

The companies are preparing flat cars to be occupied by sharpshooters and attached to the cow-catcher of each engine for the purpose of protecting the crew.

#### AT THE CONFERENCE

of the railroad men with the sheriff this afternoon it was decided to request Governor Flower to call out the national guard. The sheriff deferred sending the message until he could consult with General Dodge.

**BUFFALO, Aug. 18.**—The sixth day of the switchmen's strike closes with increasing complications. The leaders witnessed the massing of troops with a growing determination to meet every move of their opponents with a counter stroke.

Fully 8,000 troops will be here tomorrow guarding the strikers. The railway officials rely upon the presence of the soldiers to permit them to raise the freight blockade with the non-union men already engaged. As a counter stroke it is considered probable the foremen and trainmen on the lines where the strike now prevails will be called out.

The latest addition of the striking switchmen is ninety men in the nickel Plate yards who struck because they were asked to handle boycotted freight. Thus the switchmen upon the entire Vanderbilt system in the trinity are out.

#### THE STRIKE LEADERS

claim tonight the Vanderbilt system at this point is blockaded and inactive. They claim also that the Erie, Lehigh Valley and Buffalo Creek roads are likewise paralyzed. They do not feel it necessary to call out the men in the allied trades, though the reserve force may possibly be called out of the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, Buffalo, Rochester and Pittsburgh and Eastern New York and Pennsylvania switchmen.

The Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, which has already conceded the demands, went still further today and formally notified them that they would not be asked to handle boycotted freight.

There is no doubt that before yielding the fight the leaders will extend the fight west, even to Chicago, and eastward to New York, ultimately calling out perhaps not only the switchmen, but firemen and trainmen. The strikers expect developments in the next three days.

The strikers claim full sympathy on the part of the firemen, whom they state will quit their engines whenever the order reaches them. It is said

#### THE TRAINMEN WILL JOIN THE SWITCHMEN

whenever ordered out, but firemen will probably be first called out.

As to the condition of the tie up the roads officials' statements are strongly contradictory.

Tonight it is claimed by the Central officials that their freight traffic in and out of the East Buffalo yards is progressing without interruption. The Central will tomorrow resume work at the Black Rock and Erie street yards. They estimate that by Monday the freight business will be moving normally.

Preparations of a suggestive character were made today at Felch hospital. Over twenty cots with bedding have been arranged together with

several filed stretchers. Several surgeons have signified their intention of assisting the staff should the necessity arise.

The troops are complaining greatly at the way they are treated both as to food and accommodations.

Inspector-General McGrath and Major Rosolle arrived this afternoon and they will look after the matter and see that the men have proper attention.

#### ONE OR TWO SKIRMISHES

with gathering crowds were reported during the day, but the incidents were not serious. The people gather and taunt and annoy the troops.

Some efforts were made during the day to move trains at the Babcock street crossing of the Erie, but the non-union men refused to work and decamped. One train was finally made up and sent out, but it could not get through the blockade.

**BUFFALO, Aug. 19.**—Unless new complications develop before tomorrow morning the switchmen's strike will be broken. The railroad companies claim they have sufficient men to operate the roads if proper protection is given them.

Two thousand troops were ordered out, but they, it was claimed, were not sufficient, and 1000 more were ordered and are here, being assigned to duty at all points where the companies feel there might be danger. Tonight every command is assigned to duty. Careful inquiry demonstrated beyond a doubt that the companies have sufficient men to man the roads. To be sure the strikers say the men being held in readiness are restrained from liberty; also that the men were hired to work on Western roads and did not know they were expected to work on tied up roads in Buffalo. If these allegations prove true the men may desert upon the first opportunity. It is not deemed probable, however, that such defections would constitute more than a small minority of those now wanting work.

The Lake Shore road has enough men in the yards tonight to man the usual number of switching engines. The Erie today moved five trains and have in quarters more than the number of men usually employed. The second feature of the strike is what can and will be the next strike of the leaders against the railway interests. Efforts are being made to get the firemen and trainmen to withdraw. The firemen are holding a meeting the outcome of which may be a determination to quit work.

#### A SECRET MEETING

of five local lodges of firemen was held tonight. About 250 men were in attendance, representing all the lodges in the city, as well as the different roads. The brotherhood was represented by delegates.

As a result of the meeting it can now be said almost certainly that the locomotive firemen of the Lehigh, Erie, Lake Shore, West Shore and Central roads will go out between seven o'clock tomorrow evening and Sunday morning. This was the unanimous decision, as the men were found in favor of declaring a strike on the roads named.

Master Workman Sweeney this evening received a deputation from the Grand Lodge of Switchmen of Penn-

sylvania. The conference lasted nearly an hour, and it is impossible to learn what transpired. Third Vice-President Webb of the Central said tonight that so far as his road was concerned the strike was entirely over. The only troubles reported during the day were when Yardmaster Barrett tried to bring a string of freight cars to East Buffalo under protection of troops. He was stoned but not seriously injured. No arrests were made and the soldiers did not open fire.

This afternoon the Lehigh and Erie began the resumption of their freight traffic. The Lake Shore has men, and is waiting until they know; absolute protection will be rendered, before clearing the yard. Work will be commenced in dead earnest tomorrow. It is clear that while the soldiers are here the roads will be able to resume and continue the freight business. The Erie Company paid off yesterday and the Lehigh & Lackawanna paid their employees today. The officers are apprehensive that if a contest is to come it may fairly be expected tonight. The reason is that with money in their pockets the men, or at least a portion of them, will soon have liquor in their stomachs. The officials fear the cooler heads may not be able to restrain the others and an outbreak may occur.

**BUFFALO, Aug. 20.**—There need be no more mincing of terms as to the fate of the striking switchmen here while the status which prevails tonight maintains. Unless the labor leaders shall adopt decisive measures in new directions the switchmen in the Buffalo yards will undoubtedly be defeated. They know it themselves, but still cling to the conviction that something will happen. Their faith is on their leaders. They hope the firemen may come out.

This evening a railroad man said: "The engineers and firemen are going out within forty-eight hours. This is positive. I am in a position to know what I am talking about. I feel certain that the engineers and firemen will join the strike, and Erie trainmen are going to quit. They are well organized. The Lehigh trainmen are not well organized and will likely stay at work. The firemen may strike without the consent of Sergeant."

This is the view of an afternoon paper of the switchmen's campaign.

During the afternoon non-union switchmen on the New York Central were all supplied with revolvers and given directions to use them only for self-defense. Manufacturers and business men in the neighborhood of the railroads have taken alarm at the presence of apparent danger and asked the sheriff for protection.

An attempt was made to wreck a Lehigh train near Buffalo Creek this afternoon, but fortunately the train did not leave the track.

**ELMIRA, N. Y., Aug. 20.**—The blockade at Sayre, Pa., and Waverly, N. Y., was virtually raised today. About 7:50 this morning the ball was set rolling at Waverly when a freight on the Philadelphia & Reading from Sayre was stopped on the switch by strikers. The military were notified and they marched to the railway tracks, formed to five abreast and marched up to the tracks to clear the crowd. Hundreds of people blocked