

STRIKE

L. T. Sunoco Thursday July 20¹⁹ 1934

GOOD EVENING EVERYBODY; - Most of us have been expecting the news, It ^{has} been pretty clear that the big strike was on its way to a peaceful ending. So it's no surprise, no unexpected flash of joyful tidings, but it sounds might good just the same.

Yes the general strike in San Francisco is over. The labor tie-up that has had the metropolis of the Pacific Coast in a state of paralysis is a thing of the past.

The general strike committee this afternoon ordered all union men to return to their jobs at once, and presumably this command from headquarters will be obeyed, with the men ^{going back to} ~~returning~~ _{work} promptly. ~~to their jobs~~

The longshoremen^{'s} strike still is on, just it was before the general strike took place. ^{But now} ₁ The dock front walk-out stands to be settled by arbitration. With the general strike out of the way the President's mediators will get busy trying to unravel the snarl that started the whole rumpus.

They are giving a lot of credit to General Johnson, whose blustery yet effective powers of persuasion are said to have had a large effect on the striking unions. For my part a huge

lot of credit should go to the strikers themselves and their leaders for keeping their heads in a situation primed to explode all over the place. And I guess we can distribute our praises to both sides, the firmness of the authorities as well as the ~~good sense~~ ^{good sense} of the striking unions.

No doubt there will be a minor hitch here and there, and maybe an occasional bit of belligerency. ~~But with~~ that doesn't mean much. ^{And} The main issue is settled, ~~--~~ _λ the San Francisco general strike is just another page ~~λ~~ of labor history.

MOSES

Some learned authorities have been saying that no general strike has ever been successful. This has been contradicted, with the statement that there certainly was one successful general strike, the first big walkout of all time. That was when the Hebrews went on strike, and Moses led them on that famous walkout from the brickyards of the Pharaohs. I looked it up in the Bible to get the fine points.

The Book of Exodus tells us how the Israelites were working in the Pharaoh's brickyard -- "And the Egyptians made the Children of Isreal serve with rigor", says Holy Writ. "And they made their lives bitter with hard bondage in mortar and in brick."

Now how about the grievances that caused the strike? It wasn't any case of union recognition. It was straw for the bricks. As the Book of Exodus puts it -- "And Pharaoh commanded the same day the taskmakers of the people and their officers saying: Ye shall no more give the people straw to

make brick as heretofore; let them go and gather the straw themselves."

The Israelite Brickmaker's Union tried to negotiate. Strike-leader Moses presented their demands to John Q. Pharaoh, the millionaire brick magnate. By way of persuasion he and Walking-Delegate Aaron worked some miracles, just as the strike leaders out in San Francisco have been trying to do. Moses put pressure on by calling down the Seven Plagues of Egypt. Let's hope there won't be any seven plagues out in San Francisco. But Pharaoh was ~~an~~ an old stand-patter. He didn't believe in the N. R. A. or collective bargaining. So the big strike leader Moses led the union brick workers in that memorable walkout.

Pharaoh called out the National Guard, and we all know how that Egyptian National Guard was drowned in the Red Sea. Let's hope nothing like that happens to the California National Guard, when they cross their local Red Sea to Oakland.

Well, who won the strike? Pharaoh didn't win it, because when you get drowned in the Red Sea you don't win -- you

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 lose. But on the other hand, the Children of Israel never
 did get that straw for ~~the~~ bricks, which was the Mosaic. This
 equivalent ~~of~~ those California "hiring halls." I suppose
 we can compromise by saying that it certainly was successful
 as a walkout -- because the Children of Israel walked for
 forty years in the desert.

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 ful day of July 14, 1789, the Paris mob stormed the Bastille.

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INTRODUCTION

They say there's a historical relation between our strike troubles and the month of July. It seems that July is a time when all sorts of ructions are likely to happen. This present month began with those terrifying events in Germany.

Maybe it's the hot weather which makes people irritable and angry and itching to start trouble. Maybe the unfortunate Marie Antoinette, the Queen of France who went to the guillotine, was right in her intuition -- when on that dreadful day of July 14, 1789, the Paris mob stormed the Bastille.

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Anyway historians have noted that July is a favorite month for revolutions. Our own Declaration of Independence was signed on the Fourth of July. And Latin America takes all prizes for revolutions, though in the tropics the weather is pretty much the same, the year round. Uruguay, Paraguay, Venezuela,

Argentina, Columbia, Peru and Ecuador celebrate their independence on one day or another during this month.

The great revolutionary outbreaks that swept Europe in 1834 broke in July. The first revolt of the Bolsheviks is called "July Days". The Czar and his family were killed in July. Four years ago this month the Spaniards were having a revolutionary outbreak that marked the beginning of the Spanish Republic. And I could go on for an hour telling of other revolutionary outbreaks in July, only that might cause a revolution right here -- I mean a revolution of dials, tuning me off.

In the Columbia University class book of '24 years ago, the name of William H. Langer is listed. He is described there as the biggest politician of the class, the noisiest, and the man most likely to succeed. That was a true prophecy all right. Bill Langer has had his ups and downs -- mostly ups, which carried him to the governorship of North Dakota. Now he's having one of his downs, in the middle of loud disturbances -- rambunctious disturbances in the troublous month of July.

The battle of North Dakota has ended with no blood being shed, only a copious spilling of words. There was no firing of rifles, nor booming of cannon, nor slashing of bayonets. Although he declared martial law and called the National Guard to arms, Governor Langer has been ousted.

The nearest thing to a victim of war and sudden death was the Adjutant-General of the state, who almost died of nervous prostration. At the direction of Governor Langer, the Adjutant-General called out the National Guard. Then Lieutenant Governor Olsen, who immediately was governor according to a

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state supreme court decision, told the Adjutant-General to order the National Guard to go home. That put the Adjutant-General in a most embarrassing position, a tough spot. He couldn't figure out who was his real boss.

His dilemma was solved when Lieutenant Governor Olsen walked right past the soldiers on guard at the State Capitol. They didn't venture to stop him. He went to the Governor's office and took charge. Governor Langer who was there, stepped aside --with no more than loud words about further legal action. He promised some more lively ructions for July, but they will be law-suits and court proceedings.

ALIMONY

There seems plenty of justice in the decision of a Supreme Court ^{judge}~~justice~~ that when a wife earns as much or nearly as much as her husband -- there's no reason for alimony. That was what he said when ~~xxxx~~ turning down the alimony plea of a school teacher who was earning only a little less than the husband.

It's a hit at one of the abuses of the alimony system. But it might tend to work out this way -- that a wife with a job might throw up the job just to get the alimony.

The United States and Japan should divide the Pacific Ocean between them -- the half on our side to be a sphere of influence for Uncle Sam, while the Asiatic half would be under the domination of Japan."

They say the State Department in Washington refused to consider this far-reaching plan for the partition of the Pacific.

The idea, ^{originally} originated with the Japanese, ^{Foreign} Minister Hirota, that interesting statesman of the Mikado Empire, who began life as a stonecutter, attended the Imperial University

Some weeks ago I had as a guest speaker on the air the Japanese Ambassador to Washington, His Excellency, Hiroshi Saito. He spoke of Japan's desire for friendship and friendly cooperation with the United States.

Hiroshi Saito has returned to Tokyo for a vacation and over there he reveals some important things -- included under the heading of friendly cooperation:- The suave and courteous statesman from Nippon tried to negotiate what would have been a most significant treaty. The idea was the United States and Japan should divide the Pacific Ocean between them -- the half on our side to be a sphere of influence for Uncle Sam, while the Asiatic half would be under the domination of Japan.

They say the State Department in Washington refused to consider this far-reaching plan for the partition of the Pacific.

The idea ^{really} originated with the Japanese ^{Foreign} Minister Hirota, that interesting statesman of the Island Empire, who began life as a stonecutter, attended the Imperial University

and then failed to pass the examinations for the Japanese Foreign Service. He failed several times, then passed, ~~these~~ examinations and now is Number Two Man of Nipponese statesmanship -- ~~the~~ Foreign Minister, second only to the Prime Minister.

GERMANY

In Germany today the word is "donner wetter".

It's "donner wetter" concerning that note the Secretary of State sent to Berlin demanding equal treatment for American holders of German bonds. They say the Germans are a bit shocked by it. They hadn't expected a stiff warning like that, but hoped that they would get a pleasant invitation to send a delegation over here for a conference on the subject. Some wiseacres are saying that Germany is holding out on Uncle Sam with the idea of making a trade for lower tariffs on ^{German imports to} American ~~products~~.

Now a loud explosive, belligerent "donner wetter" -- from Goering, the Hitler strong-arm man. The war-like Goering, with his fancy uniforms and glittering medals, is particularly indignant at one Swiss newspaper man, ^{This chap} ~~who~~, wrote an article complaining that he and his brother correspondents receive too many invitations to Nazi banquets and tea parties, where they get sick of all the gold braid, medals, ornamental shirts and other Nazi decorations. This made Goering swell up inside ~~of~~ his brilliant uniform ^{while} ~~the~~ the string of medals across his chest tinkled.

"This newspaper man doesn't belong here," he shouted,
"In the interior of Africa he would find neither medals nor uniforms
nor shirts."

Looks as if Goering had never been to the imperial
court of Abbyssinia. Anyway ^{he}~~Goering~~ declares that the foreign
newspaper men will have ~~to~~ to be given a lecture on good behavior
at least once a week.

A much milder "donner wetter" comes from Victor Lutze,
the sedate and rather unobtrusive new commander of the Storm
Troops. He's pestered to death with spies, stool-pigeons and
informers, who want to get the Storm Troopers into still more
trouble and come ^{around} with scandalous stories about them. Lutze now
threatens to arrest anyone who makes accusations and tells tales
without sufficient evidence.

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A most peculiar "donner wetter" is emitted by the German
railway workers. There's a new rule that any railway employee
who has served the state for twenty-five years will be rewarded.
He will be rewarded with a free copy of Hitler's book, called

"My Struggle".

So it's "donner wetter" in Germany this ^{hot} July ^{wetter}.

Ja wohl!

SEXTUPLETS

Science has found an explanation for those Roumanian sextuplets, six babies at a time. ^{The editorial} ~~The~~ scientists of the great news gathering organizations went ahead and checked the news and found that somebody over in Roumania had made a mistake. It was really a case of three sets of ~~twins~~ twins born in three different years, which got tangled into three sets of twins born on one and the same day. So, the Canadian quintuplets still hold the championship.

PRINCE

Here's a little chap, who you'd think would certainly be at the head of the class. He is a Crown Prince, the Crown Prince of Roumania. There are only twelve boys in the class-- an exceedingly private school, in the palace. The gentlemen-in-waiting at the court, bet a lot on money that he would be Number One when the report cards came in. His father, King Carol, put up a chunk of prize money for him if he did.

Well, the ~~xx~~ report cards are in and little Prince Michael is not at the head of the class. He came in first in mechanics, but that's all.

At the top stands a boy whom they call "The Wizard". The Crown Prince had the second best marks, but "The Wizard" took the top honors in the royal school.

Still, second place is not so bad for the royal princeling. By the way -- I wonder -- how did the Prince of Wales stand at Oxford?

TUNNEL

In England they have just dedicated one of the greatest engineering exploits in the world. It's a tunnel under the New Mersey River, connecting Liverpool and Birkenhead, seven and one-half miles long, the largest underwater tube in the world. Liverpool is one of the busiest of harbors, so busy that they can't have bridges across the Mersey river, it would interfere with the incessant passing of ships.

We thought our own Holland tubes in New York were the world's greatest miracle, a roadway that dives deep down under the restless waters between Manhattan and New Jersey. But now Britain has accomplished a greater miracle still.

WIND TUNNEL

While we are tunneling along let's hoist the stars and stripes. The army is going to build a record-breaking tunnel -- but quite a different sort. It's a wind tunnel, where they test airplanes. Through this huge tube the wind will blast along at five hundred miles an hour. And that will test the behavior of a plane in any kind of breeze.

GHANDI

The spirit of July seems to be having a peculiar effect on that world renowned idealist, Mr. Ghandi. The story from Calcutta is that a bunch of newspaper men were interviewing India's most prominent seer, saint, mystic and mahatma.

"How much do I get for talking?" demanded the Mahatma, and that does seem like the age old wisdom of the East. When the newspaper men recovered their equanimity they took up a collection and forked over twenty-six rupees, about ten dollars. The Mahatma gave them their interview, and then the apostle of all that is spiritual and unwordly told the boys that they owed him another ten dollars.

When the newspaper men recovered from that bit of occult Oriental philosophy they said they would send it to him. Well, it certainly is hot on the plains of Bengal in July, and it seems to affect the idealism of a saint, seer and mystic. And, it doesn't sound like Ghandi at all. I wonder.

Well, they can say that they like about July as a month of trouble. But with the big San Francisco Strike settled it seems like the most peaceful month of the year. And,

SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.