

Inventory of the

Burlington Railroad Strike
Aurora, Illinois

Collection

In the
Regional History Center

RC 217

INTRODUCTION

James R. Flynn donated the Burlington Railroad Strike Collection to the Northern Illinois Regional History Center on November 8, 1993.

Property rights in the collection belong to the Regional History Center; literary rights are dedicated to the public. There are no restrictions on access to the collection.

Linear feet of shelf space: 3.75
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SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Burlington Railroad Strike records were collected by the donor in the course of his Ph.D. dissertation research. The records from the Burlington Railroad were donated to Mr. Flynn by a company official. These records include special agent reports, legal documents, and correspondence. The Burlington Railroad Strike records also consist of oral history interview transcriptions that the donor conducted during his research.

James R. Flynn completed his dissertation entitled, "The Railroad Shopmen's Strike of 1922 on the Industry, Company, and Community Levels" in July 1993. Copies of the dissertation may be found in Founders Memorial Library, the History Department, and the Regional History Center.

For further information regarding railroads the researcher should consult the W.W. Embree Collection (RC 2); the Chicago and North Western Railway Historical Society Records (RC 51); and the Finch-Marshall Railway Collection (RC 54).

HISTORICAL SKETCH

During World War I the railroads were placed under federal rule. On March 1, 1920 they were returned to private operation but had changed greatly. Unionization was now widespread. Unions demanded increased wages, changes in rules and working conditions, and a continuation of existing national agreements and various innovations introduced during federal operations.

Unwilling to meet the demands, the railroad shopmen strike began at 10:00a.m. July 1, 1922 which threatened to bring the nation's railroads to a halt. Over 400,000 members of six shopcraft unions walked off their jobs, shutting down facilities for the construction, maintenance, and repair of rolling stock on virtually every major railroad in the country. In Aurora, Illinois 1700 shopmen struck the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy.

In Aurora, to accommodate the strikebreakers or "new men", the large paint shop was converted into a dormitory with complete kitchen facilities and a dining room where meals were prepared and served three times a day. The company also provided a convenience store which sold tobacco and sundries so the "new men" did not have to leave the area unless they wanted to.

The strike did turn violent. By the end of July, 2,200 deputy United States marshals had been appointed and National Guard troops were on duty in seven states amid reports of violence

from Fresno, California, to Worcester, Massachusetts. Almost daily throughout July and August, newspapers reported the bombing of railroad property and workers' homes, the burning of bridges, and the attempted wrecking of trains, as well as, riots, assaults, and similar disturbances designed to intimidate strikebreakers.

The strike was ended by the Railway Employees' Department on February 1, 1925 but for most strikers in Aurora it just dwindled away.

Source: Flynn, James R. "The Railroad Shopmen's Strike of 1922 on the Industry, Company, and Community Levels." Ph.D. dissertation, Northern Illinois University, 1993.

SUBJECT TRACINGS

Aurora
Burlington Railroad
Chicago, Burlington & Quincy (CB&Q) Railroad
Labor
Labor Unions
Oral History
Railroads
Strikes

COLLECTION INVENTORY

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
1	1	Document Description, Box 1
	2	United States Railroad Labor Board (USRLB), Decision No. 2, July 20, 1920
	3	USRLB, Decision No. 119, April 14, 1921
	4	USRLB, Decision No. 147, June 1, 1921
	5	USRLB, Addendum No. 1 to Decision No. 147, June 25, 1921
	6	USRLB, Decision No. 222, August 11, 1921
	7	USRLB, Decision No. 222, October 8, 1921
	8	USRLB, Addendum No. 6 to Decision 222, November 29, 1921
	9	USRLB vs Pennsylvania Railroad Company, Equity No. 3139, April 1922
	10	USRLB, Decision No. 1036, June 5, 1922
	11	CB&Q vs International Association of Machinists, Bill of Complaint, July 8, 1922
	12	CB&Q vs International Association of Machinist, Temporary Restraining Order, July 8, 1922
	13	Telegraphic correspondence (copies), August 10, 1922-August 19, 1922
	14	Can the Continuance of the Shopmen's Strike Be Enjoined?, August 31, 1922
	15	USA vs Railway Employees' Department of the AFL, Equity No. 2943, Bill of Complaint, September 1, 1922
	16	USA vs Railway Employees' Department of the AFL, Equity No. 2943, September 1, 1922
	17	USA vs Railway Employees' Department of the AFL, Equity No. 2943, Statement and Opinion of the Court, September 23, 1922
	18	USA vs Railway Employees' Department of the AFL, Equity No. 2943, Hearing on Application for Temporary Injunction: Closing Argument in Behalf of Government, September 21, 1922
	19	USA vs Railway Employees' Department of the AFL, Equity No. 2943, Preliminary Injunction Order, September 25, 1922
	20	Railway Employees' Department, Special Bulletin, Reference Government Injunction, September 30, 1922
	21	USA vs Railway Employees' Department of the AFL, Equity No. 2943, Abstract of the Evidence Offered by the USA on Final Hearing, July 12, 1923
	22	USA vs Railway Employees Department of the AFL, Equity No. 2943, Opinion of the Court on Final Hearing, July 12, 1923
	23	USA vs Railway Employees Department of the AFL, Equality No. 2943, Final Decree, July 12, 1923

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	4
1	24	CB&Q vs International Association of Machinists, Restraining Order, July 8, 1922	
	25	C&NW vs International Association of Machinists, Restraining Order, July 14, 1922	
	26	CB&Q vs International Association of Machinists, Civil No. 1293, Restraining Order, July 24, 1922	
	27	USA vs Railway Employees' Department of AFL, Equity No. 2943, Temporary Restraining Order, September 1, 1922	
	28	Newspaper Articles, 1922	
	29	Contents of Mr. Bruce Scott's Cabinet, 1916-1926	
2	1-4	Contents of Mr. Bruce Scott's Cabinet, 1919-1923	
	5	Document Description, Box 2	
		Special Agents Reports:	
	6	Alliance, Nebraska	
	7	Aurora, Illinois	
	8	Beardstown, Illinois	
	9	Brookfield, Missouri	
	10	Burlington, Iowa	
	11	Casper, Wyoming	
	12	Centerville, Iowa	
	13	Centralia, Illinois	
	14	Creston, Iowa	
	15	Galesburg, Illinois	
	16	Greybull, Wyoming	
3	1	Hannibal, Missouri	
	2	Havelock, Nebraska	
	3	Kansas City, Missouri	
	4	Lincoln, Nebraska	
	5	McCook, Nebraska	
	6	Milan, Missouri	
	7	Miscellaneous Locations	
	8	Omaha Nebraska	
	9	Plattsmouth, Nebraska	
	10	Savanna, Dayton Bluff, Grand Crossing	
	11	Sheridan, Wyoming	
	12	Sterling Colorado	
	13	St. Joseph, Missouri	
	14	St. Louis, Missouri	
	15-18	Legal Department Strike Correspondence, July 1, 1922-August 30, 1922	
4	1-6	Legal Department Strike Correspondence, September 1922	
	7-8	Strike ballots and Instructions from Legal Department	
	9	Document Description, Box 3	
	10-12	Injunction - Strike, Draft of Bill of Injunction, July 1922, n.d.	
5	1-3	Affidavits in Support of September 1, 1922 temporary restraining order, July 1922 - September 1922	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	5
5	4	Correspondence of O.M. Spencer, General Council of the CB&Q during 1922 strike, 1922	
	5	Contents of Volume I and II, now interview folders	
	6	Questions Used for Interviews, 1982-1983	
		Interview:	
	7	Mr. Carl Hendricksen, September 11, 1982	
	8	Mr. Carl Hendricksen, September 20, 1982	
	9	Mr. Carl Hendricksen, November 2, 1982	
	10	Mr. Robert McDonald, September 27, 1982	
	11	Mr. Willard Carl Becker, September 28, 1982	
	12	Memorandum of Record, Interview, Mr. John H. Durham, October 29, 1982	
	13	Memorandum of Record, Interview, Mr. Harry L. Creviston, October 29, 1982	
	14	Transcript of video tape, Burlington Northern's Roundhouse, 1978	
6	1	Carl Hendricksen, Joe Schindlebeck, Augie Klein, November 18, 1982	
	2	Sheldon Witt, December 5, 1982	
	3	Duff Corbin, December 8, 1982	
	4	Mr. Ed Baum, December 8, 1982	
	5	Mr. Al Schoeberlein, December 10, 1982	
	6	Document Description, Box 4	
	7	I. Aurora Shops in 1922	
	8	II. Workforce in 1922	
	9	III. Skills and Training	
	10	IV. Union Activity in Aurora	
	11	V. KKK Activity in Aurora	
	12	VI. Causes of the Strike and Its Wisdom	
	13	VII. Strike Events and Activity	
	14	VIII. People in the Strike	
	15	IX. Attitude of Aurora City Government and Business Community	
7	1	X. Support from Other Unions	
	2	XI. Violence	
	3	XII. Mechanical Department Association	
	4	XIII. Fox Valley Industrial Association	
	5	XIV. After the Strike	
	6	XV. Elevation of CB&Q in Aurora	
	7	XVI. Reports of Special Agent O.H. Abbott	
	8	XVII. Statistics on Aurora in 1920	
	9	XVIII. Aurora CB&Q Shops - Maps	
	10	XVIII. Aurora CB&Q Shops - Photographs (22)	
	11	XVIII. Aurora CB&Q Shops - Negatives (14)	
		XIX. Publications:	
	12	<u>Aurora in the Beginning</u>	

<u>BOX</u>	<u>FOLDER</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	6
7	13	<u>Centennial Historical & Biographical Record of Aurora, Illinois for 100 Years and of the CB&Q Railroad for 86 Years</u>	
	14	<u>Aurora Roundhouse Complex Transportation Center Rehabilitation Feasibility Study, August 1980</u>	
8	1	<u>Aurora Illinois Illustrated, 1890</u>	
	2	<u>The CB&Q Roundhouse and Industrial Shops</u>	
	3-4	XX. Workforce Statistics	
	5	XXI. Aurora Beacon News, Articles and News Items, June 1, 1922 - July 31, 1922	
	6	XXII. Aurora Beacon News, Articles and News Items, August 1, 1922 - March 31, 1923	
	7	XXIII. Essays by Carl Hendricksen and Items of Special Interest	