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GENERAL RAILROAD STRIKE IMMINENT

Rumors of New Plans Rife in Washington.

LEADERS HOLD CONFERENCE

Brotherhoods Are Said to Be Weary of Awaiting Decision.

ALL MACHINERY IS READY

Government Watching Developments Closely and President Wilson Is Expected to Make Move for Settlement.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Talk of a railroad strike was general among local labor union officials from the South-east gathered here today, but National officers of the four big brotherhoods declined to confirm or deny that definite strike plans actually were under consideration.

The local leaders came for a conference tomorrow preliminary to the meeting of brotherhood and railway officials to be held in New York Thursday. Sectional conferences will be held in other cities, and the brotherhood heads insist that they cannot forecast their course until the locals from all parts of the country have reached the result of their deliberations.

Speedy Walkout Indicated. There were distinct indications, however, that there might be more truth in strike reports than appeared on the surface. An impression prevalent among some of the local officials was that a general walkout probably would follow quickly if the roads refused to accede to the union demands at Thursday's conference. Saturday was the day most persistently mentioned as likely to see a climax of the long controversy between the roads and their men.

To all questions the brotherhood heads replied that there was nothing to be said as yet; that sentiment among the men the country over would have to be sounded out before a general strike could be ordered; and that many locals still were to be heard from. Neither from them nor from any other authoritative source could be gained any confirmation of the stories that definite strike plans had been made.

Strike Machinery Ready. It was pointed out that little time would be required to put a strike order into operation if a decision were reached to take that course. All the machinery used to prepare for the big strike, narrowly averted last Fall, could be put into service quickly now if the need came.

The present controversy, like that of which it is the outgrowth, though, revolved around the eight-hour day and more than one of the local leaders here tonight declared the brotherhoods had waited too long already, while the Supreme Court deliberated on the constitutionality of the shorter basic day. They argued that if the roads decline at Thursday's conference to put an eight-hour day into effect forthwith, the unions would have full justification for a strike.

Government Keeping Watch. The union men were unanimous in declaring that in case of a strike care would be exercised to embarrass the Government as little as possible in the international crisis. The Government is watching developments closely, however, and probably would itself take a hand should a deadlock seem assured. If a strike appears to be actually threatened President Wilson would make some move for a settlement. Men from the Southwestern roads will meet in St. Louis tomorrow, those from Eastern roads in New York Wednesday, and those from Western lines in St. Paul also Wednesday.

W. G. Lee, head of the Trainmen's Brotherhood, said tonight that the men had made no important changes in their demands presented to the railroads last Fall.

MEN ARE ORDERED TO REPORT

General Strike Orders to Be Given Out Thursday.

ALLIANCE, O., March 12.—Three hundred engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen on the Alliance Division of the New York Central Railroad were today ordered to report here "after noon Thursday" for orders concerning the strike situation.

It is learned from an authoritative source that the orders will be to quit work Saturday night at 6 o'clock unless the conference in New York between the brotherhood officers and the railroads succeeds or unless the Supreme Court upholds the Adamson eight-hour law. Passenger trains are to run five days after Saturday, but in no case are Government troops or munition trains to be delayed, it is said.

Shackleton to Fight.

LONDON, March 12.—Sir Ernest Shackleton, the explorer, who now is at Sydney, Australia, says he is going into active war service, according to a Reuter dispatch from that place. He declares that this is the only course for any man who is free and able to fight.

245 CONVICTS EARN \$12,757 IN MONTH

PAROLED MEN AVERAGE \$52.07 EACH DURING FEBRUARY.

Report to Governor Shows That Since May, 1911, Out of 846 Men Paroled, 167 Are Violators.

SALFEM, Or., March 12.—(Special).—Convicts on parole from the State Penitentiary during February earned an average of \$52.07 each at their respective employments, according to the report of Parole Officer Keller to Governor Withycombe. The report probably is the best showing yet made by the convicts since the law went into effect. The total amount of earnings for 245 men for the month was \$12,757.56.

The report also shows a decrease in the number of parole violations. Since May 26, 1911, when the law went into effect, the percentage of violations was .3229, while between May 26, 1911, and March 1, 1915, the percentage was .3411. But between March 1, 1915, and March 1, 1916, the percentage had dropped to .2690, the lowest of any period since the law was passed.

Out of 846 men paroled since the law went into effect there have been 167 violations.

During the last month only two men out on parole were out of employment, and 121 men were released from reporting.

FOREIGN RULERS BARRED

Duchies of Coburg and Gotha Pass Rule on Succession.

AMSTERDAM, March 12.—The Berlin Lokal Anzeiger says that a government bill was adopted at a joint sitting of the diets of the Duchies of Coburg and Gotha excluding from the succession to the dual throne members of foreign princely houses who are in the future war against Germany. The bill is understood to be aimed at the English relatives of the present Duke.

The present ruler of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, Prince Leopold, is a grandson of Queen Victoria, of England, and has the British title of Duke of Albany. He is the father of four small children, two of whom are boys, so that the direct line to the throne is not at present in question.

COLONEL WALLACE COMING

Army Quartermaster Will Handle Supply Purchases Here.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, March 12.—The announced purpose hereafter to give Portland an opportunity to bid on Army supply contracts, the War Department today ordered Colonel Hamilton S. Wallace, now quartermaster at San Francisco, to Portland, to assume charge of the Portland office of the quartermaster corps, relieving Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel R. Jones, retired.

Colonel Jones will become assistant to the quartermaster after the arrival of Colonel Wallace.

U-BOATS SINK 42,000 TONS

Berlin Report Says Total for March Now Exceeds 114,000 Tons.

BERLIN, March 12.—(By wireless to Sayville, N. Y.).—The following statement on submarine operations was issued today by the Overseas News Agency, the official German news bureau.

"The official report for March 11 says that 42,000 tons of shipping were sunk. Together with the reports of March 7 and 8 this gives a total of more than 114,000 tons."

IRISH MEMBERS ARE BACK

Early Debate on Home Rule in Parliament Assured.

LONDON, March 12.—The Irish Nationalists made their reappearance in the House of Commons today and assured themselves of another early debate on the subject of home rule for Ireland by obtaining from the government a promise that the Irish estimates would be introduced some day next week.

The estimates will provide an occasion for a debate on the whole Irish administration.

CONSUL - GENERAL SUICIDE

Brazilian Official Stationed at Vienna Takes Own Life.

LONDON, March 12.—Carlos Jaeger, Brazilian Consul-General in Vienna, has committed suicide, following an abortive attempt at self-destruction by his wife, according to an Amsterdam dispatch to the Central News.

Senora Jaeger's act was prompted by grief over the death of her children, and Senor Jaeger took his life in the belief that his wife was dead.

NAVY IS GROWING RAPIDLY

Total of 102,295 Men Needed, However, for Mobilization Purposes.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—Navy recruiting continues to show a great increase. For the first eight days in March the net gain was 718 men. On March 1 there were 59,037 enlisted men in the Navy, and on March 8 59,753. There are still needed for mobilization, including regulars and reserves, 102,295.

BRITAIN READY TO SHOULDER BURDEN

Precedent Smashed to Defeat Germany.

WAR COUNCIL IS MOMENTOUS

France and Russia Nearly Exhausted, Says Lloyd George.

NEW ERA IS PROMISED

Post-War Questions to Be Considered, Such as Settlement of Soldiers on Empire's Land, and Commerce and Industry.

BY PREMIER DAVID LLOYD GEORGE

A war council of the Empire is about to assemble in London.

Its deliberations will extend over the greater part of March and April. It is understood in England that France and Russia have nearly reached the summit of their resources and that hereafter Great Britain must bear the burden.

I regard this council as marking the beginning of a new epoch in the history of the Empire. There will, of course, be domestic questions which each part of the Empire must settle for itself—questions such as recruiting in the United Kingdom or home legislation. Such domestic matters will be our only reservation, but we propose that everything else shall be, so to speak, on the table.

War Policy to Be Declared.

The fate of the German colonies is one obvious question, but there are many questions of equal moment, all of which problems, connected with the making of peace, to be threshed out. The war policy of the empire will be clearly defined and of great importance in what I may call the preparation for peace. That will involve not only demobilization, but such post-war questions as the migration of our people to other parts of the empire, the settlement of soldiers on the land, commerce and industry.

In these days we cannot hesitate because we are breaking precedents. The empire has thrown itself, heart and soul, into the war, and we should be failing in our duty if we did not take every possible step to see that its leaders get together from time to time.

Dominions Will Be Consulted.

It seems to us an impossible and undemocratic position to think that the overseas nations should stand and place in the field armies containing an enormous proportion of their best manhood and not want to have a say, a real say, in determining the use to which they are to be put. That is why one of the first acts of the new government was to ask Premiers of the overseas dominions to come over, not to a formal imperial conference, but to sit in the

(Concluded on Page 2, Column 1.)

MRS. STARCHER HAS OWN VIEW OF STORY

HUSBAND'S PROWESS HELD IN SMALL ESTEEM.

Mayoress Says She or Any Umatilla Council Woman Would Have Captured Robbers.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., March 12.—(Special).—"Superior strategy? Pooh! Any woman would have done better." So declared Mrs. E. E. Starcher, Mayoress of Umatilla, who is visiting here. A dispatch telling how her husband was responsible for the capture of two safe-blowers during her absence was shown to her.

Not only does Mrs. Starcher hold her husband's prowess in small esteem, but there is one thing she wants to know. "What was hubby doing out at 3 o'clock in the morning?" is a question that Mrs. Starcher declares that she fails to see the strategy of running in the opposite direction and calling on a brace of officers.

"It was not a case of strategy. Direct action is what was needed," she says. "What would you have done under the circumstances?" Mrs. Starcher was asked.

"Why, what any woman would have done, of course," she replied. "I'd have got a gun and had those safe-crackers marched down the street toward the City Jail in short order. At least I am certain that any of the lady members of my Council would have done that."

Mrs. Starcher is visiting with her husband's parents, Mr. and Mrs. James L. Starcher, at 2107 L street. She has received considerable attention by the women of California since coming here. She was introduced to Governor Johnson and enjoyed a pleasant chat with him today. The Governor expressed a keen interest in the Umatilla woman's coup.

BLACK CAT SURVIVES GALE

Puss Found Riding Empty Keg Five Miles Out at Sea.

REDONDO, BEACH, Cal., March 12.—(Special).—Carl Hansen and George Fitch returned from a fishing trip today, bringing with them a large black cat they found riding an empty keg five miles out at sea.

The cat had weathered the fierce storm of Saturday, when the wind blew 50 miles an hour, but had tenaciously clung to the keg through the gale. On a brass plate attached to a leather collar around the animal's neck was the word "Utanica," presumably the name of a boat on which the cat was a mascot.

WILSON STAYS IN ROOM

Cold Abating and Recovery Will Be Complete in Few Days.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—President Wilson remained in his room today because of the cold which had kept him in his bed most of last week. It was said he was steadily improving and would be able to go out within a few days.

The President was able to confer with Secretary Lansing and Senator Martin, the Democratic leader in the Senate, but it appeared probable that the usual Tuesday Cabinet meeting would be cancelled.

NATION PREPARED TO DEFEND RIGHTS

Formal Notice Given to All Others.

CENTRAL POWERS INCLUDED

Steps Taken to Cement Latin-American Friendship.

SHIPS' STATUS DESCRIBED

Placing of Gun Crews From Navy on Merchantmen Not Belligerent Act. Contraband Subject to Seizure and Destruction.

BY JOHN CALLAN O'LAUGHLIN.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—(Special).—Here are the striking developments in the German situation today:

1. Secretary Lansing, in a circular note, notified all foreign governments, including Germany and Austria-Hungary, of the determination of the Government to place an "armed guard" on all American ships for their protection.

2. In observance of his policy to assure Latin-American friendship in the event of war with Germany, the President conferred to Senator Martin, Democratic majority leader of the Senate, the facts and reason behind his plea for the ratification of the treaty with Colombia.

Argentine Rumor Disturbing.

2. Reports reached the State Department that Argentina had invited all other Latin-American states to enter into an alliance for the maintenance of their neutrality, the United States being excluded from the movement.

3. Alarmed by reports that sailors from German interned vessels would raid the city and the Navy-yard, the Mayor of Philadelphia formally requested the transfer of these men to an inland Army post.

4. The status of armed merchant ships is thus described:

1. Arming a merchant ship for defense is a right under international law and is not a belligerent or unfriendly act.

Act Is Not Belligerent.

2. The placing of gun crews from the United States Navy on board American merchant vessels to operate the defense batteries is not a belligerent act and is justified by the circumstances.

3. American merchant vessels carrying arms for defensive purposes furnished by the United States Government and having gun crews from the United States Navy still preserve the character of merchant vessels and are not auxiliary cruisers or war vessels.

4. Such American merchant vessels may carry usual cargoes which are subject, if contraband, to confiscation or destruction, provided the ordinary

(Concluded on Page 3, Column 1.)

RELIEF REACHING TORNADO VICTIMS

MILITIA RULES NEWCASTLE, IND., WITH FIRM HAND.

Two More Are Added to List of Dead, Two More Are Missing, and Score in Hospitals.

NEWCASTLE, Ind., March 12.—Food supplies and money began to reach here tonight to alleviate suffering following in the wake of the tornado which yesterday swept through the city, causing the deaths of 19 persons and property damage of more than \$1,000,000.

In addition to the 19 dead, two of whom succumbed to injuries today, there are two persons missing and a score in hospitals seriously injured. It is not believed there are other bodies in the wreckage caused by the tornado. The food problem began to take on a serious aspect early in the day. Crackers sold at 2 cents each and bananas at 5 cents apiece. The gas supply was shut off and many places were without means of preparing food that was at hand, and canned goods were at a premium.

National Guardsmen are ruling the city with a strong hand.

"HEALER" SENT TO PRISON

Schlatter Predicts All His Prosecutors Will Die in Two Years.

LOS ANGELES, March 12.—A sentence of 18 months in the Federal prison on McNeil's Island, Wash., was imposed today upon "King" Francis Schlatter, self-styled divine healer, attested guilty last Saturday in the United States District Court here on a charge of using the mails to defraud. Schlatter called down the maledictions of God upon all concerned in the prosecution of his case and predicted that he would "die within two years" when asked by Judge C. A. Tipton if he had anything to say before sentence was pronounced.

ANDRASSY SEES EMPEROR

Vienna Considers Count to Be Coming Hungarian Premier.

LONDON, March 12.—Great importance is attached in Vienna to an audience given by Emperor Charles to Count Andrassy, leader of the opposition in the Hungarian Parliament, according to telegrams from Vienna transmitted by the Exchange Telegraph corporation at The Hague. Count Andrassy, the Vienna adviser says, is considered to be the coming Hungarian Premier.

Count Stephen Tisza is the present Hungarian Premier.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather.

YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 43; minimum, 28. Wind, southerly.

TODAY'S—Rain, southerly wind.

Submarines.

Nation fully prepared to defend rights.

Orders awaited to search interned raiders for explosives.

New Yorkers asked to declare opinions on upholding Nation's rights.

War.

British drive Turks 140 miles in 15 days in capturing Baghdad.

Foreign.

Lloyd George in signed statement says Britain is prepared to shoulder war burden.

Chinese House votes for break with Germany.

National.

Senator Lane explains opposition to armed neutrality bill.

Navy to rush orders for 100 Coast Patrol craft to patrol submarines.

Income tax yield greatly increased.

Flight over House organization put off.

Domestic.

Governor Johnson, of California, to resign Thursday.

Relief reaching tornado victims.

Mrs. Starcher's husband's "strategy."

General railroad strike imminent.

Representatives of 3,000,000 organized workers pledge services to Nation's defense.

Sport.

McLaughlin and Mary Browne beat Easters in singles tennis matches.

Twenty-eight trap shoots listed for Pacific Coast states this year.

Joe Hay out after world's distance running record.

Duffy meets Sanders, of New York, in boxing event here tonight.

Rain keeps Beavers from practicing.

Pacific Northwest.

Clubbing of J. W. W. described by Deputy Sheriff.

Three break jail at Lewiston, Idaho.

245 paroled convicts earn \$12,757 in February.

One man killed, five hurt, in freight train wreck near Medford.

Bookkeeper corroborates Billingsley's story of graft.

Idaho compensation act is compulsory.

Attorney-General gives opinion on construction of Chamber of Commerce law.

Slayer of E. W. Olson on trial at Olympia.

Commercial and Marine.

Heavy demand from California for wheat exported.

Fear of railroad strike breaks Chicago market.

Rails are strong features of Wall Street stock list.

Northwest shippers hope for big Government orders.

Portland and Vicinity.

Gypsy clan ordered to leave town within a week.

Speakers at luncheon of membership council of Chamber of Commerce.

Approval of road bonds issue.

Successor to School Director Lockwood may be named Thursday.

Louis Hodler, accused of blackmail, not found.

Anti-picket measure proposed for ballot at city election.

Petitions demanding Lane's resignation sent to Senate.

Weather report, data and forecast.

Extension of time given road bond essayists.

C. M. Thomas, Medford, announces for Congress.

John Spargo defines Socialism.

Granville Barker criticizes America.

ACCOUNTANT HELPS BILLINGSLEY TALE

\$4000 for "Old Man" Seen on Table.

DATE ALSO IS CORROBORATED

O. W. R. & N. Foreman Says Police Passed Liquor.

DR. MATTHEWS GETS \$1000

Importer Says Fund Given Pastor to Help Clean Up Town and to Investigate Ring—Threat Against Gill Denied.

SEATTLE, Wash., March 12.—Arthur R. Hatton, bookkeeper for Logan Billingsley in his Night and Day drugstore, from March, 1916, until it was wrecked, July 26, 1916, by the police, was the principal witness today in the trial of the so-called whisky graft cases.

Mayor Hiram C. Gill, Chief of Police Beckingham, ex-Sheriff Robert T. Hodge and City Detectives Peyser, Poolman, Doom and McLennan, charged with conspiracy to violate the Federal liquor laws, are defendants.

Money Seen in Billingsley Room.

Hatton testified that he called on Logan and Fred Billingsley at their rooms in a hotel on August 30, 1916. The brothers had apparently been quarrelling over money matters when he came in.

There was some money on a table, and Logan went out and got a large quantity of money in bills. Four piles of \$1000 each were counted out on the table. Logan made the four rolls into one, placed it in his pocket and said:

"I'm going down to see the old man." Two hours later Logan Billingsley returned with a file of papers which Hatton had previously seen in the drug store.

Bribe Declared Paid.

"How much did you give them?" Hatton swore Fred Billingsley asked. "The whole of it," replied Logan, according to Hatton, "and it was cheap at that."

August 30 was the day on which Logan Billingsley insists he gave a \$4000 bribe to Mayor Gill.

On cross-examination he said Gill's name was never mentioned, either before or after Logan went out with the roll of money.

Hatton said he had never seen money given to city detectives, but frequently tabs for money paid out were found in the drawer of the cash register by the bookkeeper, he said, and the Billingsleys said the money was paid out to detectives.

Detectives Seen Often.

Detectives Poolman and Peyser were frequent visitors, and seemed on the friendliest terms with the Billingsleys, Hatton said. Cross-examination of Hatton had not been concluded when court adjourned tonight.

Edward Weldman, assistant freight shed foreman for the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation Company, and who was indicted with Gill and the other defendants in the present case, testified that he had been engaged by Logan Billingsley to notify him promptly by telephone when any liquor shipments came in.

Agent Warns of Police.

Witness testified that Billingsley asked him not to show Detectives Poolman, Peyser, Doom and McLennan anything unnecessarily. On one occasion he warned Billingsley that the four detectives were looking at some of his liquor shipments, and Logan assured him the detectives were all right. He also testified that he had been requested by Detectives Peyser, Poolman, Doom and McLennan to let liquor shipments from San Francisco to Logan Billingsley pass.

\$1000 Given Dr. Matthews, He Says.

The sensation of the morning session was the statement of Billingsley that last Summer while he was being pursued by the police, he gave \$1000 to Dr. Mark A. Matthews, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, to be used as part of a fund to "clean up the town." This was before the alleged agreement had been reached with Gill by which the police were to be lenient with Billingsley.

Asked if he knew how the money he said he gave to Dr. Matthews had been expended, Billingsley declared it had been used to investigate sociological conditions, reports of gambling graft in the lower end of the city, and the whisky business. The witness freely admitted that he "had it in for Mayor Gill" before August 30, the date of the alleged bribe.

Mayor's Price Declared Highest.

"I told Mayor Gill, before I laid the money on the desk, that I was giving him more money than I had ever paid before for protection," said Billingsley. "He had previously impressed on me the great value of the service he could render me."

"I did not tell Gill the exact amount I was giving him when I laid the \$4000 roll of bills on the desk. He thought I was giving him \$7500, as that amount had been named in the negotiations that led up to the interview in the office of Chief Beckingham on August 30, 1916."

"Gill told me that: It would cost six or seven times as much as I proposed to give him to get out of the city."

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