWNERS MEET AND DECIDE NOT TO MAKE ANY CONCESSIONS

The strike situation grows worse. Today the planing mill owners met and positively decided not to grant any concessions and to refuse all overtures of peace made by the executive committee of the Building Trades. They assert that they will NOT ACCEPT arbitration.

The Building Trades have appealed to the mill owners to arbitrate. The answer as given in the action of the mill owners this morning, who added fuel to the fire by announcing that they had sent East for skilled help to take the places of the union men.

The names of the mills are the Hand Manufacturing Company, Northwest Door Company, Nicolai Bros., North Pacific Planing Mill, Ainslie Lumber Company, and Martin's.

These six mills are holding out against the hundreds of laboring men now out and the thousands who will in all likelihood strike tomorrow. Arbitration might settle the whole matter. Let us have it.

MILLMEN

Decide to Make No Con-
cession to Strikers.

They Send to Chicago
for Non-Union
Help.

The managers of the several planing mills, against which a general strike is now on and threatening to extend to the various branches of the Federated Trades, held a meeting this morning in the Commercial building.

Those present were Messrs. McFarland, of the Hand Manufacturing Company; Connell, of the Northwest Door Company; Neppach, of Nicolai Bros. mill; Jackson, of the North Pacific Planing mill; Collins, of the Ainslie Lumber Company, and Hughes, of the Martin mill.

At the conclusion of the session, the representatives stated that they intended to remain firm, and not to concede one iota from the position which they have assumed throughout the entire trouble. If every branch of organized labor in the city, including the teamsters, should go out on a sympathetic strike, they declare that it will not influence them in the least so far as making any concessions are concerned. They said they had decided to make no concessions and would not consider arbitration.

"How will you get your material to the outside markets, if the trains refused to handle it?"

"We have plenty of warehouse room and will store our product for the next year if necessary," was the reply. "We are receiving applications every day from skilled mechanics from the Eastern cities for positions. Among recent applications received are some from 12 mechanics in Chicago. They were formerly union men and have been through a labor crisis like the one now raging here, and are thoroughly disgusted with unions of every description. We employ them with the stipulation that they will never affiliate with labor organizations, and they are only too willing to sign an agreement to

THE DEMANDS OF THE WHOLE COMMUNITY IS FOR ARBITRATION

It is unjust to all other business men of Portland for the six millowners to hold out and refuse to submit the present strike matters to arbitration. If the refusal to arbitrate be persisted in, it will bring upon this city such business and commercial and social disasters as will work to the material injury of every person living here.

Furthermore, it is within the bounds of possibility that such refusal will paralyze the business of the entire state, and visit upon the people of hundreds of communities losses and troubles that will be far-reaching in their scope.

The latest development of the strike situation is this: The laborers agree to refer the matter to disinterested parties for arbitration. The millowners refuse to do so. It is therefore up to the millowners to reconsider their decision to refuse arbitration. The vital interests of the community demand such reconsideration. Paralysis of business waits upon their continued stand against arbitration. Endangering of bitterness is a contingent of their further refusal. Creation of a wide breach between employer and employee is a possible result of further refusal to arbitrate.

These may be averted, if only the millowners will agree to permit prominent and disinterested citizens—men standing high in the estimation of all classes—to go over the ground and sift the right from the wrong, the truth from the error in the contention of each party to the controversy.

Again, for the third time The Journal counsels moderation and urges that arbitration be resorted to to end the strike troubles. There is no other avenue of escape from business disasters that now threaten to engulf this municipality in a whirlpool of commercial destruction.

This effect. They have had an expensive lesson in labor difficulties, and in order not to get mixed up in them again, will never affiliate with any union.

"This is only one instance, showing the sentiment of many of the most skilled of Eastern workmen. They are anxious to come and it will be but a matter of a short time when we will have all the men we need."

Manager Jackson, who was authorized to speak for the association, gave out a typewritten statement of its position, as follows:

Millowners' Statement.
The statement is given verbatim, as follows:

"The association feels that it is justified in taking the stand it has, and also feels that as American citizens its members should be permitted to run their business as they see fit. It has never been against the union and it was well known to the association that their mills were being unionized and they respected the rights of the men so to do and as long as the union made no demand that was unjust and unreasonable, they could see no harm in the union. They said to their men, however, that the only objection they had was the fear of a sym-

pathetic strike and while their employees might be perfectly well satisfied with their treatment, that they were always menaced by the fact that they had so allied themselves with the Federated Trades that they could be called against their will at any time and without any particular notice. They feel, further, that their men could have accomplished just as much by taking the matter up with them personally, either as individuals or as an association of millmen, and not been hampered by having to consult with committees who were not at all familiar with the general conditions of their particular business, and if this plan had been followed out there is no doubt but that matters would have been settled before this, but they were always met with the proposition that the men could do nothing as individuals but that under their by-laws and obligations they were compelled to act in accordance with union rules and union ideas. Their men have since told them that if it were in their power to take the matter up with them they would gladly do so, but that it had gotten entirely out of their hands and that they were simply a factor in the proposition and that things were being carried further than they had anticipated."

"We have just had a settlement with the sawmill people," he said, "and very few of the men would think that we were treating them fairly by going out now."

President Madsen, of the Water Front Federation, said:

"The members of the Water Front Federation will stand by the union whatever action is taken at the meeting tonight."

SERIOUS

General Strike Will
Surely be Ordered.

Labor Leaders Decline
to Discuss Situation
Today.

Harry Gurr, President of the Federated Trades, was seen this afternoon.

"We have been in executive session all day," he said, "and have decided not to give out anything for publication to any of the papers. The public knows our position, and we intend to keep perfectly quiet until the meeting of the central body tonight."

Many of the leaders today have expressed their willingness to meet the millowners, and endeavor to arrive at some settlement of the matter, but they betray no signs of yielding. They are anxiously awaiting the action of the Federated Trades tonight.

H. Kinde, secretary and business manager of the Longshoremen's Union, said:

"The longshoremen will abide by any decision rendered tonight by the Federated Trades. This is the sentiment among all the men. We are union, through and through, and if ordered to do so will go out to a man."

F. Koenig, secretary of the saw millmen's union, said:

"I do not know what the sawmill men will do if ordered out at the meeting tonight."

One of the men in the employ of the Portland Lumber & Manufacturing Company, stated that he had serious doubts as to whether the sawmill men would go out or not, if they should receive such instructions.

"We have just had a settlement with the sawmill people," he said, "and very few of the men would think that we were treating them fairly by going out now."

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INJUNCTION

IS GRANTED

Against Strikers by
Judge Sears.

A new complication has arisen in the strike situation. A temporary injunction was issued from the Circuit Court late yesterday afternoon, restraining the strikers from interfering in any manner with the business of the mill owners. The plaintiffs are the six planing mills in the city, and the defendants are the various labor organizations involved in the strike. The following explains the situation fully:

"It is ordered that the defendants and each of them shall show cause on the 25th day of May, 1902, at 9:30 A. M., why a writ of injunction shall not issue as prayed for herein, and that, meantime, and until the further order of this court the defendants and each of them and their servants and agents, officers and all of them, be and they are hereby restrained from interfering with the business of the plaintiffs or either of them by patrolling the sidewalks or street in front of or in the vicinity of the premises occupied by plaintiffs, or from placarding their wagons or teams or the goods of plaintiffs; or from picketing in front of the premises of plaintiffs; or from interfering with the employees of plaintiffs or persons desiring to be employed; or from congregating in front of the premises of the plaintiffs, in any wise interfering with, threatening or coercing, or attempting to coerce, any of the employees of the plaintiffs or persons desiring to be employed by plaintiffs."

"Dated May 22, 1902."

"ALFRED F. SEARS, JR.,
Circuit Judge."

The restraining order has had the effect of making the strikers firmer than ever. They seem to realize the gravity of the matter, and appreciate the fact that their strength will be put to a supreme test. In other words, it is a fight to the death between mill owners and labor, and both sides say there is no retreating of steps now.

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A BIG BUY

(Scripps-McRae News Association.)

TACOMA, Wash., May 23.—The Tacoma Steel Company today purchased 1800 acres of copper and iron lands on Vancouver Island, for \$60,000, and has obtained options on 112 square miles of spruce timber lands on Quatsino Sound, Vancouver Island, where paper and pulp mills will be established for foreign shipments.

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A MINE HORROR

Fearful Loss of Life in
Crows' Nest Coal
Mines.

(Scripps-McRae News Association.)

VICTORIA, B. C., May 23.—A terrible explosion at the Fernie coal mines in Crows' Nest Pass last night resulted in the death of 12 miners.

The explosion occurred in No. 2 mine, which is connected with No. 3 shaft. One hundred and fifty men were in the mine at the time. Of this number, 16 escaped from the shaft before the cave-in.

All the openings are now closed, and there is little hope of rescuing the remainder. One of those who escaped has since died.

(Scripps-McRae News Association.)

NEW YORK, May 23.—Notices were sent out by the cable companies last night to the effect that messages to Martinique were subject to delay and would be accepted only at the sender's risk. These notices gave rise to the story that a further disaster had overwhelmed the island and completed the work in other cities which Pelee started at St. Pierre. Confidence was restored this morning by an announcement from the French cable company that communication with Martinique still exists.

(Scripps-McRae News Association.)

PARIS, May 23.—The national memorial services for the Martinique dead were held at Notre Dame this morning. Members of the Cabinet, Mme. Loubet and other functionaries and representatives of the foreign powers attended.

PEOPLE FLYING

Ten Thousand Will
Leave Martinique.

General Evacuation Will Not Occur for the Present.

PARIS, May 23.—A cablegram dated Fort de France was received at the Colonial Office from the Acting Governor of Martinique this morning. The message, which is dated yesterday, reads:

"There are no new deaths. The Privy Council of the colony, which consulted as to the advisability of a total or partial evacuation of the island, has unanimously decided that such action is not justified for the present. A steamer of the Compagnie Trans-Atlantique is here and is able to transport those desiring to go to Guadeloupe. Today 10,000 inhabitants engaged passage for Versailles."

Heartrending Scenes.

FORT DE FRANCE, May 23.—The deepest despair has settled upon Fort de France, especially among the poor and ignorant. They can not be persuaded that the island is not doomed to complete destruction or that possibly the end of the world is not at hand. Mothers roam the streets dragging their children with them, and frantically appealing to whoever they may meet to take them away. Many are seeking refuge in the

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