

PANIC SEIZES PARIS

Bomb Explosion Causes Stampede of Timid.

ATTACK RAILROAD BRIDGE

Solidity of Structure Saves It From Destruction — Strikers Invade Jewelers' Quarter—Great Army Guards City.

PARIS, April 28.—The government has complete preparations for dealing with the May day situation, and is confident that the day will pass without serious disorder, but at the same time the public, which is not in the least reassured by the elaborate military concentration, is showing great uneasiness.

This has been accentuated by the explosion of a bomb Friday night under the important railroad bridge at Argenteuil, the suburb of Paris which links the capital with Havre, and by an attempt this evening of a band of a hundred striking jewelers to penetrate the populous center of the Place d'Opera for the purpose of making a demonstration before the great jewelry establishments in the Rue de la Paix.

Preparations Increase Panic.

The activity of the police has had the effect of increasing public apprehension, many persons believing the extraordinary efforts indicate the seriousness of the situation. Government, military and police officers give the most positive assurances that order will be maintained, and the civil heads accept these statements, but the nervous element of the city is hastily preparing for eventualities, some persons leaving town, and others taking their valuables with them, and others laying in stores for an emergency. The scenes at the great supply stores are unprecedented, hundreds of persons invading them and clamoring for urgency supplies.

Bomb Fails to Wreck Bridge.

The explosion of the bomb under the Argenteuil bridge is the first overt act of the revolutionaries. The bridge is a massive structure, crossing the Seine six miles outside the St. Lazare Station, and hundreds of trains cross it daily. The military reinforcements that have been brought to Paris crossed the river on this bridge. The bomb used was cylindrical in shape, with a slow fuse. The deafening explosion was heard for five miles. It shattered windows in Argenteuil and awakened the sleeping town. The railway was torn up and the signal on the bridge was smashed, but the solidity of the structure resisted the force of the explosion.

Although there is no clue to the perpetrator of the explosion, the police have pronounced it to have been an anarchist attack and connect it with warnings that have been received, and, accordingly, rigorous orders were issued for detachments of military engineers to guard all the bridges and tunnels of the Western railway system contiguous to Paris.

Strikers Terrify Shoppers.

The appearance of the striking jewelers in the fashionable shopping center this evening caused considerable excitement. The strikers proceeded in a body from the Labor Exchange to the Rue de la Paix, the richest street in the world, the windows of the stores being literally lined with diamonds. They reached the Place de l'Opera, where a force of Republican Guards barred their advance, and a lively scuffle ensued, in which the strikers were separated, turned back and dispersed, though a number of them were arrested.

In the meantime the police had made searches of the domiciles of six persons suspected of having anarchist connections and of the offices of the inflammatory newspapers. The wholesale searches continue to arouse excited discussion. Some royalist suspects disavow connection with any plot, while others assert that Count Durand de Beauregard is the leader of the visionary plotters.

Great Camp of Army.

The temporary military camps are showing activity. Six military kitchens have been installed in the Champs de Mars and extensive lighting and watering plants have been perfected. The Military Governor of Paris this morning began the requisitioning of quarters in the neighborhood of the military school. Tomorrow the requisitions will extend to the neighborhood of the Labor Exchange, as the regular barracks are inadequate. The actual state of the labor movement is unchanged. An appeal issued by the Labor Confederation today closes with a suggestion that the soldiers' conscience should forbid them firing upon workmen.

Will Be Outwardly Calm.

The commercial classes are seeking to have the city preserve its normal aspect on Tuesday. The stores will remain open, except possibly the gunshops, but the delivery of goods will be suspended. The Bourse also will remain open. The calmer elements of the people assert that the severity of the military and police measures will insure the restriction of the demonstration to isolated disturbances.

Dispatches from the provinces show that most active preparations are being made for the May Day disorders. At Lyons 20,000 men have quit work. At L'Orient there were fresh disturbances today, and the cavalry charged and dispersed an attempted demonstration. Reinforcements of troops have been sent to all the big cities.

TALK OF WIDESPREAD PLOT

Host of People Flee in Fear of Revolutionary Outbreak.

PARIS, April 28.—(Special.)—All the railway cutovers and bridges in the Department of the Seine are now under a strong guard of soldiers, as the result of information that has been lodged with the government of the existence of a widespread plot to destroy them with explosives between now and Monday morning. The most rigorous precautions are in progress everywhere, and hundreds of arrests of labor leaders have been made within the past 12 hours.

Many terrified inhabitants are fleeing from the city, and not in months has there been such a spirit of absolute terror among the inhabitants of this and other cities of the Republic. The bank withdrawals Saturday were enormous, and every train that left the city during the day and night was filled with residents laden with money and valuables. Others left in fast automobiles. Every hotel in France has lost much by the decreased tourist business.

The military and police precautions are so extensive that widespread disorder seems at the present time to be well-nigh impossible although the report that

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the strikers intend to make use of bombs places a very serious aspect on the situation.

LABOR LEADERS PROTEST.

Police Search Reveals Particulars of Imperialist Plot.

PARIS, April 28.—The police searches and seizures continue to agitate labor and monarchist circles. The Confederation of Labor has issued a violent protest against the action of the authorities, which was to have appeared in a special edition of the Confederation's organ, the *Voix du Peuple*, but the Prefect ordered the police to detain all copies of the paper. The Confederation thereupon voted to protest against being obliged to act as detectives.

The judicial authorities withheld all details of the seizures made, but it is asserted that one of the documents found at the home of an imperialist is a proclamation addressed to the army, and designed to be issued after the success of the plot, and that the police also captured lists of future functionaries and ministers under the imperial regime.

The governmental organs assert that a plot between the mining agitators in the north and the political agitators in Paris was fully organized. The opposition journals deny the existence of a plot, and treat the affair as an "electoral opera bouffe."

The police executed six more searches this morning, growing out of the labor disturbances in the north. They included the residence of M. De Lesaulles, assistant secretary of the Confederation of Labor, the offices of a revolutionary paper, the *Liberateur*, and also the apartments of several persons suspected of being anarchist sympathizers.

The strike centers are calm. About 1000 striking jewelers this evening sought to reach the opera square in order to make a demonstration in the jewelry quarter, the Rue de Laix but the police barred their access to the square, and finally they were driven back. A number of arrests were made.

Labor Leaders Prepare for May Day.

PARIS, April 28.—(Special.)—A number of labor committees in connection with the plans for the celebration of May day were held at the Labor Exchange Saturday. M. Marc, head of the exchange, was arrested for abusing a Police Commissary, but later was released. At Toulon as a consequence of the strike, the city has been deprived of its gas supply, and several of the newspapers have been unable to appear.

Count Bond Busy With Politics.

PARIS, April 28.—The first tribunal of the Seine was to have heard the arguments today on the question of a reconciliation between Countess Bond de Castellane and her husband, but the hearing was postponed on the desire of the Count, who is a candidate for re-election to the Chamber of Commerce, not to proceed with the case pending the conclusion of the electoral campaign.

Women's Tongues Hurt Cause.

LONDON, April 28.—Speaking at Lewisham last evening, James Keir Hardy, the mover of the woman suffrage resolution in the House of Commons on April 25, said he was confident that if no disturbance had occurred the motion would have been overwhelmingly carried.

George M. Hansen, a mining engineer, fell off a train platform at Reno, Nev., the other night, and was not hurt. Even a quart flask he had in his pocket, with a little whiskey still left in it, was not broken.

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