

NEWS OF THE STRIKE OF WIRELESS OPERATORS ON THE PACIFIC COAST (MARCONI COMPANY)

FROM THE COMMERCIAL TELEGRAPHERS' UNION OF AMERICA

Rooms 922-930 Monon Building, 440 South Dearborn Street, CHICAGO

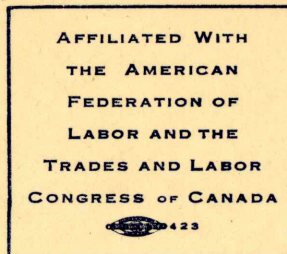


K. Noble,
441 N. Broadway,
Yonkers, N. Y.

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**The Commercial Telegraphers' Union
of America**
WESLEY RUSSELL
INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY - TREASURER
ROOMS 922-930 MONON BUILDING
CHICAGO, ILL.



WIRELESS STRIKE

ALL OFFICERS, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Chicago, May 3, 1913.

The wireless operators employed by the Marconi Company on the Pacific Coast have struck (April 22.) They took this action only after being subjected to every indignity that an arrogant and heartless corporation, interested solely in exploiting and grinding profits out of their men, could inflict. The company flouted their demands for an increased wage, discharged their committees, refused the good offices of the San Francisco Labor Council arbitration committee, declined mediation to reach an amicable adjustment through a representative of the United States Department of Labor, repudiated its word with its employees, told the men that commercial land operators would not support them in a fight, and showed unmistakably its determination to destroy, if possible, this union of employees. There was no other alternative left open but unconditional surrender or strike, and the men chose the manly course. President Konenkamp, who is on the ground and in personal charge, thereupon ordered the strike.

These tactics have a familiar look. Western Union influences, we believe, are undoubtedly back of the Marconi Company, fearing that a victory in the wireless would encourage their employees to demand more money and better working conditions.

Sailors of the Pacific receive \$50 per month for a 9-hour day; wireless operators \$30 to \$35 for second operators, and \$40 to \$45 per month for first operators for a 12-hour day. They asked for \$60 per month for first operator and \$50 per month for second operators on boats. At land stations \$110 per month for first operator and \$95 per month for second and third operators respectively. Wireless operators rank as petty officers, with all the expenses and incidentals necessary to maintain rank and a good appearance, and they are paid the wage of a Chinese stoker.

The boats on the Pacific are all manned by union men, from the captain down to the deck hand. It is not believed that a scab wireless operator would be anxious to plant himself in such an unsympathetic environment, especially for the miserable wages paid.

These men need help. They should be encouraged and supported so that they may be enabled to hold out against this company until they win their fight for a living wage. Every telegrapher, member and non-member, should do his part. Their victory will be our gain, their defeat our loss.

You are urged to give freely and quickly to this good cause, and to work among others to the same end. All contributions should be sent to Wesley Russell, International Secretary-Treasurer, Rooms 922-930 Monon Bldg., 440 South Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., who will acknowledge receipt promptly.

In addition, please see to it that every wireless operator in your vicinity, or of your acquaintance, on land or boat stations, is advised of the situation.

Yours fraternally,

Wesley Russell

International Secretary-Treasurer.



WIRELESS STRIKE FUND.

WESLEY RUSSELL, International Secretary-Treasurer,
Rooms 922-930 Monon Building,
440 South Dearborn Street,
CHICAGO.

Dear Sir:

I enclose \$..... to be applied to the wireless strike fund.

Signed.....

Address.....

If a member, please give Certificate No..... Division No.....

City.....

J. KENDRICK NOBLE

October 30, 1970

Commander Richard Johnstone
Larkspur, California

Dear K 6 F Z

Thank you for sending me a copy of the latest issue of the S O W P publication and the application blank for membership. However, as I mentioned before, I have decided not to join any more organizations. However, the items in the publication brought back fond memories of my early days as a commercial radio operator.

I remember what hardly had I begun serving as a wireless telegraph operator aboard ship on the East Coast and dreaming of a long and pleasant career in this field when I received the enclosed notice urging me to strike. . STRIKE. . .

While it is true I was only getting \$ 30 a month, the free board and lodging and the excitement of being responsible for the safety of all the passengers and crew was a source of great appeal to me as a 17-year old boy on his first job.

I thought you might be interested in this Strike Notice (the first of its kind in radio history.) If you want it, it is yours.

*RS wills it
to WP archives*

73

Ken

J.Kendrick Noble
W A 2 L V B