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CITY EMPLOYEES IN NEW YORK MAY LAY BRICKS

New York, July 18—The police and firemen of the City of New York may be drafted within the next few days to build badly-needed schools calculated to hold some 60,000 of the more than 100,000 schoolless children. Mayor Hylan has called a meeting of bricklayers and mason contractors for Monday night, at which a decision will be reached.

The schools planned have been held up by the lack of bricklayers. It is estimated that there are between 500 and 600 former union bricklayers in the police and fire departments. It is proposed that these men shall temporarily lay down the hose and the night stick and turn back to their old trades at more than double the pay they now receive.

Mayor Hylan has been given tentative assurance that the unions will make no serious objection to the proposed arrangement. They will want to be sure that each fireman and policeman who goes back on the building job shall have been a member of the union in good standing at the time he went into the city service. All such men will be reinstated for the time of their employment on the schools.

Drafting Move Fails

Four weeks ago the school authorities signed an agreement with the union calling for a scale of \$12 a day for bricklayers. This was an advance of 2 over the old scale. The new scale brought only 15 additional men to work, and the union leaders were appealed to. The city needs schools badly.

The union officials asked what they could do in the way of compelling their members to work for \$12 a day when contractors generally throughout the city were paying \$16 a day. An effort previously to have the men

come to work with the understanding that they could work Sundays at \$24 a day in order to enhance the week's pay failed because the men who got double time on Sunday took a day off on Monday.

The suggestion was made that the union officials might draft bricklayers from the \$16 jobs and compel them to work on the schools at the union's own wage scale of \$12. It was argued that this would not be fair to the men with families; that they should be permitted to make all they could.

Then it was proposed to draft the single men first. At last, however, the union leaders reported that there was nothing in their constitution or by-laws which gave them the right to use compulsion on any man to work for the union scale when he could get more than the scale. It was against all the rules, they said, to work under the scale.

Union Scale Exceeded

The trouble is caused by the builders, the union officials say. The employers started the "snowballing" of wages and it has gone on at such a rate the union leaders themselves don't know from day to day just where they stand.

It is the first time in the history of the bricklayers' union, however, that the mason contractors have paid more than was stipulated in the wage agreement. The City of New York, not being engaged in speculative construction, can pay only the union scale. Hence the plan to draft the police and firemen.

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA

There is an abundance of interesting material for the sportsman in the August issue of Rod and Gun in Canada and from cover to cover it is stocked with articles written from first hand experience while the various departments are brim full of interesting suggestions and experiences. Raymond Thomson is represented by a good story of the Beaver, getting some unusual insights into its life. "Walking Up and Drifting Down" is an interesting account of a novel canoe trip by A. W. Tucker while Bonnycastle Dale has contributed a good story on the wild goose hunters of Cape Island. The Sixth Close Call of Martin Hunter, contains another narrow escape from death while an interesting article appears by G. W. Visser on making summer vacation pictures attractive. Robert Page Lincoln, C. S. Landis, F. H. Walker, W. C. Motley, F. V. Williams and J. W. Winson, the regular contributors have supplied departments covering every phase of the sportsman's interest and there are numerous other articles and stories in this well illustrated number which make the issue one of particular interest.

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