

GIRL STRIKERS WELL TREATED, SAYS BAKER

Commissioner Discredits Charge That Police Showed Sympathy with Waist Manufacturers.

NO "SUGAR" GOING AROUND

Mr. Blanck Maintains There Is No Strike in His Factory, but Admits There Are Strikers.

Two big policemen, whose combined weight must be about 700 pounds, were on duty in Washington Place, near Washington Square, yesterday, to see that the striking girls of the Triangle Waist Company, 29 Washington Place, did not do bodily harm to the girls now at work there. Opposed to the police, so far as could be visually ascertained, were six slender east side girls, the combined weight of the sextet probably being within 50 pounds of that of the guardians of the peace, who were there to maintain order.

Miss Mary E. Dreier of 144 East Sixty-fifth Street, the wealthy champion of laboring women, who is also President of the Woman's Trade Union League, which is backing the strikers in their fight against the waist company, says that 150 girls are out as a result of a "lockout." Max Blanck, one of the two owners of the waist company, on the other hand, stoutly maintains that there is no strike. Then he says, that instead of 150 girls being out there are less than half that number. The recognition of a union, which he says does not exist, is the cause of the trouble, except that part of it is due to the efforts of Miss Dreier and others in behalf of the girls.

Mr. Blanck denied vehemently yesterday that the police were unduly sympathetic to the employers or that they were needlessly arresting the girl pickets, even going so far, according to Miss Dreier, as to arrest the pickets when they, and not the non-strikers, had been assailed. All this, Mr. Blanck said, was absolutely false. It is the girls who are still at work, he said, who are being maltreated, and to prove this he called into his office six young shirtwaist makers who corroborated him and offered to produce twice as many more.

The Triangle Waist Company employs

some 400 girls. A tour through the factory yesterday proved that nearly every machine was being operated, bearing out the statement of the owners that a full force is working. Mr. Blanck said these girls had not joined the union. The lowest salary paid in the establishment, he added, was \$8 a week, while at least half of the girls get as high as \$16 a week.

"All of this trouble," said Mr. Blanck, "is over this union business. We did not recognize it, and we do not intend to. We told the girls that we were willing to listen to any complaints and to receive any suggestions from our employes themselves, but we had to draw the line on three or four east side gentlemen stepping in to tell us how to run our business. It is an outrage the way the girls who have remained loyal—and they are the great majority of our force—have been treated by these people and their sympathizers. I will let them tell their own stories."

Mr. Blanck then summoned the girls into his office. The ones who came represented at least three nationalities. One girl, an American, said she had been followed by strikebreakers and their sympathizers, and that a man had thrown a potato which struck her in the back, leaving a bruise that could still be seen if necessary. Another girl, an Italian, said she had been struck in the stomach by a man. The others said they had been followed and insulted frequently by the strikers and their friends.

The picket girls who were patrolling the sidewalks surrounding the building in which the factory is denied all of the stories told by the other girls. They declared that they had not been insulting, and that at no time had they resorted to violence in their fight for the recognition of their union. Miss Dreier, corroborates them in this.

The police of the Mercer Street Station, the "penitentiary precinct" of the department, were not very affable when it came to talking about the strike. The Lieutenant behind the desk professed to know little or nothing of the trouble between the police and the strikers which has resulted in the arrest of so many of the girl pickets.

Police Commissioner Baker declared that the charges that the police of that station were being "sugared" was false, and the charges made by Miss Dreier that the police were taking the side of the manufacturers against the striking girls was also untrue. Inspector Daly, the Commissioner said, had assured him that all of the allegations were unfounded; in fact, that the strikers were being treated better than ever before.

Commissioner Baker said he had received a letter from a committee interested in the strike.

The police on duty in Washington Place were quite docile yesterday. The little pickets patrolled the streets quietly, passing the policemen time and again, but the police said not a word to them. No arrests had been made nor any reprimands administered with the factory closed for the night.

Acquit Dressmaker of Smuggling.

Mme. Delphine Boulanger, a French dressmaker of West Fifty-sixth Street, who was arrested last July on a charge of smuggling Parisian gowns and other finery into this country, was discharged yesterday by Commissioner Shields in the United States Circuit Court. The complainant was Therese de Villiers, a dressmaker, who occupied the same place of business. The two women had had a falling out. The Commissioner discharged Mme. Boulanger for lack of evidence.