

Power Job Stop Threat

Unless moves are made for better sanitation arrangements at the South Fremantle power station construction job within a month, members of the Carpenters' Union will stop work.

This decision was made at the last meeting of the management committee of the union following complaints from men working on the job.

The committee decided also to notify the Health Department.

A Carpenters' Union official said today that complaints about sanitary conditions at South Fremantle had been discussed with the State Electricity Commission about two years ago. Early action was promised.

Despite further meetings with the commission, the conditions had not been rectified.

DUST MONEY CLAIM

Dispute At Fremantle Power House

A stop-work meeting of 60 builders' labourers was held yesterday at the South Fremantle power station. The men indicated that they were prepared to strike if their request for more dust money was not granted by a board of reference.

The meeting, which was held after the lunch-hour break, lasted only 20 minutes. The men then returned to work. They requested that 1/6 an hour dust money, with a four-hour minimum, be paid for all cement handled by builders' labourers at the new power station. A board of reference will probably determine the issue in the next few days by inspecting the conditions under which the cement is being worked.

The representative of the Builders' Labourers' Union at the new project (Mr. R. Orr) said that at present, builders' labourers were being paid 3d. an hour dust money for the handling of cement. This compared with 1/6 an hour dust money to waterside workers at Fremantle for handling the same cement, which was "in a worse condition at the power station than when being handled on the wharves."

The builders' labourers at the power station are employed by the Works Department. A large number of the men are now engaged on building a coal storage pit.

The Back Way Out

THE programme for Wednesday's opening of the South Fremantle power station was threatened with disruption when workmen considered staging a demonstration in the official marquee.

Workmen had taken exception to a notice instructing them to leave by the back way after work, as guests would be inspecting the station.

Use of the back entrance would have entailed a long walk over sandhills and would have caused them considerable inconvenience, they said.

The management overcame the impasse by granting workers a half holiday.

MORE POWER TO US SOON

Erection of the building to house the third and fourth turbo-alternators, with their boilers at South Fremantle power station has made good progress.

Steel framework is near completion.

Pouring of concrete foundations has been under way and assembly of the plant will begin shortly.

This was stated yesterday by Electricity Minister D. Brand, who said that, except for the condensers, the 2 turbo-alternators and most of the boiler equipment were in this State.

Detailing Govt. power-increase policy Mr. Brand said that at Bunbury the site had been selected for a new power station and tenders had been called for the first two 30,000 kw. turbo-alternators and boilers.

"Bunbury station will be connected to the metropolitan and Southwest systems," he said. "Bunbury station will be added to in sections and this will ultimately become the main generating station for the Commission.

Southwest power scheme is making good progress. High tension transmission mains have been erected from Collie to Bunbury with a northern branch to Waroona and a southern branch approaching Donybrook.

"At Albany the Commission has installed 2 additional 600 h.p. diesel units and called tenders for a third. A high tension main connects Mt. Barker to Albany and this town's supply has now been converted to 50 cycle AC.

Supply has now been converted to 50 cycle AC.

Mr. Brand said that to date 7,000 to 8,000 houses have been changed from 40 to 50 cycles.

A number of large consumers, including Hadfields, Hardie's, Chamberlain's, Tomlinson's, Royal Perth Hospital, new State Brickworks, White Rock Quarries and a major section of the tramways are now drawing 50 cycle electricity direct from Fremantle.

DISSENSION CLAIMED IN METAL UNIONS

Criticism of the Australasian Society of Engineers for its attitude towards the proposed 24-hour stop-work meeting tomorrow was expressed yesterday by the president of the Metal Trades Federation (Mr. R. B. Gibson) and by a member of the A.S.E.

The A.S.E. member, who said that he was present at the mass meeting of the union on Saturday, described it as "unconstitutional."

He said that unionists employed at the South Fremantle power station did not intend to work tomorrow.

Men at the State Engineering Works would also "probably strike tomorrow," he added.

Men at the South Fremantle power station, who were employed on construction and maintenance work, had signified at the mass meeting that they favoured the stoppage.

The A.S.E. action in going back on a decision made at a mass meeting of the M.T.F. last November to hold a one-day stoppage had been "undemocratic," he said.

All A.S.E. members at the South Fremantle power station agreed that they "had to strike."

Although the A.S.E. had decided not to stop work, they felt themselves bound by the decision of the M.T.F.

A special meeting of A.S.E. members employed at the State Engineering Works had decided to abide by the decision of the federal council of the M.T.F.

"The Decent Thing"

In a general criticism of the A.S.E. secretary (Mr. R. A. West) and his union, Mr. Gibson said that it was Mr. West who had moved a motion at an executive meeting of the M.T.F. last Friday week that the M.T.F. meeting last Thursday should take place to discuss the stoppage.

Mr. Gibson said that Mr. West had agreed then to abide by a majority decision.

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majority decision.

Later, when he did not leave the meeting when the moulders left, his (Mr. West's) union should have abided by whatever decision was reached.

"The decent thing for any union to do was to have left," he said.

Mr. Gibson said that the 24-hour stoppage proposed for tomorrow had not been sought by the metal trades unions here, but was a direction from their federal bodies.

It was the federal secretary of the A.S.E. (Mr. F. Connors)

who had seconded a motion in Sydney for a 24-hour stoppage.

As a consequence of that motion, the respective metal trades unions in this State had been directed by their federal executives to hold the stoppage.

Rank And File

Mr. West said yesterday that, because a union was affiliated with a federal body, it did not necessarily mean that it had to be directed by the federal organisation.

The members of a union controlled that particular union, and their vote became its policy.

As far as accusations of holding "unconstitutional and undemocratic" meetings were concerned, Mr. West said, there was no more constitutional or democratic method of deciding a contentious union matter than by placing the problem before its rank and file.

• AS ONE STRIKE ENDS, ANOTHER THREATENS •

POWER HOUSE MEN GIVE 24hr. ULTIMATUM

THE strike of about 200 fitters and boilermakers at the railway running sheds now threatens to spread to the South Fremantle power station, at least.

Workers there decided at lunchtime that unless their demands are met within 24hr. a 24hr. stoppage will be held from midnight tomorrow. A mass meeting will then be held to discuss further action.

Their demands: A doubling of margins in accordance with Metal Trades Federation policy, and other payments peculiar to the electric-

ity industry which are in conformity with demands being put forward by State Electricity Commission works in Victoria.

Similar lunch-hour meetings, at which speakers urged support for the railway strikers, were held at the East Perth power station and at the railway workshops at Midland Junction.

The ALP State Disputes Committee today recommended to the AEU and the Boilermakers' Union that all direct action be suspended pending the final decision to be reached next week by the ACTU and the Federal unions conference.

Direction

Representatives of the AEU and the Boilermakers' Union, who were called into the Disputes

makers' Union, who were called into the Disputes Committee meeting today, agreed to get in touch with their Federal bodies at once and get a direction as to the action to be taken.

With the running sheds strike now in its fourth day, its effect on railway services may become apparent.

As locomotives come in for attention they are serviced at the running sheds, but with reduced staffs operating there, repairs and attention must now necessarily take longer.

At Northam, for instance, it was said today that only four apprentices were working instead of the usual 12 tradesmen and four apprentices.

'Real Grounds'

ALP State secretary Chamberlain said today:

Chamberlain said today:
"It is wrong for anyone to assume that the trouble in the metal trade unions is solely communist-inspired.

"There are real grounds for industrial dispute.

"During my last visit to Melbourne there were strong indications that even the most moderate union officers desired some industrial action be taken to protest against the Galvin award."

• *The strike is in protest against the refusal of the Railways Commission to meet representatives of the Metal Trades Federation to discuss a doubling of the margin now being paid to metal trade workers employed by the Commission. On Friday the strikers approached employees of private firms to seek their support.*

Grave Outlook

UNIONS RESTLESS

Doubled Margins Sought

NO SIGN OF HARMONY

Perth, This Afternoon.

There was no development to-day to prevent the twenty-four hour stoppage at the South Fremantle power station, which threatens to start at midnight to-night. The State Disputes Committee of the Australian Labor Party awaits word from the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Boilermakers' Union, which are expecting direction from their Federal executives, following the disputes committee's recommendation that the running sheds stoppage be suspended.

There was much activity at the offices of the Amalgamated Engineering Union in Murray Street to-day. The president of the Metal Trades' Union (Mr. R. B. Gibson) could not be interviewed because he was "in conference," a Pressman was told. The conference, it is understood, was that of the committee which has been organising the Metal Trades' Federation campaign for increased margins for metal trade workers.

A meeting of workers on the power station site yesterday decided on the twenty-four hour stoppage unless their demands for doubled margins were met by to-day.

At Midland Junction

The outlook at the Midland Junction workshops is also providing cause for concern. Doubled margins are sought. A meeting of the management committee of the W.A. Amalgamated Society of Railway Employees will take place to-night and it will consider the Midland Junction workshops

the Midland Junction workshops position. It was this organisation which referred the running sheds dispute to the A.L.P. Disputes Committee.

The position at the W.A.G.R. running sheds throughout the State is now occasioning concern. About two hundred fitters and boilermakers employed at those points have been on strike for five days.

MARGINS DISPUTE SPREADS TO POWER STATION

Threat of 24-Hour Stoppage at South Fremantle

Perth, Feb. 25.—A 24-hour stoppage over margins is threatened at the South Fremantle power station. At a lunch hour meeting to-day workers at the station decided that unless their demands for doubled margins were met by to-morrow they would stop work at midnight to-morrow night until the following midnight.

They also decided that a mass meeting would be held after the stoppage to decide further action.

The men at the station include, besides metal trades workers, some working for private contractors. Their decision was one of several moves made to-day following the strike last Thursday of about 160 fitters and boiler-makers at railway running sheds over margins.

The strike at the running sheds is now entering its fifth day but has not yet caused any serious disruption to railway train services.

Besides the threatened 24-hour stoppage at the power house, developments to-day were:—

A meeting of the State disputes committee of the Australian Labour Party at which it was recommended to the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Boilermakers' Society that all direct action be suspended pending the decision to be reached next week by the Australian Council of Trades Unions and the Federal union conference.

A subsequent assurance from representatives of the A.R.U. and the Boilermakers' Society that they would immediately notify their Federal authorities and local executives of the State disputes committee decision and reply as soon as possible.

A lunch hour meeting of employees at the railway workshops at Midland Junction and one of employees at the East Perth power station, at both of which margins were discussed.

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Disputes Committee

Because of the "possible prejudicial effect the strike at running sheds might have" on members of his union, the secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Railway Employees, Mr. G. F. Keating, invoked the aid of the State disputes committee of the A.L.P. last week.

The general secretary of the A.L.P., Mr. F. E. Chamberlain, said to-day that the disputes committee meeting had been attended by all representatives of metal trades unions as well as the president of the A.S.R.E., Mr. H. Hyde.

He proposed, Mr. Chamberlain said, to call another meeting of the disputes committee as soon as he had heard further from the A.E.U. and the Boilermakers' Society.

It is understood that at the meeting of wages staff employees at the railway workshops at Midland Junction it was decided to approach the works manager for a doubling of the margins by next Monday, failing which another meeting would be held.

After the meeting at the East Perth power station no statement was released.

The secretary of the Bricklayers' and Plasterers' Union, Mr. H. W. Sykes, who was the only union secretary to address the meeting, told the men that the State A.L.P. disputes committee was then

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Power Workers Threaten Strike

PERTH, Mon.—A threatened 24-hour stoppage by workers of the South Fremantle power station over margins followed quickly today on the announcement that the Fremantle water-side workers dispute had been settled.

Powerhouse workers held a lunch-hour meeting and decided to ask the management for margins to be doubled and failing a satisfactory reply, that they stop work for 24 hours from midnight tomorrow.

STOPPAGE THREAT AT POWER HOUSE

New Developments In Metal Trade Strike

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They also decided that a mass meeting would be held after the stoppage to decide further action.

The men at the station include, besides metal trades workers, some working for private contractors.

Their decision was one of several moves made yesterday following the strike last Thursday of about 160 fitters and boilermakers at railway running sheds over margins.

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A.L.P. Move

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● A lunch-hour meeting of employees at the railway workshops at Midland Junction and one of employees at the East Perth power station, at both of which margins were discussed.

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Railways

The Deputy-Secretary of Railways (Mr. J. A. Faulkner) said last night that officials of the Railways Commission were reviewing the strike position from day to day.

Up to date, he said, the commission had sufficient serviceable engines operating to maintain normal services.

The only electrical fitter—a member of the Electrical Trades Union—who was still working at the East Perth running sheds stopped work yesterday.

W.A. STRIKE THREAT

Perth, Monday

A mass meeting of South Fremantle power station employees today threatened to hold a 24-hour "lightning strike" unless they get higher margins.

The meeting set midnight tomorrow as the deadline for granting the claim.

POWER-HOUSE MEN TO STOP TODAY

No Immediate Effect On Supply Expected

There was another development yesterday in the strike by 160 metal trades workers in railway running sheds over margins.

At the South Fremantle power station, about 400 employees threw in their lot with the striking railwaymen and decided not to work during the 24 hours ending at midnight tonight because the management had ignored a request to double their margins.

It is expected that the extension of the strike to the South Fremantle station will not have immediate repercussions as far as power supply to the public is concerned.

The men who decided yesterday not to offer themselves for work at 7.30 a.m. today comprise members of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Boilermakers' Society, besides some members of the Australasian Society of Engineers and a few men working for private contractors.

They are all engaged mainly on constructional and maintenance work at the new power house.

Their absence should not have any immediate effect on the supply of power to the public.

In Lunch Hour

The decision by the metal trades employees at South Fremantle to stop work yesterday for 24 hours followed a meeting at the works yesterday.

An effort to avert a stoppage was reported to have been made

at the works to avert a stoppage was reported to have been made during the luncheon interval by some members of the A.S.E., including the secretary (Mr. R. A. West).

Mr. West, it was reported, arrived to address workers during the lunch-hour.

Before he was given a hearing a spokesman for a rival faction of the Metal Trades Federation succeeded in having a motion agreed to that the men reaffirm their decision of the previous day, to stop work for 24 hours.

Mr. West was reported to have addressed the men after the re-affirmation decision had been agreed to and to have outlined to them the position in the metal trades dispute.

According to rank-and-file members, he received a "warm" reception before the meeting concluded amid a series of interjections from an opposing section of his audience.

Rail Outlook

Commenting yesterday on the running sheds strike as it affected the railway department, the Deputy-Secretary of Railways (Mr. I. A. Faulkner) re-

the Deputy-Secretary of Railways (Mr. J. A. Faulkner) reiterated that the position still had to be reviewed from day to day, although there had been no immediate repercussions.

Since the first approach to the Railways Commission for a doubling of the margins by the striking unions—the Boilermakers' Society and the A.E.U.—Mr. Faulkner said there had been no further approach to the commission either by their representatives or by the State disputes committee of the Australian Labour Party for a settlement of the dispute.

The general secretary of the W.A. branch of the A.L.P. (Mr. F. E. Chamberlain) said late yesterday afternoon that the disputes committee had received no advice from officials of the A.E.U. or the Boilermakers' Society concerning any possible temporary suspension of the dispute.

Union Stoppage In Fremantle

PERTH, Tues. — About 400 metal trades workers and others stopped for 24 hours at South Fremantle power station today.

Their decision to stop work followed the State campaign by the committee representing the boilermakers and A.E.U., which had resulted previously in a stoppage of fitters and boilermakers at the railway running sheds throughout the State.

It was learned tonight that the fresh outbreak would not affect the power supply immediately at Fremantle, because the men are employed on maintenance and construction.

24-hour stoppage

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POWER MEN STOP AGAIN

MEMBERS of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and Boilermakers' Society employed at South Fremantle and East Perth power stations did not report for work today.

So far, the position appears similar to last Wednesday when members of the two unions stopped work for 24hr. at the two power stations.

But the duration of this stoppage is not known.

A meeting of the unionists involved was held at 11 a.m. today at the striking unions' campaign headquarters in Murray-st., Perth, but AEU secretary R. B. Gibson refused to comment on the stoppage.

77 Members

The unions have about 47 members at South Fremantle power station and about 30 at East Perth.

Their duties are mainly in connection with maintenance and also construction at South Fremantle. Their absence would not cause a power holdup unless they stopped for much longer than 24hr.

Skilled Men Want Rise

Employees at the South Fremantle power station yesterday asked the State executive of the A.L.P. to approach the Employers' Federation and the State Government with the request that they take steps to have margins for skilled workers increased to their true ratio with the basic wage.

Representing the State branch of the A.C.T.U., Mr. R. A. Hartley addressed the meeting.

He said that another motion carried by the meeting deplored the "continued refusal of the Arbitration Court to deal with margins" and concluded that "the Court has allowed itself to be used as an instrument of the Menzies-Fadden Government, whose aim is to lower the standard of living of the worker."