

WALKOUT IN TWIN CITIES DUE TODAY

Labor Situation in St. Paul and Minneapolis at Acute Stage.

STREETCAR MEN ARE FIRM

General Union Tie-Up Is Threatened and May Seriously Affect Railroad Traffic and Other Industries.

ST. PAUL, Minn., Dec. 12.—The labor situation in Minneapolis and St. Paul reached an acute stage again tonight with the possibility that a large proportion of union men in both cities and some throughout the Northwest would quit work tomorrow in protest against the order of the Public Safety Commission of Minnesota directing the disuse by streetcar men of buttons indicating their membership in the Amalgamated Association of Streetcar and Electric Employees.

Labor leaders estimated on the face of incomplete reports that 80 per cent of the unionists in the Twin Cities would walk out tomorrow and that railroad shopmen from St. Paul to the Pacific Coast might follow.

Union officials declared they recognized the hardships such a sympathetic strike would involve, but say they cannot help acting in a matter that involves what they consider a big principle. Word from Washington indicated little chance of Federal action.

Chief among the various industries that would be partly tied up by a strike are the three great railroads running from the Twin Cities to the Coast—the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. If a large proportion of mechanics in their shops at various points should go out it is admitted that the roads would be seriously handicapped, and that military traffic as well as transportation of foodstuffs and livestock would suffer.

There was no change today in the streetcar service, which company officials declared today was 99 per cent normal in Minneapolis and 90 per cent in St. Paul.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 12.—Only eleven-hour Federal intervention, local labor leaders declared tonight, could prevent the strike tomorrow of allied unions in Minneapolis and the subsequent paralysis of industries, in sympathy with Twin City streetcar men, who demand permission to wear union buttons despite a ruling to the contrary by the State Public Safety Commission.

Preparations to meet the threatened tie-up tomorrow were being pushed forward with great haste, union men and big employers co-operating in a final drive to meet public demands. With a temperature of 20 degrees below zero forecast before morning, coal deliveries were taking precedence over all other work of union teamsters. Mayor Thomas Van Lear instructed the police force to close all saloons by 7:30 P. M. Several hundred Deputy sheriffs are on duty here, home guard companies will be called as soon as the strike order becomes effective and all members of the local police force were placed on 12-hour shifts beginning tonight.

HUGE FUND IS DISBURSED

(Continued From First Page.)

abroad. The President granted \$2,202,000 for that purpose.

Almost \$18,500,000 went to the Shipping Board to repair German and Austrian vessels seized in American ports until the United States entered the war, and with the exception of \$1,358,000, all of it has been turned over to the Board.

The Federal Trade Commission was allotted \$200,000 to investigate costs and prices and up to the time the report was compiled had received \$196,268 of it.

The Council of National Defense had \$225,000 allotted to it and has spent nearly all of the sum.

Instances where allotments have been comparatively large and disbursements small so far, include the Navy Department for exigency work, allotment \$1,388,000, disbursement \$34,601; Interior Department allotment \$160,000, disbursement, \$30,000; Commerce Department, allotment \$375,550, disbursement \$34,000, and for distribution of labor under the Labor Department, allotment \$885,000; disbursement \$10,000.

BIG GUN SHORTAGE ADMITTED

Arms on "Other Side" Well Supplied, Says General Crozier.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Delays and deficiencies in supplying the Army with ordnance were detailed and explained today by Major-General Crozier, chief of ordnance, to the Senate military committee at the beginning of the general inquiry planned by Congress into the conduct of the war.

The initial hearing was public and will be continued tomorrow, with General Crozier on the stand. Later executive sessions will be held for discussion of subjects involving military secrets.

That there is a shortage of ordnance at home for training purposes, General Crozier admitted, but he said there is no shortage "on the other side" and will be none. It has been possible, he said, to purchase English and French artillery for use in Europe and he predicted that by next summer the principal ordnance shortages for training purposes would be met.

Delays in supplying ordnance, General Crozier explained, have been due to several causes, including time taken for considering estimates and appropriations before Congress and labor difficulties in private plants. He said there is no shortage of skilled munition labor in this country and told of a plan to retain such labor which may be submitted to Congress.

Contracts for ordnance let on the "cost plus a percentage profit" plan, the general declared, have been economical for the Government.

Although detailed questioning of General Crozier was deferred, several committee members inquired particularly regarding preparations made in anticipation of war last Spring and appeared dissatisfied with what they learned. General Crozier explained many advance preparations, including a census of munition manufacturers and said everything possible was done.

In further explanation of General Crozier's report of other department heads, including Secretary Baker, committee members plan to go fully into the question of clothing and plans is planned within a few weeks. Senator Swanson, who acts as chairman of the Senate naval affairs committee in Senator Tillman's absence, said today that on the holidays his committee planned to begin the naval inquiry.

TEUTON DIPLOMATS INVOLVED IN PLOT

Further Details of Anti-British Conspiracy Are Disclosed at Hindu Trial.

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German Money Freely Used and More Asked For—Count von Bernstorff Requested to Procure \$20,000,000.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 12.—The alleged existence of a conspiracy of world-wide extent to set up a revolutionary government in India, supported by a strong element of German diplomacy and financiers, and by such anarchistic leaders as Alexander Berkman, was indicated here today in the trial of several of the alleged conspirators in the United States District Court.

Testimony regarding a request to Count von Bernstorff, ex-German Ambassador to the United States, that he ask his government to supply \$20,000,000 to further this revolution was supplied by Thomas J. Tunney, head of the "neutrality bomb squad," of the New York police department. George D. Barnitz, detective sergeant under Tunney, who followed the latter on the stand, told of a raid on the office of Mother Earth, Berkman's newspaper in New York, and the seizure of many confidential papers there relating to the conspiracy.

A letter alleged to have been written by Har Dyal, one of the alleged conspirators who is not in the jurisdiction of the court, to Berkman asking that "W. W. and other comrades be sent to India to assist the revolution," was identified by Barnitz. During his testimony Dr. C. K. Chakravarty, an alleged conspirator, admitted the letter on the identity of other letters tending to show that money had passed between him and others of the supposed conspirators in furtherance of the planned revolution.

Tunney testified that Dr. Chakravarty, Horamba Lal Gupta, and Dr. Ernest Sekunna, who are all listed as defendants, were taken into custody in New York on March 5, 1917, in connection with a bomb plot there, and Chakravarty, in discussing his affairs with the police, stated that he had received \$60,000 from Wolf von Igell, an attaché of the German embassy, to aid the revolution. He is said to have stated that Gupta received \$21,000 from Captain von Papen, military attaché of the German embassy, for the same cause.

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Bopp was the ex-German Consul-General here and Wilhelm von Brincken was one of his aides.

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The attack, launched between Bellecourt and Quant, was similar to that adopted by Crown Prince Rupprecht's troops when they pierced General's Byng's front southwest of Cambrai nearly two weeks ago and caused a retirement of the British on the salient. General Byng previously had driven toward Cambrai. A like purpose doubtless is involved in the latest offensive and for its execution huge waves of Bavarians were thrown upon the sector in an endeavor to overpower the defenders. The British, however, tenaciously to their ground, except at one point, where the enemy penetrated a front-line position.

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Notwithstanding their failure, the Germans are keeping up an intensive bombardment of British and French positions all along the western front, and daily are receiving additional reinforcements in men and guns from the eastern theater.

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GERMAN DRIVE IS BEGUN

(Continued From First Page.)

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Advertisement for coats featuring three women in elegant winter attire. Text includes 'For Xmas \$23.50 The Gift Practical' and 'For Xmas \$23.50 The Gift Serviceable'.

From NEW YORK—By Express Sent to Us by Our Coat Buyer—Now in the Market Coats of Velour—Coats of Plush—Coats of Caracul Full and Half Satin Lined—Fur Trimmed

Sipman Wolfe & Co. "Merchandise of Merit Only"

STAMP SALES INCREASE

DAILY AVERAGE FOR PAST WEEK ANNOUNCED AS \$3000.

Saturday's Figures Climb to \$4000 and Yesterday Passes \$7000 Plans for Drive Go On.

A steady increase in the sales of war savings stamps is recorded in Portland. The average daily sales last week were \$3000, with Saturday as the big day, when the aggregate was \$4000.

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United States Government on all railroad routes reaching North Atlantic seaboard ports, was ordered today by the general operating committee of the Eastern railroads.

Explanation of the drastic order was made in a statement issued by the general operating committee, which declared that "it is vitally essential that there be thorough co-operation in the handling of traffic for overseas shipment, so that the railway equipment which would otherwise be available for fuel, foodstuffs and Government freight shall not be used in moving traffic which cannot be promptly transhipped when it reached tidewater."

Phone your want ads to The Oregonian, Main 7070, A 6055.

Warning! Be Watchful of Quality in War Times. Tree Tea is Today as Always, The Best Quality and for the Least Money. CEYLON or JAPAN Full Weight.

THE OREGONIAN IN THE TRENCHES

The Oregonian can be sent to any soldier or sailor abroad or at home, in the camp on this side or in the trenches in France at the following rates, post paid:

Table with 4 columns: Rate, 1 Yr., 6 Mos., 3 Mos., 1 Mo. Rows include Daily and Sunday, Daily without Sunday, and Sunday.

Remittances must be accompanied by name of soldier, the number of the company and that of his regiment. Name of ship must be given if The Oregonian is to be mailed to a man in the United States Navy.

Mail orders direct to The Oregonian, cash to accompany order for term desired.

The Oregonian, Portland, Or.

Advertisement for Thrift Stamps and Savings Stamps. Features an illustration of the Northwestern National Bank Building in Portland, Oregon.