

RAIL BROTHERHOODS SEEK HIGHER WAGES

Present Scale is Described as Below WLB Na- tional Policy

Chicago (AP)—Representatives of the five railroad operating brotherhoods assembled today to consider new wage adjustments for their 350,000 members.

David B. Robertson, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen whose Cleveland office recently announced the meeting, said at that time that "present wage scales in our industry are still below those which have been established as a national policy by the War Labor Board."

Today's scheduled meeting brought up the question of rail wages, for the Nation's railroad operating employes for the second time in a little over a year. The brotherhoods threatened to strike in 1941 to enforce a wage demand, but the walk-out was averted by a compromise agreement worked out through an emergency fact finding board appointed by President Roosevelt.

The compromise settlement of 1941 provided raises of 9½ cents an hour, or 76 cents a day, for members of the operating brotherhoods—the firemen, the engineers, railway conductors, the switchmen and railroad trainmen.

The same agreement granted raises of 10 cents an hour, or 80 cents a day, for 900,000 members of the non-operating brotherhoods. Prior to the settlement operating workmen received from \$5.06 a day up and non-operating workmen made an average of 63.4 cents an hour, according to union estimates.

The 15 brotherhoods of the non-operating personnel recently asked wage boosts of 20 cents an hour, with a minimum of 70 cents an hour.

still were clinging to their foothold in the northern factory suburbs of Stalingrad and apparently were maintaining some lines of communication.

The German resistance was most pronounced on the central front in the regions of Velikie Luki and Rzhev, but large German forces also were thrown into the path of the aggressive Russians southwest of Stalingrad, the midnight communique said.

In the Velikie Luki area, where the Russians are within 90 miles of the old Latvian border, the Red Army pushed through heavy snow to "liberate several populated points," it was reported.

The scope of the German effort to reinforce the lines in Russia was indicated by the Russian announcement that of 192 German planes shot down last week, 108 were transport planes. The Russians reported the loss of 102 planes in the same period.

Casualty Story Making Rounds Is Unconfirmed

There was no confirmation here of the rumor current in the city today that 1st Sgt. Reuben J. (Mose) Steger, who left Marshfield with a National Guard unit in October, 1940, was a casualty in New Guinea area.

Querying his mother, Mrs. John M. Steger, 913 North avenue and a brother and a niece of the supposed "casualty" indicated that no communication regarding Sgt. Steger from the War Department, the only authoritative source of such information, had been received by his parents or other relatives.

Other rumors given widespread "mouthing" here which are untrue as far as relatives know are stories that James Barrett, Marshfield marine serving in the Solomons, was bayoneted by the Japs, and that Sgt. Gerald Bauer, wounded in New Guinea, submitted to a leg amputation.

The 3 per cent gain in October compared with 4 per cent in September, 8 per cent in August, 10 per cent in July, and 12 per cent in June.

"The program for the coming year is so large that a vigorous stepping up of the pace of recent months is essential, if our new objectives are to be achieved," Nelson asserted.

October production by major categories:

Planes, down 5 per cent "due in large part to special factors affecting deliveries."

Ordnance, up 3 per cent.

Navy and Army vessels, up 4 per cent.

Merchant vessels, down 10 per cent, but still ahead of schedule.

Other munitions, up 9 per cent.

porters of peace-maker Schroeder the first switch to Whittaker Chambers votes for the ballot. Martin committee reviewed election and declared "Definitely reached with intent to win a territorial proxies p See

Eau Claire Boy, Discharged By

Washington (AP)—Marine Corps headquarters said today that an honorable discharge would be given a 13-year-old Eau Claire, Wis., boy despite the fact that he enlisted in the service by giving his age as 17, the minimum for enlistment, when he was actually only 12.

The boy, George William Holle, was reported to be "somewhere or other" on a ship coming back to this country and headquarters said his honorable release from the service would be given at the earliest possible date "at the convenience of the Government."

In Chicago yesterday, the boy's mother, Mrs. Margaret Holle, said her son already had reached a West Coast base, but the discrepancy between her information and that issued here could be due to the fact that papers regarding his arrival had not yet reached Washington.

Mrs. Holle also reported that her son had been on Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons but Marine headquarters said "all indications" were that he had not actually reached that embattled out-

post. As he of adverse fact. He enlisted Oct. 28, his enlistment consent. Anna B. In June learned irregular low the an investigation determined of this. Holle consented. Marines was obtained birthdate transfer tal Unit. The patched the attention. It was turn to for before

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