

## Is Between Labor and Capital

Commission Appointed Under the Erdman Act Accomplished Great Work as Arbitrator of Trouble on Railroads.

BY SIDNEY ESPEY.

Washington, July 16.—Probably no commission under the federal government today is attracting more notice by its good service than that appointed under the Erdman act to mediate differences between employers and employees engaged in interstate commerce. For more than a month the employees of the Southern railway, the Seaboard Airline and of practically the entire railroad system of the southwestern section of the country have threatened to cripple the railroad industry by going on strike. After conferences lasting nearly two weeks, during which two and three sessions a day were held with both the railroad officials and the leaders of the laboring men, the mediators amicably adjusted the differences. The men received a substantial increase in pay, and now everything pertaining to interstate commerce in the south presages to run smoothly for an indefinite period. Both sides are satisfied and the people of the southern states were saved from a disagreeable strike.

Right on the heels of the adjustment of these differences comes the news that the employees of the Pennsylvania railroad are about to strike for higher wages and other wants. This would mean the throwing out of work of thousands of men, privation in the families of those men and a general halt of business in the section traversed by the rails of the company. All eyes are at once turned to the government mediators—Commissioner of Labor Neill and Chairman Knapp of the interstate commerce commission—for a possible adjustment of the trouble. Perhaps the mediation commission as it has come to be popularly known, will be asked to hear the troubles of both sides of the controversy within the next few days. Perhaps the differences will be thrashed out by representatives of the railroad and the railroad and the leaders of the men without asking the aid of the commission, but at any rate both of the mediators are prepared, regardless of the strenuous two weeks they have just experienced settling the southeastern situation, to patch the threatened strike.

And if the threatened railroad strikes of the past fiscal year can be construed as a forecast there will be no strike on the Pennsylvania lines providing the matter is left to the mediation commission. For out of fourteen cases which have been brought to its attention within the past twelve months, thirteen of them have been settled satisfactorily without any loss of work on the part of the men or difficulty to the railroads.

Praises for Commission.

Railroad officials and labor leaders alike are loud in their praise of the commission's work. They explain the gigantic task of keeping employer and employee in harmony and show how many thousands of tons of grain and other products would be left to rot in the field if the strikes were not in some way averted. They strongly favor the way in which the commission works when adjusting differences and praise that its importance will become daily more evident.

At first there was some skepticism on the part of the parties engaged in interstate commerce as to whether the commission would be the right place to take their troubles. This feeling, however, has been dispelled, and about the first thing the head of a railroad or labor organization does now when a controversy starts is to telegraph the mediators. It is just like a person sending for the doctor who hurries to the bedside and administers treatment. Both Commissioner Neill and Chairman Knapp telegraph in answer to the requested aid, whether the parties involved would prefer having their differences thrashed out in Washington or near the scene of the threatened difficulty. If the railroad folk wish the proceeding held in the west, sought or any other section the mediators pack up and immediately begin holding conferences with the opposing sides alternately in the city or town decided on.

Were Unsuccessful Once.

The one instance where the mediators were unsuccessful this year was in the settlement of the strike of the switchmen of the Great Northern and Northern Pacific railroads. Both the switchmen and the railroad officials telegraphed the mediators when the

controversy, which later ended in a prolonged strike first arose. The mediators in answer sent word they would come west within a few days and attempt to thwart the trouble. They started from Washington but the strike was called before they reached the scene. This cannot be called a failure on the part of the mediators, as they had no chance to work on the settlement of the dispute.

In the majority of instances where controversies are brought to the attention of the commission, arbitrators are chosen, one by the railroad corporation, and one by the labor organizations involved. The third arbitrator is selected by the two first appointed, but in the event of their failure to name the third arbitrator within five days after their first meeting the third party is named by the mediators. According to the Erdman act under which the mediation commission was appointed, the majority of the arbitrators appointed by the mediators shall be competent to make a valid and binding award.

Has Accomplished Much.

In this way the mediation commission has accomplished what was at first thought to be impossibilities. The first controversy settled by arbitration during the past fiscal year, was that between the Big Four railroad and its telegraphers. Then followed the threatened strike of the Switchmen's Union of North America on eight railroads entering Chicago. This was amicably adjusted by the commission. The next case was the controversy between the Baltimore and Ohio Southwestern and its telegraphers, which was also settled satisfactorily. Next followed the controversies between the Baltimore and Ohio and the Order of Railway Conductors and Trainmen; that between the fifty-one railroads west, northwest and southwest of Chicago and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen; the threatened strike on the Gulf and Ship Island railroad by the telegraphers union and others of a similar nature. In all of these cases the mediators got in on the ground floor in time and prevented a great loss of money and time both to the men and the companies.

There is a country where babies never hear harsh words. Strangely enough, it is a country where missionaries feel there is plenty of work for them to do. It is a province in southern Africa, and the people, who never quarrel in the presence of their children are the Ekol. P. A. Talbot, who has passed many years among them, told recently of the customs of this odd race. "The Ekol," said he, "are devoted parents and they have curious beliefs as to the advent and death of babies. One superstition forbids all quarrelling in the house where there are little children. The children they say, love kind looks and gentle voices, and if these are not found in a family they will close their eyes and forsake the earth until the get a chance to be reincarnated in less quarrelsome surroundings." Talbot, however, pointed out that the people have not yet grasped the importance of fresh air and sanitary surroundings.

Figures just compiled by the Pennsylvania railroad system show that, although in 1908 and 1909 its various lines carried a total of 299,792,658 passengers in its 24,000 miles of track, only one passenger was killed as a result of a train wreck. In other words the chance of a passenger losing his life in an accident on the Pennsylvania railroad system was one out of about 300,000,000.

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**HOWARD WATCHES**



**T. P. A.**  
**Notes**  
BY T. C. H.

The insurgents are now the administration forces.

The fishermen from Post C are leaving the city in great numbers. Some wonderful doings are to be reported as a special correspondent from the post will be with the different parties.

Hegger has about admitted the fact that he knows nothing about growing tomatoes. After viewing and inspecting closely the tomato crops of Ed Thatcher, "Dorie" Hill and a few others he has concluded he is out of the running. He has been trying every quick growing remedy that has been suggested and has now taken to using fertilizer in great quantities. New Jenkins says Hegger has just two tomatoes on his plants and that they haven't grown a bit since they first made their appearance.

Has anyone seen Hasty, Hasty with the green necktie?

Wanted—Fish worms. Inquire of M. E. Shreeves.

At a special meeting last Saturday night of the board of directors, action was taken in regard to the disposition of the fine gold watch and diamond ring that were given over to the post by Elmer Lebo. These two articles were the prizes recently won by Mr. Lebo in the contests conducted by the state and national organizations, the watch coming from the national association and the diamond ring from the Indiana division. Mr. Lebo in winning the national prize, proved himself to be one of the greatest membership getters in the entire national organization. Only one name headed his in the national contest and then only by a small number of applications. A committee consisting of Lebo, Hasty and Shreeves was empowered to dispose of the prizes to the best advantage of the post. Action was also taken at the same meeting relative to the future visit to our city of National Chaplain Homer T. Wilson, during the time of the chautauqua. The arrangements for the reception of Mr. Wilson was turned over to a committee of Halsey, Lebo and Harrington, who will have complete charge of the program to be provided for the entertainment of Mr. Wilson. Post C will issue invitations to every other post in Indiana and quite a few have already signified their intention of coming to Richmond to hear Mr. Wilson lecture. The state officers have been invited and there is no doubt but that most of the official family of Indiana division will be in attendance on T. P. A. day. The committee has already arranged for a tent at the chautauqua and have decided on a banquet the night of September 2. Other affairs tending to make Mr. Wilson's stay in Richmond pleasant, are being worked out by the committee.

President Quigg has a case of measles in his family. The sickness of the youngster has caused Quigg to rearrange his plans for his fishing trip. He had expected to get away last Saturday but will be compelled to delay the outing until the patient is able to

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date. Mr. Lawrence an old director, who has always stood for the best interests of T. P. A. would not permit his name to go before the convention for re-election as his business would not allow him the time.

Now that the T. P. A. is properly officered it behooves the rank and file to get in line and become busy. With such an excellent start the year 1910-11 promises to be the most successful in the history of the organization.

Last Sunday "Shorty" Shreeves pulled his family out of bed at 4:30 a. m. and started south of town in search of fish worms. He has had all the boys in his neighborhood for the last two weeks hunting for worms and has paid as high as ten cents a dozen for good fat ones. It is reported by one of his neighbors that he has assembled the greatest assortment of fishing worms ever seen, all sizes and shapes going to make up the menagerie. It is said he has been feeding the little fellows Kunn's Rolled oats, grape nuts and other cereals that "Shorty" talks long and hard about. He expects to land some fine fish with these fattened angle worms.

J. M. Lewis, Charles Pierson, Frank Parsons and their families left yesterday for Sand Lake where they will spend a couple of weeks fishing and doing other outdoor stunts.

Harry Niles of the Starr Piano Co. fell last week in their new office building and badly sprained his ankle. He is able to walk by the use of canes.

John Hershberger is a victim of an accident that happened in Muncie. As he was about to board a train some one pushed him and he fell striking his eye on the corner of his supply case. The accident has been a very painful one and has kept him away from his work. He is improving slowly.

Lest you forget, we again say the semi-annual payment of dues is in order. Don't delay.

The phrase "dead as a door nail" originated in this way. In early days, when door knockers were common, the plate upon which the knocker struck was sometimes called a nail. In the course of years it was struck so often that all the life was supposed to be knocked out of it, therefore, when it became necessary to refer to anything hopelessly lifeless, it was merely an emphatic expression to say that it was "as dead as a door nail."

In Finland the women consider a kiss on the lips as the greatest insult even from their own husbands.

The theaters of London will seat 60,932 people and 64,851 also can get into the music halls.

## CONSIDERATE.

He Spared His Guest the "Unpleasant Little Detail."

Two friends, one a prosperous looking business man and the other at least well dressed, chanced to meet not long ago, and the second gentleman remembered that it was his turn to "buy the dinner," so they were soon repairing to a fashionable restaurant. Their orders were generous, and they lingered long over the good things, not forgetting cigars at the end.

When they felt that they really had to leave or else pay rent the host showed a bit of fidgetiness and requested that the other go outside and wait for him; that there was an "unpleasant little detail" he wished to discuss with the proprietor and could not think of embarrassing his friend by having him overhear it. The friend did as requested, stepping outside and waiting at the nearest corner.

He had been waiting only about five minutes when of a sudden the door of the restaurant flew open, and his erstwhile host shot through it as from a catapult, followed by some most uncomplimentary terms.

"What's wrong?" was the first inquiry of the waiting friend. "Oh, nothing much," was the answer, "except that the 'unpleasant little detail' I had to discuss with the proprietor was that I had no money to pay for the dinners."—Pittsburg Gazette-Times.

## A FAMOUS GOOSE.

Peter, the Pet of the English Coldstream Guards.

Possibly the most remarkable creature ever attached to a regiment was Peter, the ever famous goose of the Coldstream guards. This curious pet was presented to the Coldstreamers when they were in Canada by the late Hon. Adolphus Graves, and soon it acquired a fame which eclipsed that of all rivals in the way of pets in the army.

When the guard was mounted of a

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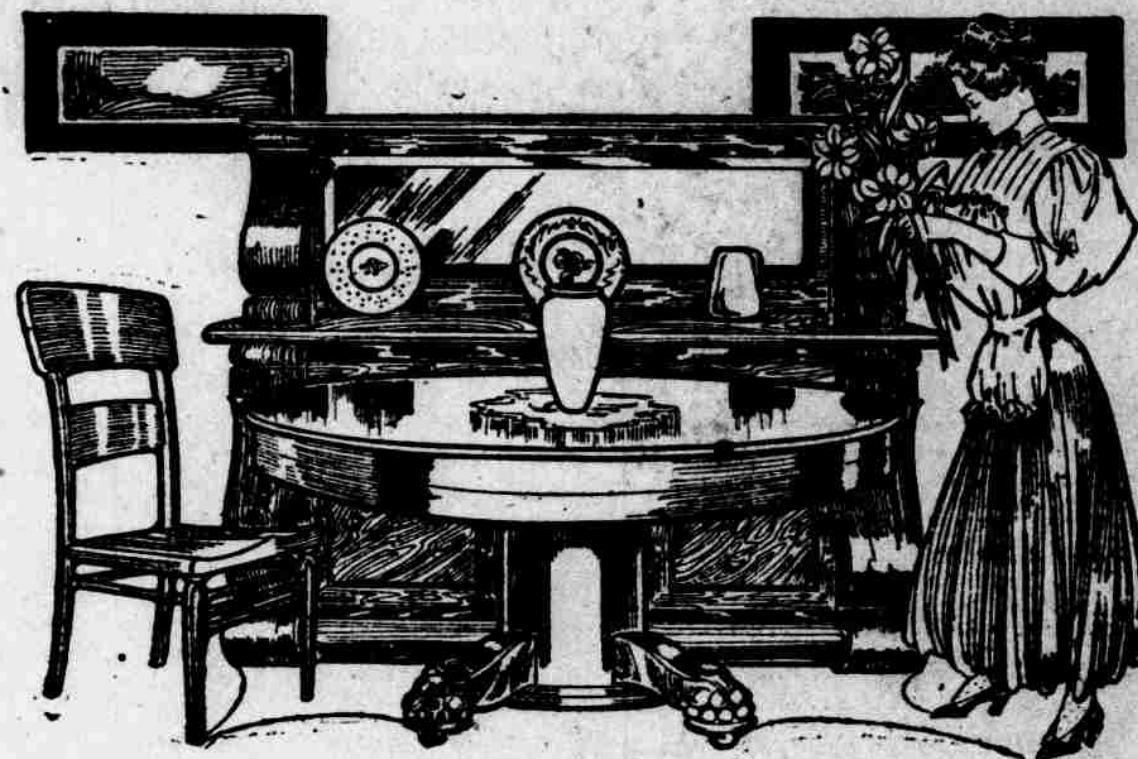
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