

# Willimantic Daily Chronicle

Willimantic, Conn., Friday, October 22, 1925

## LOCAL STRIKE NOW ON THIRTY-THIRD WEEK

**No change in Situation as Far as American Thread Company is Concerned.-- Former Operatives Still Holding Daily Meetings.--Rumors of Capitulation Denied by Strike Leaders.--Many Have Returned to Work While Others Have Been Refused Employment.--Tented City Thing of Past.--Labor Organizations Fail to Make Good Promises to Build Homes for Strikers.**

The present week marks the thirty-third of the strike of former operatives of the American Thread Company, with those loyal to the cause still holding daily meetings and offering a pretense that the strike will yet lie won. Most of the daily meetings for some time past have been held at the Central Labor Union Hall with others occasionally taking place at the Gem Theatre, when special speakers address the gatherings. The strikers still maintain their "weapon" of peaceful picketing in the vicinity of the plant. The attention of the pickets at the present stage is not focused so much on strangers who enter the plant, but in an effort to learn the identity of those in the ranks who call at the employment office for work. These people will no longer receive assistance from the local strikers' committee in the way of necessities.

A large number of the strikers since the cool weather began have applied for work and a goodly number have been taken back while others have been refused work. For the most part, those who have returned to work have been assigned to jobs other than those they had before the strike. A few have secured their old places back, which is considered fortunate, but in such cases it is because

they are experts at their particular line of work.

In regard to the strike the company's view of the situation is that as far as they were concerned the strike was over May 25, when they reopened the plant under power after what they claim was due notice given for the former operatives to return to their old places.

Reports have been current during the week to the effect that the strike was to be called off. This has been denied by several of the local leaders who indignantly claim it to be propaganda to hurt their cause. The censuring of the American Thread Company officials at the recent national convention of the American Federation of Labor at Atlantic City, N.J. and the announcement that that organization would stand back of the local strikers, served to cheer up the loyal ones who day by day meet and discuss the situation. They have also been encouraged by organizers of the Textile Workers to believe that sooner or later the American Thread Company will reconsider their position and admit them to their old jobs with the restoration of the ten percent cut in wages imposed on January 12 of this year.

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The "Tented City" on the North Windham Road, just over the city line, is now included among "Mortals of the past." Its erection was proposed by Thomas F. McMahon of Providence, R.I., international president of the Textile Workers of America in June when the thread company announced that evictions of former operatives of the plant occupying company tenements would ensue unless they returned to work. Some twenty tents were erected and the official opening of the "tent city" took place on July 7 when William Green of Washington, D.C., national president of the American Federation of Labor delivered an address to the local strikers. For a time some of the tents were occupied by families of strikers. With the chilling frosts of September the tents gradually became depopulated. About two weeks ago, Miss Mary Kelleher was notified from national headquarters of the United Textile Workers to have the tents taken down and stored away. During the period of dispossessing the tenants, the strikers were assured by President McMahon and other labor leaders, that if the strike lasted into the fall and winter, that houses would be erected for the strikers with the aid of the American Federation of Labor. Local and vicinity union building mechanics, it was said,

would give their spare time gratis in the construction of houses. Not even a start was made in this direction which was a disappointment to many families who occupied tents and constituted simply another unfilled promise. For the first five months of the strike the strikers were given slips which were good for various amounts of credit for necessary merchandise at various local stores which varied according to the size of the families. According to some of the local grocers and marketmen, while the slips were redeemed for cash by presenting them at headquarters, there came a time when...*(missing text in article)*

[Ed: there was no cash left in the strikers' fund to fulfill the obligation of redemption. ]