

TROOPS USE RIFLES, TANKS AND MACHINE GUNS IN KENTUCKY

NEWPORT, Ky., Feb. 4.—An appeal to President Harding to take action in the Newport Steel Rolling Mills Company labor trouble was sent late today, following a clash between state militia and mill workers and their sympathizers.

Herman Thompson, state legislator from Newport, sent the following telegram to the president:

"Governor Morrow has sent troops to our town, shooting men and women. Please act."

The clash was the first encounter between the troops and the strikers. Six were known to have been shot and beaten by soldiers. Many others, it was reported, suffered injuries.

Trouble started, it was reported to police, when troopers tried to disperse a crowd of 600 men and boys at 9th and Brighton streets, opposite the mill entrance.

Col. H. H. Denhardt, militia commander, ordered the militia's baby tanks, two troops of cavalry and two detachments of troopers to the mill. They ordered the crowd behind the "dead line." The crowd refused to move and the soldiers with clubbed rifles advanced.

Fighting continued for an hour.

The forward movement of the troops continued until they had pushed the "dead line" eastward from Brighton to York street, the principal business thoroughfare of Newport.

Pedestrians were approached by soldiers, revolvers in hand, and told to get inside houses. No person was permitted on the street.

Reaching York street, the soldiers marched up and down the thoroughfare ordering everyone away. The militia's baby tanks also were used in clearing the streets.

Mayor Joseph Hermann, it was reported, appeared on the scene of the trouble shortly after the troopers started pushing the crowd back. He risked danger, witnesses said, by crossing the old "dead line" at 9th and Brighton streets, and approached officers in charge of the troops.

Two troopers, it is said, seized the mayor and hustled him roughly outside the "dead line."

"He was no different than anyone else to us," said a trooper, speaking of the incident.