

Telephone Tie-up General Company Discriminates Against Union at Billings—Girls Walk Out— Strike Extends over State

The operators of the Rocky Mountain Bell Telephone company in six cities of Montana have gone on a strike and the patrons of the telephones in the cities that are affected cannot do any ringing up and long distance telephone communication in the state has been discontinued.

The trouble started at Billings, when the president and vice-president of the Telephone Operators union were discharged on Thursday of last week, for belonging to the union and the rest of the girls quit work.

It seems that after the strike of the Helena telephone girls that General Manager Murry for the Telephone Co. with headquarters at Salt Lake, Utah, issued orders to the local managers in Montana to discharge all girls that should join the union as soon as it was known that they belonged to the union, except those employed in Butte and Helena.

The manager of the Billings exchange lost no time in carrying the orders into effect for no sooner were the girls organized than the president and vice-president of the union were discharged.

The State Federation of Labor got busy and presented a list of grievances to Superintendent Burdick, of the Montana division, accompanied with a proposed schedule to govern the telephone girls of the state. The schedule is the same as the one in Butte and Helena, which is as follows:

Chief operators, \$60.00 per month.
Toll attendants, \$60.00 per month.
Assistant toll attendants, \$60.00 per month.
Operators, \$50.00 per month.
All operators shall have every other Sunday off, not to be deducted from their monthly pay.
Full shift operators shall be given nine hours work out of each twenty-four.
All operators shall work half shifts on the following holidays: New Years, Washington's Birthday, Decoration Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day and Christmas at full pay.
Nine hours shall constitute a day's work and all overtime shall be paid at the rate of time and one-half.
Operators shall be relieved at least fifteen minutes twice a day.
Full pay shall be given all employees in the Billings exchange for lost time on account of the lock-out, to date from March 7, 1907.

The re-instatement of all operators in the Billings exchange who were employed prior to March 7, 1907, and who were discharged on account of their membership in Billings Telephone Operators' Union No. 40, Montana Federation of Labor, and the re-instatement of all others who left their positions in sympathy with those discharged.

Mr. Burdick refused to listen to the grievances of the girls, saying that he would have nothing to do with their grievances and would not recognize the union in any way. Mr. Burdick was given time to consider the matter with due notice that if he would not act, a strike would be ordered throughout the state. On Tuesday the girls employed in the exchanges at Great Falls and Red Lodge walked out. The Bozeman and Livingston girls joined the strike Wednesday and the Lewiston union declared a strike today and quit work.

The strike is only started and it is expected that before long it will be general throughout the entire state.

The sympathy of the public is with the girls. The Telephone company has had a complete monopoly of the 'phone business in the state, overworking the employes so much that the public could not get good service. Long hours and small pay has been the motto of the company to the extent of rivaling the sweat shops of the East side in New York.

At Red Lodge one girl is employed twelve hours a day, seven days, for the princely sum of \$30 per month. Another girl works thirteen hours a day for seven days a week, and receives the magnificent sum of \$27.00 as her month's wages.

The average wage paid is \$30 per month and the average hours worked are twelve per day.

The average life of efficiency of the telephone girl is six years, after that they break down and become nervous wrecks.

Considering the nerve-racking work that they have and endure, twelve hours or even ten hours are too long. The company is making good profits and doing so at the expense of the girls.

The wages asked are not exorbitant and it is impossible for any girl to keep herself on \$30 per month, and it is absolutely out of the question to have any girl give her life to make profits for any telephone company for less than at least a living wage.

The company is endeavoring to secure scabs for Great Falls, but it is not likely to succeed and even if it does it is not likely to do any good, for nobody will use the telephones.

The people have been robbed by the telephone company long enough and do not intend to let the girls treated like sweat shop victims any more. While we are with the girls in the struggle, still we would call the people's attention to the fact that the people should own the telephones.

GAS WORKERS STRIKE

Butte, March 13.—This city has been without its gas supply since last night at 10 o'clock when the men employed at the gas works went on strike in consequence of the refusal of the company to grant their demand for an advance in the wages. The call to strike was issued by the unions and there is at present little likelihood that an early settlement will be reached. Many of the hotels and restaurants which use gas ranges to do their cooking are experiencing great difficulty in supplying their tables and hundreds of families who likewise depend on gas for lighting and cooking are in a sorry plight in their homes.

The printing offices here which have been depended upon to do the city printing since the newspaper's have suspended as the result of the pressmen's strike, are also shut down for want of gas with which to run their type-setting machines.

Manager Harry W. Turner, of the gas company, declared today that the \$3.50 scale demanded by the men will not be recognized. The men are supported in their demand by the unions and manager Turner is upheld in his position of resistance by the eastern officials of the company, so that a speedy settlement of the controversy is not looked for.

VOTE THIS TICKET

Workingmen of Butte, vote the Socialist ticket. The following are the Socialist candidates.

For Mayor—Mr. George O'Malley, newspaper man and member of the newspaper writers' union.

For City Treasurer—Robert C. Scott, business agent Workingmen's union.

For Police Magistrate—John Donovan, member Miners' union.

For Aldermen—First ward, David Trotter, engineers union; Second ward, James P. McGowan, Miners' union.

Third ward, Patrick O. King, Miners' union; Fourth ward, George H. Etherington, Coks and Waiters' union; Fifth ward, John McLaughlin, Miners' union; Sixth ward, W. J. Kennedy, Workingmen's union; Seventh ward, George Ambrose, Barbers' union; Eighth ward, Patrick Moran, Teamsters union.

You have tried a business man's administration in Leadville, Telluride, Cripple Creek and elsewhere, suppose you try a working class administration in Butte—you may need it.

Eight hundred thousand people inhabit the east end of London, and of these only one hundred and eighty families live in private houses! Yet Socialism will destroy the home! Tack two suffices on to the home and you will have hit the nail on the head. Socialism will destroy the homelessness of these people and give them a hearth of their own.

LABOR IN BUTTE

Workers and Corporation Lining up—Amalgamated Trying to Divide Workers.

Special Correspondence:—

Butte, March 10.—The working class and the capitalists are lining up in this city for the inevitable struggle that has been going on for ages between those who have and those who have not. The capitalists are preparing coldly, calculatingly, regulating their moves like an experienced chess player, as has always been their wont. The working class are struggling in the dark, now swayed in this direction and now in that as is their wont also.

The destinies of the Amalgamated Copper company are locally in the hands of a son of a wealthy Michigan mining man. He is a personification of the mailed hand beneath the velvet glove. He understands the working class, their divisions, their weakness, their inclination to forget the working class unity of interest and scramble blindly for craft or trade benefit regardless of the interests of the other workers.

Just now he is engaged in dividing the bundles of sticks, separating the unions, setting one organization against the other, playing on their pride—their cupidity, flattering their officers, cajoling influential members, making representations favorable to the particular labor interest he is most anxious to control, the miners.

A few days ago a special meeting was called in the Auditorium. It had been arranged that John D. Ryan should address this meeting presumably for the purpose of stampeding the miners to forget everything but the bait of a 25-cent raise in wages and sign an agreement which would enable the Amalgamated to crush the smaller unions at its leisure, after which it would turn its attention to the powerful miners' union. The plan miscarried. A Socialist took the floor and raised the point that no man under the constitution, could gain admission to a miners' meeting unless he carried a union card. The point was sustained by a big majority vote and the company plan fell through. Ryan did not get his coveted chance to speak but the man whose point of order excluded him was discharged the next day. This man was not employed by the Amalgamated by the way, but was employed by one of the smaller companies.

The Amalgamated just now is taking a violent interest in the welfare of the miners. It has declared that a raise in pay will be of no benefit to them unless the smaller unions are prevented from raising their wages on the plea that the miners will have to pay more to live every time the pay of the rest of the workers is increased.

This is sophistry of course, but when the employer never deals in anything else. While the building trades were dormant so far as wage demands are concerned house rent redoubled. The unions had nothing to do with this. The population of the town has increased 25 per cent and the landlords took advantage of the increased demand for houses. The grocers formed a trust as did other dealers and regulated the selling price of goods. When the exactions of the dealers drove the workers to demand a raise the dealers' associations which are known as the Business Men's association, the Retail Merchants' association, the Hotel and Restaurant Keepers' association, the Coal Dealers' association, Liverymen's association and several other associations of middlemen, among them the master butchers etc., granted the increase and put it on the selling price of the goods bought by the workers.

Even the undertakers combined and mand for an increased wage. The county paupers. So far as is known no union demand was responsible for the last raise. The dealers are doing a greater amount of business owing to the increase in population but refuse to let go of any of their profits. The business men's combinations were responsible in the first place for a dominating companies that are so solicitous about the miners' welfare know this yet no word is uttered against the local trusts. These business combinations are illegal and could be smashed tomorrow by the attorney general or by the local city council if it saw fit to pass an ordinance covering them. Such steps are not taken because we have a "business administration" of the state and city affairs.

With characteristic cunning the Amalgamated endeavored to take snap judgment on the smeltermen, who were asking for a raise to \$3.25 for surface men.

The Amalgamated does not like the Smeltermen's union because it spends too much money on literature and is independent. In order to cripple it the smeltermen's demand was ignored and an agreement with the miners was secretly signed by John D. Ryan and then another special meeting of the union was called Sunday afternoon to ratify this agreement. The plan failed, first because the constitution of the miners now calls for a flat rate of \$4 and the agreement called for a sliding scale. Second because the constitution of the Western Federation of Miners is opposed to agreements. The matter is hanging fire but the friends of the mining companies and business men are working zealously for its adoption.

This agreement provides, it is said that \$4 shall be paid miners with copper above 18 cents, \$3.50 with copper below that figure. It is also provided that the miners shall sign for five years and also discourage advances in wages from smaller unions. The agreement regarding the wage rate shows that the Amalgamated, which is paying millions annually in dividends has no mind to shoulder the expense of the raise in wages but will put it on the consuming portion of society.

The demands of the smeltermen are for a fifty-cent raise in Great Falls and Anaconda and a twenty-five cent raise for surface men in Butte. Mr. Ryan has offered to pay twenty-five cents more to Great Falls and Anaconda but refuses to consider any increase for Butte. He told the smeltermen's committee recently that with an agreement signed with the miners he could afford to sit back and take it easy, or words to that effect, so far as the demands of the other unions are concerned.

Just what will be the outcome of the present difficulties remains to be seen. Despite the antagonistic attitude of the Amalgamated the smaller unions continue to demand a raise, driven to it in some instances by the increased cost of living growing out of the business men's combinations.

The Workingmen's union recently made a demand for \$3.50. The gas company is about the only one which has refused to grant the increase and it has notified the public that it will suspend. The express drivers demanded a raise and two big livery stables took off their transfers as a result. The painter and paper hangers are out for more money, the carpenters will ask a raise April 1. Although the printing trades have offered to go back to work at their old scale and arbitrate their differences, which virtually means that the unions would be beaten, which is almost invariably the case in arbitrated disputes, the publishers have paid no attention to the offer. Just why is not plain. It is hinted that with the newspapers out of business the mining companies stand a better show of bringing the miners' union into line than it otherwise would. The printers are held up as a horrible example of what may befall any union that sets the powers that be at defiance.

It is conceded in union circles that were it not for the phenomenal price of copper and the absence of a surplus stock of the red metal the Amalgamated company would fight out the question of a raise at once and break the miners' union if possible.

As the matter stands, however, the probabilities of a tie-up are not great, though the constant jockeying between the smooth, suave, long-headed, calculating director with his years of Michigan experience to draw on and the miners and smeltermen's committees would seem to indicate that the mining company has plans which are not apparent on the surface.

One encouraging feature of the situation is the unanimity with which the known tools of the mining company have been kicked out of the miners' union.

SOCIALIST PRESS COMMITTEE.

More Delays In Trial

Prosecution Dictating Who Shall Be Judge During Trial—Judge Bryan Declares Himself Disqualified

Special to the Montana News:—

Caldwell, Idaho, March 11.—Judge Bryan announced in court this morning that the jury to try the criminal cases of the court would not be called until next Monday. Prisoners and attorneys in the eWestern Federation case will be here tomorrow (Tuesday). Part of the week at least will be consumed in the arguing of points of law on the motion to set aside and the motion for a change of venue. The attorneys for both the defense and the prosecution have agreed that they will be ready for trial about April 15. The prosecution is most ardently hoping that Judge Bryan will declare himself disqualified to sit in the case, on the ground that he was at one time Orchard's attorney, and the Idaho Statesman is making quite a point of this. Judge Bryan defined his position when he stated that he was disqualified from the Statesman indicates its decided preference that Judge Woods, who presided over the Adams trial should try the case.

Caldwell, Idaho, March 12th.—A stunning blow was delivered the defense in the Moyer-Haywood case this morning when P.Judge Bryan announced that he was disqualified to sit in the Western Federation case and that Judge Fremont Woods would preside. There is also an element of bitter humor in the situation, if such a term could be applied to so glastly and tragic an issue, in that nothing could more decisively teach the always trusting class in the "superiors" that, Democrat or Republican there is no dividing line when it comes to the government manipulated by the capitalist interests, where the working class as an economic factor are concerned. When court convenes this morning, the prisoners, the fame if whose case is now world-wide, were brought in and I was surprised that they are looking as well as they are. The complexions of all are pale by the long confinement. But Billy Haywood is looking fine, thinner than in the old days, but in full nerve and hope and courage. As he grasped my hand and held it warmly he told me he had never felt better. He seemed glad that his friends were in court and cheerful and alert regarding the proceedings. Moyer and

Pettibone show in their faces the effect of the terrible months of outrage, anxious and tragic fate, that even the most skilled soothsayer could never have predicted would come to these common working men in the ordinary walks of life. Moyer seems to me to look bad. His eyes seem weak and injured, perhaps by suffering. His face has the expression of a man pursued by relentless foes, who has tasted the wormwood and the gall of what it means to be persecuted because you stand as the representatives of a host behind you. I thought his face looked puffy and unnatural, although Mrs. Moyer said he was feeling remarkably well, he said with a bitter smile, "it is high living," and yet these three men take heroic courage. No matter what the outcome that the most class hatred could overwhelm them with, they stand here for all time as martyrs for the grand principle of industrial democracy whose golden light is even now beginning to flood the dark places where labor has suffered through the centuries. Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. Pettibone were both in the court room. Mrs. Moyer is bearing up bravely through the terrible ordeal of the past few years, in fact one can see that her character is developing and rising to the occasion. "New occasions teach new duties" and this is one that the heronies of history have been called on to face has found her ready to meet it with firmness and defiance.

When Judge Bryan announced his abandonment of the case it was an interesting study to watch the expressions that came over the faces of the prisoners, counsel for the defense and those inspired with prejudice against the working men in trial. The surprise on the faces of all those who had been active for the defense was manifest. Fremont Woods is not the judge that tried Adams' case. When court convened this afternoon, Judge Woods was in the chair and quoted the statute by which he stated that he was presiding at the request of Judge Bryan. We have learned on the best authority that Gooding stated the case would be tried in Boise before a judge that he would select. When the case was called Hawley made a petition for the prosecution that the case be postponed until the remitturs from the supreme court arrived, stating that they were now in transit. Richardson said the absence of these documents simply official testimony of the decisions was not material, but at the request of the prosecution the case was postponed until next Monday, March 12.

IDA CROUCHHAZZLETT.

PAYING THE DETECTIVES

An interesting feature in the great labor case is the way the powers of the state have rushed to the support of everything connected with the prosecution of the federation. Deficiency warrants have been granted by the legislature on this case totalling \$54,516.94. James H. Hayley, the prosecuting attorney leads with \$18,000. The Pinkerton National Detective agency is second with \$15,000 and Senator Borah receives \$5,000 for legal services, and Clayton Miller, the superintendent of the Federal Mining Co., of the Couer de Alenes, receives \$5,000. This is supposed to be money sent by the mine owners of the Couer d' Alenes at the time of the murder to be used in the case. The Thiel Detective Service company received \$2,000. It seems as though this ought to be enough to keep every working man forever from voting for a government that throws its entire power against the working class.

Gooding in his message to the legislature said the miners had nothing to do with the prosecution of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, and shortly afterwards the Statesman published an article to the effect that the evidence to be used against them was in the safe of the Mine Owners' association at Cripple Creek, and that the association had raised a large sum of money for the prosecution. At the Hunt-Stuenenberg memorial services

LEWISTOWN TICKET

The Socialists at Lewiston are in the fight in earnest. A strong ticket has been nominated and the campaign committee is actively at work.

Lewiston is the county seat of Fergus county, the banner county of the state for percentage of gain at the last election. It is conceded by the old parties that the Socialists will make remarkable gains. This is to be expected as the Socialists of Fergus county have been the most active in the state since the last election. In fact they were more active after the election than they had been at any time before. The candidates are all veterans in the Socialist movement. The ticket is as follows:

For Mayor—Ben J. Fulmer.
City Treasurer—J. A. Rhodes Jr.
For Police Magistrate—E. W. Moody.
For Aldermen—First ward, Percy Stone; Second ward, Charles B. Jams; Third ward, Herman Schneck. The progress of the Socialist of Lewistown will be watched with interest. Fergus is expected to be one of the first counties to send a Socialist to the Montana legislature.

Gooding said he had refused all offers of assistance from the mine owners' association and on February 16, the Statesman said that the mine owners of northern Idaho had furnished money to prosecute the accused men.

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The wages asked are not exorbitant and it is impossible for any girl to keep herself on \$30 per month, and it is absolutely out of the question to have any girl give her life to make profits for any telephone company for less than at least a living wage.

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The Workingmen's union recently made a demand for \$3.50. The gas company is about the only one which has refused to grant the increase and it has notified the public that it will suspend. The express drivers demanded a raise and two big livery stables took off their transfers as a result. The painter and paper hangers are out for more money, the carpenters will ask a raise April 1. Although the printing grades have offered to go back to work at their old scale and arbitrate their differences, which virtually means that the unions would be beaten, which is almost invariably the case in arbitrated disputes, the publishers have paid no attention to the offer. Just why is not plain. It is hinted that with the newspapers out of business the mining companies stand a better show of bringing the miners' union into line than it otherwise would. The printers are held up as a horrible example of what may befall any union that sets the powers that be at defiance.

It is conceded in union circles that were it not for the phenomenal price of copper and the absence of a surplus stock of the red metal the Amalgamated company would fight out the question of a raise at once and break the miners' union if possible.

As the matter stands, however, the probabilities of a tie-up are not great, though the constant jockeying between the smooth, suave, long-headed, calculating director with his years of Michigan experience to draw on and the miners and smeltersmen's committees would seem to indicate that the mining company has plans which are not apparent on the surface.

One encouraging feature of the situation is the unanimity with which the known tools of the mining company have been kicked out of the miners' union.

SOCIALIST PRESS COMMITTEE.

More Delays In Trial

Prosecution Dictating Who Shall Be Judge During Trial—Judge Bryan Declares Himself Disqualified

Special to the Montana News—

Caldwell, Idaho, March 11.—Judge Bryan announced in court this morning that the jury to try the criminal cases of the court would not be called until next Monday. Prisoners and attorneys in the eWestern Federation case will be here tomorrow (Tuesday). Part of the week at least will be consumed in the arguing of points of law on the motion to set aside and the motion for a change of venue. The attorneys for both the defense and the prosecution have agreed that they will be ready for trial about April 15. The prosecution is most ardently hoping that Judge Bryan will declare himself disqualified to sit in the case, on the ground that he was at one time Orchard's attorney, and the Idaho Statesman is making quite a point of this. Judge Bryan defined his position when he stated that he was disqualified from the Statesman indicates its decided preference that Judge Woods, who presided over the Adams trial should try the case.

Caldwell, Idaho, March 12th.—A stunning blow was delivered the defense in the Moyer-Haywood case this morning when Judge Bryan announced that he was disqualified to sit in the Western Federation case and that Judge Fremont Woods would preside. There is also an element of bitter humor in the situation, if such a term could be applied to so glacially and tragically an issue, in that nothing could more decisively teach the always trusting class in the the goodness and ability of their "superiors" that, Democrat or Republican there is no dividing line when it comes to the government manipulated by the capitalist interests, where the working class as an economic factor are concerned.

When court convenes this morning, the prisoners, the fame if whose case is now world-wide, were brought in and I was surprised that they are looking as well as they are. The complexions of all are paled by the long confinement. But Billy Haywood is looking fine, thinner than in the old days, but in full nerve and hope and courage. As he grasped my hand and held it warmly he told me he had never felt better. He seemed glad that his friends were in court and cheerful and alert regarding the proceedings. Moyer and

Pettibone show in their faces the effect of the terrible months of outrage, anxious and tragic fate, that even the most skilled soothsayer could never have predicted would come to these common working men in the ordinary walks of life. Moyer seems to me to look bad. His eyes seem weak and injured, perhaps by suffering. His face has the expression of a man pursued by relentless foes, who has tasted the wormwood and the gall of what it means to be persecuted because you stand as the representatives of a host behind you. I thought his face looked puffy and unnatural, although Mrs. Moyer said he was feeling remarkably well, he said with a bitter smile, "it is high living," and yet these three men take heroic courage. No matter what the outcome that the most class hatred could overwhelm them with, they stand here for all time as martyrs for the grand principle of industrial democracy whose golden light is even now beginning to flood the dark places where labor has suffered through the centuries. Mrs. Moyer and Mrs. Pettibone were both in the court room. Mrs. Moyer is bearing up bravely through the terrible ordeal of the past few years, in fact one can see that her character is developing and rising to the occasion. "New occasions teach new duties" and this is one that the heroines of history have been called on to face has found her ready to meet it with firmness and defiance.

When Judge Bryan announced his abandonment of the case it was an interesting study to watch the expressions that came over the faces of the prisoners, counsel for the defense and those inspired with prejudice against the working men in trial. The surprise on the faces of all those who had been active for the defense was manifest. Fremont Woods is not the judge that tried Adams' case. When court convened this afternoon, Judge Woods was in the chair and quoted the statute by which he stated that he was presiding at the request of Judge Bryan. We have learned on the best authority that Gooding stated the case would be tried in Boise before a judge that he would select. When the case was called Hawley made a petition for the prosecution that the case be postponed until the remitturs from the supreme court arrived, stating that they were now in transit. Richardson said the absence of these documents simply official testimony of the decisions was not material, but at the request of the prosecution the case was postponed until next Monday, March 12.

IDA CROUCHHAZLETT.

PAYING THE DETECTIVES

An interesting feature in the great labor case is the way the powers of the state have rushed to the support of everything connected with the prosecution of the federation. Deficiency warrants have been granted by the legislature on this case totalling \$54,516.94. James H. Hayley, the prosecuting attorney leads with \$18,000. The Pinkerton National Detective agency is second with \$15,000 and Senator Borah receives \$5,000 for legal services, and Clayton Miller, the superintendent of the Federal Mining Co., of the Couer de Alenes, receives \$5,000. This is supposed to be money sent by the mine owners of the Couer d' Alenes at the time of the murder to be used in the case. The Thiel Detective Service company received \$2,000. It seems as though this ought to be enough to keep every working man forever from voting for a government that throws its entire power against the working class.

Gooding in his message to the legislature said the miners had nothing to do with the prosecution of Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone, and shortly afterwards the Statesman published an article to the effect that the evidence to be used against them was in the safe of the Mine Owners' association at Cripple Creek, and that the association had raised a large sum of money for the prosecution. At the Hunt-Stuenenberg memorial services

LEWISTOWN TICKET

The Socialists at Lewiston are in the fight in earnest. A strong ticket has been nominated and the campaign committee is actively at work.

Lewiston is the county seat of Fergus county, the banner county of the state for percentage of gain at the last election. It is conceded by the old parties that the Socialists will make remarkable gains. This is to be expected as the Socialists of Fergus county have been the most active in the state since the last election. In fact they were more active after the election than they had been at any time before. The candidates are all veterans in the Socialist movement. The ticket is as follows:

For Mayor—Ben J. Fulmer.
City Treasurer—J. A. Rhodes Jr.
For Police Magistrate—E. W. Moody.
For Aldermen—First ward, Percy Stone; Second ward, Charles B. Jamne; Third ward, Herman Schneck. The progress of the Socialist of Lewistown will be watched with interest. Fergus is expected to be one of the first counties to send a Socialist to the Montana legislature.

Gooding said he had refused all offers of assistance from the mine owners' association and on February 16, the Statesman said that the mine owners of northern Idaho had furnished money to prosecute the accused men.

