

W. J. Buchan to Governor George Anthony

W. J. Buchan of Wyandotte, Kansas, writes Governor George Anthony of Topeka, regarding a railroad strike in Wyandotte County. Buchan states that striking workers were not causing trouble, but a lawless mob was taking advantage of the situation. He notes that the mob had forced the Kansas Pacific shops to shut down against the will of the employees. He also notes that hundreds of state-owned Springfield muskets in the vicinity were not secure and could fall into the wrong hands. A general strike of railroad engineers and firemen began in mid July 1877 in Maryland and had spread to Kansas City later that month. Local authorities were able to maintain order in Wyandotte County, Kansas, but a larger strike would follow in 1878.

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W. J. Buchan to Governor George Anthony



ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW.

Wyandotte, Kan., July 26th 1877

Hon. Geo. J. Anthony
Gov. Kansas

Topeka
Lt. Gov.

As you will in all probability be informed. Things are in quite a ferment here, and there is some danger of trouble in this locality. Not so much from strikes proper, but from a lawless mob who take advantage of the situation. This mob compelled the N.P. Shops to shut down yesterday against the express will of the employees. And this recalls to my mind a suggestion that I have frequently intended to make to the Executive. To wit that there at least two or three hundred stands of Springfield muskets scattered around Wyandotte & vicinity. Which



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I believe in the property of the State, but would it not be advisable to take some steps to have them collected for safe keeping, or safety as the case might be. No telling where this may end. The Kansas City seems it necessary to make preparation for the safety of life & property. As we may any moment be compelled to do the same.

Yours - truly
W. J. Buchan

Good feeling prevails among workmen here this a.m. but all work has stopped.

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From W. J. Buchan

Place Wyandotte

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Ans'd July 26/77

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Thing in quite a ferment here. Some danger from a lawless mob. Not compelled K.P. Mob to shut down. There are 200 or 300 stand Shylock Market to Cattus arms. Would it not be well to gather them up.