

# ELEVATOR RUNNERS GO ON STRIKE TODAY

**Union Calls Upon Its 17,000  
Members to Quit Work at  
9 o'Clock This Morning.**

## **WOMEN ENCOURAGE ACTION.**

**Meeting of 4,000 Members Dis-  
regards Leaders' Plea Against  
Hasty Decision.**

Overruling their officers, who advised them not to strike for the present, more than 4,000 members of the Elevator Operators' Union, which claims a membership of 17,000, voted unanimously last night, at a meeting at Arlington Hall, 23 St. Mark's Place, to go on strike this morning at 9 o'clock. The vote was taken just before midnight, after the operators, both whites and negroes, men and women, had listened for more than three hours to appeals by their President, Thomas J. McGill, and J. E. Roach, organizer of the American Federation of Labor, who advised them to try to enter into negotiations with the building owners and managers.

The effect of the strike will be felt principally in Manhattan below Forty-second Street, as the union has confined its efforts at organization mainly to the business and financial districts of the city. However, the action of the operators will call out many elevator operators in the larger apartment houses.

When it became apparent during the day that the elevator men were likely to call a strike, Dr. Royal S. Copeland, Health Commissioner, got into communication with the officials of the union and pointed out to them the serious consequences likely to result if the elevator operators in the hospitals of the city were affected by the strike. The appeal from the Health Commissioner to the men not to strike was considered at the meeting, and it was voted that the hospitals, as well as the Municipal Building and other city buildings, should be exempted.

President McGill advised the men to withhold action until a committee could be appointed to confer with the building owners and managers to see if a settlement could not be effected. The same argument was presented by Organizer Roach. They harangued the crowds for three hours without avail.

The crowd was so large that it quickly overflowed the main hall of the building on the second floor, which has a seating capacity of 1,800, and additional rooms on the ground floor with a combined capacity for about 2,200 were thrown open. The rush of the elevator operators who tried to get a place within the halls was so great during the earlier part of the evening that it was necessary to call the police of the East Fifth Street station to maintain order.

The vote to strike this morning was taken in spite of the fact that the leaders of the union had been informed

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that the Building Managers and Owners' Association of New York, 220 Broadway, had adopted a new schedule of wages for the elevator operator, giving them advances of approximately \$2 to \$4. The amount of the proffered increase apparently had little effect on the meeting. This announcement of the increase was made yesterday by the association, which explained that it was not binding on all the members of the organization and said:

"Notwithstanding the fact that wages of building employes in office, loft and apartment buildings have been materially increased at frequent intervals during the last two or three years, and in the majority of cases to an amount exceeding 100 per cent. over pre-war wages, members of the Building Managers and Owners' Association of New York, which is composed of managers and owners of the majority of the largest buildings in this city, have for some time been making a study of the increased cost of living and its effect on the living conditions of their employes. With these conditions in mind at a recent meeting of the association the following resolution was passed:

"Resolved, That it is the sense of the Building Managers and Owners' Association of New York that the wages of starters and elevator operators be in-

creased to not less than 90 per cent. of wages paid in 1914, and to not more than the general rates recommended by the Employes' Committee of the Building Managers and Owners' Association of New York."

The general maximum rate of wages recommended by the association's committee is as follows:

## OFFICE BUILDINGS, TWELVE STORIES AND OVER.

	Per Wk.
Starters .....	\$32
Assistant starters .....	30
Hallmen operators .....	30
Elevator operators .....	28

## UNDER TWELVE STORIES.

Starters .....	27
Assistant starters .....	27
Hallmen operators .....	27
Elevator operators .....	25

## LOFT BUILDINGS, TWELVE STORIES AND OVER.

Starters .....	25
Operators .....	23

## UNDER TWELVE STORIES.

Operators .....	20
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## APARTMENT BUILDINGS, TEN STORIES AND OVER.

Operator and doorman .....	23
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## UNDER TEN STORIES.

Operator and doorman .....	20
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In commenting upon the resolution an officer of the association said: "The increases provided in this resolution are the result of careful investigation of present living conditions. While the association has gone on record as recommending the new schedule it should be borne in mind that this schedule is suggested as a maximum rate with a view of stabilizing the present varying rates existing in buildings throughout the city. Moreover, the action of the association cannot bind its members to adhere to this schedule. It is a well established fact that there are so many types of buildings throughout the city with varying conditions that the schedule has been adopted as a guide with the hope that managers and own-

ers will rearrange their wage schedules accordingly."

The proposed weekly wage scale and the present wages are:

## OFFICE BUILDINGS.

	Asked.	Now.
Starter .....	\$38.60	\$28.35
Assistant starter .....	30.00	25.00
Hallmen operators .....	35.60	25.30
Elevator operators .....	33.60	25.30

## LOFT BUILDINGS, APARTMENT HOUSES AND DEPARTMENT STORES.

Starter .....	\$33.00	\$25.00
Assistant starter .....	30	25.00
Operators .....	28.00	22.25

## Walkouts Preceded Strike.

Without waiting for action by the Elevator Operators' Union, the elevator men in the Battery Park Building, 24 State Street, and the Maritime Building, 8 and 10 Bridge Street, walked out last night, forcing several thousand employes of these two buildings to walk. They quit their jobs just at the start of the rush of the home-going crowds. The men are said to have quit their jobs as soon as they had drawn their pay. There were five men and a starter in each building. Both buildings are eleven-story structures and their tenants spent a weary half hour ringing the elevator bells before they learned that the elevator men had gone out and that they would be forced to walk down.

William Moir, Superintendent of both buildings, mobilized some of the men in the engine rooms of the buildings in an effort to get the elevators running in time to accommodate the home-bound throngs, but most of them had left the building when the first elevators were started on their trips. The Superintendent said that the men recently were advanced from \$22 to \$27 a week, and that they were demanding now \$32 a week. He gave assurances that other operators would be found in time to resume full elevator service today.

The first buildings to be affected were the Woolworth Building, in which the operators went out on Tuesday and were replaced quickly by Superintendent A. E. Cockran, and the Hudson Terminal Building, where they went on strike on Wednesday.