

HARBOR WORKERS RENEW STRIKE TALK

May Insist on 25 Per Cent. Increase in Pay Refused by War Labor Board.

EIGHT-HOUR DAY GRANTED

Refer Question to Six Unions of Affiliation for Decision, and May Tie Up Port Again.

Failure of V. Everit Macy, umpire of the National War Labor Board, to grant the demand for a 25 per cent. increase in wages caused dissatisfaction yesterday among the 16,000 members of the Marine Affiliation in this port, although their demand for an eight-hour day was allowed in the decision.

Some of the officials of the affiliation expressed their individual opinions that the award by Mr. Macy ought to be rejected and that the port workers on all classes of boats ought to tie up all harbor traffic again, as it was tied up for three days during January in attempts to enforce their demands. It was decided finally at a meeting held at the affiliation headquarters at 26 Park Place last night that the Macy award should be referred for decision to the six marine unions comprising the affiliation.

Officers of the Marine Affiliation refused to exercise their plenary power in accepting or rejecting the award, and asked that all the unions consider the award, and then report their decision back to a meeting of the officers of the affiliation to be held at the headquarters at 26 Park Place tomorrow. Thomas L. Delahunty, President of the Marine Affiliation, said that officers of that organization, all of whom are members of at least one of the six unions composing the affiliation, probably would make similar recommendations to their followers. He said he did not wish to say what his recommendation would be to the Marine Engineers' Beneficial Association, of which he is the leader.

Members of the New York Boat Owners' Association and the New York Towboat Exchange expressed favorable opinions of the award, although none of the members of the associations had accepted the jurisdiction of the War Labor Board. Joseph H. Moran, President of the Moran Towing and Transportation Company, and an official of the Boat Owners' Association, said that he favored the award. He reiterated his doubt, however, that the eight-hour day would be practicable.

Paul Bonyng, counsel for the boat owners' associations and the Red Star Towing and Transportation Company, the only operating company that recognized the jurisdiction of the War Labor Board, expressed gratification that the wage scale had not been changed, and added that "not even the Macy award could cause the tides to change" so that an actual eight-hour day would be possible on all tugboats and other harbor craft.

Captain William A. Maher, Vice President of the Marine Affiliation, said it was true that the change to an eight-hour day might result in an increase of pay in overtime. He added that the demands of the men had been for the actual eight-hour day, with an increase in pay, and that many of them would not be satisfied with the present scale. Dissatisfaction also was expressed that some plan to enable the men to get overtime retroactive to November was not suggested by the umpire.

Expects Large Overtime Wages.

Joseph H. Moran said that the award would cause the payment of large sums of money in overtime wages to the men, particularly on the single crew boats. He asserted that the wage scale offered to the men by the boat owners in November was better than the scale now in effect. Under the Macy award the present award is to continue in effect until July 1 next if peace is not pro-

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claimed before that time. This displeases the Tidewater Boatmen's Union, who had waived their demand for the eight-hour day and asked only an increase in wages.

Technical points said by them to have been overlooked by the Macy award were discussed yesterday by the officers of the Marine Affiliation at their headquarters. They disliked the suggestion that another commission should be appointed to consider the application of the eight-hour day to the single-crew tugs, and said that deliberations would protract settlement of the demands until it was time to begin consideration of another scale of wages after peace had been proclaimed. It was suggested that if the marine unions did not accept the award another appeal be made to President Wilson to appoint a board to make an award more acceptable.

Officers who are presenting the award to their unions are Thomas L. Delahunty, President of the Marine Affiliation; William A. Maher, Vice President; Stephen J. Condon, Secretary; F. Paul Vacarelli, Vice President of the Longshoremen's Association; William Fink, President of the Harbor Boatmen's Association; John Brennan, President of the Tidewater Boatmen's Union, and Albert Sarrell, President of the Floating Hoisters' Association.

In an effort to settle the carpenters' strike the first meeting of the committee representing the Building Trades Employers' Association and the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners with the umpire, Supreme Court Justice P. H. Dugro, will be held at 3 o'clock this afternoon, it was announced yesterday at the office of the Building Trades Employers' Association. Justice Dugro has notified the organizations of his acceptance of the appointment, and points upon which the conferees cannot agree will be referred to him.

The striking carpenters are returning to work, and within a few days normal work will be resumed, according to an announcement made by Sam Donnelly, Secretary of the Building Trades Employers' Association.

No Change in Garment Strike.

There was practically no change yesterday in the strike in the dress and waist industry, both sides remaining firm for the principles for which they have been fighting. Benjamin Schlesinger, President of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union, was optimistic. "There is not the slightest doubt that the dress and waist strike will be completely won," he said. "The season is fast approaching and waists and dresses have to be made. The strikers are getting strike benefits and will fight until the strike is won."

Mr. Schlesinger said that the forty-four-hour week has been conceded to the 7,000 striking house dress and kimono workers by the manufacturers at the first conference held between the union and the House Dress and Kimono Manufacturers' Association. Another conference, he said, will be held today, at which the question of an increase in wages and other union standards will be taken up. He said that settlements are being made daily in the strike of the children's dressmakers. The walkout of the white goods workers was a remarkable success, he said, as more than 8,000 workers responded to the call.

Eight men were tried, found guilty, and fined, seven of them \$10 each and one \$25, on charges of disorderly conduct in connection with the strike of Teamsters' Union of Avenue B and Second Street, before Magistrate Charles E. Sims in the Essex Market Court yesterday. Magistrate Sims declined to permit the withdrawal of the complaints on the ground that since the offense an agreement had been reached between the defendants and their employers.

Leading barbers of the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn denied yesterday the report that they were contemplating a strike. They said they had no grievance against their employers, and will remain at work no matter what action is taken elsewhere, according to President Joseph D. Agostino of the Independent Journeymen Barbers' Union of the eastern section of Brooklyn.

John Slater of the shoe firm of J. & J. Slater, 415 Fifth Avenue, gave out a statement yesterday relative to the controversy between the employees and shoe manufacturers in Long Island City, where three factories were forced to close on Tuesday by a strike of the employees.

"The difficulty between the employer and the employe," he said, "is a matter of principle. The right of discharge is questioned, the price of labor is involved on account of the demand for an eight-hour day, and an increase in wages. Most of the men who brought about this strike are earning between \$35 and \$70 a week and they are demanding a scale of wages that will run it up to \$40 to \$100."

An effort to settle the differences between 20,000 shoe workers and their employers in the city will be made this morning, when a Unity Committee, composed of fifteen workers, will confer with the manufacturers at 569 De Kalb Avenue, Brooklyn. It was reported last night that, in addition to the 15,000 men and women reported to have not returned to work in the various shoe shops since the labor troubles failed of adjustment, about 4,000 of the members of the United Shoe Workers' Association had decided to affiliate themselves with the workers in the industry and to remain from their employment until their demands for forty-four hours a week instead of fifty has been granted.