

LABOR, ON MAY DAY, SEES DOOM OF WAR

Speakers Oppose Armies, but Favor Relentless Fight for Rights of Toilers.

40,000 WORKERS IN PARADE

Cloakmakers, 90,000 of Whom Strike Tomorrow, Prominent in the March and Mass Meetings.

One of the greatest May Day demonstrations of union workingmen and Socialists ever witnessed by the city was held yesterday. The masses turned out by the tens of thousands, either to march in the big parade or to line Fifth Avenue and other streets and shout their sympathies to the marchers. There were so many sections of the parade and such splitting up of it that a careful estimate of the number of marchers was impossible, the guesses of spectators varying between 20,000 and 40,000. More than 40,000, however, lined the streets and packed the parks, where mass meetings were held. Altogether it was probable that labor turned out more than 100,000 strong for the May Day demonstration.

The only disturbances of which the police took cognizance were started by a small number of anarchists, who were able to do scarcely more than start a row because of the promptness with which the police pounced upon them. Three anarchists were arrested for displaying red flags and distributing pamphlets in Rutgers Square, and half a dozen more who interrupted the Socialist meeting in Union Square, disappeared after a police warning.

Although the day's events began with the parade, the marching was more nearly a pouring of people into the heart of the city and out of it than a parade, for there was little attempt at regular formation. Tens of thousands of workers simply met at various points on the east side and poured into and up Fifth Avenue carrying banners expressing their sentiments, singing the "Marseillaise" to the accompaniment of scores of bands.

The police, from appearances, took no more notice of the parade than of any other traffic, and stopped and started the crossing lines of travel much as on any other day.

Banner Sentiments Pacific.

The Socialists, about 3,000 in number, the United Hebrew Trades, some 5,000 strong, and members of the carpenters, bakers and other unions formed in Rutgers Square shortly after noon and, headed by Chief Inspector Schmittberger in an automobile and a squad of mounted policemen, started toward Washington Square, where they were scheduled to meet the members of the Cloak and Suit Makers' Union.

Heading the banners in the Socialists' division was a series composing a sort of running speech by Congressman Meyer London. The first banner read: "The Greater the Army, the Smaller the People," and others behind it bore similar thoughts.

When Inspector Schmittberger, heading the Socialists, reached Washington Square, he found that the members of the Cloak and Suit Makers' Union, arriving there about twenty minutes sooner, had already started up Fifth Avenue, led by their Grand Marshal, George Wishnack. The police "van-guard" was forced to fall into the middle of the parade.

The members of the Cloak and Skirt Makers' Union also had numerous bands and carried many banners, among the inscriptions on them being quotations from Jacob H. Schiff, Dr. Felix Adler, Oscar Straus, and Mayor Mitchel.

At the cloakmakers' Madison Square meeting Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; George Wishnack, and other speakers addressed them, telling them that, in answer to the lockout by the manufacturers, the cloakmakers would be called out on strike today. Most of the speeches were in Italian and Yiddish. The manufacturers were denounced for unfairness and for "snubbing" the Mayor and the Conciliator Board.

The Socialists and striking and non-striking members of other unions had their meeting in Union Square. Here the anarchists had already taken possession, several speakers having mounted an open wagon on which stood a banner announcing a birth control meeting to welcome Emma Goldman from jail. Policemen ordered the banner removed and the speakers to disperse, and the orders were obeyed.

The Socialists' Meeting.

The Chairman of the Socialists' Union Square meeting was Algernon Lee, Educational Director of the Rand School.

"This demonstration makes on thing sure," he said, "that the thinking workmen of New York are not going to stand for war or militarism. Our brothers in Europe are killing each other now, but after the war the working people of France, England, Germany, and the other countries of Europe will be ready to settle accounts with their masters."

Joseph D. Cannon of the Western Federation of Miners, was the next speaker. He said:

"We depend upon you workingmen to keep us out of war. If war is started in this country and continues for any length of time, there will be a revolution against it."

This declaration was loudly cheered.

Resolutions were adopted protesting against "any policy which may draw this country into war," the presence of American soldiers in Mexico, and "the use of the State militia against striking workmen at Hastings, N. Y., and at Pittsburgh, Penn., and of the Federal troops at Anchorage, Alaska."

When the Chairman asked for the affirmative vote, a great cry of "Aye!" rose in unison from the crowd. When he asked for a negative vote, four or five persons shouted "No!"

August Claessens, a Socialist leader, stirred the audience to greatest enthusiasm.

"We Socialists are going to answer all of this preparedness talk," said he, "with a slogan that is short and sweet. It is this: 'To hell with preparedness.'"

"The United States, a republic," said the speaker later, "has a finer record for using troops against workingmen than any monarchy of Europe."

STRIKE WILL AFFECT 90,000.

Cloakmakers to Walk Out in All Shops Tomorrow Morning.

A general strike of 60,000 cloakmakers of the city will be called at 11 o'clock tomorrow morning, according to an announcement made last night by Benjamin Schlesinger after a meeting of the union's Executive Committee at 32 Union Square. This strike, according to estimates, will mean that about 90,000 persons will be thrown out of work, among whom will be some 30,000 apprentices and workers who will have to quit their jobs when the shops close. Strikers employed at the so-called friendly shops, however, will return to work in twenty-four hours.

Mr. Schlesinger said 1,000 men would meet at 5 o'clock this afternoon at Beethoven Hall, 210 Fifth Street, to obtain the red strike circulars which they will carry to more than 2,000 cloak-making shops in the city, announcing the strike. Should the manufacturers attempt to open their shops with non-union men these will be organized, said Mr. Schlesinger, who added that his was a 100 per cent. union, which meant that there were no non-union men to be had.

The Committee on Industrial and Social Service for the Unemployed, of 416 Lafayette Street, of which George Gordon Battle is the Chairman, yesterday

sent a communication to Mr. Schlesinger, signed by Rabbi S. S. Wise, the Vice Chairman, expressing the goodwill and sympathy of the committee toward the garment-workers in the present situation in New York.

There was a persistent report yesterday that a number of members of the Cloak, Suit, and Skirt Manufacturers' Protective Association, the body against which the union is striking, had become dissatisfied with the policy of the association, and were threatening to withdraw. The report was officially denied, but the fact that it was true was affirmed by several union officials and others.

The Manufacturers' Protective Association last night issued another statement, which read in part as follows:

"Two statements have been made by Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, and have been given considerable publicity. The first is that the purpose of the manufacturers is to return to the old sweatshop system.

"This accusation is so preposterous that it would be unworthy of notice were it not that the public might take it seriously. Therefore the association utterly repudiates the statement.

"The second statement—that the union is not asking for a closed shop—is a deliberate effort to evade the issue. It would be absurd to suppose, if this were true, that the association would cease work in its 409 shops and create this issue against itself.

"Called by any other name, the closed shop is what the union wants. On the refusal of the association to submit to this, the union for months made systematic preparations for a strike to enforce its demand, which Mr. Hillquit, as counsel and mouthpiece of the union, expressed to the Council of Conciliation in the following language:

"We want the manufacturers to observe the provisions of the preferential union shop, as we see it. We want the right to say to the workers, 'You either pay your dues or you will either not work in that shop or we will not work with you in that shop.'"

"If this language does not define a closed shop, let Mr. Schlesinger and Robert Bruere, his adviser, state what is a closed shop.

"The movement is so far-reaching that, unless checked, it will in a short time involve the industries of the country, and it is the duty of this association to take the firm stand it no wassumes."

MANY STRIKES BEGIN AND END.

Jewelers Settle Controversy—Workmen in Other Lines Quit in City.

A number of new strikes were declared yesterday, other strikes were continued, and still others were settled.

William Karlin, attorney for the Jewelry Workers' Union, which has been on strike for twelve weeks, said yesterday that the strike had been settled and that the men would go to work today. The strike originally involved 3,000 men, of whom 1,700 were on strike yesterday. According to Mr. Karlin, the strikers obtained most of their demands, including an eight-hour day, time and a half for overtime work, and the abolition of the home-work system. They were informed of their victory in Webster Hall last night.

The 400 men employed by the International Nickel Company at Bayonne, N. J., who went on strike several days ago, yesterday returned to work with victory, their employers having granted their demands for an increase of 12 cents an hour.

One strike, that in the plant of Charles Schuester, shirtmaker, at 324 Flushing Avenue, Brooklyn, was settled. The American Tobacco Company, erecting a new building at Park and Nostrand Avenues, Brooklyn, was delayed in its work through the strike of fifty laborers.

Abraham Shipliff, a member of the Assembly, said that the painters union would go on strike today. He could not estimate the number.

Strikes for increase in wages and shorter hours of labor were started or were in progress yesterday at the Standard Silk Company, Phillipsburg, N. J., and the Eureka Fire Hose Company at Jersey City.

It was estimated yesterday by labor leaders that the following unions were on strike in this city: Fire thousand bakers and confectioners, 1,000 selzer workers, 3,500 bronze workers, 7,500 structural workers, and 15,000 painters, carpenters, and decorators.

Twenty-three centuries of lost time is the record of New York State's strikes and lockouts between Sept. 30, 1914, and Sept. 30, 1915, according to the annual report of the Bureau of Mediation and Arbitration submitted yesterday to the State Industrial Commission by Third Deputy Commissioner Frank Bret Thorn.

The Flushing company of the Tenth National Guard Regiment, the last to remain on guard at Hastings, where rioting occurred recently, departed yesterday, as everything was considered quiet.

HARBOR TRAFFIC TIED UP.

Tugboat and Lighter Employes Confer with Employers.

The strike of tugboat and steam lighter engineers, who decided Sunday to quit work, and of firemen and deckhands, which began yesterday, reduced the freight-handling capacity of New York Harbor by more than 50 per cent. Considerably more than one-half the towing craft in the harbor were unable to move because of the strike.

A number of conferences between strikers and railroad and towboat companies made it appear probable that the strike would end, with a partial victory at least for the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association.

Work had to be stopped yesterday on most of the freight steamers loading and unloading to lighters. Between 3,000 and 4,000 tugboat men quit work yesterday, according to the union officials.

The classes of shipping most seriously affected are munitions for the Allies. More than 1,000,000 bags of sugar and flour and enormous quantities of shells, explosives, and stores of all sorts were awaiting shipment to Europe.

The strike did not affect seriously the railroads which carry freight across the Hudson River. The lighters and tugboats of these lines are the essentials of Manhattan's principal line of communications. During the day offices of the railroads were visited by delegations of engineers and firemen demanding increased wages. It will be decided at conferences this morning at the headquarters of the strikers at 42 Whitehall Street whether the tugboat engineers shall come to terms with the railroads.

Thomas L. Delahunty, Business Manager of the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, said yesterday less than 100 steam lighters were in service during the day. The principal demand is for an increase of \$10 a month in salary, both for engineers and firemen.

The one large passenger ship which was affected by the strike yesterday was the Patria, which arrived from Palermo with nearly 1,000 passengers on board. The Fabbre Line, which owns the boat, could not obtain a tug. Captain Dechelles waited at Quarantine until the afternoon and then taking advantage of favorable wind and tide, docked the steamer without the aid of a tug at the foot of Thirty-first Street, Brooklyn.

The critical day of the strike will be on Wednesday, when four of the large transatlantic liners arrive. These are the Tuscania, Ryndam, United States, and Tuscania, carrying a number of passengers.

Officials of the Cunard Line said yesterday that arrangements had been made for tugs to take out the Orduna from her pier, and that no delay was expected.