

## ACTS ON THE STRIKE.

### AMERICAN RAILWAY UNION ASKS PULLMAN TO SETTLE.

**Committee Named by the Convention Calls on Vice-President Wickes, Who Tells It the Company Has Nothing to Arbitrate—Resolutions Passed Intending to Score Lyman J. Gage—Pullman Conference Committee Will Report Today, When Action May Be Taken.**

The convention of the American Railway Union yesterday took up the matter of the Pullman strike and decided to take immediate action. A committee was appointed to wait upon the officials of the Pullman Palace Car company for the purpose of demanding in the name of the American Railway Union an immediate settlement of the differences existing at Pullman. The step was adopted after two hours of discussion and deliberation. President Debs and Vice-President Howard, as well as many of the delegates, spoke on the subject and counseled careful thought. W. C. Lynch, of Local Union No. 212 of Chicago, presented the motion for the appointment of the committee to wait upon the officials at once. The motion was adopted and the following committee appointed: W. C. Lynch, John D. Sheehan, S. B. Fields, W. D. Mayhall, S. E. Heberling, and R. M. Shackelford, delegates; and the following named delegates from Pullman, who are also members of the Pullman Strike committee: R. W. Brown, Miss Jenny Curtiss, William Doody, F. E. Tollans, R. W. Coombs, and Eugene Block. This committee is to report the answer to the convention this morning.

The committee of twelve, headed by W. C. Lynch as spokesman, visited the offices of the company in the Pullman Building at 4 o'clock. It was received by Vice-President Wickes and General Manager Parent. Chairman Lynch asked Mr. Wickes if he was in a position to act for the Pullman company and received an answer in the affirmative.

"We are a committee appointed by the convention of the American Railway Union," said Chairman Lynch, "and we were instructed to ascertain whether you would recognize the American Railway Union in a request for arbitration of the differences existing at Pullman."

"I will simply say we have nothing whatever to arbitrate," Mr. Wickes replied.

"Then you positively refuse to entertain the American Railway Union in reference to the Pullman matter?" asked Chairman Lynch.

"I do refuse," replied Vice-President Wickes, but after a moment or two of reflection he said: "I will not say refuse; I will say I will decline, and in reply to your question I will say I am in a position to answer for the Pullman company in this matter."

The committee thanked Mr. Wickes for the audience and retired to make a report to the convention this morning. Last night nearly all the delegates either wrote or wired the facts in the Pullman matter as presented to the convention to their respective local unions, and asked for immediate instructions. It is expected the report will be received and placed on file by the convention this morning, and that consideration of the Pullman matter will be held in abeyance until some word is heard from the local unions.

#### May Vote with Howard.

Vice-President Howard seems to be in favor of this move and none other, and it is probable the convention will vote with him on the question, as many of the delegates are not certain as to how their constituents will view the situation when it comes to a question of boycotting the Pullman cars, which means that members of the American Railway Union are not to haul them on their trains or have anything to do with the handling of them in any manner.

The morning session opened with the presentation of resolutions, which were referred to the proper committees for consideration. Among them were resolutions providing for the payment of the expenses of delegates to a general body by the several unions at the rate of \$2 a day and three cents a mile for transportation, and also forbidding the acceptance of passes on any railroad; proposing the adoption of a secret sign by which members may be able to recognize each other; prohibiting the instruction of students by telegraph operators who are members of the A. R. U. unless the student has suffered an accident while employed in railroad work; providing rules for the organization of a General Board of Mediation on the various railroad systems; providing for the admission of members of the International Machinists' Union; making members of old railroad organizations eligible to the insurance benefits of the A. R. U. The following resolution was introduced by J. J. Doyle and C. S. McAuliffe, of local unions Nos. 400 and 134 of Chicago:

WHEREAS, Lyman J. Gage, President of the First National Bank of Chicago, saw fit to insult Mrs. Fanny Kavanaugh and Mrs. Kate Bradley, two members of the Pullman Relief Fund committee, duly appointed by the Trade and Labor Assembly and the Building Trades Council, when they applied to him for assistance for the strikers, and

WHEREAS, It has come to our knowledge that the Treasurer of that committee has deposited money received by him for the aid of the strikers in the bank of which Lyman J. Gage is President, now therefore be it,

Resolved, That the general convention of the American Railway Union do hereby respectfully request the said Treasurer to withdraw his deposits from said bank, and be it finally

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the said Treasurer, William C. Hollister, forthwith.

#### Harsh Words for Mr. Gage.

Delegate McAuliffe said if Lyman J. Gage had insulted the wife or sister of a laboring man he should "be boycotted and hounded to earth, where he belongs." A committee of three was appointed to investigate the charges and report.

By adopting the report of the Committee on General Work the convention decided to take no action in relation to the coal miners' strike on the ground that it was impracticable, as the order was not well enough organized.

At 11:30 o'clock the convention resolved itself into a committee of the whole and went into executive session to consider the report of the committee on the Pullman strike. President Debs resigned the chair. He characterized George M. Pullman as a "monumental monster, a pirate on the high seas of labor, and a robber who has robbed, starved, and oppressed men, women, and children for years." He believed the time for action at hand, and it had now come "to a fight between the American Railway Union and Pullman, and a fight to a finish." The executive session was resumed in the afternoon. Delegates from California and Montana pledged support to a boycott.

The Committee on Resolutions reported in favor of indorsing the boycott of the Chicago Typographical Unions against the Rand-McNally company. Its recommendation was adopted. The boycott of the Peggers' and Nailers' Union of Minneapolis against the Washburn-Crosby Milling company's flour was also indorsed. The convention adjourned at 5 o'clock to resume business this morning.