

# FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC:

## The Railroads' statement of their position on the threatened strike, as presented to the President of the United States

A strike on all the railroads of the country has been called by the Train Brotherhoods for 7 o'clock Monday morning, September 4.

This strike was ordered from Washington while the President of the United States was making every effort to avert the disaster.

### The Final Railroad Proposal

The final proposal made by the railroads for a peaceful settlement of the controversy, but which was rejected by the brotherhoods, was as follows:

(a) The railroads will, effective September 1, 1916, keep the time of all men represented in this movement, upon an 8 hour basis and by separate account, monthly, with each man, maintain a record of the difference between the money actually earned by him on the present basis and the amount that would have been earned upon an 8 hour basis—overtime on each basis to be computed pro rata.

The amounts so shown will be subject to the decision of the Commission, provided for in Paragraph (c) of this memorandum and payable in money, as may be directed by said Commission in its findings and decision.

(b) The Interstate Commerce Commission to supervise the keeping of these accounts and report the increased cost of the 8 hour basis, after such period of

actual experience as their judgment approves or the President may fix, not, however, less than three months.

(c) In view of the far-reaching consequences of the declaration made by the President, accepting the 8 hour day, not only upon the railroads and the classes of labor involved directly in this controversy, but to the public and upon all industry, it seems plain that before the existing conditions are changed, the whole subject in so far as it affects the railroads and their employees, should be investigated and determined by a Commission to be appointed by the President, of such standing as to compel attention and respect to its findings. The judgment of such a Commission would be a helpful basis for adjustments with labor and such legislation as intelligent public opinion, so informed, might demand.

### Statement of Executives to the President

In submitting this proposal to the President, the fifty railroad executives called to Washington and representing all the great arteries of traffic, made this statement to him of their convictions:

The demands in this controversy have not been presented, in our judgment, for the purpose of fixing a definite daily period of labor, nor a reduction in the existing hours of labor or change in methods of operation, but for the real purpose of accomplishing an increase in wages of approximately One Hundred Million Dollars per annum, or 35 per cent. for the men in railroad freight train and yard service represented by the labor organizations in this matter.

After careful examination of the facts and patient and continuous consultation with the Conference Committee of Managers, and among ourselves, we have reached a clear understanding of the magnitude of the questions, and of the serious consequences to the railroads and to the public, involved in the decision of them.

#### Trustees for the Public

As trustees for the public served by our lines and for the great mass of the less powerful employees (not less than 80 per cent. of the whole number) interested in the railroad wage fund—as trustees also for the millions of people that have invested their savings and capital in the bonds and stock of these properties, and who through the saving banks, trust companies and insurance companies, are vitally interested to the extent of millions of dollars, in the integrity and solvency of the railroads of the country, we cannot in conscience surrender without a hearing, the principle involved, nor undertake to transfer the enormous cost that will result to the transportation of the commerce of the country.

The eight-hour day without punitive overtime involves an annual increase, approximately, in the aggregate of Sixty Millions of Dollars, and an increase of more than 20 per cent. in the pay of the men, already the most highly paid in the transportation service.

The ultimate cost to the railroads of an admission in this manner of the principle under contention cannot now be estimated; the effect upon the efficiency of the transportation of the country now already under severe test under the tide of business now moving, and at a time when more, instead of less,

In good faith we have worked continuously and earnestly in a sincere effort to solve the problem in justice to all the parties at interest. These efforts were still in progress when the issuance of the strike order showed them to be unavailing.

### Problem Threatens Democracy Itself

The strike, if it comes, will be forced upon the country by the best paid class of laborers in the world, at a time when the country has the greatest need for transportation efficiency.

The problem presented is not that alone of the railroad or business world, but involving democracy itself, and sharply presents the question whether any group of citizens should be allowed to possess the power to imperil the life of the country by conspiring to block the arteries of commerce.

HALE HO'DEN, Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad.  
W. W. ATTERBURY, Pennsylvania Railroad.  
FAIRFAX HARRISON, Southern Railway.

R. S. LOVETT, Union Pacific System.  
E. P. RIPLEY, Atchafalaya, Topeka & Santa Fe System.

A. H. SMITH, New York Central Lines.  
FRANK TRUMBULL, Chesapeake & Ohio Railway.  
DANIEL WILLARD, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

### Court House News

An action was filed in the circuit court Saturday by T. G. Bligh, the Salem theatre magnate, against A. E. Laflar and George B. Guthrie, of the Oregon theatre, and H. B. Bogarty and J. W. Maloney, to collect the sum of \$2000 which he claims to be due him from a deal in which the Bligh theatre at Albany was transferred to the defendants. The deal is said to have been made June 1, 1914, and plaintiff alleges that he was ready at all times to give a bill of sale, but that the defendants waived a bill of sale by accepting title and thereafter transferring title and possession to the Albany Amusement company, a corporation. The defendants were to pay Bligh \$3500, according to the complaint. Of this amount \$1000 was to be paid prior to July 1, 1914, and the remaining \$2500 was to be paid in semi-annual installments of \$500, beginning January 1, 1915. It is stated that the only part of the \$2000, now claimed due, received by the plaintiff is \$75 interest.

An action for divorce has been filed in the circuit court by Dona Caroline Tower against James Patrick Tower. In the complaint it is alleged that Tower has been infatuated with a ward of the state school for the feeble minded, designated as "Molly," and has showered gifts upon her. Tower, it is stated, was dismissed from the employ of the school about a month ago. Mr. and Mrs. Tower were married in Arkansas in 1881.

The final account of Thomas B. Morgan, administrator of the estate of E. Clara Martin Morgan, has been approved by the county court.

Lina Cookingham has been appointed by the county court as guardian of Kammie and Ruby Plummer, minors.

### THE MARKETS

The following prices for fruits and vegetables are those asked by the wholesaler of the retailer, and not what is paid to the producer. All other prices are those paid the producer. Corrections are made daily.

There is but very little change in today's markets as today is Labor day and on national holidays the markets show no change. Wheat is quoted locally as high as \$1.09 for the first grade and oats are stronger with 40 cents as the top price.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Wheat, Oats, Bran, Shorts, Alfalfa, Hay, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Butterfat, Creamery butter, Country butter.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Eggs, Hens, Roosters, Broilers.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Pork, Veal, Mutton, Beef, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Tomatoes, Cabbage, Cucumbers, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Potatoes, Beans, Apples, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Watermelons, Muskmelons, Peaches, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Lemons, Cantaloupes, Bananas, etc.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Florida grape fruit, Pineapples, Casavas, Honey.

Table with 2 columns: Commodity and Price. Includes items like Eggs, Sugar, Creamery butter, Flour, etc.

THE QUINNS CELEBRATE  
Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Quinn celebrated their china wedding anniversary at Donald last week. Cards, dancing and banquet were the features of the evening, aside from the "ceremony" by which the old ties were tightened. The "Bible" for the ceremony was prepared, it is said, by C. A. Adams, of the Donald bank, and included almost everything except the promissory note of the groom and a mortgage on the bride. E. P. Flynn distinguished himself as an orator (D), in presenting a beautiful



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Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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FOR SALE—I have a well equipped chicken ranch of 7 acres close in on good road, good new, convenient house of four rooms, pump and well of excellent water, modern rooey chicken houses, large wood shed. Will accept part of price in well improved city property. Inquire at 202 U. S. Bank or Phone 429.

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MISCELLANEOUS  
OREGON SCHOOL OF NEUROLOGY—Incorporated, drugless methods, opens Sept. 5th, 1916. Private Patients and clinics, 110 5 p. m. Flora A. Brewster, M. D. Dean, 428 Hubbard bldg., Salem, Or.

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