

## Koppers Plant Workers Due to Return Sunday

Laborers of the Koppers company plant in Carbondale, who have been on strike for eight weeks, made preparations to go to work Sunday night while details of a new contract are being ironed out in meetings.

At a meeting Friday afternoon called by A. M. Thompson, federal conciliator, the company offered the union a 5 to 11 cent hourly increase. Common laborers will get an 11 cent increase, bringing their hourly rate to \$1. Skilled and piece workers will get a five cent increase across the board.

THE UNION and the company have agreed to a two-year contract with a clause to allow the union to negotiate after April 30, 1951.

Union and company representatives were meeting this morning to work out details on a vacation clause and other working conditions. Both have agreed to a pro-rated vacation period, based on the length of time a man works during a year. Previously, a worker had to be employed a full year before getting a weeks vacation.

MEMBERS of Local 12176 of the UMA were to meet at 4 p. m. today to vote on the new proposals. A spokesman said the union is expected to accept.

If the contract becomes effective, boiler workers will go to work at midnight Sunday, with full crews following Monday morning.

O. E. Stewart has represented the Koppers company in the negotiations. A committee, headed by S. M. Chappel, president of Local 12176, represented the union. Other members are Edward Comstock, vice-president; U. P. Penn, recording secretary; Fletcher Williams, financial secretary; Smitty Weathers, Murphysboro, field representative, and Jacob Hayes and Iva Benford.

THE LABORERS walked out June 30 after three attempts to negotiate a new contract had failed. The old contract expired April 30.

The laborers of the wood preserving division had asked 15 cents more an hour across the board, and the U. M. W. A. pension plan. The company offered the Koppers pension plan.

The union withdrew its demand for the UMWA pension plan during the negotiations, and its representatives accepted the company administered pension plan.

# Aug 26, 1950

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Wed, Oct 24, 2018