

## ROUNDS CYCLE OF FRUITLESS STRIKE EFFORTS

Harding Finds Himself in Same Position From Which He Started.

### ALTERNATIVES LEFT TO HIM

Strong Group Advocates His Sitting Back to Watch Fight to Finish.

#### POLICY

By United News  
WASHINGTON, Aug. 3.—President Harding, according to Administration Senatorial spokesman, has decided on "substantially" the same course toward the rail strike as toward the mine strike, namely:

Let the rail executives work out their own solution of the difficulty and keep trains moving, if they can as they claim they can.

Senator Watson, Indiana, after he had conferred with the President, said no legislation affecting either the rail or mine situation is contemplated immediately.



## IN COMMAND BALFOUR NOTE STIRS BRITISH; MARKS TOPPLE

Stiffened French Attitude Laid to Cancellation Scheme Announced.

### EFFECT ON U. S. FEARED

English Scribes Pessimistically Allude to American Journals' Views.

By RALPH H. TURNER  
United News Staff Correspondent.

LONDON, Aug. 3.—If Lord Balfour's note regarding cancellation of inter-locked debts was designed to clarify the European muddle, its effect has been exactly the opposite.

The note has confessed the situation, stirred up all sorts of uncertainty and appears to have intensified the chaos on the continent. Prospects of anything fruitful resulting from the allied conversations at London beginning Aug. 7 appear to have been seriously prejudiced by the note.

One immediate result has been a stiffening of the French attitude. If Great Britain is going to insist that France pay, there is no chance that France will ease up on her demands on Germany, as the two questions are closely interlocked.

The note has thrown the financial situation into utter confusion, causing as it did on top of France's coercive note to Germany. Both incidents coming together sent the mark tumbling down to still lower levels.

Assuming that the note defined England's attitude regarding the debt question, on which the French policy toward reparations is wholly contingent, there is likely to be considerable difficulty when Lloyd George and Premier Poincaré meet here next week. Each will find it difficult to make the change in position that will be necessary in order to reach an agreement that will pull Europe out of the vicious circle which recent developments have created.

Opinion as to the wisdom of the Government's action in publishing the debt note is strongly divided. Treasury officials, following the lead of Sir Robert Horne, think it was an unwise move, as do many leading business men. They fear the effect on the United States. Afternoon newspapers carried cable dispatches setting forth the reaction in Washington. Headlines over these dispatches pessimistically announced that "Britain Must Pay," whatever Lord Balfour's note might prove to the contrary.

Only one helpful result seems to have been achieved by the note—an engineering argument aimed at the British taxpayer.

Such a procedure, which would amount to seizure of these utilities, is under contemplation, and may be put into operation if the situation resulting from the twin strikes becomes more critical, it was indicated officially.

1. Abide by the wishes of a strong group of mine operators and rail executives, supported by members of his Cabinet, to let both strike be fought out to a finish. Cooperating with this element, it is learned, are some large industries whose manufactured stocks on hand are well in advance of demand.

2. Pursue a "Rooseveltian" policy, advocated by some of his advisers, and compel the employers in both strikes to get together on threat of taking over the properties.

3. Throw into the already confused legislative situation in Congress measures that will empower the Government to effect an end of the strikes.

Position Is the Same

The President finds himself in exactly the same situation as regards the rail strike as he was when the miners and operators refused his arbitration proposal.

The same sort of plea raised by coal operators—"if the Government will keep hands off we will get the coal"—is being raised now by numbers of rail executives.

Both groups of employers believe, if given time, they can break the strikes confronting them.

A united attempt of employers to this end, however, labor leaders say, would precipitate the greatest general strike ever held in the country.

The President is on record in the coal strike to the effect he has exhausted every resource save recourse to empowering legislation.

In the rail strike proposal the President is quoted as saying if the executives did not see fit to accept his compromise there would be nothing left for them to do but negotiate directly with the employees.

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