

ABATTOIR WORKERS JOIN MEAT STRIKE

**Union Claims Walkout Now
Includes 6,000 in New York
and New Jersey.**

MEAT SUPPLY HELD AMPLE

**Big Packers Deny Operations
Are Greatly Hampered—Hebrew
Union Votes Tonight.**

Workers in slaughter houses in New York and New Jersey yesterday struck in sympathy with butchers, meat cutters and other employes of wholesale packing houses in response to a call by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers Union.

The packing-house employes have been on strike for more than a week, and yesterday's sympathetic walkout, according to union officials, brought the number of strikers to more than 6,000. No confirmation of these figures was available, however.

While the union asserted that the number of strikers in packing-house plants was more than 3,000, information from other sources indicated that not more than 1,000 were on strike in the packing plants of the "big four." These include Armour & Co., Wilson & Co., Swift & Co. and Cudahy. Officials of these companies maintained that the strike had not affected their operations to any appreciable degree.

New Support for Strike Seen.

Additional support for the strike may develop this evening, when the executive committee of the Hebrew Butchers Union will meet at 231 East Fourteenth Street to determine whether its members would walk out. The prospect of such sympathetic action was held out yesterday by Joseph Belsky, secretary of the union. Such action would tie up some 4,000 kosher retail shops in the city, Mr. Belsky said.

Officials of the Amalgamated were jubilant last night over the effect of the strike in slaughter houses. They claimed that fifteen slaughter house plants here and across the river were affected and that the tie-up had become 100 per cent effective in the vicinity of First Avenue and Forty-first Street, where the plants of Wilson & Co., J. J. Harrington & Co., Swift & Co., the New York Veal and Mutton Company and other packers are located.

At the headquarters of the Amalgamated, 671 Third Avenue, it was asserted at a meeting of some 2,000 strikers yesterday morning that the tie-up at the larger packing plants had become complete. It was predicted that with the extension of the strike the meat supply of the city would be seriously crippled.

Sees No Meat Shortage.

Contrary to the union's claims, Frank Loucks, general manager of Armour & Co., in charge of its packing plants and branch houses in the metropolitan area, said that more than 90 per cent of the branch house employes who went out on strike last week had returned to work yesterday morning. So far as the packing houses and branch plants are concerned, Mr. Loucks said, there is no danger of any tie-up of meat supplies in this area.

The New York State Association of Retail Meat Dealers, Inc., now holding its annual convention at the Hotel New Yorker, declared that except for the fact that members of the association have to "cut and lug" their own meat they have not been otherwise inconvenienced.

Leslie Kirchbaum, secretary of the association, explained that the consumption of meat being light at this time of the year there is little danger of a shortage developing that would affect New York consumers.

Mrs. Elinore M. Herrick, executive vice chairman of the regional labor board, said she assumed that the proposal made by the employers at a conference with the board

last week was being acted upon by the union.

The proposal was that the packers would negotiate with committees of their respective employees and that such committees were to obtain any other spokesmen the workers might choose. Thus far the Amalgamated has not shown any inclination to accept this proposal, but is insisting upon official recognition of the union. Other demands call for a 20 per cent wage increase and improvements in working conditions.

The first strike violence occurred yesterday when Sealy Selwin, a butcher employed by Wilson & Co., of 816 First Avenue, was set upon and beaten by a group of six men as he was walking through Forty-fourth Street between First and Second Avenues. Selwin was badly pummeled. Two of his assailants were arrested after a chase by Patrolman Stanley Frankowski of the East Fifty-first Street station.

At the station, where they were accused of felonious assault, the men gave their names as Ezequiel Castro, 19 years old, of 135 West 112th Street, and Ralph Pesante, 25 years old, of 11 West 115th Street. Both were said to be striking employes of the New York Veal and Mutton Company.