

HARDING SURGED TO CURB PACKERS

Big Industrial Problem Up to President.

WAGE REDUCTION PROTESTED

Packing House Employees Hold Union Menaced.

SINISTER DESIGN CHARGED

Attempt to Swell Profits Enormously and at Same Time Wreck Organized Labor Alleged.

OMAHA, Neb., March 9.—President Harding was appealed to tonight by representatives of packing house employees with a request that he try to prevent a proposed reduction of wages and readjustment of working hours, which have been announced by meat packers to become effective March 14.

Delegates to a conference called by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workmen of North America, voted unanimously late today to appeal to the president in an attempt to forestall abrogation of the wartime agreement between the packers and their employees.

The telegram asked the president to require the packers to "hold in abeyance" the wage and hour changes announced as effective next Monday until the secretary of labor can investigate.

Strike Warning Sounded. The conference also adopted a resolution requesting the president to "use his good offices to compel the packers to comply with the agreement entered into by the government, and that unless the packers consent he exercise his power to place the packing-house industry under government control and operation and publicly brand the present owners and managers of the industry as a menace to the government and society in general."

A strike warning appeared in the national resolution which instructed the union officers "to take such action as will result in a unanimous and effective resistance to a return to the 10-hour work day, wage reductions and other barbaric conditions that existed prior to 1917," unless President Harding sends assurance of action against the packers.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, was asked in another telegram to go to the White House as the direct representative of the meat cutters' union and urge immediate action on the packing house workers' request.

The rival claimants filed application for permit to develop the coal claims some time ago. The claim was said to be valuable.

Bees Declared Nuisance. Walls-Wallens Object to Insects Roaming City at Large.

WALLA WALLA, Wash., March 9.—Several residents of this city have formally protested against "bees being permitted to roam at large within the city limits."

School Courting Banned. Girls Bar Puffs, Short Skirts and Hair Hose at Bremerton.

BREMERTON, Wash., March 9.—Ear puffs, hair hose, short skirts, whiskies, love-making and public dances are banned by students at the Union high school here, in resolutions adopted at secret meetings today.

Border Reform Assured. Gambling and Vice to Be Barred in North Lower California.

CALEXICO, Cal., March 9.—Gambling and vice of all kinds will be "promptly banished and forever barred" from Mexico, Tijuana and all other parts of the northern district of lower California.

RATIFICATION ASKED FOR COLOMBIAN PACT

Stormy Session Is Likely When Measure Is Considered, as Many Republicans Oppose.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 9.—A special message sent by President Harding to the senate today asking early ratification of the \$25,000,000 treaty with Colombia started a vigorous controversy, with a considerable group of republicans aligned in opposition.

It was the president's first congressional message and developed the first open difference between senate republicans. The communication was brief and was understood generally that ratification of the long-delayed treaty principally on the ground that action would have a beneficial effect on relations between the United States and Latin-America.

Publication of the message read in an executive session was deferred. Immediate action on the present session was urged by Senator Lodge, republican leader, but objections came from both republicans and democrats, and the matter went over until tomorrow, together with a proposal to discuss the treaty in open session.

Members of the treaty's consideration until the April session appeared probable. If the treaty is set aside until the April session, leaders tonight said that the extra session might terminate Saturday.

Should the senate proceed at once with the treaty it was predicted that the ratification of the treaty would continue into the April session.

Differences over the treaty appeared principally among republicans. Most democrats were reported to favor ratification of the treaty, which the Wilson administration negotiated in 1914.

Opponents in the republican ranks were Senator Borah, Idaho; Kenyon, Iowa; Kellogg, Minnesota; Lenroot, Wisconsin; Johnson, California, and Nelson, Minnesota. Most of the newly elected republicans were counted as supporters of the treaty.

DAVIS SAILS FOR HOME

Successor to Ambassador to Britain Will Wait, Says Harding.

LONDON, March 9.—John W. Davis, retiring United States ambassador to Great Britain, left today for Southampton on his way to the United States. A large crowd was at the station to bid him farewell.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 9.—Appointment of a successor to John W. Davis as ambassador to Great Britain will be deferred for a time, it was indicated today at the state department.

President Harding has indicated his first desire to get the executive machinery of his administration into smooth working order before he chooses the personnel of the diplomatic corps.

MAN, 90, FACES OUSTER

HOLDER OF VALUABLE COAL LAND 47 YEARS NEAR RUIN.

YAKIMA, Wash., March 9.—(Special.)—After living for 47 years on a coal-land claim near Ellensburg and spending, he alleges, more than \$23,000 in its development, Isahai Buchanan, nearing 90 years old, will be ousted by rival claimants, principally citizens of Ellensburg, unless a ruling of the United States general land office, holding that he has "slept on his rights," is overturned on appeal.

The rival claimants filed application for permit to develop the coal claims some time ago. The claim was said to be valuable.

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CONCLUDED ON PAGE 3, COLUMN 1.

DOUGLAS BLAMED FOR ROAD DELAY

Highway Commission Chides Tardy County.

COSTS MUST BE 50-50

Effort Will Be Made to Finish Old Oregon Trail.

CONTRACTS ARE AWARDED

Further State Aid Will Not Be Given Unless Counties Bear Half, Is New Edict.

HIGHWAY COMMISSION PROCEEDINGS.

Commission places responsibility for delay on Roseburg-Cooe Bay highway on Douglas county.

Hereafter only co-operation to be considered by the state on road work will be by counties offering a 50-50 basis, with few exceptions to poor counties.

Blanket order issued to engineering department to advertise every section on Old Oregon trail to Ontario as soon as a section is ready.

Awarded 17.25 miles of black paving and 2.57 miles of concrete.

Contract awarded for hard-surface between Hood River and Mosier.

As quickly as possible the state highway commission wants to finish the Old Oregon trail to Ontario by grading and graveling.

Every county on the Dalles-California highway has attended the meeting of the commission, offering all assistance within its power.

50-50 Offer Required. Hereafter the commission will consider only propositions where the counties offer a 50-50 co-operation, with a few rare exceptions where counties have small population and are impoverished.

These were statements made at yesterday's meeting of the commission.

CONCLUDED ON PAGE 3, COLUMN 2.

ITALY SETS TO WORK TO PAY OFF AMERICA

PRODUCTION OF STAPLES OF COMMERCE TO BE RESUMED.

Lost Sources of Revenue of Former Years to Be Overcome; Debt Now Is \$1,621,000,000.

WASHINGTON, March 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—Italy is preparing, through rehabilitating her internal financial condition, to set in motion again the machinery of commercial relations and resume production of staples of commerce utilized in her foreign trade in order to discharge her debt to the United States.

The ambassador said: "The following is my precise opinion in regard to the American loans to Italy and the payment by Italy: 'Italy must, through a revision of the accounts, ascertain the exact amount of her debt and then ask for a convenient period within which to pay it. Otherwise it would be impossible for Italy to rehabilitate her financial condition which is the only way whereby Italy can pay her debt.'

"Italy would naturally ask the preferred nation's treatment, that in case of a cancellation or partial remittance of debt to any other nation, the same treatment be granted her. Like the United States, Italy entered the war without being forced to do so by any aggression and while the nations attacked were in difficult straits, Italy got nothing except her natural boundaries, and such boundaries Italy conquered with her own military effort.

"Italy therefore has a political attitude and a public sentiment which agree with the political attitude and public sentiment of the United States. This I think and hope will facilitate my work."

He expressed confidence in the success of the efforts being made to bring about a resumption of the formerly large trade relations between Italy and the United States, particularly the Italian export trade with this country, which would be a large factor in meeting the financial obligations of Italy to America.

As a war measure, he continued, his government stopped exportation of oils, fruits and wheat products, but that this prohibition was to be removed. Altogether, he said, prospects were bright for a restoration of commercial relations on the former basis that would eventually make possible a financial settlement of the heavy indebtedness.

No intimation has come from the treasury of a disposition to discuss the questions involved in a readjustment of the debt.

CONCLUDED ON PAGE 2, COLUMN 2.

LABOR SECRETARY LABORS

Head of Department Arrives Ahead of Elevator Operators.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 9.—Apparently believing a labor secretary should labor, Secretary Davis reached the labor department today at 7:30 o'clock, an hour ahead of the office force. He found even the elevators still asleep and walked up seven flights of stairs.

Postmaster-General Hays taxis about in a cab when he's in a hurry. When he agreed on the job he found on the carriage provided as his official conveyance. An almost forgotten row in congress left no other chariot to the department head and while other cabinet officers may motor about, Mr. Hays taxis when he wants speed.

ROOSEVELT IS INSTALLED

Senate Confirms Nomination of Assistant Secretary.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 9.—The nomination of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt to be assistant secretary of the navy was confirmed today by the senate.

Three assistant secretaries of the treasury, S. Gilbert Parker Jr., Ewing L. Porte and Nicholas Kelley, were nominated by President Harding.

TRADE AGREEMENT DOUBTFUL

Red Commissioner Would Have Britain Recognize Soviet.

LONDON, March 9.—The conclusion of an Anglo-Russian trade agreement has been rendered unlikely through a proposal by Leonid Krassin, a bolshevik commissioner, to insert political clauses in the preamble virtually constituting recognition of the soviet government, it has been authoritatively learned.

It develops that Krassin returned from Russia with amendments which would change the complexion of the treaty. These amendments, it is said, are considered impossible even of serious consideration, and breaking off in the negotiations will follow if they are persistently urged.

REDS JOIN REVOLUTIONISTS

Soviet Force Set Against Ruthenians Won Over.

WARSAW, March 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—The White Ruthenians have proclaimed their independence of Russia, according to a misnik report received here today.

(The Ruthenians meant probably are those inhabiting what is known as White Russia, comprising the southwestern Russian provinces, centering upon Minsk.)

It is reported that a limited number of bolshevik troops that were rushed to White Ruthenia to suppress the uprisings have joined the insurrectionists without firing a shot.

CONCLUDED ON PAGE 2, COLUMN 2.

OLD POSTOFFICE SITE IS WANTED BY CITY

SPOT SOUGHT FOR SHAFT TO OREGON'S WAR DEAD.

Mayor Baker Starts Action With Congressional Delegation to Obtain Place for Park.

Mayor Baker today will launch a movement to have the old postoffice site, bounded by Morrison, Yamhill, Sixth and Fifth streets, donated to the city by the government for a public park as a memorial to Oregon men who gave their lives for the nation in the world war.

Rumors have been floating about that the government officials are planning to dispose of the old postoffice site and building by sale, and upon these rumors Mayor Baker is basing his proposed action. The Portland Realty board has asked that the property be sold for business purposes.

Removal of the present postoffice building, and the erection of a large shaft in the memory of the men who laid down their lives in the world war, is the plan of the mayor if the government will consent to transfer the property to the city without cost. Mayor Baker also proposes that the entire block be transformed into a public park.

"If Portland could acquire the title to this block in the very center of the city, it would provide a wonderful spot in which to erect a shaft or statue in honor of the men of Oregon who lost their lives in defense of their country in the world war," said Mayor Baker.

"Portland is eager to erect some sort of a fitting statue in honor of her boys who lost their lives. But some appropriate place must be obtained. The old postoffice site provides a wonderful site."

STEAMER SINKS; 1000 DIE

Coolie Carrier Reported Wrecked Off Port of Swatow.

AMOY, China, March 9.—One thousand persons were drowned when the steamship Hong Moh was wrecked off the port of Swatow March 3, said reports received here today.

The vessel struck rocks and sank immediately. There were few lifeboats on board and no wireless. The steamer, which was a coolie carrier bound from Singapore for Amoy, carried 1200 passengers.

Captain Holms and Lim Peng Siong, a millionaire of Singapore, were among those lost.

FIRST LIBERTIES LOWER

Record Drop for Year to 90.24 Is Recorded in New York.

NEW YORK, March 9.—Liberty 2 1/2 bonds, the first issue of war bonds, fell to the new low record price for the year of 90.24 on the stock exchange today.

It was thought that some holders were selling to meet income tax payments which others were liquidating and buying issues yielding higher interest returns.

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SOVIET POWER IN RUSSIA BREAKING

Red Leaders Take Refuge in Fortresses.

WHITE RUTHENIANS REVOLT

Independence of Russia Formally Proclaimed.

KREMLIN SHIELDS LENINE

Trotsky and Others in Petrograd. Desperate and Ready to Leave City at Any Moment.

LONDON, March 9.—The Kronstadt government has issued a proclamation to the world workers to begin a fight against the communists, according to a Helsinki dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph company.

Reports from Petrograd say that the soviet officials are ready to leave at any moment, and that Trotsky has ordered the arrest of the staff of the Estonian legation.

A Wednesday dispatch to the Times from Riga says bolshevik leaders in Petrograd escaped by motor car following the capture by the revolutionary forces today of the city with the exception of the Nicolai and Finland railroad stations. Soviet troops suffered heavy losses at Krasnoy Selo, 18 miles southeast, and at Gatchina, 30 miles southwest.

The Krasnoy Gorko and Oranienbaum fortresses have surrendered. The red army has retreated 20 versts.

SOVIET CHIEFS SEEK SAFETY

Trotsky in Fortress Protected by Large Army Force.

LONDON, March 9.—Another version of the situation in Petrograd is given in a Central News dispatch from Helsinki dated today. This says that fighting is continuing in the streets of Petrograd and that War Minister Trotsky and M. Zinoviev, the soviet governor of Petrograd, were reported to have taken refuge in the fortress of Saints Peter and Paul, surrounded by a large number of protective troops.

All attempts by the revolutionaries to capture this fortress were repulsed, the message says.

General Brusiloff effected an organization of the soviet troops in the city," continues the dispatch, "and ordered a mixed regiment of Finnish and Chinese to clear the streets. The revolutionaries, however, refused to fire on the Finns, who joined the revolutionaries, the latter repulsing the Chinese.

"Moscow is reported quiet, with Lenin remaining inside the Kremlin issuing orders for arrests, which are occurring by hundreds."

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FIVE LEAP FROM PLANE

Aviators Test Parachutes, Making Record Jump at Sacramento.

SACRAMENTO, Cal., March 9.—A new record in parachute jumping was set today at Mather Field, when five aviators leaped from a plane at an altitude of 2000 feet.

CONCLUDED ON PAGE 2, COLUMN 2.

PORTLANDER DUPED BY OIL SWINDLERS

H. W. BLACK ENLISTS AID AND RECOVERS \$12,975.

Fake Deal Reported to Police When Suspicion of Sellwood Man Are Aroused.

TEXARKANA, Tex., March 19.—H. W. Black, manager of a furniture company in Portland, Or., today appealed to local police for aid in his search for a band of swindlers, who he said, had escaped with \$12,975 in what proved to be a fake oil deal.

Two men giving the names of J. W. Crane, San Antonio, Tex., and J. S. Montgomery, St. Louis, are under arrest. The money has been recovered. "The men were arrested after Mr. Black had discovered the non-existence here of the 'stock exchange,' where the alleged deal was to have been completed.

Mr. Black said he met Crane, Montgomery and two other men at El Paso, and after participating in several stock exchange operations which presumably yielded profits, returned to Portland for more money.

This he turned over to the four men today. His suspicions aroused upon failing to locate an exchange here, he reported to the police.

Crane and Montgomery were arrested two hours later while said to have been in possession of the exact amount Black lost.

News of her husband's recovery of his money was received yesterday afternoon by Mrs. Harry W. Black, 548 Flavel avenue. Mr. Black is owner and manager of the Sellwood Furniture company and about two weeks ago left Portland for Texas, where he had several oil transactions pending his arrival. Mrs. Black refused to comment upon the arrest of the alleged swindlers, saying that she had heard of the matter and was cognizant only of what was told her yesterday by telegram.

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ALLIES TO STICK FOR SATISFACTION

Punishment to End When Germans Submit.

SUPREME COUNCIL RESOLUTE

Adequate Settlement of All Scores Required.

NO ANNEXATION PLANNED

Lloyd George Again Assured That France Has No Desire for Rhine Territory.

AMERICAN MILITARY HEADQUARTERS, Coblenz, March 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—The inter-allied Rhineland commission has decreed a censorship over wire communications for a period of six days. The censorship may be renewed indefinitely. News of troop movements is being censored.

LONDON, March 9.—(By the Associated Press.)—The penalties imposed upon Germany will cease only when a satisfactory solution of the questions of reparation, disarmament and war criminals has been accepted by the allies.

The supreme council so decided tonight after M. Briand had declared that the French government had no intention of permanently occupying territory on the left of the Rhine. He said that the only object was to secure execution of the treaty.

The council agreed to instruct the allied high commission of the Rhineland to invite the attendance of Italian representatives when economic questions resulting from the application of the penalties were under consideration.

M. Briand and the heads of the other delegations expressed appreciation of Mr. Lloyd George's conduct of the conference.