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LITTLE HOPE OF AVERTING A STRIKE IN GREAT BRITAIN; NEGOTIATIONS BREAK DOWN

London, May 3—Any hope of averting a general strike that hung upon Sunday's negotiations between the government and Trades' Union Congress vanished at one o'clock this morning when it was officially announced that the negotiations had broken down.

The government immediately issued a statement refusing to resume them unless the congress withdrew the general strike orders and repudiated other overt acts, which the government describes as challenging the constitutional rights and freedom of the nation.

"Such action involves a challenge to the constitutional rights and freedom of the nation. The government therefore before they can continue the negotiations must require from the Trades' Union Congress both a repudiation of the actions referred to that have already taken place and immediate unconditional withdrawal of the instructions for a general strike."

The overt acts specified include interference with the freedom of the press, an obvious allusion to the strike of the printers and other operatives of the Daily Mail, because they objected to an editorial sent to them to set up.

Strike at Midnight.

In view of the attitude taken by the Trades Union Congress and the miners up to the present there does not seem the least possibility that they will adopt the course the Government has demanded from them and the general strike consequently will go into effect at midnight tonight (Monday.)

War has been declared," J. H. Thomas, secretary of the National Railwaymen, said when leaving Downing street. Mr. Thomas added: "It is a very sad state of affairs."

Asked whether the representatives of the congress had made any reply to the Government's statement, Mr. Thomas shook his head and remarked:

"We are now going to Eccleston square," trade union headquarters. J. A. Cook, secretary of the Miners' Federation, said:

"We are now going to discuss matters together. The Premier has declared war; we must prepare for the struggle."

The official statement, which was issued at Downing Street at 1 o'clock this morning, says:

"The following decision of His Majesty's Government has been conveyed to Mr. Pugh, chairman of the Trades Union Congress Committee. The government believes that no solution of the difficulties of the coal industry, which is both practical and honorable to all concerned, can be reached except by sincere acceptance of the coal commission's report.

Meaning of Acceptance.

"In the expression acceptance of the report are included both re-organization of the coal industry, which should be put in hand immediately, and pending the results of reorganization being attained such interim adjustment of wages or hours of work as will make it economically possible to carry on the industry in the meantime.

"If the miners or trades union committee on their behalf were prepared to say plainly that they accept this proposal, the government would be ready to resume negotiations and resume the subsidy for a fortnight. But since the negotiations which have taken place between ministers and the Miners' Union Congress it has come to the knowledge of the government not only that specific instructions have been sent under the authority of the executive of the trades unions represented at the conference convened by the council of Trade Union Congress, asking their members in several of the most vital industries of the country to carry out a general strike on Tuesday next, but that overt acts have already taken place, including gross interference with the freedom of the press."

Union Manifesto Issued.

The general council of the Trades Union Congress tonight issued a manifesto to the nation explaining and justifying its action. The council blames the mine owners for locking out more than a million miners and the government for its failure to make any acceptable proposals to enable the mining industry to continue without any further lowering of the standards of life and labor in the coal fields, pending a reorganization. It declares that the Trades Union Congress has been compelled to organize united resistance to an enforced settlement of the mining problem at the expense of the mine workers' wages and disclaims all responsibility for the calamity that now threatens. Its action, it adds, is not directed against the public and responsibility for the consequences lies with the mine owners and the government entirely. No pro-

posal for a national settlement, the manifesto further asserts, was made by the mine owners.

Settlement Impossible.

In a few hours time from the expiration of the lockout notices, and by the government's refusal to insist upon the withdrawal of these notices to enable the negotiations to continue except upon the condition that the miners agreed in advance to accept wage reductions, the government made it impossible for representatives of the trade unions to effect an honorable settlement.

The manifesto concludes:

Even now, with a general stoppage within sight the trade union representatives believe an honorable settlement can be reached, but it is absolutely essential that the government's demand for an undertaking for the miners' leaders to consent in advance to a reduction in wages be withdrawn.

Public Takes it Calmly.

The British public seems in no mood to meet calamity half-way. To observe the demeanor of the ordinary citizen nobody would suppose that he was faced by a complete tie-up of almost the whole country's great industries, with all the inconveniences and losses such a tie-up is bound to entail within the next 48 hours and with preparations for emergencies of a nature recalling the days of the Great War.

In London there is a strong non-chalance regarding the overshadowing events; nobody seems to think of the possibility of a food shortage, and there is no sign of any laying in of supplies of food or fuel. All of life's normal activities continue undisturbed, week-end recreations, excursion and amusement suffered no diminution and the London citizen is not even anxious to talk about strike. He seems far more interested in the doings of the Australian cricketers here for test matches than in his own possible sufferings through widespread cessation of transport and other services.

Cause of Apathy.

This apathy does not arise through any omission of the newspapers to paint pictures of coming events in sufficiently vivid colors. It may possibly be due to the unprecedented character of the pending general strike and lack of imagination as to what such a strike might mean or it may equally be that that public generally retains its faith that the Government and those chiefly concerned with the dispute will not permit such a calamity to afflict the nation.

The approaching strike was the theme of most of the sermons today, the preachers appealing for calmness, fairness and patience for the common good.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION
AT GAIETY THEATRE

"Sea Horses" is the photo play at the Gaiety for Monday and Tuesday with Jack Holt and Florence Vidor in the leading roles.

Allan Dwan, capable director that he is has done well by the Francis Brett Young story which you may have read in a weekly magazine. He has given it an elaborate mounting, emphasizing the tropical atmosphere. The plot concerns the exciting adventures which befall a beautiful English girl, who is the lone passenger on board of an ocean freighter bound for East Africa. The development of her romance with the virile sea captain and the complications which result when she discovers her missing husband are vividly depicted. Hand-to-hand fights, a sea storm, a swamp battle and a tropic tornado are a few of the thrills.

SNAKE OIL SEASON CLOSED

Cisco, Tex. May 3—The warming rays of the spring sun has closed the season upon a lucrative and novel industry in this section of the state.

Rattlesnake oil derived from the Texas rattler, which infests this section, wholesaled at \$100 a gallon during the past few months. The harvesting season lasted during the winter months when the snakes were dormant in their dens. A keen eye to avoid mishaps and a quantity of dynamite with which to blast the snakes from their rock nests were the only implements of the hunters. Thousands of the snakes were slain by snake oil hunters.

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Here and There

Nels Nelsen, world's amateur ski champion, gave an exhibition at Shawbridge recently under the auspices of the Montreal Ski Club. Mr. Nelsen holds the record for the longest ski jump in the world, either by amateur or professional ski experts. At the Revelstoke, B.C., ski jump he attained a distance of 240 feet, two years ago. This has never been equalled or attained before or since.

The Prince of Wales spent a day inspecting the British Industries Fair at Birmingham, England, recently. When in the course of his tour he came to the important exhibit of the Canadian Pacific Railway, he stopped, smiled and exclaimed, "Good old C.P.R." On leaving the Prince's verdict was, "It is a splendid fair and I hope it meets with the success it deserves."

Shipped to the Governor of Sierra Leone, South Africa, before Christmas in care of the Dominion Express Company, the receipt of two cases of apples from the Ontario Department of Agriculture has been acknowledged by the Governor's secretary. The latter states that the apples, Baldwins and Northern Spies, arrived beautifully packed and in perfect condition.

General meetings of the Montreal Railway Officers have been held in Montreal arranging for the forthcoming convention of American Railroad Superintendents. The convention is to take place on June 15 to 18 next, and will be attended by railroad superintendents from all parts of the American continent. In all, about eight hundred or a thousand are expected with their wives.

With E. W. Beatty, President of the Canadian Pacific Railway, as one of its patrons, the Red and White Revue, an annual Musical Show, written, produced and acted entirely by McGill Students, was offered to five capacity houses at His Majesty's Theatre at Montreal during the first week of March. This was the third edition of the Revue produced by the undergraduates of McGill University.

One of the largest and most valuable collections of Chinese Jade that has ever crossed the Pacific Ocean was carried off the Canadian Pacific liner "Empress of Russia" when the vessel arrived at Vancouver recently. The entire collection is the result of nine months excavation in the central and northwest provinces of China. The collection was brought by A. W. Behr, well known collector of New York city.

The Annual Italian Trade Fair, to be held in Milan, Italy, during the month of April, has the support of the Italian Government and all the commercial and industrial associations of the country. Judging from the applications already on hand from those wishing to participate it should be a marked success. This exhibition should appeal to Canadian manufacturers and merchants who wish to increase trade between the two countries.

Arriving at Vancouver recently on the Canadian Pacific liner "Empress of Russia," three scientists, Captain L. Dominick, of Yale University, and Wilson Powell and Adrian Rubel, of Harvard, told of photographing the total eclipse of the Sun at an approximate cost of \$30,000 a minute. The three astronomical students were members of the Swathmore college expedition who journeyed to the Island of Sumatra to photograph the latest eclipse of January 14.

SPECIAL ATTRACTION AT
THE CAPITOL THEATRE

"The Merry Widow is the Photo Play at the Capitol for the first half of the week with Mae Murray in the star role.

Mae Murray is a revelation in the title role. She has never been so beautiful; and in this part, which seems made for her, she improves on all her past performances. Jack Gilbert has a fiery appeal and all the others in the large cast are adequate. "The Merry Widow" will be rated as von Stroheim's most entertaining picture, and his most successful, as it has more universal appeal than anything he has done previously. The story is lavishly mounted and combines heart interest with scenic beauty. The film ends with gorgeous scenes in color.

PUP IS BEING CURED.

New York, May 3—Ling Foy, Chow pup, now can pick up a bone without biting her foot first. She was cross-eyed at birth and her master C. G. Douglas took her to an optometrist. Now one eye is straight and the defect in the other speedily is being corrected.

Condition is Unchanged.

Victoria Hospital reports the condition of David Smith of Nashwaakasis unchanged. The patient was taken to the hospital last week after cutting his throat in an attempt at suicide.

CANADIAN PACIFIC

Chicago

Eucharistic Congress

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