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STRIKERS IN GERMANY ARE INCREASING

OFFICIAL INFORMATION FROM BERLIN SAYS 120,000 STRIKERS ARE OUT IN CITY

SEVERAL CITIES UNDER SIEGE

Socialists Present Demands to the Kaiser—Want Peace Move Accelerated

Amsterdam, Jan. 31.—The number of strikers in Berlin is estimated at 120,000. According to an official statement issued in Berlin.

Berlin, claims, however, that there are no other disturbances elsewhere in the empire.

A state of siege has been declared at Hamburg, Altona and Wandsbeck, according to the newspapers.

London, Jan. 31.—According to an Exchange Telegraph from a Copenhagen correspondent, German strikes are growing. Seven hundred thousand are striking in Berlin, 50,000 of whom are women. Many socialist leaders have been arrested.

According to the Central News, socialist leaders have asked president Kaempff to summon the reichstag immediately. In view of alarming events.

Amsterdam, Jan. 31.—The strike has been extended in districts near Berlin, especially in Tegel, Aldershof Spandau and Mariendorf, where 500,000 men have quit work, and a similar number in the remainder of the empire.

Zurich, Jan. 31.—The socialist paper Vorwaerts announces that the Berlin strikers have now become more numerous and threatening. They have addressed to the government an ultimatum of which the following are the principal demands:

First—Accelerated conclusions of a general peace without indemnities or annexations.

Second—Participation of workmen's delegates of all the countries in the peace parliaments.

Third—Americanization of the food situation and better distribution.

Fourth—Immediate abolition of the state of siege and restoration of the right of public meeting, suspended by the military authorities.

Fifth—Abolition of militarization of war factories.

Sixth—Immediate release of all political prisoners.

Seventh—Fundamental democratization of state institutions.

Eighth—The institution of equal electoral suffrage by direct secret ballot.

London, Jan. 31.—A dispatch to the Daily Express from Geneva reports that there have been clashes between soldiers and strikers in the suburbs of Berlin in which lives were lost.

The dispatch adds that the troops in some instances refused to fire on strikers.

PRESIDENT WILL NOT FIX FREIGHT RATES

Washington, Jan. 31.—Elimination from the administration bill of the provision giving the president power to fix rates, was approved by the senate interstate commerce committee today by a vote of seven to six. No amendment was drafted, but on motion of Senator Underwood, the committee went on record as favoring leaving rate fixing in the hands of the interstate commerce commission and the state commissions.

BIG ZEPPELIN OVER NEW YORK

American Dirigible 200 Feet Long Makes Successful Flight Over Manhattan Island

New York, Jan. 31.—New Yorkers who happened to be gazing heavenward late today, stopped, rubbed their eyes and then thought of horrifying stories they had read of Zeppelin raids on London. Floating majestically over their heads was a huge cigar-shaped dirigible balloon, at least 200 feet long.

The dirigible first appeared over South Brooklyn, then over downtown New York, and finally over Governor's island. Investigation brought the information that it started at 3:30 o'clock on a trial flight from the new fort at Rockaway Point, and it returned safely at 6 o'clock. It carried a crew of eight men.

At the aviation field at the fort, it was said the balloon is of the type known as the "American Zeppelin." The flight today was to test the efficiency of dropping men in parachutes. Two men of the crew dropped to the ground safely from a height of 300 feet at different points.

CENSORSHIP RULES TO BE LESS STRICT IN THE U. S.

Washington, Jan. 31.—Press dispatches filed from national army and national guard camps in the United States by accredited newspaper correspondents, not in the military service will not be censored by the military authorities, under an order made public tonight. The correspondents will be instructed by the camp commanders, however, that they must rigidly adhere to the requests for secrecy with respect to information of value to the enemy, as defined in the printed card sent out by the committee on public information.

Correspondents violating this request will be deprived of the privileges of the camps.

VON HINDENBURG WARNS STRIKERS

Amsterdam, Jan. 31.—The Rheinische Westfälische Zeitung of Essen, a copy of which has been received here, reports that Field Marshal von Hindenburg has warned the strikers in Berlin to cease their movement immediately. He told them according to this newspaper, that they were being misled, adding:

"Every hour you lose means the weakening of Germany's defense. You are committing a crime against our army and an act of cowardice against your brethren in the front trenches."

PORTLANDER IS A RUSSIAN CONSUL

Petrograd, Tuesday Jan. 29.—The workmen's and soldiers' government today appointed John Reed, an American newspaper man and socialist, as consul of the workmen's and soldiers' republic in New York, in succession to the consul appointed by the old regime.

M. Tchitcherin, deputy minister of foreign affairs, today sent a letter to David R. Francis, the American ambassador, notifying him of the appointment of Mr. Reed. Mr. Reed has been in Russia for several months participating in the meetings of the Bolsheviks and during that time has made several addresses.

Mr. Reed said today that he would start homeward next week to face an indictment against him in New York in connection with an alleged pacifist propaganda, and that the Russian socialists had declared that they would make a "new Liebknecht case" out of it.

Mr. Reed is a former resident of Portland, Ore.

AMERICANS ARE RAIDED ON FRONT LINE TRENCH

After Violent Artillery Barrage, Germans Attack American Position on French Front at Daylight—Three Americans Wounded and Two Killed

With American Army in France, Jan. 31.—American positions in certain sections of the French front were raided during a heavy fog shortly after day light on Wednesday. The attack was preceded by a violent artillery barrage. Two Americans were killed, four wounded and one missing, who is believed to have been captured. For several days casualties have been occurring almost daily. It is now permitted to disclose that all recent casualties have occurred in this sector.

Deaths from shell fire are mostly by shrapnel.

SUGAR FAMINE IS ACUTE IN CHICAGO

Chicago, Jan. 31.—Chicago's sugar shortage became so acute today that in several large department stores hundreds of persons stood in line for hours to obtain a half pound for which they were charged five cents. Restaurants in some cases were reduced to the necessity of serving lump sugar with baked apples and grape fruit. Relief of present conditions was said to depend upon the receipt of supplies from the west which have been held up by congested traffic.

FLOATING ICE BECOMES SERIOUS IN OHIO RIVER

Cincinnati, Jan. 31.—Ice gorges have again formed above and below the Cincinnati harbor tonight and men expressed the fear that when these gorges break the damage to river property would be as great, if not greater than that caused by the break-up of the ice earlier today.

Three large steamers were sunk in the local harbor and another was swept away by the ice floes, as were numerous smaller craft. The loss to property was estimated at \$300,000.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE DECIDES FREIGHT CASE

Washington, Jan. 31.—Increases of about 15 per cent in railroad commodity rates from the east and interior points, were authorized by the interstate commerce commission today in finally deciding the famous inter-mountain rate case, pending in various forms for years. This action will make the through rates to the coast equal to higher rates maintained to Spokane, Denver, Salt Lake City, Reno and other intermediate cities, and remove the rate discrimination against which commercial interests of the cities have long protested. The order becomes effective March 15.

GENERALS PERSHING AND BLISS ATTEND COUNCIL

Versailles, Jan. 31.—General Pershing attended Wednesday's meeting of the supreme war council with General Bliss.

PRESIDENT WILSON APPEALS TO FARMERS

Washington, Jan. 31.—President Wilson has sent the farmers of the United States a message, calling attention to the country's need of their assistance during the coming year, in wending the war. It was sent through the farmer's conference at the University of Illinois.

One man was hit by a sniper's bullet and fell into a trench filled with water and almost drowned before being rescued by his captain. Several were wounded in the hands. It is certain that enemy casualties from American cannon and machine gun fire has been greater than ours.

American dead were buried within sound of the guns.

One man was blown to pieces by a shell in regimental headquarters, while following his colonel into a dugout. Three were killed by one shell in the trenches.

CAPITAL AND LABOR GETTING TOGETHER

Washington, Jan. 31.—The national industrial conference board, through Magnus Alexander, executive secretary and the American Federation of Labor, through Samuel Gompers, have been asked by the department of labor to name the conference members representing capital and labor, who will endeavor to outline policies which shall govern their relations during the war.

Prevention rather than arbitration of disputes will be the aim of the department of labor in reorganizing its administrative machinery and obtaining the definite formulation of policies, to meet the problems raised by the war.

A formal announcement today of the proposed changes in the department was in accord with the outline already made public. The administrative system to be set up for averting industrial disturbances will be based on zones, with mediators in charge of each zone.

SCARCITY OF COAL IN BOSTON IS SERIOUS

Boston, Jan. 31.—Arrivals of coal by rail and water were so light today that the city fuel commission was seriously considering an extension of the 48-hour period which began at 4 a. m. today and during which retail coal dealers have been forbidden to make deliveries of coal to office buildings, stores and factories.

GENERAL WOOD IS REPORTED IMPROVING

Paris, Jan. 31.—Major-General Leonard Wood, U. S. A., who was wounded recently while visiting the front in France, is confined to the Ritz-Carlton hospital, where he is reported to be doing well. He expects to be out in a week. He is suffering from a flesh wound on the arm, which is painful but not dangerous.

Lieutenant-Colonel Charles E. Kilbourne, chief of General Wood's staff who was wounded in the face, may lose his right eye. Major Kenyon A. Joyce, who was wounded in the arm is improving.

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS TO SPAIN ARE STOPPED

Washington, Jan. 31.—The war trade board has ceased issuing licenses to export merchandise to Spain. Five ships about to sail are held. It is suspected that German influence intervened when General Pershing attempted to buy merchandise there.

VIOLENT FIRE BY AUSTRIANS

Slight Gains Made by Italians Near Col-del-rossc. Improved Conditions in Frenzela Valley

Rome, Jan. 31.—The new position of Italians west of Frenzela valley, in the mountain front, was improved yesterday, it is announced by the war office. The line was advanced slightly northeast of Col-del-rossc.

The Austrians have been bombarding with extreme violence the positions captured by the Italians. The Italian fire has been powerfully centered on points behind the enemy lines.

Extremely heavy losses were suffered by the Austrians, two of their divisions being almost completely wiped out.

Berlin, Jan. 31.—Italian attacks launched yesterday, southwest of Asiago, have broke down under the Teuton fire is announced by the war office. Italian prisoners have been increased to over 600.

NEW RECORD ESTABLISHED FOR SOLDIER'S INSURANCE

Washington, Jan. 31.—A new record was established in the application for 32,004 insurance policies from soldiers. Secretary McAdoo announced Tuesday. The application totaled \$260,393,500 and brings the grand total to \$4,923,814,000. Approximately 600,000 persons are covered in this grand total.

BAKERS WILL BE LICENSED FEBRUARY 4

Washington, Jan. 31.—The president has ordered all persons or firms making any form of bread or pastry, to be licensed by February 4, if using over three barrels of flour, or meal, monthly. This also applies to green coffee handlers.

GERMANY REJECTS POLISH DELEGATES

Petrograd, Jan. 31.—The semi-official News Agency issues the following:

"The German foreign secretary, Dr. von Kuehlmann, informed the Polish premier, J. Kucharszewski, that it was impossible to grant his request to represent Poland at the Brest-Litovsk negotiations, as to the Russian delegation had not recognized the independence of Poland.

"This is false, the Russian delegation recognizes the right of self-determination of all nations, but not the dependence of the Kucharszewski government, appointed by Germany, because it does not express the will of the Polish people.

"The Warsaw workmen have declared a general strike as a protest against Dr. von Kuehlmann's effort to make Russia recognize a Polish government protected by Germany. Demonstrations have been violently dispersed by the Germans."

GEORGE W. MANNING OF McMinnville Dies in France

Washington, Jan. 31.—General Pershing reports that Privates Geo. W. Manning of McMinnville, Ore., and James Glenn, of Idaho, have died of pneumonia.

RAID ON PARIS IS FIRST IN SIX MONTHS

Paris, Jan. 31.—German airplanes raided Paris last night. The alarm was given at 11:30 o'clock. Bombs were thrown at various points in Paris and the suburbs.

Twenty people were killed and 50 injured. One German machine was brought down and the occupants made prisoners.

TRANS-OCEAN SHIPPING IS CENTRALIZED

SHIPPING OF ALLIES HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER ALLIED CENTRAL COMMITTEE

P. A. S. FRANKLIN IS CHAIRMAN

All Vessels Entering or Leaving Atlantic Ports Will Be Controlled by Shipping Board

Washington, Jan. 31.—Centralized control of trans-Atlantic shipping was established today with the creation of a ship control committee to have supreme charge of the operation of all ships—American, allied and neutral—entering and leaving American ports.

The committee was named by representatives of the shipping board, the war and navy departments, the food and fuel administrations, the director-general of railroads, the British government and ship owners who met to devise some plan for speeding up the movement of supplies to Europe.

It comprises P. A. S. Franklin, of the International Mercantile marine, chairman; H. H. Raymond, head of the Clyde and Mallory lines, and recently made shipping controller at New York, and Sir Cunnop Guthrie, director of British shipping in this country.

WHEAT PROSPECTS BETTER IN FRANCE

Paris, Jan. 31.—The condition of wheat on January 1, compared with a year ago, shows a gain of 8 per cent. If maintained to maturity, this means a remarkable increase in the yield per acre. The Journal Official gives the acreage of winter wheat this year as 800,000 acres more than a year ago.

GENERAL CROWDER MAKES CHANGES IN EXEMPTIONS

Washington, Jan. 31.—General Crowder has announced changes in physical examinations of draft registrants. Men with remediable diseases will not be rejected.

SPRUCE AND CEDAR TO BE LOGGED OFF

Marshfield, Jan. 31.—The contract for logging the Southern Oregon company spruce lands on the Coos Bay peninsula has been signed between Manager Herbert Armstrong and McDonald and Vaughn and the work of preparing for the logging has been started. The lands which comprise 2,500 acres lying west of Marshfield and north and south from the old Straw boulevard are all to be cut over and Wm. Vaughn today estimated the work would extend over a period of three years.

The contract is drawn on a stumpage basis, the Southern Oregon company to receive so much for all logs removed from the land. Although the first efforts will be expended upon the choice spruce and white cedar areas, in order to help speed the government needs, all the timber is to be removed as the logging proceeds. This is made necessary through the danger of fires in brush and waste left from picking trees. Mr. Vaughn said while discussing the coming activity there is an area of the finest white cedar on the coast not far from Tarheel point and is included in the contract.