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STRIKE CALLED ON POWER PROJECT IS ABOUT PETERED OUT

STRIKERS LOSE ENTHUSIASM WITH NO ONE TO FIGHT-PICKET LINES STILL MAINTAINED ON STREETS

The general strike called about a week ago by the I. W. W. against the Stone & Webster power project here seems to be petering out for lack of opposition. The closing down of all work on the dam and power plant by the Stone & Webster Company was a severe blow to the strikers, as there cannot be any great enthusiasm maintained in a strike where there is no opposition. The closing down of the work releases all the men who did not go out and the strikers had no further change to quarrel with them, and as no new men are being employed there was no further change to keep up interest by stopping strikebreakers, so while the strike is still on, there is very little enthusiasm shown and a majority of the strikers are reported to have left town. Where the streets were filled with strikers a week ago, now one is seldom seen, except for the few now on picket duty.

The picket lines are being maintained and are becoming considerable of a nuisance. There is no danger of strikebreakers coming in while present conditions continue, and the pickets seem to be livening up their job by stopping travelers who have no interest in the strike one way or another, and in several instances have been reported to have annoyed women and girls traveling along the public highway. However, no serious complaints have been made and no effort has been made to interfere with the pickets. The lines have been maintained every night, even during the heavy rain, although there has been no danger of strikebreakers coming in.

Owing to flood conditions in the Baker River there is very little chance that the Stone & Webster Company will resume work before spring, even if the strike is called off. For the next few months there will be intermittent high water in the river, and the work is at a stage now where it cannot be continued during high water, and each flood is likely to wash out much of the work done since the preceding one. At the present time watchmen and the necessary clerical force is employed, and it is not likely that the crew will be increased for several months.