

# THE CONCRETE HERALD

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## STONE & WEBSTER STOPS ALL WORK ON ACCOUNT OF STRIKE

### Strike Called By I.W.W. Last Friday-No Violence Or Disorder in City Since Strike Started

Last Friday the I. W. W. called a general strike on the works of the Stone & Webster company here, over 500 men being called off the work on the power dam during Friday and Saturday. It is estimated that around 150 men stayed on the job, but these were not enough to keep the work going, and as it appeared impossible to get a new crew, the work of the dam and power plant was yesterday closed down indefinitely, and all the men on the work were paid off. All the men remaining at the camp now are care takers and watchmen and the necessary clerical force.

While the strike seems to have been under consideration for some time, it came as a surprise to the people of the city. The strikers, nearly all of whom are members of the I. W. W. demanded a 25 per cent increase in wages, more and better food, clean linen once a week, no overtime, safer working conditions, boycott of California products and release of all class prisoners, although it is not shown how the Stone & Webster company could comply with the last demand. The demands of the strikers were refused by the company and the strike was immediately called.

So far there has been no violence in connection with the strike and no real indications of damage to persons or property on the part of the strikers. There has been some interference with traffic by the strike pickets. Two stage loads of strikebreakers from Seattle were stopped in town and turned back, but in neither case was there any

violence shown. The local police officers have been able to hold the situation well in hand, and unless conditions get worse there will be no necessity of calling for outside help.

The lurid accounts of the strike in the daily papers are taken as a joke here, but they are undoubtedly doing harm to the town, to the strikers and to the Stone & Webster company. Stories of violence, gun play, threats of bodily harm to the sheriff, and that it may be necessary to call in troops to quell rioting, may make interesting reading in outside cities, but where based on nothing but a strong imagination, they are likely doing more harm than good. There are several hundred strikers in town, who are picketing certain streets and turning back strikebreakers, but so far all their acts have been orderly, and the strikers have been kept under control by the leaders in good shape. Any strike always results in loss to the strikers and to the employer, and always has unpleasant features, but the strike here has been exceptionally orderly, and there has been a minimum of friction between the strikers and the men still working on the one hand and the strikers and the peace officers on the other.