

## Is Between Labor and Capital

### Commission Appointed Under the Erdman Act Accomplished Great Work as Arbiter 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 promises 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 threshed 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.

## Praise 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 presage 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 threshed 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



### 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. Newt 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 cutlery department of that firm. He is a man of wide business knowledge and will make the T. P. A. an excellent director, as well as filling the more important office of chairman of the board. Mr. Miller is the St. Louis representative of a large Minneapolis Milling firm and stands high among his business associates. The two St. Louis directors are both men of high ideals, correct principles and unquestioned honesty. The T. P. A. has cause to be proud of the St. Louis members of the new board. The board elected G. H. Rutledge as national attorney and Dr. Hall as national surgeon. The other outside directors to qualify are men prominent in their respective homes and are held in high esteem. V. J. Schonecker, Jr., the only member of the old board to be re-elected is ex-treasurer of the city of Milwaukee and was recently defeated by the socialist candidate for mayor of that city by a small majority. Mr. Schonecker was the democratic candi-

President Quigg has a case of measles in his family. The sickness of the younger 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

Figures just compiled by the Pennsylvania railroad system show that, although in 1908 and 1909 its various lines carried a total of 290,762,658 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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be on the go. He expects to join Shreeves and his gang in a short time at Crooked Lake.

Frank Highley is still doing stunts in the line of pulling down prizes offered by his firm. He has won a trip to a northern resort, the same being given the salesmen showing the greatest gain in his business during the year.

A little love feast was held in Terre Haute last week attended by several prominent T. P. A.'s from over the state. President W. O. Hudson and Secretary T. S. Logan, the newly elected officers of the national organization were in attendance and were highly pleased to be with the Indiana boys. Various matters for the best interests of the T. P. A. at large were discussed. President Hudson made it known and clear to everybody that as long as he was at the head of the T. P. A. any member was perfectly free and welcome to any directors meeting and would be courteously received at the national office. Any information desired by any member is his for the asking.

The state board of directors at their meeting last week decided to again offer prizes for new applications written during the year 1910-11. They have not fully settled on the list of prizes but will make public their offer in a short time.

At a meeting held in St. Louis last Saturday the officers elected at Chattanooga were installed and have now the affairs of the T. P. A. in their keeping. W. O. Hudson was duly installed as president and T. S. Logan as secretary-treasurer.

The new directors to take office were J. J. Moriarity, of Quincy, Ill.; V. J. Schonecker, Jr., of Milwaukee; John Lincoln of High Point, N. C. and F. J. Wachter and Ashby Miller of St. Louis. The board immediately organized, electing F. J. Wachter, chairman of the board and Ashby Miller, vice chairman. Mr. George Smith who has been chairman of the board for several years, being retired. Mr. Wachter, the new chairman, is associated with the Simmons Hardware company, having complete charge of the cutlery department of that firm. He is a man of wide business knowledge and will make the T. P. A. an excellent director, as well as filling the more important office of chairman of the board. Mr. Miller is the St. Louis representative of a large Minneapolis Milling firm and stands high among his business associates. The two St. Louis directors are both men of high ideals, correct principles and unquestioned honesty. The T. P. A. has cause to be proud of the St. Louis members of the new board.

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