

STRIKE OF THE SWITCHMEN

Not a Wheel Turning on any Freight Train Between St. Paul and Seattle

A despatch from St. Paul, Minnesota, says: The strike of switchmen on the Northern transcontinental lines between St. Paul and the Pacific coast has already involved 65,000 people directly and indirectly, and before the strike is adjusted it is believed that 150,000 persons will have been affected. Not a wheel is turning on any freight train between St. Paul and Seattle. In Minneapolis three of the big flour mills have closed down for the reason that they could not receive grain nor ship flour. At St. Cloud, Minn., the Great Northern has closed its shops, putting 500 men in idleness. At Superior, Wis., the Great Northern has closed down its shops and docks, crowding out 350 men. At St. Cloud, in the granite works, 500 men were thrown out of employment because of the uncertainty of the future. From St. Cloud, Wilmar, Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Devil's Lake, Minot, Billings, Livingston, Butte and Helena 165 engine crews were called off. The switchmen have allowed perishable freight to be attached to passenger trains to be taken to terminal stations, but this only applies to the next 12 hours. This situation is practically the same clear to the coast.

The chief of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen on Wednesday advised the general managers of all the Western railroads that if any attempt is made to replace the striking switchmen by non-union men he will call a strike. The situation at present is this: That none of the jobbers of Chicago, the Twin Cities or Duluth can ship a single article except by express. Not a farmer in the North-West can deliver to the commission houses of the Twin Cities except by express. That the prospective Christmas business throughout the North-West on all lines is paralyzed. Milling and manufacturing industries are hourly being suspended and the loss in money runs into the hundreds of thousands of dollars every 24 hours. This is the most far-reaching and

disastrous strike that has occurred in the West for 25 years, and the determination on both sides to fight to a finish promises to prolong the struggle for weeks.

Telegrams from the northern Minnesota iron range towns on Wednesday night, which includes a population of more than 175,000, say that if the strike continues for a week there will be a food famine in all of the towns. One of the effects of the strike is the suspension of the big packing-houses at South St. Paul. They can neither receive live stock nor ship their present supply of produce.

STRIKE ABOUT OVER.

With 1,500 men imported to take the places of the striking switchmen who are members of the Switchmen's Union of North America and those strikers who are members of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen returning to work, managers of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific Railroads on Friday night asserted that the strike was about over.

The strike leaders, however, despite the desertion of the trainmen and the gradual resumption of traffic, asserted that the strike had only begun. Freight congestion is not appreciably relieved. After a conference on Friday afternoon with President Hawley of the Switchmen's Union and E. W. Decker of the clearing house, Governor Eberhardt announced that a well-defined movement had been started to effect a settlement of the strike.

President L. W. Hill of the Great Northern said there could be no truth to any talk of settlement even with individual railroads, as the General Managers had decided that they would all stand together. Mr. Hill said that the railroads could get enough men in the east to take the strikers' places, but that they did not want to bring them all in now, preferring to give the old men a chance to return as individuals.

A COAL SHORTAGE.

Dealers in the West Neglected to Stock Up.

A despatch from Regina says: With the sudden dip in temperature which has occurred come reports of a dangerous shortage of fuel in some localities. This has been carefully investigated by the Government, with a view to ascertaining who is responsible for the situation. It has been learned that the railways have done everything possible to facilitate shipments, and have urged the dealers to lay in stocks in advance, but the advice has not been acted upon. The mines have been able to supply all the orders promptly, and therefore it is strictly up to the dealers in the various centres. However, the situation is not yet an alarming one, although many towns have only a hand-to-mouth supply.

A DARING ROBBERY.

Two Masked Men Hold up Merchant at Lewisville, N. B.

A despatch from Moncton, N. B., says: A hold-up of the wild west variety was successfully pulled off at Lewisville, a suburb of Moncton early on Friday night by two masked men, unknown. The desperadoes entered the store of W. R. Williams just after dark, and with cocked revolvers held the proprietor and two clerks at bay while the

till was ransacked and twenty dollars taken. The men then backed out and fled in the darkness. The robbery was done so quickly that the young woman bookkeeper at work in the office did not know it happened till she was told.

A HUNTER'S MISTAKE.

John Smith Kills W. McCreary, Taking Him for a Deer.

A despatch from Rathwell, Manitoba, says: The first fatality of the big game shooting season occurred near here on Wednesday afternoon, when John Smith shot and killed W. McCreary in mistake for a deer. The bullet hit McCreary full in the chest and caused instant death. His two brothers were in the bush with him and at once conveyed the body to this town. Smith also came in and gave himself up to the police.

POISON IN GERMAN HOSPITAL

70 Deaths May Result From Crime of Employee.

A despatch from Berlin says: Five hundred and forty-seven patients in the asylum at Friedrichsberg, near Hamburg, are ill from the effects of poisoned rice, which is supposed to have been given to them by one of the employees. Two patients have died from eating the poisoned food and sixty-eight cases are considered hopeless. Portions of the rice which were not eaten are being chemically analyzed.

ARREST IN BIG ROBBERY

Railway Mail Clerk Charged With Stealing Money Package.

A despatch from Winnipeg says: The climax of a \$5,000 robbery occurred on Thursday, when John A. Barnett, a railway mail clerk, was arrested charged with the crime. It is the sequel of the disappearance of a package containing \$5,885 from the mails on the Carran-Hartney branch of the Canadian Northern Railway on Nov. 1. The police found \$1,000 of the stolen money on Wednesday, but admit the problem of solving the mysterious affair is puzzling them.

Barnett took his arrest coolly, employed a lawyer and was remanded for one week. His salary is \$1.80 per day and he has been in the service for one year. The detectives of the city, the railway and the post-office department are maintaining the utmost secrecy about the case. They admit, however, that several persons are involved in the robbery and that a number of thefts of equal interest have occurred recently in the service which have not been explained. The suggestion is that all have been committed by the same gang.

THE WORLD'S MARKETS

REPORTS FROM THE LEADING TRADE CENTRES.

Prices of Cattle, Grain, Cheese and Other Dairy Produce at Home and Abroad.

BREADSTUFFS.

Toronto, Dec. 7.—Flour—Ontario wheat 90 per cent. patents, \$4.30 to \$4.35 in buyers' sacks on track, Toronto, and \$4.20 to \$4.25 outside in buyers' sacks. Manitoba flour, first patents, \$5.60 on track, Toronto; second patents, \$5.10 to \$5.20, and strong bakers', \$4.90 to \$5 on track, Toronto.

Manitoba Wheat—No. 1 Northern \$1.04, Bay ports, and No. 2 Northern, \$1.02 1/4, Bay ports.

Ontario Wheat—No. 2 mixed, \$1.03 to \$1.04 outside, and No. 2 white and red, \$1.04 outside.

Barley—No. 2, 60 to 61c outside, and No. 3 extra, 58 to 59c outside.

Oats—No. 2 Ontario white, 36 to 37c outside. Canada West oats, 37 1/2 to 38c for No. 2, and 36 1/2 to 37c for No. 3, Bay ports.

Peas—\$7 to 88c outside.

Rye—No. 2, 72 to 73c outside.

Buckwheat—53c high freights, and 54c low freights.

Corn—Old No. 3 American yellow, 71 1/2 to 72c Toronto, and new No. 3 yellow, 65 1/2c on track, Toronto.

Bran—\$20.50 in bags, Toronto, and shorts, \$23 to \$23.50, in bags, Toronto.

COUNTRY PRODUCE.

Apples—\$2 to \$3.50 per barrel, according to quality.

Beans—Car lots outside, \$1.50 to \$1.60, and small lots here \$1.70 to \$1.90.

Honey—Combs, dozen, \$2.25 to \$3; extracted, 10 1/2c per lb.

Hay—No. 1 timothy, \$14.50 to \$15 and No. 2 \$13 to \$14 on track, Toronto.

Straw—\$7.50 to \$8 on track, Toronto.

Potatoes—45 to 50c per bag on track for Ontarios.

Poultry—Chickens, dressed, 11 to 12c per lb.; fowl, 8 to 9c; turkeys, 15 to 16c per lb.; ducks, lb., 11 to 12c; geese, 9 to 10c per lb.

THE DAIRY MARKETS.

Butter—Pound prints, 23 to 24c; tubs and large rolls, 21 to 22c; inferior, 18 to 19c; creamery, 27 to 28c, and solids, 26 to 26 1/2c per lb.

Eggs—Case lots, 30 to 32c per dozen for fresh, and 25 to 26c for storage.

Cheese—12 1/2c per lb. for large, and at 12 1/4c for twins.

HOG PRODUCTS.

Bacon—Long clear, 13 1/2 to 14c per lb. in case lots; mess pork, \$26; short cut, \$29 to \$29.50.

Hams—Light to medium, 14 1/2 to 15 1/2c; do., heavy, 13 1/2 to 14c; rolls, 14 to 14 1/2c; shoulders, 12 1/2 to 13c; backs, 19 to 20c; breakfast bacon, 17 to 18c.

Lard—Tierces, 15 1/4c; tubs, 16c; pails, 16 1/4c.

BUSINESS AT MONTREAL.

Montreal, Dec. 7.—Oats, No. 2 Canada Western, 40 1/2 to 41c; barley, No. 2, 66 to 67c; Manitoba feed barley, 52 to 53c; buckwheat, 58 to 58 1/2c. Flour—Manitoba Spring wheat patents, firsts, \$5.70; Manitoba Spring wheat patents, seconds, \$5.20; Winter wheat patents, \$5.60; Manitoba strong bakers, \$5; straight rollers, \$5.10 to \$5.25; straight rollers in bags, \$2.40 to \$2.50. Feed—Ontario bran, \$20.50 to \$21.50; Ontario middlings, \$23 to \$23.50; Manitoba bran, \$19 to \$20; Manitoba shorts, \$22 to \$23; pure grain mouille, \$32 to \$33; mixed mouille, \$25 to \$27. Cheese—Westerns, 11 1/2 to 11 3/4c for late Fall make, and 11 1/4 to 12c for September make, with easterns 11 1/4 to 11 3/4c. Butter—September creamery, 25 to 25 1/2c, and current receipts at 24 to 24 1/2c. Eggs—Selected stock, 27 to 28c, and No. 1 candled at 25 to 26c per dozen.

UNITED STATES MARKETS.

Buffalo, Dec. 7.—Wheat—Spring wheat, No. 1 Northern, carloads, store, \$1.11; Winter, No. 2 red, \$1.21; No. 2 white, \$1.22. Corn—No. 3 yellow, 62 1/2c; No. 4 yellow, 60 1/2c; No. 3 corn, 60c; No. 4 corn, 58c; No. 3 white, 61c. Oats—No. 2 white, 44 1/2c.

Chicago, Dec. 7.—Wheat—Cash No. 2 red, \$1.19 to \$1.21; No. 3 red \$1.12 to \$1.17; No. 2 hard, \$1.07 1/4 to \$1.09; No. 3 hard, \$1.02 to \$1.06; No. 1 Northern, \$1.08 1/2 to \$1.09 1/2; No. 2 Northern, \$1.05 1/2 to \$1.08; No. 3 Spring, \$1.03 to \$1.06. Corn—No. 2 white, old, 62 1/2 to 63 1/2c; No. 3 new, 53 1/2c; No. 3 white, new, 56 1/2c; No. 3 yellow, new, 57 to 58c. Oats—No. 2 white,

ADRIFT FOR THREE DAYS

Terrible Experience of Two Nova Scotia Fishermen.

A despatch from Digby, N. S., says: One of the most appalling stories of hardship and suffering ever experienced by Nova Scotia fishermen comes from Westport, on the Bay of Fundy. Last Monday morning at three o'clock, Geo. Reppot, aged 55 years, and his son, Ray, aged 20, left Westport in a small 20-foot gasoline boat for the fishing grounds. They were seen hauling their trawls at 10 o'clock the same morning by Capt. Nelson Thurber, of the schooner Swan, and nothing was seen of them until about one o'clock on Thursday afternoon, when they were picked up off Trinity Ledge, 20 miles from land, by Capt. A. J. Thurber, of

the schooner Venus, and brought into Westport in an exhausted condition.

They had been for three and a half days in their open boat, with the machinery broken down, without food, helpless, and exposed to one of the worst series of storms in years. They are as yet unable to give an account of their terrible experiences. When their engine broke down they were compelled to lie at anchor throughout the recent gales until Thursday morning, when they broke adrift from their moorings and were carried to sea. The heavy rains supplied them with water or they would have perished. The doctor thinks that, with care, the men will recover.

42 1/2c; No. 3, 40 1/2c; No. 3 white, 40 1/2 to 41 1/2c; No. 4 white, 39 to 51c; standard, 41 1/4 to 42 1/4c.

LIVE STOCK MARKETS.

Montreal, Dec. 7.—Prime beefs 4 1/2 to 5 1/2c per pound; pretty good animals, 3 1/4 to 4 1/4c; common stock, 2 to 3c per lb.; lean canners, 1 1/2 to 2c per pound; milch cows, from \$30 to \$60 each; calves from 3 to 5 1/2c per lb.; sheep from 3 1/4 to 4 1/4c per lb.; lambs at 5 1/4 to 6 1/4c per lb.; good lots of fat hogs, 8 1/2 to 8 3/4c per lb.

Toronto, Dec. 7.—A few extra choice picked steers and heifers sold up to \$5.50, and several lots realized \$5 to \$5.25. Butchers' cows of the choice class were very much wanted, a few selects selling at \$4.80, whilst \$4 to \$4.50 were common prices for well-finished animals. Stockers and feeders are still being bought by farmers. Milkers and springers were the only stock that showed any signs of being easier. Calves of the choice variety reached the \$7 mark. Sheep and lambs, despite the abundant supply, were very firm. Hogs—Selects quoted at \$7.50 f.o.b., and \$7.75, fed and watered.

DISSOLUTION JANUARY 8.

Dates for the Election in Britain Definitely Fixed.

A despatch from London says: The dates of the chief political events of the next two months are now definitely known. Dissolution will take place on January 8. The first borough elections will be held on Jan. 13, and the first county elections on January 19. The elections will end on Jan. 31, and the first meeting of the new Parliament will take place on Feb. 14.

ASYLUM BOILER BURST.

Ottawa Institution Damaged, But No Inmates Injured.

A despatch from Ottawa says: The explosion of a boiler in St. Patrick's Asylum, Laurier Avenue west, on Saturday morning, badly damaged the building, but injured none of the 200 inmates. Brick walls in the basement were demol-

ished, doors were blown off their hinges, the flooring on the main flat of the building was blown upward, and the walls were damaged. The damage will probably amount to at least \$4,000. The boiler which burst had been out of order but had been repaired.

QUEBEC BRIDGE CONTRACT.

M. P. Davis, Ottawa Contractor, Will Build Substructure.

A despatch from Montreal says: It is understood that the contract for the sub-structure of the new Quebec bridge has been awarded to Mr. M. P. Davis, the Ottawa contractor, who built the original pier work. The price of the new work is stated as in the neighborhood of \$2,500,000.

HIGHEST PRICE EVER PAID.

Prime Steer Sold at Chicago for Ten Cents a Pound.

A despatch from Chicago says: Prime steers on Wednesday reached the highest price ever paid on the open market in Chicago. Nineteen steers, averaging 1,572 pounds, sold at \$9.50 per hundred-weight, and ten yearlings, weighing 1,081 pounds, also sold at the same price. A single head sold at ten cents per pound.

WILL ADJOURN ON 17TH.

Commons Will Reassemble on Ninth of Next Month.

A despatch from Ottawa says: Parliament will adjourn for the Christmas holidays on the 17th of this month, and will resume sittings on Jan. 10th.

TWO KILLED ON TRACKS.

Remains of Man and Woman Found Near Montreal.

A despatch from Montreal says: The badly mangled remains of a man and woman were found along the G.T.R. tracks, corner St. Elizabeth Street and Cote St. Paul Road, on Thursday night. It is supposed the couple were walking along the track to Turcot Village, when they were run down by an engine.

BRITISH HOUSES PROROGUED

The Great Campaign Against the House of Lords Has Begun

A despatch from London says: On the order of King Edward Parliament was prorogued with the usual formalities on Friday afternoon. The proceedings were brief and the attendance small. In fact the private members of the Chambers were almost outnumbered by the Ministers in attendance.

Both Houses met at 2 o'clock, when the Black Rod proceeded immediately to the lower House to request the attendance of the Commons at the upper House to hear the Royal speech. The speech was read by Lord High Chancellor Loreburn, who was supported by Viscount Althorp, the Lord Chamberlain, Lord MacDonnell, Lord Pentland, Secretary for Scotland, and Lord Haversham.

The only reference to the political crisis in the speech of prorogation was in the clause addressed to the House of Commons in which the King thanked the members for the adoption of the provision for the national expenditures. This

concluded: "I regret that the provision has proved unavailing."

Beyond this the speech made the usual references to the visits of foreign Sovereigns, the friendly relations with foreign powers and the legislation passed during the session. On the matter of foreign relations, the speech continued: "The difficulties which unfortunately arose in south-eastern Europe in the autumn a year ago have resulted happily in a practical solution for the maintenance of peace, while the constitutional regime in Turkey continues to make satisfactory progress."

"Subject to certain reservations made by my plenipotentiaries at the time of signature, I have to ratify the conventions which resulted from the conference held at The Hague in 1907. Agreements with Germany, Sweden, Norway, Switzerland and Portugal have been renewed for a further term of five years and other agreements about to expire are in the process of renewal."