

CHICAGO STRIKE

L. J. Sincos. Thursday, Jan. 9, 1941

46

The municipal strike in Chicago was settled this afternoon, the walk-out of four thousand city employees. Mayor Kelly announces an agreement for arbitration. The reduction of wages will go into effect -- the pay cut for city employees making over three thousand ~~dollars~~ a year. But that's only tentative, with the ~~xx~~ whole question ^{turned} ~~turning~~ over to an Arbitration Board of seven men.

Today's walkout lasted for five and a half hours, and was accompanied by strange doings in the Windy City. Street cleaners deserted their brushes. ~~Garb~~ Garbage trucks were left standing along the fashionable avenues. Traffic lights were out, and the streams of automobiles were directed by the traffic cops in the old-fashioned way -- by hand signals. ^{ff} Most dramatic of all was the question of the bridges across the Chicago ~~R~~ River -- the stream that encircles the crowded and congested Loop. They're drawbridges, and if the striking bridge-keepers had raised them and left them raised -- the Loop would have been isolated -- no way to get across the river. There are, ~~I think,~~ fifty-seven bridges,

and the Union had ordered thirty ^{-two}~~seven~~ of them to be raised.

That would not have cut communications completely but would have

turned Chicago Loop traffic into a hopeless snarl. However, the

bridge-raising was stopped by the police. Cops took their places

beside the bridge-keepers and ^{restrained}~~stopped~~ them from doing any bridge-

lifting -- with one ~~exception~~ exception. One bridge was raised.

No cop was there. But a nearby policeman jumped into action, and

the bridge was lowered in twenty minutes. There was a further

complication to complicate a ~~bedeviled~~ bedeviled situation. Keeping

the drawbridges lowered would cause a tangle with the United States

Government. There's a War Department regulation requiring that

drawbridges across navigable rivers must be in a condition to be

opened to let river traffic through. As it was, a number of boats

were held up in the Chicago River today.

It was all very embarrassing -- between the strike and the War Dept.

However, all complications are solved now -- with the

end of the strike, arbitration.

DEFENSE STRIKES

48

The questions of strikes and the armament program was a subject of discussion today before the Congressional Committee that is investigating the ^{lag}~~lack~~ in national defense construction. Admiral Towers, Chief of Naval Aviation, gave an account of a strike in a war-plane factory, and ^{added}~~made~~ the following statement, "The strike situation, so far as I know, is a delicate one throughout the aircraft industry," ^{said he.} To which Chairman Vinson replied, "Congress is not going to sit quietly by, ^{and}~~said no,~~ and permit anything to interfere with the procurement and delivery of the defense ~~program~~ program." He added that Legislation will be presented to Congress to deal with Labor conditions in the armament industry.

One member of the Committee took quite a drastic view, making this ~~is~~ statement: "Soldiers who refuse to work and take ^{So} orders are courtmartialed," ^{said} Representative Melvin Maas of Minnesota.

Meanwhile the news dispatches today told of a whole series of strikes and threatened strikes in industries working on defense and aid to Britain.

OPINIONS

49

Tonight we have an appeal for collaboration between two committees on ~~the~~ opposite sides of the war issue -- the "Committee to Defend America by Aiding the Allies, " and the "America First Committee." William Allen White, retiring Chairman of the former, ^{makes} ~~made~~ the plea to General Robert E. Wood, Chairman of the latter. William Allen White says, "Your friends like to call my friends -- war-mongers. My friends retort with ~~the~~ ^{the} word -- appeasers. Neither is a nice word. Our emotional friends who jibe at each other as war-mongers and appeasers," continues William Allen White, "are good folks who let their emotions overcome their good sense." Then the retiring Chairman of the Aid-the-Allies committee suggests, "Wouldn't it be fine," he urges, "if your group and our group could ^{unite} ~~united~~ in an appeal to the American people to implement the President's demand for preparedness and then let him and the Congress decide how we shall best defend ourselves?"

In other words, a truce to the controversy about aiding Britain, and let the President and Congress make the decision.

~~A startling statement was made today by Oswald Villard, former editor of The Nation and a prominent Liberal.~~

Well, today Prime Minister Churchill said some things that seem to me to be of far-reaching import.

It was only natural that the Prime Minister should lay sententious emphasis on the friendship between our country and his own. He said: "The future of the world and civilization depends upon the relations between the British Empire and the United States."

But the largest of significance, I think, lay in his immediate references to Lord Halifax and the Ambassadorship in Washington.

He said "We send to the United States an envoy who comes from the very center of our Council and who knows all our secrets." That gives an idea of how vital the British consider the post in Washington.

Then, to cap the climax, Winston Churchill disclosed that Viscount Halifax has been attending all the meetings of the London War Cabinet, not as a Cabinet member - for this has been since his resignation as Secretary of War. He's been attending them as British Ambassador to Washington. And doesn't this seem to elevate the Ambassadorship to the rank of an officer in the Cabinet? Churchill went further.

Ambassador Lord Halifax will continue to attend British Cabinet meetings -- whenever he happens to make a trip back to London.

Churchill put it in these words: "Should he be able to return here for

consultation at any time in the summer, as we hope may be possible, we hope he will assume the full functions and responsibilities of a Minister of the Crown."

Is this a symptom of moves toward the much-talked-of British American Union? One might see as much in the fact that the British Ambassador to the United States is now virtually a member of the London Cabinet, the Government.

London is having a heavy air raid tonight. The weather is clear for the first time in days, and the Nazi War planes are swarming over. The latest dispatch tells of heavy bombing explosions and the flaring of fires. and the German air force is likewise striking at an unnamed city in the Midlands. On the British side the R.A.F. tells of hitting at Emden and Wilhelmshaven.

Bombs were aimed at Great shipbuilding plants, where submarines are being constructed. Large fires followed the attack. *in* And the R.A.F. bombed Naples and Palermo.

52
In Libya the British say the seige of Tobruk ^{is on} with the ~~It~~ Italians evacuating advanced positions in the desert. From all accounts it would appear that Tobruk will be the same sort of thing as Bardia, with the Fascists holding the place under methodical seige. There appears to be no attempt to relieve the ~~Fascist forces~~ ^{Italians} there -- no sign of a counter-drive by the Armies from the West.

It was disclosed today in Washington that President Roosevelt sent a message of New Year's greeting to Marshal Petain, head of the Vidhy government. This was in response to a ~~New Year's~~ ^{the Marshall} Greeting sent by ~~Petai~~ ^a ~~a greeting that~~ ^{which however} was delayed in transmission, ~~and~~ came late. The striking thing about President Roosevelt's message was that he used the familiar terms -- "liberty, equality, and fraternity." That slogan of the French Revolution which has been the motto of France until recently. The Petain government abolished it when it established a ^{itarian} ~~authoritative~~ regime -- in the face of defeat by Nazi Germany. But President Roosevelt revived it in this sentence addressed to Petain. "My heart goes out to France in these days of travail and I pray that ^{the} French people may soon once again enjoy the belssings of peace with Liberty, Equality and Fraternity

53
All of this fits the pattern of ^{an} ~~a~~ attempt to encourage Petain in his policy ~~ix~~ of opposing Nazi demands -- which seems to be the case right now. Another instance is the sending of limited food supplies to France through the British blockade -- this at the request of President Roosevelt. It may be the beginning of a much larger shipment of food to France -- along the ideas of feeding the

starving advocated by Ex-President Hoover. The British Government and President Roosevelt are said to believe that if a satisfactory way can be found for provisioning the territories of the Petain government, it may exert a valuable effect in influencing France against Germany. This - with a special emphasis on the French Colonial Armies and what is left of the French Fleet.

Today we have belated reports of disorders in Paris on last Armistice Day. Crowds paraded through the boulevards in opposition to the Nazi Overlords. They shouted in favor of Great Britain and the United States and De Gaulle -- leader of the Free French forces supporting Britain. And here's a picturesque detail. They say that British war planes flew over Paris, did a job of sky writing.

In that ^h fashion so familiar in this country, the British planes wrote ^h in the sky -- "courage, confidence!" ^h (The disturbances are said to have been so violent that German military police opened fire with their machine guns. They aimed low at the pavements to frighten the crowds. Bullets ^{ing} glanced off and hit ^{ing} a number of people.)

Here's a bit of sharp French wit. ~~A woman storekeeper was put in jail by a German officer. The officer~~ went into a shop to

buy something. The place was crowded with women. And one of them called out -- "Serve the German officer first! He is going to England and is in a hurry!" They ^{put her} ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ in jail for that.

REFUGEES

A declaration

~~A statement~~ from the State Department ^{was} ~~today~~ made public ^{today}

55
~~that American declaration~~ on the question of refugees. This ~~was~~ in response to an appeal made by France. The government of Marshal Petain pointed out to Washington that in unoccupied France there were tens of thousands of refugees who had fled from the Nazis -- people against Hitler, Jewish refugees, and so on. France is bearing the whole burden, said the Petain Government, and asked Washington to do something in finding places for the hapless exiles to go. Specifically, Washington was asked to use its influence to gain entrance for them into the Republics of this hemisphere.

The State Department's reply was in the negative -- saying that it was against the policy of the United States to try to get any American ~~an~~ nation to change its Immigration laws. So far as the United States is concerned, the immigration quotas are filled -- said Washington. The declaration spoke in opposition to what it called -- "the spread to the Western Hemisphere of forced migration."

SOUTH AMERICA

Today American business men in South America admitted that there was a good deal in the charges made by Nelson Rockefeller, who is acting as co-ordinator of commercial and cultural relations between the United States and the Latin American Republics.

Nelson Rockefeller's statement was that American business houses operating in the Republics of the south had in their employ citizens of the Axis powers, Germans and Italians who were engaged in anti-American activities.

At Buenos Aires it was stated that some American firms had hired Nazis and Fascists even after the outbreak of the war in Europe. A later astonishing statement by Nelson Rockefeller says that Nazis are using the film "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington" as anti-American propaganda -- an expose' of political corruption in Washington.

MELODRAMA

One phase of the news is an element of dark melodrama -- violent episodes that shock and sometimes startle the imagination. Stories like these are ^{part} ~~apart~~ of that slant on life which only the news can give us. Take today -- beginning with the man who blew himself to bits in a hotel lobby at Buffalo.

57

He was registered in the hotel as W. D. Wright of Rochester. The understanding was that he was a construction engineer, an impression which seemed to be borne out one day last month when in his baggage was found -- a quantity of dynamite. This discovery was made when he failed to pay his hotel bill. He was evicted from his hotel room and they went through his baggage. However, he proceeded to pay the ~~hotel~~ bill, and returned to live in his room -- with his baggage, dynamite and all.

Yesterday once again this W. D. Wright was behind with his bill, and as before was served with a notice of eviction.

This time what he did was this:- Deprived of his room he sat ^{all} ~~in~~ [^] *last night in* the hotel lobby. He was still there this morning. On his person

he had a heavy charge of dynamite. In his mind -- a fantastic thought of ending himself in shattering fashion, with a turn of vengeance against the hotel. He had a way of detonating the

dynamite. There was a terrific explosion that blew out the windows on the ground floor of the hotel, wrecked the furnishings -- turned the lobby into a blasted ruin. The blow-up was so violent it ~~smashed~~ smashed the dishes in a coffee shop next door. There was no other person in the lobby save the victim -- he was blown to bits.

Yes, an incident of dark melodrama.)

58
And next we have even more of a grim and eerie shocker.

At Mt. Holly, New Jersey, they found today the victim of a gang ~~murder~~ murder. The body had been laid in a ditch in formal fashion, with grotesque underworld ceremony, one hand tucked beneath a carefully buttoned overcoat, the other folded across the breast and holding a hat. All this was in mockery of some posture of pomp and dignity. Here's ^{was this: -} the most startling part of it -- it was a body without eyes. ^{IP} And here's the incredible story of underworld ferocity that the police reconstruct. They say that the gang killers fired a bullet at close range into one eye -- committing the murder. Another shot was fired from long range, some expert underworld marksman making the other eye the target of an accurate aim.

5872

Yes, a horrible glimpse into a dark and noxious corner of human life -- reminding us in a bizarre, macabre way that the underworld still exists and must be crushed.

PICKFORD

A story of married life is told in a damage suit filed today at New York -- a suit against Mary Pickford and her husband Charles Buddy Rogers. A firm of New York musical managers claim that orchestra leader Buddy Rogers broke a contract with them because Mary Pickford threatened to divorce him if he didn't give up his projected tour and come home.

Buddy, come home!

And SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.