

FOR THE INFORMATION OF THE PUBLIC

The Railroads' statement of their position on the threatened strike, as presented to the President of the United States

A strike on all the railroads of the country has been called by the Train Brotherhoods for 7 o'clock Monday morning, September 4.

This strike was ordered from Washington while the President of the United States was making every effort to avert the disaster.

The Final Railroad Proposal

The final proposal made by the railroads for a peaceful settlement of the controversy, but which was rejected by the brotherhoods, was as follows:

(a) The railroads will, effective September 1, 1916, keep the time of all men represented in this movement, upon an 8 hour basis and by separate account, monthly, with each man, maintain a record of the difference between the money actually earned by him on the present basis and the amount that would have been earned upon an 8 hour basis—overtime on each basis to be computed pro rata.

The amounts so shown will be subject to the decision of the Commission, provided for in Paragraph (c) of this memorandum and payable in money, as may be directed by said Commission in its findings and decision.

(b) The Interstate Commerce Commission to supervise the keeping of these accounts and report the increased cost of the 8 hour basis, after such period of

actual experience as their judgment approves or the President may fix, not, however, less than three months.

(c) In view of the far-reaching consequences of the declaration made by the President, accepting the 8 hour day, not only upon the railroads and the classes of labor involved directly in this controversy, but to the public and upon all industry, it seems plain that before the existing conditions are changed, the whole subject in so far as it affects the railroads and their employees, should be investigated and determined by a Commission to be appointed by the President, of such standing as to compel attention and respect to its findings. The judgment of such a Commission would be a helpful basis for adjustments with labor and such legislation as intelligent public opinion, so informed, might demand.

Statement of Executives to the President

In submitting this proposal to the President, the fifty railroad executives called to Washington and representing all the great arteries of traffic, made this statement to him of their convictions:

The demands in this controversy have not been presented, in our judgment, for the purpose of fixing a definite daily period of labor, nor a reduction in the existing hours of labor or change in methods of operation, but for the real purpose of accomplishing an increase in wages of approximately One Hundred Million Dollars per annum, or 3 1/2 per cent. for the men in railroad freight train and yard service represented by the labor organizations in this matter.

After careful examination of the facts and patient and continuous consultation with the Conference Committee of Managers, and among ourselves, we have reached a clear understanding of the magnitude of the questions, and of the serious consequences to the railroads and to the public, involved in the decision of them.

Trustees for the Public

As trustees for the public served by our lines and for the great mass of the less powerful employeess (not less than 80 per cent. of the whole number) interested in the railroad wage fund—as trustees also for the millions of people that have invested their savings and capital in the bonds and stock of these properties, and who through the saving banks, trust companies and insurance companies, are vitally interested to the extent of millions of dollars, in the integrity and solventcy of the railroads of the country, we cannot in conscience surrender without

effort is required for the public welfare, would be harmful beyond calculation.

The widespread effect upon the industries of the country as a whole is beyond measure or appraisal at this time, and we agree with the insistent and widespread public concern over the gravity of the situation and the consequences of a surrender by the railroads in this emergency.

In like manner we are, deeply impressed with the sense of our responsibility to maintain and keep open the arteries of transportation which carry the life blood of the commerce of the country, and of the consequences that will flow from even temporary interruption of service over the railroads, but the issues presented have been raised above and beyond the social and monetary questions involved, and the responsibility for the consequences that may arise will rest upon those that provoke it.

Public Investigation Urged

The questions involved are in our respectful judgment, eminently suitable for the calm investigation and decision by the public through the agency of fair arbitration, and cannot be disposed of, to the public satisfaction, in any other manner.

The decision of a Commission or Board of Arbitration, having the public confidence, will be accepted

1916
T.P.C. News

ST. LOUIS, Mo., E. Hughes, address gathering of bankers and other business here Saturday, recalled he proposed, so open the door of best American achievements were on

Three addresses program here. Soon here he was joined by Cox, Republican with whom the conference.

In his luncheon address he said that the time had come for the ideals of the American independence to be lived.

In outlining his views on a tariff, he said such a measure would know the chief fact business interests, the cost of production, the hours of production abroad, and the conditions under which they involved were productive.

HITCHCOCK TO WILL VISIT ALL DOUBTEREST OF C

CHICAGO, Sept. 4. Hitchcock, member of the national advisory commission in a few days for a west in the interest of Fairbanks. He will be regarded as close organization and give benefit of his experience in campaigns.

Miss Harriet E. in charge of the Western Republican direct the campaign in fringe states.

Chairman Albert J. believes Alvin J. diana, will make an trip through the west.

Medill McCormick Maine, where he will speeches before the campaign in that state.

"PROHIBITION"

Gov. St. John's Vested Cliding Vote

Former Gov. John K. Kas, a native Hoosier week at Olathe, Kan., 83, was well known to ton and Gibson county speeches here, a number Prohibition meetings than twenty-five year