

Staff Series

Shea, Cornelius P.

1904

AUG. 9, 1904

To Local Unions affiliated with the International Brotherhood
of Teamsters.

Greeting:-

As you know from reading the daily newspapers, the Butcher Workmen were compelled to call a strike upon the Meat Trust of Chicago, St. Louis and other large packing centers, owing to the fact that the packers refused to consider the proposition submitted by the Butcher Workmen which would mean living wages and decent working conditions to the members of the Amalgamated Butcher Workmen's organization. After the strike had been declared the Teamsters Local Union No. 710 of Chicago, Local No. 743 of St. Louis, Local No. 729 of East St. Louis and also some few teamsters in Hammond, Ind., used every peaceable method in endeavoring to bring about a satisfactory understanding between the packers and the meat cutters organization. They remained at work some fifteen or eighteen days after the strike was called, but the packers having absolutely refused to consider any proposition submitted by the Butcher Workmen or recognize their demands in any way, the teamsters were forced to go out upon a strike to aid the Butcher Workmen in their endeavors to bring about better working conditions. The packing house teamsters laid down their reins and willingly went out upon this strike, and there are in the neighborhood of one thousand men out in sympathy with the other workers in that

vicinity, and it becomes necessary to support them in this their hour of trouble.

At the Convention held August 1st, 1904 at Cincinnati a resolution was passed that the General President of the International Organization should make an appeal to all Local Unions affiliated with the International Brotherhood of Teamsters to have them make a donation of such an amount as they may feel they are able to give, the same to be used in the interest of the packing house teamsters no matter where they may be out on strike.

Now Brothers, this appeal is one that you should answer immediately and contribute according to your means. These men are out on strike going on three weeks and some means must be procured whereby they may continue the struggle and aid their fellow workmen.

To insure that the funds will be paid out to all Local Unions who are involved in this trouble according to the number of men they have on strike, it will be necessary that the money be paid through the General Office, and request that all Local Unions immediately take this matter up at their meetings and forward such contributions as they may feel disposed to make to the General Secretary-Treasurer, E. L. Turley, 147 E. Market St., Indianapolis, Ind.

A detailed statement of the amount contributed by each Local Union will be printed and forwarded after the donations have all been received.

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Get these contributions in as rapidly as you can Brothers, as this means life or death to our organization at the present time. No matter how small the sum it will be welcomed, but I would request that you have your Local donate as liberally as possible to aid in continuing this struggle.

With best wishes, I remain,

Fraternally yours,

General President.

[1904: Aug. 27]

POSTAL TELEGRAPH  COMMERCIAL CABLES

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Chicago Ills Aug 27 th

Cornelius P. Shea,

1712 College Avenue, INDIANAPOLIS:-

Situation here very serious absolutely necessary that you come tonight
be here Sunday morning. I believe will be break of other trades
Monday morning and we should protect our local by arranging for
them before this happens answer that you will come so I can arrange
meet you at train.

Frank Ray.

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