

File No. 11194 Continued.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Baltimore, April 1, 1910.

Conversation with Mr. W. A. Cowie, of David Peoples,
in Mr. Hendrick's office.

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Mr. Hendrick: "Well, Cowie, what did you do about that matter?"

Mr. Cowie: "I reinstated those two men and offered to put them back to work. I told the walking boss to give a note to the men to give to the new foreman. I explained this to the interpreter and he spoke to the men, but they refused to go back to work. They were afraid there might be some trouble. I told them there would be no trouble; that I would take a personal interest in them; but they refused point blank to go. I then paid them the money due them. Every man on that work got what was due him. I went over the whole trench. That was the only thing I could do. I could not force them to go back to work."

Mr. Hendrick: "What reason did they give for not going back?"

Mr. Cowie: "The interpreter said they were afraid there might be some trouble with the other foremen."

Mr. Hendrick: "You told them yourself that you would see there would be no trouble, and the interpreter told them that, and they refused to go back?"

Mr. Cowie: "Yes, that is right."

Mr. Hendrick: "Kelly was discharged from the work?"

Mr. Cowie: "Yes, but not for that. The 'American' says, this morning, that the foreman was discharged on account of that. We discharged him on Tuesday. It was new to me when you told me in your office yesterday. We have a very difficult proposition in the work there on Wolfe street, and had not a very big place for it, and I have been following them up pretty well in order to give them a chance. Of course, being a stiff proposition, we did not make much progress, but what brought the thing to a climax was, in the morning he sent an order to the storehouse for some cement and gravel to be rushed up to build a manhole. We took a horse and cart off another piece of work and sent it up. When the walking boss came around in the afternoon he found he had not started and was not in a position to start for a couple of hours, and he got on to him for sending in a rush order when he was not ready for it. They had some words, and he said he could go, so Kelly went. This is the first I heard of anything like this when I came into your office yesterday. It is news to me."

Mr. Hendrick: "You, yourself, realize that nothing like this can be countenanced for a minute."

Mr. Cowie: "Of course not. Occasionally things like this crop up. When we were on the storm-water work there were cases like this coming up occasionally. Complaint would be made that a foreman had gotten a dollar or two from the men. In every case I went right down to it, and had the foremen and the men up to the office. The majority of times the men would not come, and when they did come they would not make a charge. So what could I do? I went as far as I could, but had to stop there."