

HARD COAL STRIKE NOW THREATENED

Asquith Fails to End Coal Dead-lock—British Government Admits Special Legislation Necessary.

MINIMUM WAGE BY LAW

Miners' Federation Will Advise Against Resumption of Work if Bill as Passed Is Unsatisfactory—German Miners Obdurate.

[By Cable to The Tribune.] London, March 16.—After nearly three weeks of fruitless negotiations carried on with a degree of secrecy which was becoming increasingly irritating the country now knows where it stands.

Yesterday the long drawn out discussions were finally broken off and the government announced that it intended to take the matter into its own hands and settle the strike by legislation.

It is the scheme of a minimum wage, fixed in each district by joint boards of employers and employed, with a neutral chairman selected by the parties themselves, or failing them, by the government.

It is also said that the bill will contain a clause empowering the government to reopen and work mines whose owners decline to operate them under the minimum wage scale.

A statement will be made on the subject by the Premier in the House of Commons on Monday, and a general debate is not improbable. The bill will be introduced on Tuesday and read a first time.

London, March 15.—The government's efforts to secure a settlement of the coal strike by effecting an agreement between the coal mine owners and their employees have failed.

The government has done all in its power to secure a settlement of the controversy by an agreement, and has come to the conclusion, with great regret, that this is impossible and that other measures must therefore be taken.

The official account of to-day's conference issued to-night says that Premier Asquith pointed out that the stoppage of work in the coal mines had now lasted more than a fortnight, and was producing incalculable inconvenience and loss.

The Prime Minister stated that the government would ask from Parliament a legislative declaration that a reasonable minimum wage, accompanied by adequate safeguards for the protection of the employer, should be made a statutory term of the contract of employment of people engaged in underground coal mines.

The Labor party is opposed to compulsory arbitration, and on this ground probably will oppose the bill. It will be unable to defeat the measure, however, as it is believed if the proposed safeguards are deemed adequate the Conservative opposition will not embarrass the government by opposing the bill.

Enoch Edwards, president, and Thomas Ashton, secretary of the Miners' Federation, in interviews to-night both agreed that the collapse of the joint conference to-day was mainly due to the opposition of the Welsh and Scotch mine owners.

The views of the mine owners are indicated by an interview had with B. A. Thomas, head of the Cambrian combine, whose opinions are shared by all the South Wales owners.

Miners Refuse to Modify Demands and Operators Stand Pat Against Increase Asked.

UP TO THE CONSUMER

Owners Assert Any Raise in Wages Must Be Followed by Higher Price of Anthracite—Situation Grave.

The result of another conference yesterday between the anthracite coal operators and the committee of ten representing the mine workers apparently left the situation more deeply deadlocked, if that were possible, with the prospects of a general strike at the mines on April 1 looming large upon the horizon.

Following the conference, which was held at the offices of the Trunk Line Association, at No. 143 Liberty street, at noon, both sides held further conferences among themselves.

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Five Hundred Thousand Men May Quit. All of the miners in the bituminous coal fields, as well as in the anthracite regions, amounting to about five hundred thousand men, would stop work on that date under similar conditions.

The mine workers' committee, after a short conference at the Hotel Victoria, adjourned until to-day at 10 a. m. Chairman White said that the members merely had met informally and decided there was nothing further before the committee.

While members of the mine workers' committee would not say so, it was intimated that there had been some suggestion on the part of certain members of the operators' committee that the vote had not been unanimous in turning down every demand of the miners.

The proposals of the government will include provisions to secure promptitude in the presentation of cases of the parties and adjudication of them.

The numerical strength of the mine workers' union has fallen off considerably since the Anthracite Strike Commission was appointed by President Roosevelt in 1902.

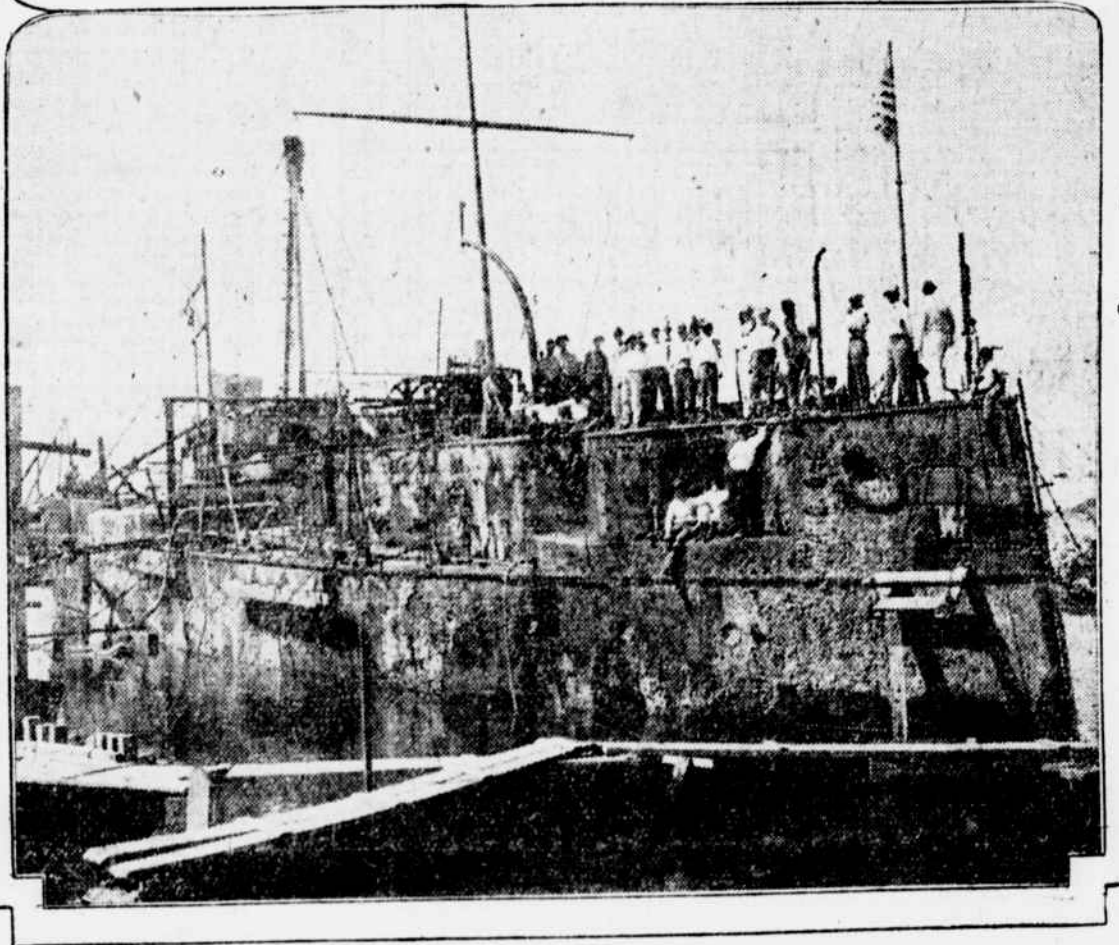
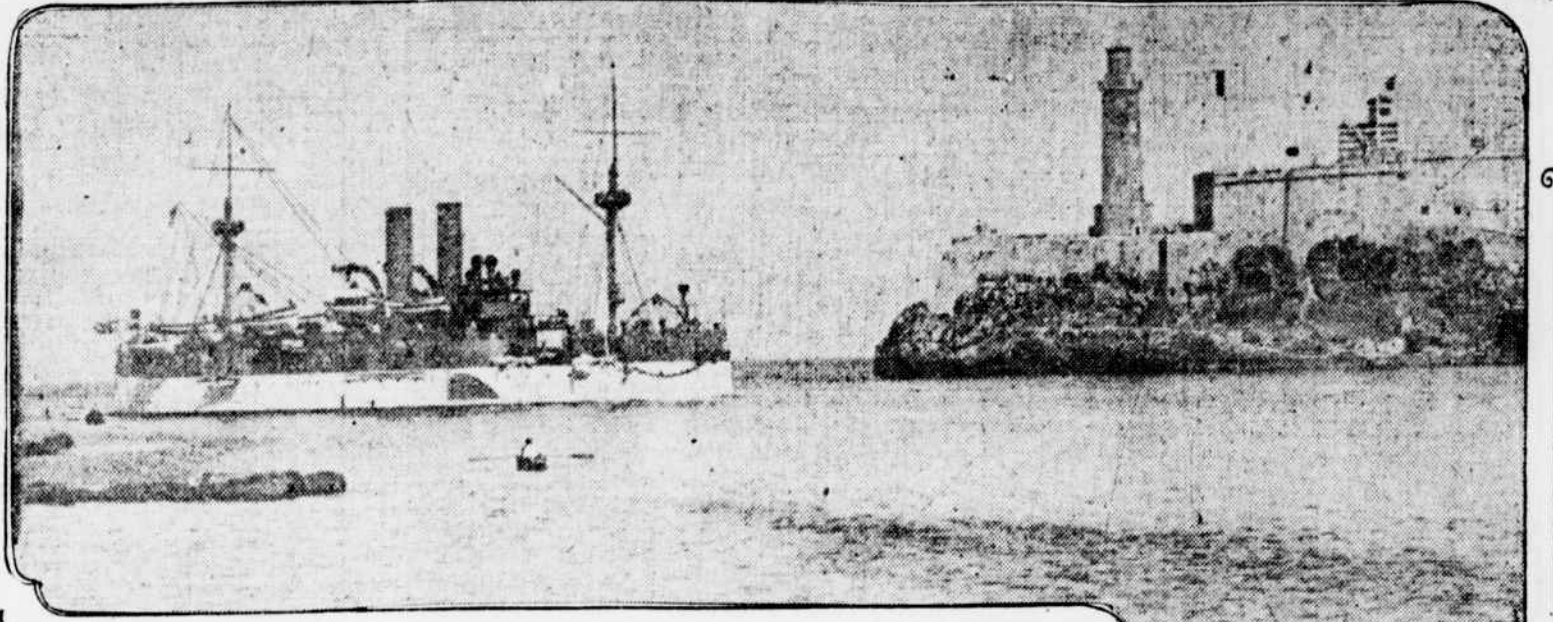
The conference at the Trunk Line Association yesterday lasted less than half an hour. Chairman White occupied most of the time in reading the miners' reply to the refusal of the operators to grant

Continued on second page.

THE BEGINNING AND END OF THE TRAGEDY OF THE MAINE.

Photograph of the American battleship entering the harbor of Havana on a friendly visit, January 25, 1898. On February 15 she was sunk by an explosion, carrying down with her 260 officers and men of the United States Navy.

(Photograph by J. C. Hemmet.)



THE MAINE, READY FOR HER BURIAL.

How the battleship looks after being raised from the bottom of the harbor and freed of mud and wreckage. She is floating in the cofferdam, from which she was towed yesterday in preparation for her last voyage to-day, when she will find a final resting place on the ocean's bottom.

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HYPNOTISM BANISHES PAIN Patient Sings While Surgeons Use the Knife.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.] Canton, Ohio, March 15.—Hypnotism was used successfully to banish pain in a major operation performed upon John Lyons, a teamster, at Ingleside Hospital to-day.

ENGINEER BURNED TO DEATH Mysterious Explosion in Plant of Queensboro Gas Company.

James Finley, night engineer of the Queensboro Gas and Electric Company's plant, at Rockaway Park, was burned to death last night in the basement of the company's machine shop.

TALKS FOR FIFTY HOURS Camorra Prosecutor Delivers 291,637 Words in Summing Up.

Viterbo, March 15.—Signor Santoro, the crown prosecutor, after having spoken fourteen days, finished his summing up against the Camorra to-day.

BABY SUES TROLLEY LINE Its Birth Minus Fingers, Mother Says, Is Due to Pre-natal Influence.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.] St. Louis, March 15.—The most peculiar suit in St. Louis history was filed in the Circuit Court here to-day.

REAL BATTLE MARKS WATER POLO MATCH

Game for National Title in Pittsburgh Winds Up in a Free Fight.

NEW YORK TEAM SUFFERS Club Officials Order Players Out of the Water When the Referee Fails to Do His Duty.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.] Pittsburgh, March 15.—The water polo game between the New York Athletic Club and the Chicago Athletic Association teams here to-night will probably put an end to the sport for all time.

"ANTIS" LOSE BATTLE Suffragettes Can Display "Votes for Women" Signs at Show.

The Woman's Industrial Exhibition in Grand Central Palace was the scene last night of a lively scrimmage between the suffragettes and the "antis."

LIVED YEAR WITH BROKEN BACK. Lead, S. D., March 15.—Having lived a year with a broken back, George H. Leno, 40 years old, a miner, died here to-day.

NEW SUNDAY TRAIN TO TRENTON, Penna. R. R., beginning March 17. Leave Hudson Terminal 1:28 p. m., Penna. Station 1:30 p. m., making principal stops.

It was only as a last resort, finding it impossible to get help from the referee and realizing that it was "do or be done," that they began to retaliate.

THE TRAGEDY OF THE BATTLESHIP MAINE

Entered Havana Harbor on friendly visit, January 25, 1898. Sunk by explosion, with loss of 260 officers and men, February 15, 1898. First court of inquiry reports initial explosion an external one, March 29, 1898.

Impossible to get help from the referee and realizing that it was "do or be done," that they began to retaliate. They had all by then felt the fists of their opponents, and simply had to start fighting back in self-defense.

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ALLEN OUTLAWS IN PITCHED BATTLE WITH PURSUERS

Posses Surround Home of Feudist Leader, Storm the House and Kill His Wife.

SIDNA ALLEN A PRISONER

Fights as Long as Able and Is Then Captured After Receiving Serious Wounds at the Hands of the Determined Officials.

FLOYD ALLEN TRIES SUICIDE

Girl Accidentally Wounded in Fusillade in Hillsville Courthouse Dies from Injuries, Making the Total Death List Five—Rest of Band Still at Large.

Hillsville, Va., March 15.—The end of the day's chase of the Hillsville raiders brought the death list of the courthouse tragedy and its sequel up to five.

Sidna and Floyd Allen, two of the chiefs of the band which rode down on the Carroll County Court House to rescue Floyd when sentenced by Judge Massie yesterday and assassinated the judge, the prosecutor and the Sheriff, are in captivity, both wounded severely.

The fifth death was that of Nancy Ayres, a nineteen-year-old girl, accidentally shot during the fusillade in the courthouse yesterday.

The storming of Sidna Allen's house late to-day was the next thing to a bombardment.

The other members of the gang, probably eighteen, are up in the mountains off toward the North Carolina line, well armed, well supplied and determined not to be taken.

Floyd Allen Cuts His Throat. Floyd Allen, the cause of the tragedy, was taken to the lockup this morning under a heavy guard, and he immediately whipped out a pocket knife and slashed his throat.

To-night the man hunt is in abeyance, waiting for daylight. No native, let alone a stranger, will travel these mountain roads at dark with the Allen gang loose.

With the arrival of help, confidence began to take the place of the terror which prevailed unrestrained for twenty-four hours.

Early in the day a report came from Mount Airy that the Allen gang had raided a hardware store there and stocked up with guns and bullets.

To-night a guard of mountain sharpshooters surrounds the jail, ready for any attempt to take off the two prisoners. The officers think, however, that with both the Allens wounded the outlaws may have less stomach for the fight.

The outlaws could not have picked a better time to make a stand against their pursuers. Every mountain brook

MAINE TO SINK TO-DAY TO HER LASTING REST

Roses on Its Decks Will Float When Battleship Disappears Forever.

HER DEAD LYING IN STATE

After the Ceremony Thirty-four Coffins Will Be Brought Home by the Cruiser North Carolina.

Havana, March 15.—The hulk of the old battleship Maine will be sent to its last resting place at the bottom of the sea three miles off the Cuban coast to-morrow afternoon.

The final arrangements for the burial of the Maine were made this afternoon, when, shortly after sundown, the hulk was drawn through a breach in the cofferdam by the navy tug Osceola, and securely moored to its outer wall.

A vast concourse passed through the hall during the afternoon and evening to pay their last tributes to the dead sailors.

The game to-night was to settle the question as to which team would meet the Missouri Athletic Club to-morrow evening for the national water polo championship, as the latter team is the present holder of the title.

These ceremonies are expected to end by noon, and the coffins then will be transported to the United States cruiser North Carolina, which, with the scout cruiser Birglingham, is expected to arrive here early in the morning.

At 2 o'clock the hulk of the Maine will be taken in tow by the tug Osceola, and escorted by the North Carolina, the Birglingham, four Cuban gunboats and a great fleet of other craft, will be conveyed to sea three miles off the Cuban coast, where her sea coxles will be opened and the vessel sent to the bottom.

Boston, March 15.—Governor Foss issued a proclamation to-day directing that flags on all public buildings in the state be placed at half staff from noon until sunset to-morrow, during which time the battleship Maine is to be sunk off the coast of Cuba.