

R.I. - P. 9. Thursday, May 6, 1948.

RAILROADS

The railroads all over the country began to slow down today, getting ready for the nationwide strike set for dawn on Tuesday. Several of the ~~railway~~ companies have ordered a general lay-off of ~~their~~ employees, [^] to start Tuesday, ~~morning~~. If the strike comes, ^a~~one~~ million, two hundred thousand trainmen will be out of work, and our rail system will be out of action.

Tonight, sixteen major railroads are ^{declining to} ~~banning~~ ^{handle} perishable freight, ~~from their lines; the embargo to be effective from midnight~~ ^{on. So there will be} ~~this to be sure there is no~~ livestock ~~or foodstuffs~~ stranded on the tracks, ^{comes -- and no perishable foods} if the strike ^{takes place} ~~to be~~ a total loss.

At the moment, there seems little hope for a peaceful settlement. However, tomorrow ^{there} ~~the unions~~ will ^{be a final} ~~have a last ditch~~ meeting in Washington, -- to see if an agreement can be reached; ~~and the strike averted.~~

President Truman says the Government is doing everything it can; ~~everything~~ within the provisions of the Railway Labor Act. Meanwhile, the word is that the

RAILROADS - 2

Railroads will be seized, if the men and the companies
fail to
~~cannot~~ come to terms, -- Uncle Sam to run them during
the emergency. To which, A J Glover of the Switchmen's
Union comments "They ~~will~~ need a lot of men to run the
railroads".

PALESTINE

Only nine days left before Great Britain pulls out of the Holy Land. Nine days! At Flushing this afternoon, the fifty-eight nation General Assembly of the United Nations solemnly approved the plan for an Emergency Mayor of Jerusalem; to be appointed by the British before they leave.

What will he do - or try to do? Keep the precious water supply running! Jerusalem would be a plague city without water. And of course handle the problem of sanitation. No authority to maintain law and order. And that drew bitter comment from the French delegate. The Mayor, as he put it, will merely have the power to clear away the bodies of the Arabs and Jew. Then he pressed the Assembly to give the mayor the backing of a police force, and soldiers, with which to keep the peace. But, on this he was over-ruled. The only concession the Assembly

would make was to accept a resolution by the
Australian delegate to give further study to the
problem of maintaining law and order in Jerusalem.

ABDULLAH

News from Beirut, Lebanon, that the Arab states have given up trying to agree on a truce. King Abdullah apparently impatient, has recalled his Foreign Minister from the Beirut conference. Whereupon the meeting broke up. The Arabs say there will be no more attempts to consider a truce, not on their part.

The French ~~language~~ Beirut newspaper "L'Espresso", carries a story about an American diplomat from Cairo who flew to Damascus during the last twenty-four hours. The paper says he handed the representatives of the Arab states, certain secret American truce proposals. These, says the newspaper were that the Arabs ~~must~~ should accept a U N Palestine trusteeship for one year with a truce for that time. Also for ~~an~~ an extension of the British mandate for ten days or a month, to put

into effect, to keep the Jews and the Arabs from slaughtering each other in the meantime.

Whereupon, Abdullah, in anger recalled his delegate. The newspaper quotes Abdullah as saying he will give the Jews one "last chance" to become citizens of Palestine under Arab sovereignty.

The news wire from Damascus also says that the Arab nations have patched up their difficulties - even though some of them were not enthusiastic over King Abdullah's plan for creating a Greater Syria.

And there's ~~official~~ word on this ~~just~~ ~~is~~ from Washington. That (both Arabs and Jews have rejected a new American plan for a truce in Palestine.) So the Beirut newspaper may have had a scoop on this.

BERLIN

In Berlin today, the Russians came up with a new cure for a strike. The workers at a Soviet-controlled factory threatened to quit work. ~~They~~ Said they weren't getting enough food. The Russian manager heard them out, then read them a lecture on how the Soviet liked to treat its workers; hailing the man who does the job as the most important member of society. All of which appeased the German workers' pride, but ~~didn't satisfy~~ ^{not} their appetites.

When the manager ~~had~~ finished, they were still *all* ~~act~~ ^{decided} to strike. ^{They} The manager tried again:- "What you want," he said, "is a vacation, a free trip. That'll put you right." *He added that any* ~~And he told any of the workers~~ who wanted a free trip to report to the office the next morning. When the workers who decided they would like a vacation turned up, they were given a one-way ticket to Siberia. A free trip to the salt mines!- an old Russian custom.

DULLES.

John Foster Dulles wants Uncle Sam to create a new Government Department to fight Communist propaganda here in America; and to expose Communist activities all round the world. Dulles says we need "a Department of non-military Defense so that we can fight the Communists on the same level where they are making such progress". To meet the Reds on common ground and fight them with their own weapons.

"If a house is menaced by mice," said he, "You don't burn it down to get rid of the mice, and you don't spend money repairing the wood the mice gnawed away. You get a cat".

Speaking in New York tonight the Republican Party's Foreign Policy Adviser criticised our "Voice of America" overseas radio program. Not powerful enough, said he. "Its short wave lisplings" being scarcely heard over the flood of Communist propaganda flowing over the airways of the world. Our job is to put on a more convincing radio show and reach more people.

DULLES - 2

~~John~~ Foster Dulles says that we should be able to have peace without burning up the world with an ~~atomic~~ atomic war. Instead of pouring out billions of dollars to repair the damage of war, after the harm is done, ~~we~~ we'd do much better to catch the submersive elements who are gnawing away at the foundation of free society. Catch them with that government cat he wants to hire -- that Department of Non-Military Defense.

"We can have peace", says Dulles, "If we show the world that we can win the kind of warfare Communism is waging against us". We must stop Communists overthrowing governments, and we must strike a ~~new~~ international balance by showing the Reds that we can fight their way, and lick them.

When we do that, ^{heads} ~~we~~ we shall be in sight of a genuine peace.

KOREA (retyped)

There's to be an election in Korea on Monday. The first election ever held in the ancient kingdom of "Morning Calm", -- the oriental name for Korea.

But there isn't likely to be a great deal of Morning Calm in Korea on Monday, when those nine million Koreans go to the polls.ther to vote for two hundred candidates for the new Korean National Assembly.

A dispatch from Seoul, the Korean capital, anticipates Monday's election as being far from a peaceful affair. Mos^hcow has given orders that this democratic election in South Korea must be smashed. The Reds are charging that the United States is holding it to make an American colony of the southern part of that country.

The Reds have no candidates on the slate. All three hundred and ninety-one aspirants for the new Korean Congress being anti-Communists. But the Reds are threatening to smash the polling booths in order to make it impossible to count the votes. The Korean

KOREA - 2 (retyped)

moderates are saying that they can cope with th Reds, and that the votes will be counted.

The election to be conducted on American lines. According to the news dispatch, anybody can be a candidate, in any district he likes, no residential qualifications. You just get two hundred friends to sign a nominating petition; and get some pictures of yourself to pin up outside the polling booths. Voters who can't read to vote for the faces they fancy. Anyone over twenty-one can vote in this Korean election -- only criminals and Japanese collaborators barred. Those who can't read or write to mark their ballots with their thumbprints; --after chosing candidates from the pictures.

Two of the leading candidates are alumni of American colleges. Singman Ree of Princeton and Harvard, and Danny Choi of Springfield College, Mass. These two are contesting for the same seat. Singman, a hot favorite, so hot that he is already a presidential candidate. He says he's sure the next president of Korea will

KOREA (retyped) - 3

be a Harvard man.

The Mayor of one of the most picturesque cities in the world ~~xxx~~^{is} in New York today, Mr. K. C. Lee, from Singapore. Since those fateful days when the Japs overran the Malay Peninsula, so much has happened, and the world has been in such a state, that most of us have lost track of Singapore. About all we remember is that it was a major disaster at the time. The big British naval guns were pointed out to sea, the Japs came from the opposite direction, by land; the British were overwhelmed, and so far as Asia was concerned, the White man sustained one of his heaviest blows when the British surrendered at Singapore.

I've just been talking with Mr. K. C. Lee, and he tells me that if you were to drop in at Singapore tonight, you'd hardly know there had ever been a war. The British are there again, just as before.

What did the Japs do with that famous statue of Sir Stamford Raffles, the man who played such a great part in creating Britain's empire in the East Indies? Did they melt it up or smash it up?

Not at all. K. C. Lee says they took it to a museum and now the British have put it back on its pedestal in that great square at Singapore. Oh yes, he says you'd get quite a shock when handed your bill at your hotel. And, if you're a world traveler, you know what hotel -- the Raffles, one of the most famous in the world. He says prices have gone up there, until now, they are charging thirty-five dollars per day in our money for a room.

K. C. Lee is an extraordinary man. He is Chinese. But then, most of the people in Singapore are from China, even if it is a Malay city. The Malays never have been much interested in work. They live on the Equator where it's easy to keep alive, food on nearly every tree; and for clothes -- all you need is a sarong. So, the Chinese are the workers, and have most of the money. Mr. Lee, although a lawyer, as well as a political figure, is also a rubber magnate. I believe ~~in~~ he is the largest exporter of rubber in the world. Much of the rubber in the tires on which you ride -- if you're using natural rubber --

comes from his plantations. ~~xxxThere~~ ^{And} were those priceless rubber plantations demolished by the Japanese? Not at all. For the most part they were left untouched.

Mr. Lee has just been telling me about the horror of the Japanese conquest of Malaya. You will recall that the Japanese army was under Yamashita who, after the war we executed in the Phillipines as a Number One war criminal, because of the atrocities committed by his men in the Philippine Islands. Mr. Lee says the atrocities at Manila were nothing ~~so~~ compared with Singapore. He tells me that Yamashita slaughtered the Chinese by the tens of thousands; as he puts it -- -- without rhyme or reason.

In fact, he has just been telling me the story of how the Japanese soldiers called in a large number of Chinese, who didn't know why they were being summoned, and murdered them all. But, hundreds who were called in arrived several hours late, not knowing what had happened. By then the Japanese executioners were

tired and simply told them to go home -- they apparently had killed enough for the day.

Mr. Lee is here in the studio with me. We are going out for a Chinese dinner.

I asked him a moment ago what he thought about the talk of war in the air, here in this country, and I am sure you'd appreciate hearing his reply, directly from him. Would you mind repeating it, Mr. Lee?

--o--

MR. LEE:- Oh, merely this, Mr. Thomas, I didn't know there was a war scare out in Singapore. I am surprised to hear so much talk of it here. And the only explanation I can give for it is this: ^{You} ~~the~~ Americans, as a nation, are extremely rich. And that is why you're so uneasy. It's the rich man who is always the most fearful.

--o--

L.T.:- I might add that Mr. Lee himself is one of the world's tycoons. But, he thinks that most of the world is poor in comparison with America, and the poor man doesn't worry too much about war because he hasn't much to lose.

AIRCRAFT

The Senate today voted approval of a bill to provide funds for a seventy group Air Force - voted it by an overwhelming majority. The eight hundred and twenty-two million dollars specifically allotted to Air Force expansion, to be spent on jet fighters, and jet bombers, to replace older planes. It now goes to the President, who is unlikely to veto it, although he doesn't fully approve.

DEWEY

Out in Eugene, Oregon, someone asked Governor Dewey could he find a Secretary of State who could say "No" to Stalin, if he, Dewey, is elected president.

"You betcha," shot back the New York Governor, and he promptly named both Senator Vandenberg and John Foster Dulles, saying that he would appoint either of these two men as his Secretary of State.

This has the elements of a major political story. A presidential candidate, announcing his choice for one of the most important positions in the presidential Cabinet.

Both Vandenberg and John Foster Dulles have had vast experience in the field of foreign affairs.

(~~Some~~ Governor Dewey is traveling by bus out in Oregon - from city to city, in the old-fashioned way; eleven ~~speeches~~ speeches on Tuesday, nine yesterday; ^{nine today --} apparently making every minute count.)

Doing a lot of hand-shaking; meeting thousands. Telling them how he wants Uncle Sam to have the mightiest

air force in the world; and discussing his ideas on keeping the peace by forming a United States of Europe.

At Lebanon, Oregon, the Governor got the support of possibly the oldest voter in the country - Jim Smith, a hundred-and-five-year-old veteran of the Civil War. Jim cast his first vote for Abraham Lincoln in Eighteen Sixty-four. Now, he says, he's going to vote for Tom Dewey.

TOOTSIE.

From Kodiak, Alaska, tonight comes news of a ship trapped in the ice ~~flows~~ ^{of} in Bristol Bay; and gradually being crushed as the rising wind drives the ice ~~flows~~ across the bay. Thirteen men aboard the cannery tender, "Tootsie", the ship in grave danger.

Two search planes sent out this afternoon, to locate the exact position of the ~~stricken~~ ^{vessel}, were driven back by ~~bad~~ ^{the} weather; ~~skies overcast, a nor-wester~~ blowing.

Tonight the Coast Guard at Cold Bay despatched the cutter "Bittersweet" to the rescue. The "Bittersweet" fitted with an icebreaker with which her captain hopes to be able to force ^{a way} his ship through the icepacks and reach the stricken "Tootsie". ^{They may} ~~if the~~ ship's icebreaker doesn't make it, they are going to ^{even} use depth charges to blast a path through the ice to reach the thirteen men aboard the stricken ship, tonight being slowly crushed by the ^{ice.} ~~deadly iceflows.~~ ^{To the stricken}

"Tootsie!"

And now to you Nelson.

LICE

This next item of news causes me some embarrassment. Because it's about a word that is held to be too scandalous for a member of the Federal Power Commission to utter. Now if it's that much of a bad word -- how can you say it on the radio?

Yet duty compels me to continue with this dispatch from Washington, which tells how today a witness before a Senate Committee argued against the appointment of Thomas C. Buchanan to the Federal Power Commission. The witness told the Senators that the nomination should not be confirmed, because Buchanan had used ~~language~~ language not fit for a Federal official to utter in public. So what was the horrendous epithet?

We've got to get around to that sooner or later, and I'm afraid I am compelled to enunciate the forbidden word! right out ^{with it --} on the radio. The word -- lice. On one occasion Buchanan spoke of what he called "that breed of legislative lice known as lobbyists."

Some of the Senators today were not so terribly shocked. Tobey of New Hampshire declared that even

stronger language has been heard in the United States Senate itself.

Well, all I can say is that Buchanan, who wants to get on the Federal Power Commission, might have played safe in talking about lobbyists. He might ~~xxxx~~ have said it in Latin. The scientific Latin for the forbidden word is pediculi or, more precisely, pediculi vestimenti. So I should advise Brother Buchanan hereafter to amend his phraseology and say -- "that breed of legislative pediculi vestimenti known as lobbyists."