

SOCIAL WAR IS ON

Great Strike at St. Petersburg Involving Thousands.

WORK ON WARSHIPS IS STOPPED

About 58,000 Ironworkers and 50,000 Cotton Mill Operatives May Join in Strike.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 20.—The strike situation is becoming very grave. To-night there are 58,000 men out on strike, and the movement is spreading to the big cotton mills, which employ over 50,000 operatives. Meetings have been called for tomorrow, at which Social Democratic leaders will use their utmost endeavors to convert the strike into a vast political demonstration, which at the present crisis might have most serious developments. The authorities are adopting every precaution to avoid an outbreak, but the Social Democrats are spurring on the strikers, and there is great danger of a collision with the troops, which would be almost sure to be followed by red flag demonstrations, accompanied by great bloodshed. The community is full of sensational rumors and rioting is generally expected.

In conjunction with the Epiphany celebration, which will occur tomorrow, the meetings of strikers will make the day a critical one for the police. Thus far, however, the strike has preserved a purely economic aspect. The great industrial quarter of St. Petersburg presents the appearance of an armed camp. The idle factories are surrounded by cordons of police and patrols of infantry march about the snow-covered plains.

The strikers are led by a priest named Gopon, who is idolized by the workmen and who represents them in negotiations with the employers.

This is the first great strike in Northern Russia. Hitherto the workmen have been unorganized, and previous strikes in St. Petersburg have not involved more than 10,000 men. The strike leaders claim to have funds enough to hold out for a month, but this is doubted, and the lack of money and the privations of winter and perhaps government interference are expected to make the strike short and sharp.

The strikers, who at first declined an offer of financial support, are reported to have accepted a contribution from Moscow.

The strike has an important bearing on the war in the Far East, as every day's delay in completing the government contracts with the iron works means the loss of precious time in the starting of the third Pacific squadron.

AGREE ON RAILROAD RATES

Leaders of House and Senate Agree to Speedily Pass Bill.

Washington, Jan. 20.—It is asserted today that an agreement is making between the leaders of the senate and the house in accordance with which railroad rate legislation will be enacted at the present session of congress. The basis of the legislation will be the measure drawn by Colonel Hepburn, chairman of the interstate and foreign commerce committee of the house. That bill already has been considered by the president, Attorney General Moody, Secretary Taft and Secretary Morton, and by members of both the house and the senate. It does not meet the approval of all who have examined it, but it is believed to be a good foundation for a measure which probably can be enacted.

The probability is that the Hepburn bill will be passed by the house before February 1.

Smallpox Rages at Billings.

Billings, Mont., Jan. 20.—According to the records of the city officials there are at present 67 cases of smallpox here, all of which are strictly guarded. In different parts of the town there are 37 houses under quarantine. Since the outbreak of the disease, January 4, there have been five deaths. A new pest house has been erected outside the city limits for the care of patients. Everything possible is being done to stamp out the disease, and it is believed the health authorities have the situation under control.

Will Save Five Vessels.

London, Jan. 20.—According to a dispatch received from Port Arthur five of the vessels sunk by the Russians and by the shells of the Japanese in the harbor have been raised. Five hundred and forty guns on the forts and warships have been found to be in good condition and easily repaired. In addition to these the prizes captured by the Japanese include eight locomotives and 3,000 railroad cars.

Put in Line of Succession.

Washington, Jan. 20.—The house committee on election of president in conference today favorably reported the bill adding the secretary of agriculture and the secretary of commerce to the line of presidential succession.

DEATH MEETS PLEA.

Russian Soldiers Shoot the Workmen Who Would Appeal to Czar.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 23.—Yesterday was a day of unspeakable horror in St. Petersburg. The strikers of Saturday, goaded to desperation by a day of violence, fury and bloodshed, are in a state of open insurrection against the government. A condition almost bordering on civil war exists in the terror stricken Russian capital.

The city is under martial law, with Price Vasilchikoff as commander of over 50,000 of the emperor's crack guards. Troops bivouacked in the streets last night and at various places on the Nevsky Prospect, the main thoroughfare of the city. On the island of Vassili Ostroff and in the out sections infuriated men have thrown up barricades, which they are holding. The empress dowager has hastily sought safety at Tsarskoe-Selo, where Emperor Nicholas II is living.

Minister of the Interior Sviatopolk-Mirsky presented to his majesty Saturday night the invitation of the workmen to appear at the winter palace and receive their petition, but the emperor's advisers had taken a decision to show a firm and resolute front, and the emperor's answer to the 100,000 workmen trying to make their way to the palace square yesterday was a solid array of troops, who met them with rifle, bayonet and saber.

The priest, Gopon, the leader and idol of the men, in his golden vestments, holding aloft the cross and marching at the head of thousands of workmen, through the Narva gate, miraculously escaped a volley which laid low half a hundred persons. The figures of the total number killed or wounded here, at the Moscow gate, at the various bridges and islands, and at the winter palace vary. The best estimate is 500, although there are exaggerated figures placing the number as high as 5,000. Many men were accompanied by their wives and children, and in the confusion, which left no time for discrimination, the latter shared the fate of the men.

The troops, with the exception of a single regiment, which is reported to have thrown down its arms, remained loyal and obeyed orders. But the blood which crimsoned the snow has fired the brains and passions of the strikers and turned women, as well as men, into wild beasts, and the cry of the infuriated populace is for vengeance. The sympathy of the middle classes is with the workmen.

TRAIN HELD UP.

Passengers on O. R. & N. Robbed in City Limits of Portland.

Portland, Jan. 23.—While the "Spokane Flyer" was rushing through the darkness between East Portland station and Thirty-fourth street, shortly before 7 o'clock Saturday night, four masked bandits entered the rear door of the Walla Walla sleeper, the last car of the train, and at the point of a pistol compelled the occupants to deliver their valuables. The robbers then stopped the train by pulling the air cord, sprang off into the night and disappeared. They fired several shots as the train slowed down and thus frightened away pursuit.

The robbers obtained a draft for \$750, several watches and about \$150 in cash. As soon as the robbery became known at police headquarters officers were notified to be on the alert, and a posse of policemen, detectives and railway officers left on an engine for the scene of the robbery. Officers guarded the bridges and the Vancouver ferry. The posse spent the night looking for evidence at the scene of the robbery and in searching throughout the neighboring country, but nothing was found.

Two men were arrested at The Dalles when the train reached there. They were found on the "blind baggage" and answered a general description of two of the hold-up men. It is believed that when the train slowed down they jumped off and ran forward before the train crew had time to get outside and discover them.

Position of the Armies.

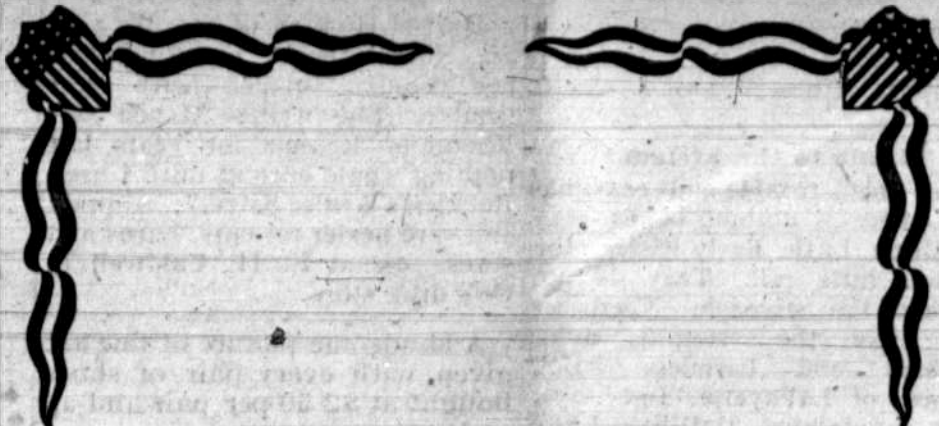
Tokio, Jan. 23.—In well informed quarters here it is said that the Russian army at Mukden was recently reinforced by four divisions. Its present strength is estimated at nine army corps, or 300,000 men of all arms. General Kuropatkin's headquarters are at Fong mountain, in close touch with the Mukden-Fushun line. At present two and a half divisions are facing General Oku, two corps are before General Nodzu, and the greater strength of these corps confronts General Kuroki and guards the coal mines.

May Flee From Yellow Fever.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Unofficial advice received here from representatives of the government in the Panama canal zone dated at the end of the first week in January, are to the effect that while the current reports of the prevalence of yellow fever on the isthmus are exaggerated, the pest does exist there, and some apprehension is expressed that, if it continues to spread, there will be a wholesale exodus of the canal builders from the isthmus.

Producing Very Little Coal.

Dortmund, Jan. 23.—About 80 per cent of the coal operatives are striking, and the mines are producing very little coal. The Dortmund iron works are partly shut down. Excellent order prevails. The large mines of the Gelsenkirchen company, located at Marten, near Dortmund, have only 15 per cent of their men working.



No Matter

What

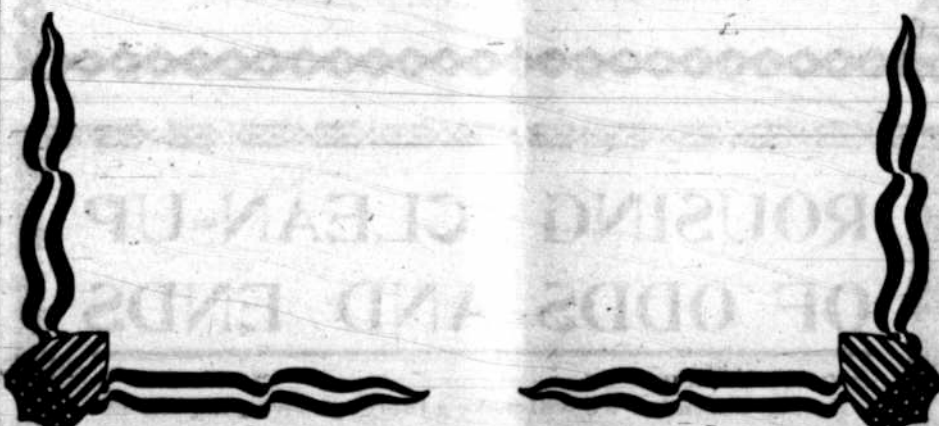
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Leaves Corvallis..... 11:30 A M
Arrives Albany..... 12:15 P M

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Arrives Albany..... 6:40 A M
Leaves Albany for Detroit..... 7:30 A M
Arrives Detroit..... 12:02 P M

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