

La Grande Evening Observer

PHONE OBSERVER YOUR WANT ADS. MAIN 37

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER ... PRINTS THE NEWS THE DAY IT HAPPENS

PHONE THE OBSERVER YOUR NEWS. MAIN 37

VOLUME XVI.

LA GRANDE, OREGON. FRIDAY, MARCH 16, 1917.

NUMBER 229.

RAILROAD STRIKE ORDERED TOMORROW CZAR ABDICATES. RUSSIAN REVOLUTION SUCCESSFUL

WILSON CALLS CABINET TO CONSIDER THE STRIKE

Gravest Domestic Situation For Many Months. President May Not Be Able To Halt Strike. Brotherhood Leader Lee Suggests Mediation By The President.

Washington, March 16.—(United Press)—The government decided to take vigorous action in the railroad strike situation. Following the cabinet meeting Secretary of War Baker prepared a statement for the Nation's information.

Secretary Newlands, Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Committee, declared President Wilson was empowered to use the United States marshals and troops to prevent obstruction of mail trains in the event of a general strike.

The President designated Secretaries Lane and Wilson and President Willard of the Baltimore and Ohio, to confer with railway managers and Brotherhood chiefs regarding the situation. They all started for New York.

Secretary Baker's statement said the National defense council suggested sending them to New York "to avoid a serious situation during the international crisis." He refused to discuss the government's course in the event mediation fails. It is believed President Wilson is ready to take drastic action to prevent traffic delay.

The Senate adjourned sine die.

BY ROBERT J. BENDER
(United Press Correspondent)

Washington, March 16.—President Wilson called a cabinet session this afternoon on account of the railroad strike crisis. He faces the gravest domestic situation for many months. He must determine the government's attitude. It is admitted President Wilson will probably be unable to halt the scheduled general strike Saturday night.

He may make a patriotic appeal to both sides. He may summon representatives of both sides in the attempt to mediate.

Brotherhood Leader Lee suggested Presidential mediation.

The railroad managers in New York hurriedly conferred immediately afterward.

PRESIDENT LEE SAYS 95 PER CENT OF MEN WILL STRIKE.

New York, March 16.—(United Press)—President Lee of the trainmen's brotherhood declared 95 per cent of the men would strike Saturday night. He said: "Managers can't realize the strike is a reality. They won't realize it until they awaken Sunday morning and find the trains halted. Railroads claim 25 per cent of the men will remain loyal."

President Daniel Willard, of the Baltimore and Ohio, a member of the National Defense Council, went to Washington for the purpose of conferring with President Wilson. It is believed he will urge President Wilson to interfere.

Progressive Strike Is Ordered To Begin Tomorrow.

New York, March 16.—"A progressive strike" of the 400,000 members of the four great railroad brotherhoods, to begin at 6 o'clock (Central time) Saturday on Eastern roads, was ordered here late last night.

The walkout will extend to all the railroad in the country within five days.

Chiefs of the workmen's organizations set the strike machinery in motion within a few minutes after an ultimatum delivered to the conference committee of railroad managers had been rejected.

A compromise proposal offered by the managers was declined without debate.

Only successful intervention by President Wilson, it appeared last night, can avert a strike.

The brotherhood leaders gave no indication that even an appeal from the Nation's Chief Executive can change their purpose to obtain a basic eight-hour day and pro rata for overtime through the use of the "protective feature" of their organizations. They refused flatly to submit their cases to the eight-hour commission headed by Major-General George W. Goethals or to await the decision of the supreme court on the constitutionality of the Adamson law.

Freight employees, yardmen and engine hostlers on the New York Central lines, east and west; the Nickel Plate and Baltimore & Ohio railroads, and in the great yards in Chicago and St. Louis will be the first to leave their posts.

They will be followed Sunday by the same classes of workmen on the Southern Railway, the Norfolk and Western, the Virginia, Chesapeake & Ohio, and on a group of Northwestern roads.

No formal outline of the brotherhood's program beyond the plans for these two days, was made either to the managers or to the public. It was said, however, that the freight employees on the other roads in the country

(Continued on Page Eight.)

NO GENERAL DRIVE OUT OF CHINESE PLANNED. LAWLESS GUNMEN ARE TO BE CURBED

Citizens' Committee
Consider Work Ended

Dr. Holt, as chairman of the committee of 25 citizens, who were appointed yesterday with the object of ridding the city of undesirable reports to the Observer that they have conferred with the tong societies and the city and county authorities, who say they will do everything in their power to rid the community of the undesirable Chinese. Dr. Holt and the committee therefore ask that they be relieved of any further notoriety or responsibility in the matter, and he and the committee furthermore consider themselves discharged.

There will be no indiscriminate "drive-out" of La Grande Chinese. This is the attitude taken by many La Grande citizens today. Gunmen, highlanders, and others of a suspicious character will be invited to live elsewhere but Chinese citizens and aliens who are law abiding will not be molested. The motion passed at yesterday's meeting appointing a "drive-out" committee has been dropped.

Chinese are already beginning to leave the city. Two went on number six this morning to Baker.

"We do not want to appear before our sister cities of the state as men who plan to take the law into our own hands," said Fred J. Holmes, this morning. "We want to appear in our true light, that of law abiding people. Our officers are capable of handling the situation here now."

Mr. Holmes' sentiment was echoed by citizens throughout the city last night and today. These men say there will be no lawlessness. They say that bad Chinamen must go. The Chinese were told this last night.

The prevailing opinion, apparently, is this: Conditions in the Chinese quarter have been bad. The inhabitants of the quarter live in unsanitary houses. There are charges of the existence of a house of prostitution, a gambling den, an opium joint, and the ever-present tong factions. These

THOMPSON WILL SPEAK AT AUTO SHOW TONIGHT

BAKER DELEGATION HERE:
MOOSE TO VISIT IN BODY

EXHIBITION PLACE IS CROWDED
EACH AFTERNOON AND
EVENING.

Car Sales Are Made—State Highway Commissioner Thompson's Speech Tonight Promises To Be a Good One—Delegates Entertained at a Luncheon This Noon.

W. L. Thompson, of "Eastern Oregon," member of the state highway commission, will speak this evening at the automobile and motorcycle exhibition in Hilton's garage building. As commissioner Mr. Thompson has gathered a fund of road information which the La Grande road men believe will interest his audience. Mr. Thompson was guest of honor at a

(Continued on Page 8.)

conditions must be changed. The preliminary hearing of the Chinese held in the county jail in connection with the murder of Billy Eng Tuesday noon is being held today before County Judge Phy.

Sam Quon, the alleged emissary of the Chinese Peace society, is out on \$100 bail pending the disposal of the charge against him for carrying concealed weapons.

CITY MERCHANTS RAISE \$219 FOR MRS. GEORGE

At the call of the President the membership of the La Grande Merchants association met at Honan hall at 6:30 o'clock, Thursday evening, March 15th, there being about 75 members and visitors present.

Two hundred and nineteen dollars were raised for Mrs. George, the victim of the tong war.

After a delicious supper furnished by the ladies of the Episcopal guild and a musical entertainment furnished by Mrs. Carse, violinist, and a male quartet, speeches were given by Colonel F. S. Ivanhoe and Mr. Ford and a report of the doings and plans of the association was given by Albert Small, the secretary.

The president then appointed G. L. Larrison, F. L. Lilly, W. G. Sawyer, J. G. Snodgrass and Mac Wood as a nominating committee to nominate directors for the ensuing year. The committee reported, nominating the following persons:

F. B. Conner, Geo. Gilbert, F. R. Lee, T. J. Ormond, W. S. Parker, E. Polack, C. D. Putman.

There being no other nominations, the nominations were, by motion, brought to a close and the secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot in favor of the above named persons to act as directors for the ensuing year.

On motion the meeting adjourned. W. R. Jones, president, presided. Albert Small, acted as secretary.

NEUTRALS MAY NOT ADMIT OUR ARMED SHIPS

By ROBERT J. BENDER.
(United Press Correspondent.)
Washington, March 16.—Some foreign governments are inclined to object to armed American vessels entering their harbors. The government has asked European neutrals whether they will agree to admit vessels. None replied. The United States contends armed ships have the right to enter harbors. Germany influenced some neutrals against the United States. The administration will not permit neutral violation of this manifest right.

British Destroyer Hits Channel Mine

London, March 16.—(United Press)—The admiral announced an old type British destroyer hit a channel mine yesterday and sank. One dead. Twenty-eight missing.

DUMA ORDERS THE CZAR TO SURRENDER THRONE

Grand Duke Michael Will Be Installed As Regent. Business Is Resumed. Rioting Has Quieted Down. People Accept The New Government. Czar And Czarina Unharmed.

London, March 16.—(United Press)—Bonar Law announced the Czar's abdication was effected. He read a telegram from the British Petrograd minister saying the Duma executive committee had ordered the Czar's abdication and the appointment of the Grand Duke Michael as regent. The Czar's whereabouts is unknown.

Law also said: "If the Irish members continue their opposition to Lloyd George's government, a general election will be forced. Britain's war activity is paralyzed. He eloquently appealed to all of the Irish members to join negotiations designed to effect a settlement of the Irish question."

Petrograd, March 16.—(United Press)—The Russian nobility held fifteen meetings and passed resolutions upholding the revolution.

They blamed high officials for the crisis.

The Minister of Justice Kereny announced general amnesty for all political offenders.

The Grand Duke Nicholas telegraphed the Duma and President Rodziensko saying he advised the Czar to abdicate.

Foreign Minister Milnkoff announced the revolution increased popular war enthusiasm. He declared the revolution was the shortest and quietest in history.

He reported the Grand Duke Nicholas would be appointed provisional army dictator.

It is rumored that Premier Sturmer and Interior Minister Protopopoff were assassinated. This is unconfirmed.

The Czar reached Pakoff. The Czarina went to the Imperial Palace of Tsarskoed Selo. The rebels did not molest them there.

EMPEROR NICHOLAS OF RUSSIA ABDICATES THE THRONE.

Petrograd, via London, March 16.—Emperor Nicholas, of Russia, has abdicated his throne and Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch has been appointed regent as the result of a successful revolution in Petrograd, in which for three days there has been almost continuous street battle between troops supporting the revolution and those opposed to it.

The casualties probably did not exceed 500. It is reported that M. Protopopoff, Minister of the Interior, has been killed.

The royal palace was besieged by revolutionary troops. The garrison at Kharkov has formally joined the revolution and is supporting the provisional government. Strikes in sympathy with the movement have been called in factories and on the streetcar lines.

Events leading up to the revolution began a week ago with street demonstrations of workmen, who quit work as a protest against the shortage of bread. The first two days mounted patrols kept the crowds moving without resorting to violence. When ordered to fire on the people they refused.

Police were substituted and a battle occurred between them and the troops. Regiment after regiment joined the revolution and seized arsenals and other strategic points.

Until Saturday night there was no intimation that the affair would grow to the proportions of a revolution. From then until Tuesday morning almost continuous fighting in the streets and throughout the city occurred, leaving revolutionists in full control. The latter are proceeding to reorganize the government.

Today the city emerged from a week's nightmare of revolution. Planks were pulled down from windows long closed. Stores, banks and businesses of almost every description reopened their doors for the resumption of ordinary activities, seemingly confident as the new temporary government gained in force.

TWENTY KILLED IN RIOTING AT PETROGRAD ON MONDAY.

Stockholm, March 16.—(United Press)—Newspaper dispatches said twenty were killed in rioting at Petrograd Monday. One hundred and twenty were wounded. The mob destroyed several bakeries. They dynamited the Finland Railroad. The Russian Finland garrison is expected to join the rebels. They refused to go to Petrograd to suppress riots.

BRITISH DELAY RECOGNITION OF REBELS

London, March 16.—(United Press)—Bonar Law told the Commons the British government required further information before sending the new Russian government assurances of British sympathy. Petrograd failed to explain the fate of members of the former Imperial ministry. They are variously reported released, jailed or executed.