

GENERAL STRIKE ON

Workmen in Russian Capital Responding to Call.

SIGNS POINT TO A DICTATORSHIP

Grand Duke Nicholas to Lead Fight on Reds—Disturbances and Mutinies Continue.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 4.—St. Petersburg is in darkness tonight. The employees of the electric lighting plants, always the earliest barometric record of political conditions, ceased work during the afternoon in obedience to the call for a general strike. This call already has been obeyed by 20,000 factory hands in the capital. It will be impossible, however, to predict the success of this universal political strike until Monday, as the workmen in St. Petersburg and the provinces have two holidays—Saturday, which is the fete day of the dowager empress and a great religious feast, and their regular holiday of Sunday.

The pickets of cavalry and infantry were the most conspicuous features on the streets of St. Petersburg last night. Business houses generally have boarded up their windows as they did in the days of the great October strike. Practically all of the street cars in the city have stopped running, and the cab drivers are threatening to cease work.

In the meantime the fate of the Stolypin cabinet sways in the balance and Russia is upon the verge of disorders which may lead to the reign of either the military or the proletariat. It can be stated definitely that the steps toward a dictatorship may be taken Sunday or Monday by the nomination of Grand Duke Nicholas to the chief command of all the troops in Russia. This would virtually place him in control of all the disturbed districts of the empire where martial law has been proclaimed.

Artillery in Open Revolt.

Warsaw, Poland, Aug. 4.—A portion of the troops in the Summer Rembertoff, near here, mutinied yesterday and are in open revolt today. The artillerymen have driven their officers out of their quarters. A squadron of Cosacks sent to overpower the mutineers was received with grape shot. Details are lacking, as extraordinary precautions are being taken to prevent the facts becoming public.

Rebels Fire Big Woodyards.

Harkov, Aug. 4.—Fire broke out in several large woodyards in the vicinity of the prison today. This evidently was a device on the part of revolutionists, who hoped to free political leaders during the confusion. The authorities are apprehensive of a renewed effort to the same end.

PUT OUT OF BUSINESS.

Insurance Commissioner Gives Blow to Two Companies.

San Francisco, Aug. 4.—Insurance Commissioner Wolf sent notice today to the president and directors of the Fireman's Fund Insurance company and the Home Fire & Marine Insurance company, both of San Francisco, that unless they made good their deficiency in capital stock in four weeks he will request Attorney General Webb to proceed to ascertain why their licenses to do business in California be revoked.

Both companies have been known to be in financial trouble since the fire. The Home Fire & Marine has announced that it will do no more business. The Fireman's Fund has reinsured its risks to the amount of \$372,584,750, carrying premiums amounting to \$4,471,117 with the new Fireman's Fund corporation, which has been organized since the fire. Both companies have thus confessed failure.

Wolf's order, it is expected, will permanently close their doors.

Subpenas for Standard Men.

New York, Aug. 4.—Forty or more subpenas for officers and employees of the Standard Oil company have been forwarded to New York from Chicago. Several of the officials of the Standard Oil would not say whether they had received the subpenas from Illinois. Inquiries were referred to M. F. Elliott, general counsel for the company, who said so far as he knew no attempt had been made to serve any of the officials. Mr. Elliott would not say what attitude the officials would take in case the subpenas servers put in an appearance.

Stampede to Windy Arm.

Seattle, Aug. 4.—Rich strikes reported in Southeastern Alaska have attracted the longshoremen of Skagway, Juneau and other towns. The men who work along the front have stampeded to Windy Arm in such numbers that the sailors on the coastwise fleet have to unload their own boats.

DARK HOUR IN RUSSIA.

New Mutinies Break Out as Fast as Others Are Suppressed.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—Nearly 3,000 sappers, sailors, pioneers and miners at Cronstadt mutinied about 11 o'clock last night. They planned to seize the forts and the bridge leading to Fort Cronstadt, but their plans were foiled by the precautions taken by the commander. After a severe fight the loyal troops opened fire on them with machine guns, and as they had no artillery available and the arsenal had been stripped before they could seize it, they had no alternative but surrender. A court martial began sitting this morning, and is sentencing the mutineers to death by hundreds.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—The crew of the armored cruiser Pamyat Azova mutinied off the Estonian coast and is now in full possession of the ship, which has sailed northward in the direction of the Finnish gulf.

Reval, Aug. 3.—The cruiser Pamyat Azova has arrived in the roadstead here in the possession of the loyal portion of her crew. One hundred and fifty of the mutineers have been sent ashore and imprisoned. The mutineers were overpowered by the loyal sailors while the ship was at sea.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—The crew of the Russian cruiser Asia, which was sent to Abo, has hoisted the red flag. The vessel has left in the direction of Sveaborg.

The ministry of marine has confirmed the report that Admiral Birleff had gone to Helsingfors on board the school ship Asia, whose crew has mutinied.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—Military disorders have broken out at Reval. Details cannot be obtained.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—Although the mutinies at Sveaborg have been ended and the one at Cronstadt has been practically put down, the outlook is still black. The revolutionists, whose hands were suddenly forced by the premature rising at Sveaborg, apparently are undaunted at these initial reverses and intend to persist in their program of calling a general strike on Saturday or Monday.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 3.—On the heels of the other bad news comes the startling statement that the emperor has flatly refused to accept the conditions to which Premier Stolypin agreed in his negotiations with Count Heydon, Alexander Guchkoff, Prince Nicholas Loeff, Paul Vinogradoff and Senator Koni for the reorganization of the cabinet.

There is an increasing apprehension that the emperor proposes to take the final step of turning the country over to the military dictatorship of Grand Duke Nicholas.

The Streets of St. Petersburg are again filled with patrols.

ISLANDS' RICE IMPORTS SMALL.

Ide Says They Produce More, Merchants They Eat Less.

Manila, Aug. 3.—Governor Ide has received reports stating that during the fiscal year ending June 30 the importations of rice to the Philippines decreased 61,072,411 pounds, valued at \$3,084,783 in gold. Commenting on the reports Governor Ide says:

"From these reports it appears that the number of pounds of rice imported into the Philippines during the fiscal year of 1906 was something less than three-sevenths of the importations of 1901, and the cash sent out from the islands for rice was less than four-elevenths of the sum sent in 1894. If the same ratio of decrease for a year or even a semester, no more rice will be imported and in two years the islands, besides supplying the home demand, ought to be exporting rice."

The publication of these reports has caused a controversy. The local shippers contend that the decrease of importations is a result of the poverty of the people, who, it is alleged, are not buying rice, but are living on yams and other food. The shippers declare that the Philippines will never export rice.

Catholics for Limited Divorce.

Buffalo, Aug. 3.—At today's meeting of the American Federation of Catholics a resolution was adopted defining the position of the federation on the question of divorce. It recommends the enactment of laws granting a separate or limited divorce in those states which have no such laws, and in states which grant absolute divorces the federation asks that the applicant be allowed to ask for a limited divorce on the same grounds under which an absolute divorce is granted. Limited divorce in extreme cases is recommended.

Wilson Will Surprise Packers.

Washington, Aug. 3.—Secretary Wilson left today to pay a surprise visit of inspection to several slaughtering and packing houses in the East. Upon leaving his office the secretary gave instructions that to all inquiries regarding him the answer should be that he is gone away and it is not known when he would return.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

FOR EQUITABLE TAX.

State Commission Proposes Revision of Present Law.

Salem—With a view to securing a more equitable assessment of property in this state, the Oregon Tax commission has recommended a revision of the law governing the equalization of assessments by the county board. In this connection, the commission gives its flat disapproval to the plan outlined in the newspapers in the locality in which the property assessed is located.

The proposed revision of the law relating to equalization of the assessment is largely based upon inconsistencies in the present law, but also upon a laxity in the law by which wealthy property owners have been able to coerce county courts into allowing an inequitable assessment to stand. The commission proposes a law which seems to have "teeth in it," and which will be effective if county officers are disposed to do their duty.

The inconsistency in the present law lies in the fact that the county board of equalization is required to meet on the last Monday in August, while the assessor is given until the first Monday in September to file his roll, or until the first Monday in October if the county court makes an order to that effect. At the same time there is no authority of law for an extension of the time of meeting of the county board of equalization.

Assessors usually take the full time to prepare their rolls, and very frequently ask for and are granted the extension of time. Commenting upon this condition of the law, the commission says that "the board of equalization is thus required to meet perhaps six weeks before the assessment roll is completed, and as its functions lapse when it has been in session a week, it must have passed out of legal existence at a date before the assessor is required to have the assessment roll ready to equalize."

"Under the present system we have practically two boards of equalization," says the commission, "one meeting after the other, and having full power to undo the work of its predecessor. The county board of equalization continues in session one week, and if it does not complete its work within the week, the county court, at its next regular session, completes the examination and correction of the roll."

The new law is to do away with this, making provision for the board meeting after the roll is completed.

This proposed law contains several provisions that seem to be an improvement upon the existing law. In the first place, a taxpayer will not go before the county board of equalization unless he has a real grievance, for the court has power to raise his assessment, and his formal petition will serve to call the attention of his neighbors and the public generally to the representations he is making governing the value of his property. Placing the matter of equalization entirely in the hands of one board instead of two will centralize the responsibility and give time and opportunity for careful and well advised work.

Fire Precautions at Asylum.

Salem—Lest friends and relatives of the 1,420 patients confined in the insane asylum may be unduly concerned as to their welfare on account of the recent fire at that institution, an official of the asylum says that none of the patients were in danger, and would not be even in case of a fire serious enough to destroy a considerable portion of the building. The facilities for getting patients out of the building are such that a disastrous fire need not cause the loss of a single life. In this particular the building could scarcely be improved.

Umatilla Canal Contract Let.

Washington—The secretary of the interior has awarded the contract to the Puget Sound Bridge & Dredging company, of Seattle, for the construction of the storage feed canal of the Umatilla irrigation project. The work of the contract involves the construction of 25 miles of canal from the Umatilla river, near Echo, to Cold Springs reservoir, and consists of 700,000 cubic yards of earth excavation, 6,000 cubic yards of rock excavation, 2,300 cubic yards of concrete and 2,600 cubic yards of riprap. The bid was \$16,388.

Wheat Yield About Normal.

Pendleton—The harvest in all parts of Umatilla county has commenced. The threshing up to this time has been too limited to make a very close estimate of the yield, but from what has been threshed on the reservation, and around Athena it is thought the yield in those districts will be about normal, and had it not been for the hot winds the yield would have been at least 25 per cent above the average.

Flour Mills Closed Down.

La Grande—The flouring mills of La Grande, Island City and Union have closed down, having utilized all the old supply of wheat.

LAW UNCONSTITUTIONAL.

Household Goods Not Entitled to Exemption, Says Supreme Court.

Salem—By holding, in a decision just rendered, that the householders' tax exemption is unconstitutional, the Oregon Supreme court has declared void a statute that has been in force in this state almost continuously since 1859. Householders' exemptions have been allowed every year except 1904, when the exemption law had been repealed. It was re-enacted by the special session of 1903, but went into effect too late to be applicable to the assessment of 1904.

Approximately \$8,000,000 has been exempted from taxation in this state from year to year, and legislators, county officers and the people generally have recognized the exemption as valid. Now the Supreme court has declared all these exemptions invalid.

This decision will make it necessary for county assessors in many counties to make a reassessment of property in their counties for 1906, for it is the practice of many assessors not to list property that is exempt. In some and perhaps most of the counties the assessors list the exempt property and make the deductions afterward.

Clackamas Farmers Are Happy.

Oregon City—There is an abundant yield of all hay and grain crops in Clackamas county this year that surpass the average in quality. Early fruits and vegetables yielded heavily, while the vineyard, field and orchard with maturing crops, give the producer every assurance of increased prosperity with the harvest. In celebration of the large and satisfactory crops, a number of harvest festivals have been held and others are being arranged. It has been years since Clackamas county farmers were as prosperous and contented.

Yields 90 Bushels an Acre.

Weston—A remarkably heavy yield of barley has just been harvested on the farm of O. C. Turner, two miles north of this place. The yield from 14 acres was 529 sacks, or 1,267 bushels, an average of 90½ bushels to the acre. Turner Bros. were expecting a good yield, but did not look for more than 70 bushels to the acre, which is a big yield.

Half Million to Clackamas Roll.

Oregon City—By the decision of the Supreme court on the tax exemption law, Assessor Nelson reports that there will be added to the Clackamas county assessment rolls about \$400,000 additional on which next year's tax levy will be made. Revision will delay the task of completing the rolls which were received from the state authorities ten weeks later than the usual time.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 71c; bluestem, 73c; red, 69c; valley, 71c; new club, 70c; new bluestem, 72c; valley, 71c.
Oats—No. 1 white feed, 30c; gray, 29c per ton.
Barley—Feed, 23.50 per ton; brewing, 23.50 per ton; rolled, 24c@24.50.
Rye—\$1.50 per cwt.
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$11@12.50 per ton; clover, \$8.50@9; cheat, \$6.50@7; grain hay, \$7@8; alfalfa, \$11.

Fruits—Apples, \$1.50@2.25 per box; apricots, \$1.25@1.35; cherries, 6@10c per pound; currants, 9@10c; peaches, 7c@11.10 per box; plums, \$1.25; Logan berries, \$1.35@1.40 per crate; raspberries, \$1.40@1.50; blackberries, 8c per pound; gooseberries, 8c.

Vegetables—Beans, 5@7c per pound; cabbage, 13c@2c; corn, 15@20c per dozen; cucumbers, 40@50c per dozen; egg plant, 10@15c per pound; lettuce, head, 25c per dozen; onions, 10@12c; peas, 4@5c per pound; radishes, 10@15c per dozen; rhubarb, 2@2½c per pound; spinach, 2@3c; tomatoes, \$1.25@3 per box; parsley, 25c; squash, \$1@1.25 per crate; turnips, 90c@1 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack.

Onions—New, red, 1¼@1½c per pound; new yellow, 1¼@2c per pound.
Potatoes—Old Burbanks, nominal; new potatoes, 75c@1.25.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 30@22½c per pound.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 21@21½c per dozen.

Poultry—Average old hens, 13@14c per pound; mixed chickens, 13@13½c; springs, 16@17; roosters, 9@10c; dressed chickens, 14@15c; turkeys, live, 15@17c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 20@22½c; geese, live, 8@9c; ducks, 11@13c.

Hops—Oregon, 1905, 11@12c; olds, 9c; 1906 contracts, 12@15c per pound.
Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 16@20c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@22, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28@30c per pound.

Veal—Dressed, 5¼@8c per pound.
Beef—Dressed bulls, 3c per pound; cows, 4¼@5½c; country steers, 5@6c.
Mutton—Dressed fancy, 7@8c per pound; ordinary, 5@6c; lambs, fancy, 8@8½c.
Pork—Dressed, 7@8½c per pound.

LOSS BY DISASTER.

Insurance Companies Make Returns in San Francisco.

Albany, N. Y., July 31.—State Superintendent of Insurance Otto Kelsey tonight made public the results of his investigation as to the losses of fire insurance companies in the San Francisco disaster.

All joint stock fire and inland marine insurance companies transacting business in the state were called on for a sworn statement as to their losses in California. The companies were asked for the gross amount of insurance involved in risks destroyed or damaged, the deduction for amounts recovered by reinsurance, the deduction for estimated salvage, the total deduction and the net amount of loss as shown by the records June 30, 1906.

The New York state companies, 47 in number, show the gross amount of insurance involved as \$41,110,069; the reinsurance to be recovered, \$10,834,195; the estimated salvage, \$7,137,183, and the actual amount of loss \$23,138,680.

Returns from other joint stock fire and fire marine insurance companies, 84 in number, show the gross amount of insurance \$80,423,704; reinsurance to be recovered, \$22,130,167; estimated salvage, \$11,358,25; actual amount of loss, \$56,935,111.

The foreign companies, 32 in number, made these returns: Gross insurance involved, \$101,430,533; reinsurance to be recovered, \$32,281,808; estimated salvage, \$153,18,859; actual loss, \$57,701,856.

The gross amount of insurance involved by all companies was \$222,830,307; reinsurance, \$65,246,771; salvage, \$33,814,468, and actual loss, \$132,823,067.

TIE-UP IS NOW COMPLETE.

Kruttschnitt Forbids More Freight Cars in San Francisco.

San Francisco, July 31.—The embargo of the Southern Pacific on lumber, lime and hay has been increased, and now includes all articles from the north. Not a pound of freight can be shipped into San Francisco from Portland or adjacent territory until the freight tie-up at San Francisco has been loosened.

This is the latest edict of Julius Kruttschnitt, who has been threatening to do this for some time unless the situation speedily cleared. It has been decided by the local authorities to take no further chances but to stop at once all shipments from the north.

For the embargo there is only one remedy—to clear up the congestion in the freight yards. Efforts in this direction are being made by all the freight agents, and the missionary work among the consignees is having a salutary effect. The unloading in the yards is going on at a faster rate, but not fast enough to suit Kruttschnitt, who has taken the precaution to see that no more cars are added to the glut that is already crowding the tracks.

The tie up is working to the detriment of the city, as many merchants throughout the state are sending East for their goods instead of patronizing the wholesalers of San Francisco, believing that they can secure their stocks just as quickly under present conditions.

ARREST CAUSES MUTINY.

Battalion of Russian Troops Attempts to Rescue Prisoners.

Poltava, July 31.—A grave outbreak occurred yesterday in the Sevsky regiment owing to the arrest of a private of the First battalion, who was discovered with some other soldiers in a shed where the revolutionists are in the habit of holding meetings. After the arrest the entire First battalion, accompanied by a large crowd, paraded the streets in defiance of the military authorities.

The soldiers proceeded to the artillery barracks, where they seized several guns and marched with them to the prison, where the political prisoners are confined. At this stage all the remainder of the Poltava garrison was called out.

The loyal troops fired on the mutineers with machine guns as they were engaged in breaking down the gate of the prison. Several men were killed or wounded. The outbreak was not suppressed until 2 o'clock this morning.

Patent Office Behind.

Washington, July 31.—Patent attorneys throughout the country are arranging to send a delegation to see President Roosevelt at Oyster Bay and request him to either remove Commissioner Allen or cause such change in methods as will place the patent office on a satisfactory basis. The work of the patent office, attorneys declare, has been running behind since the appointment of Mr. Allen, five years ago. There are now 23,000 applications for patents unacted upon, besides numerous copyrights, trade marks, etc.

Viborg Manifesto Seized.

Kharkov, July 31.—The authorities have seized copies of the Viborg manifesto issued by the outlawed parliament to the weight of 400 pounds which have been surreptitiously shipped into Kharkov.

MAY EXPEL EUROPE

Paris Paper Fears South American Trade May Be Lost.

CALLS ON FRANCE TO WATCH ROOT

The United States Already Dominates North America and May Secure South America.

Paris, Aug. 2.—The Liberte of Wednesday night, under the caption of "Victims of the Monroe Doctrine," printed a long and vigorous article on Secretary of State Root and the Pan-American congress. It taunts the French press for grudgingly printing a paragraph about Mr. Root's taunting South America with a list of contestants in a recent swimming match and the names of meritorious agriculturists. It ironically quotes an editor, who said that foreign politics are not sufficiently Parisian to interest the elite public and then twice the leaders of the republic with making the question of conferring the decoration of the Legion of Honor on Sarah Bernhardt the principal affair of state and tacitly asking why they should worry over South Americans, who interest Parisians only in vaudeville.

All this time, says the Liberte, Mr. Root was preparing, if he had not already made effective, the most redoubtable operation in political economics, of which the French will be dupes and with them all other Latin people, who, imitating them, try to be Parisians. The results of ten years of intrigue in Pan-America are likely to be effective soon. Europe has already been expelled from North America, and she will be expelled from South America in less than six years unless there is energetic resistance immediately.

Continuing the paper says that a few facts today are startlingly clear. Among them is the fact that Europe has no right to defend her financial and commercial interests in South America, the United States saying in effect that each nation is master of its own home with the United States at home everywhere. Against 75,000,000 Latin people stood Secretary Root and to that Yankee intruder went favors and benefits because he alone spoke, flattered and menaced. He alone acted, while Latin Europe abstained. Already distant lands have slipped into Yankee hands, while at Constantinople, St. Petersburg, Tokio and Algiers the same Root intervened at his convenience and Europe stupidly respected the Monroe doctrine. Before the conclusion of the third Pan American congress it will have cost the Latin peoples a continent they peopled and financed.

MUTINY SPREADS TO FLEET.

Ships Go to Aid of Forts, Which May Have Given Up.

Viborg, Aug. 2.—It is reported here that the Russian fleet, stationed at Hango, Finland, has mutinied, imprisoning the officers and siding to the assistance of the mutineers at Sveaborg.

Helsingfors, Aug. 2.—At 7 o'clock last evening the battleship Czarevitch and the cruiser Bogatyr opened fire on the mutineers at a distance of 50 cable lengths. The mutineers replied, but their shots seemed to fall short. The firing ceased at 9 o'clock and the boats were then seen leaving the islands with wounded.

Helsingfors, Aug. 2.—The latest news from the fortress tends to confirm a previous report that the mutineers have surrendered.

The mutineers had the upper hand until the battleships arrived and began to bombard them with telling effect. The men were undoubtedly led to surrender because of their lack of big guns, their need of provisions, which they had failed to secure, and the arrival of the warships.

Reinforcements have arrived here and have been hurried to effective positions.

Jeers for Dr. Devine.

San Francisco, Aug. 2.—A banquet was given to Dr. Devine, the national Red Cross representative who had charge of the relief work here after the fire and who is about to return to his home in the East. A number of the disappointed persons who are living in the refuge camps took advantage of the occasion to work up a demonstration against the methods of the relief commission, and as a result a throng of people gathered at Union square in front of the St. Francis hotel, where the banquet was held.

Rebels Steal Machine Gun.

St. Petersburg, Aug. 2.—A machine gun was stolen last night from an arms factory in the Vasil Ostrov district of this city. It is suspected that the robbery was committed with cognizance of the sentinels on duty at the factory. At a secret meeting last night of the Putilov works employes, an spy was discovered and killed.