

SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO POWER CONSUMERS CUT OFF

Essential Services and All Food Undertakings Not Affected—Chapei Power Continued on Pledge to Observe Same Conditions

CASE OF NECESSITY NOT RETALIATION

Following up their communication earlier in the week to consumers of power, the Electricity Department of the International Council has found itself compelled to cut off the supply as from Monday at midday.

Two points should be emphasized in this connexion. First, that no essential undertaking will be affected. No food factory—rice, flour, ice etc.—is to be deprived of power. Work here can go on undisturbed. Secondly, that the Department's decision is a matter of necessity, not in any way retaliation.

The Department and its volunteer helpers are very much to be complimented on the splendid way they have carried on. Some 3,000 workers of all kinds were called out, but the supply of electricity has been kept going most efficiently. During the past week, however, the demand has increased to almost double what it was and it is not fair on these voluntary workers, doing arduous labour to exact as much of them.

This is the letter to power consumers within the International Settlement:-

Dear Sirs,

With reference to our letter of June 29th, we are reluctantly obliged to give you notice that power supply will be discontinued to your undertaking at or about midday on Monday next, the 6th inst., and will not again be available during the prevailing abnormal conditions consequent upon the prolonged disorganization of labour.

As stated in our previous communication, every endeavour will be made to continue to provide sufficient supply to meet your lighting demands, but we would warn you against attempting to operate any of your motors as this would probably cause a total interruption of the supply which we cannot undertake to remedy under the prevailing conditions.

We would again take the opportunity of expressing regrets concerning the necessity which has arisen for taking this action, and reiterate our assurance that unrestricted supply will be resumed immediately conditions permit.

Yours faithfully,
Municipal Electricity Department.
T.H.U. Aldridge
Engineer-in-Chief & Manager.
July 4, 1925.

THE CASE OF CHAPEI

The case of Chapei, which buys a large amount of power from the International Electricity Department required special consideration. To avoid disorder through darkened streets, power is to be continued, but on condition by the Chapei authorities that it is cut off from the same class of factories as are to be cut off in the International Settlement. This is the letter to Chapei. Messrs. Chapei Electricity & Waterworks Co., Ltd.
441, Tatung Road.
CHAPEI.

Dear Sirs,

RE POWER SUPPLY

Referring to our letter of the 29th June, we are reluctantly obliged to inform you that all power supply given under bulk supply agreement with this Department will be discontinued at or about noon on Monday next, the 6th inst.

In the case of your undertaking, we realize that a discontinuance of supply might conceivably result in disorder within the Chapei area after nightfall, and in these circumstances we are prepared to continue the supply for the time being conditional upon an undertaking being given by your goodselves to discontinue power, notably to those concerns with whom you have bulk supply agreements, notably the Commercial Press and the Chun Tai Cotton Mill, and in this connection we would say, it not being our intention to discontinue the supply to undertakings dealing with food products, such as flour and rice mills, we do not ask you to effect a dis-

continuance of supply to such concerns within your area.

It is essential, however, that we should have a definite undertaking from you with regard to the discontinuance of power supply to the concerns specified above during the course of Monday morning next, the 6th inst., failing which we shall be obliged to discontinue the whole supply.

We would again take the opportunity of expressing regrets concerning the necessity which has arisen for taking this action, and reiterate our assurance that unrestricted supply will be resumed immediately conditions permit.

Yours faithfully,
Municipal Electricity Department.
(Sgd) T.H.U. Aldridge,
Engineer-in-Chief & Manager.

Tu s'ay, July 7.

H. M. S. Hawkins berthed off the Bund during the afternoon and 300 men, tin-helmeted and fully equipped, were sent to billets on shore.

The Settlement showed no signs of disturbance yesterday, though it had been expected that when the Chinese mills and the foreign plants, not on strike, also closed there would be demonstrations and possible riots directed against the police, the power station and the waterworks. Up till last evening no reports had been received, however, of any impending trouble. But it remains to be seen what the attitude of these workmen, now deprived of a job by the action of their striking brethren, will be. Some say that within a day or two the two factions—the strikers and the workers not able to work—will come to blows. It will be interesting to note, also, whether the Labour Union General will be generous with strike pay to these people or will they refuse their demands which are certain to come within 48 hours, and what the workers in Chapei will do when they cannot work because the power has been shut off.

The authorities took all necessary precautions to meet any emergency that might arise, and yesterday morning at seven o'clock, the specials and the Volunteers reported for duty to be detailed to mills and along Yangtszepoo Road, as well as to the Pootoo Road district, where numerous Chinese-owned establishments stopped work yesterday after tiffin. Naval patrols were increased and placed at sectors where it was thought trouble might crop out. Other civilians and sailors were held in reserve.

Fortunately for the Settlement, most of the mills refused to admit their morning shifts and closed the plants when the night crews completed their labours. Had they opened at the regular hour and then been forced to disgorge the discontented workers on to the roads a problem might have been set that would have required an armed solution.

Employees at a Chinese mill in Markham Road broke up furniture and machinery yesterday morning when told they must go home.

EMERGENCY PLANT

The Nanyang Brothers Tobacco Co.'s plant was forced to shut down their motors and machines, but the staff of 6,000 men and women were kept on during the day to take care of the materials already prepared. To-day it is expected that half that number will be employed, while the others are to stay on the premises and receive their wages. The management has a single emergency engine to furnish motive power for a generator, but this will by no means suffice. The company proposes, we are informed, to install a complete set of extra boilers, so that within three weeks they will be able to carry on at full force.

The Commercial Press in Chapei were badly hit also—able propagandists that they are—and they, too, propose similar measures. The cotton mills on the other hand, are hopelessly unable to cope with the situation, as their products are entirely made by machine. The garages too, are unable to use their motors for pumping compressed air into the tyres, so the coolies will again come into their own.

STRIKE FUNDS SHORT

Yesterday 12,000 labourers employed by the Nagai Wata Kaisha mills were paid by the labour organizations \$3 each, or \$36,000. But there is evidence that the strike leaders are hard put to it to find something with which to stave off the discontented strikers, as of course their own necessities have to be met first.

The police have information to the effect that kidnappers engaged in removing tram employes to Chapei, are now using motor cars to facilitate their work.

Gen. Ho Feng-lin, former military governor of the vicinity, arrived in Shanghai on Sunday.

Seventy Chinese commercial organizations, members of the Citizen's Defence League against Japanese Diplomacy, have opened a shop on the Boulevard des Deux Republicques, where they dispense only Chinese-made materials. Nanyang Brothers are one of the prime movers in the organization.

Pedestrians on Chapei roads after 10 p.m. must have the pass word or be subject to arrest. This measure was taken by the military to avoid any possible trouble subsequent to the stoppage of power in the Chapei plants.

Practically the whole force of the Police Reserves were on duty in Wayside and Yangtszepoo districts from an early hour yesterday morning till 10 last night. The Specials will mobilize again to-day.

37,600 THROWN OUT

The shutting-off of power yesterday at noon is estimated to have thrown 37,600 additional Chinese out of work, 33,000 in the Settlement and at least 4,600 in Chapei, though this latter figure accounts for but two plants and there must be many more, including the Commercial Press, also affected.

The only incident of note in connexion with this move—excepting the general quiet attitude of the workers—was the riot at the Hong Yue Cotton Mill at 55 Markham Road, but a squad of regulars and specials under command of Insp. Maguire soon put a stop to the trouble. It seems that the management in answer to a delegation of coolies told them to appoint a representative who was informed that they would be paid 20 cents a day for three days—this was later extended to 10 days. The workers were not satisfied, however, according to these officials, and several hundred women came to the plant and broke up desks, furniture and windows to the value of \$10,000. More credible estimates place the damage done at \$500.

Nanyang Brothers have agreed we are informed, to pay their workmen 20 cents per day until they can use them again.