

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

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Forty-sixth Year.
Daily—Eleventh Year.

RAILROAD STRIKE FOR 8 HOUR DAY BEGINS SATURDAY

Brotherhoods Hold Conference Thursday With Railroad Managers and if Agreement Fails, Progressive Series of Strikes Begin—Assure President of Co-operation.

NEW YORK, March 13.—Information received by the national conference committee, composed of managers of the great railway systems and made public today indicates that the four employes' brotherhoods have completed arrangements for a progressive series of strikes to begin at 6 o'clock eastern time, on Saturday night, if the conference on the eight hour question held here Thursday fails to reach a satisfactory agreement.

The proposed strike agreement, according to this information, is as follows:

"Saturday, 6 p. m., call out all trainmen in freight service on the New York Central, Baltimore and Ohio, Erie, Atlantic coast line, Southern railroad, Louisville and Nashville and Seaboard Airline.

Progressive Strike.
"Such an order would involve 40,000 men.

"Monday March 19, 6 p. m. call out the freight trainmen on the Lehigh Valley, Lackawanna, Jersey City, Pennsylvania, Long Island, Maine Central, Delaware and Hudson, Reading and all other roads in the southeastern territory or extending to New York.

"Tuesday, March 20, 6 p. m. call out all the freight trainmen in the northwestern group, including the Hill roads and all those centering at Chicago.

"Chicago, March 21, 6 p. m. if the railroads still refuse to grant the men's terms, extend the strike to all other freight trainmen and call out the passenger trainmen on every road in the country."

President Notified.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The railroad brotherhoods on March 7 wrote President Wilson, it became known today, formally notifying him of the conference with the railroad representatives scheduled for March 15. In this letter the brotherhood leaders declared they were "hopeful" of making satisfactory adjustment of questions pending with the railroads.

The brotherhood representatives also informed President Wilson that if while they were negotiating with the railroads the nation became involved in war they would co-operate to the fullest extent with the government.

Neither President Wilson nor Secretary Wilson of the department of labor had official information today regarding the intention of the brotherhoods to strike unless a satisfactory arrangement was reached at Thursday's conference.

Investigation Began.
An investigation was begun through governmental agencies however.

It was stated that there was little of a definite character today the government could do until the outcome of the meeting in New York Thursday is known.

At the direction of President Wilson, Secretary Wilson of the department of labor will keep in close touch with the conference in New York and should it fall the government will then consider further steps.

Government officials regarded it as inconceivable that there should be a nation-wide railroad strike at this time and while no plans have been mapped out it was generally taken for granted that the president will use his utmost efforts to prevent such a strike.

TO SEARCH STEAMERS FOR HIDDEN BOOZE

EUREKA, Cal., March 13.—Steamship companies announced here today that all passengers and members of crews on steamships leaving Eureka for Coos Bay, Oregon, might expect to be searched for contraband liquor at Coos Bay. Finding of whiskey aboard steamers arriving at Portland, it was said, brought about the search order.

BRITISH CAVALRY OCCUPIES KAZIMAIN IN PERSIAN DRIVE

LONDON, March 13.—British cavalry from Bagdad has occupied Kazimain, on the Tigris river, five miles above Bagdad, it was officially announced today. The occupation took place on March 11.

WITNESSES TELL OF BILLINGSLEY'S CALLS ON GILL

SEATTLE, Wash., March 13.—The government this morning placed witnesses on the stand in the so-called whiskey graft trial to corroborate the testimony of Logan Billingsley, confessed liquor seller and principal witness against Mayor Hiram C. Gill. The mayor, Chief of Police Beckingham, former Sheriff Robert T. Hodge and City Detectives Peyser, Poolman, Doon and McLennan are charged with conspiracy to violate the federal laws by importation of liquor into the state of Washington. H. G. Allen, formerly a clerk at the apartment house where Logan Billingsley lives, testified that Logan Billingsley called the residence of Mayor Gill at 2 o'clock last Christmas morning, and Mrs. Gill answered the telephone. Billingsley asked for the mayor. The witness did not listen to the conversation. This testimony was corroborative of Billingsley's statement that on his return from San Francisco he called the mayor by telephone and the mayor refused to talk with him.

George M. Pearsons, an automobile dealer, testified that he drove Logan Billingsley from the Planters hotel to the city hall on August 20 last, the day on which Logan Billingsley alleges he gave Mayor Gill a bribe of \$4,000. Pearsons swore that he sat in his car an hour and a half outside while Billingsley was in the office of the chief of police. Witness swore he could see through the window into the office. Billingsley and a man in uniform were in the office together all the time. The defense examined him particularly as to the officer in uniform.

HEAVY FIGHTING WESTERN FRONT

BERLIN, March 13.—The British made an attack yesterday over a wide front south of Arras. Today's official announcement says the attack failed and that heavy losses were inflicted on the British.

PARIS, March 13.—Several attacks were made by the Germans last night and all were repulsed, the war office announced today. A strong German detachment which attempted to advance on the Comry road was checked. Another futile attempt was made near Beaulne-et-Chivry. Two German attacks on Hill 155 and on Louvemont work on the Verdun front were countered easily. The French took 150 prisoners yesterday.

During the night the Germans bombarded Soissons. The French successfully raided German trenches between the Avre and the Aisne.

WOOL GROWERS SEEK NEW RATES

SALT LAKE CITY, March 13.—Charging that many of the western states are being discriminated against in the matter of rates and that laws enacted to regulate commerce are being violated by the railroads, W. W. McClure, secretary of the National Wool Growers' association today filed a protest with the interstate commerce commission against 25 public carriers of the United States asking for relief.

PROPOSE PLAN TO SETTLE RATES TO COAST POINTS

Inter-State Commerce Commission Places Before Railroads Proposals for Permanent Solution of Inter-Mountain Rate Cases—Abolition of Preferential Rates Proposed.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The inter-state commerce commission has placed before all railroads concerned proposals looking to the permanent solution of the inter-mountain rate cases. The plan provides for the abolition of preferential rates in existence for many years on many articles of west-bound trans-continental freight to Pacific coast ports.

Existing rates on a wide range of commodities from eastern cities to Pacific coast ports are found unreasonably low and adjustment would be effected under the proposed plans by raising through rates and prescribing proportional rates to intermediate points.

Water Competition a Myth.

The railroads are given until April 2 to submit proposed changes in the plan. The case will be argued before the commission April 3 and 4 and will then be taken under consideration for final decision.

Tentative findings, reached after long and painstaking investigation include the following:
"Existing water competition is found to be a negligible factor in affecting the rates by rail between Atlantic and Pacific coast terminals.

"Rates on commodities from eastern territories to Pacific coast terminals lower than the rates on like traffic to intermediate points are not justified under existing conditions.

"Present rates on specified commodities from all eastern defined territories to Pacific coast terminals are found not unreasonably low nor to have been induced by water competition.

Readjust Interior Rates.

"The rates to Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Colorado and Montana as well as to California, Oregon and Washington should be adjusted at this time as fully as now can be determined. The facts do not admit of such a finding as is sought by the carriers, the coast cities and the eastern shippers, namely that present conditions justify lower rates to the coast cities than to intermediate points. Neither do the facts altogether admit of such a finding as is sought by the representatives of the intermountain states, namely that all of these rates to Pacific coast cities are reasonable and fully remunerative. Some of the rates are unreasonably low; many of the rates, however, are not unreasonably low.

"Rates from all eastern defined territories to all points west of the Missouri river should be so adjusted now that upon the return of water competition, which may necessitate reductions in rates to the Pacific coast, the rates to intermediate points need not be disturbed, except to the point to which rates may be affected by combination on the coast.

MYSTERIOUS TRUNK SEIZED BY BRITISH

LONDON, March 13.—The story of a mysterious trunk which was on board the Frederick VIII, the steamer which brought Count Von Bernstorff from the United States to Copenhagen, is given prominence by the Express. The trunk is said to have been consigned to Stockholm by the Swedish minister to the United States and to have borne the seal of the Swedish consulate in New York.

The story says that the trunk was held at Halifax because its seals were broken and that it will be sent to England by a British warship. After it reaches the British capital it will be turned over to the Swedish legation, where its contents will be examined in the presence of British officials. The Express suggests that the trunk was opened between New York and Halifax to permit the insertion of secret documents belonging to Count Von Bernstorff.

AMBASSADOR GERARD AND PARTY ARRIVE ON AMERICAN SOIL

DAYTON, Fla., March 13.—When former Ambassador Gerard and party arrived here today they were met by several hundred citizens and winter residents headed by a band. Mr. Gerard smilingly received the noisy welcome.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR ARMED GUARDS BY SECRETARY LANSING

WASHINGTON, March 13.—Complete and definite instructions to the "armed guards" to be placed aboard American merchant craft bound through the German submarine zones have been completed by the navy department and approved by Secretary Lansing. They will be forwarded to the navy personnel aboard the merchant craft whenever the ships which are to be armed are ready to sail.

The nature of the instructions will not be made public. They were carefully prepared by navy officials and then submitted to Secretary Lansing, at whose suggestion some amendment was made.

It is planned not to broadcast the orders generally through the naval service but to furnish the officer in command of the armed guard on each ship with a copy when his vessel is ready to sail.

The navy department is making every effort to suppress all information regarding armed ships such as sailing dates, the equipment put aboard by the navy, the personnel supplied to handle the guns or anything that might be of the slightest value to an enemy. It was said officially, however, that no conflict of jurisdiction between the shipmaster and the gun crews would arise.

RAIDER HUNTER SIGHTED AT SEA

NEW YORK, March 13.—An unidentified steamer assumed to be an enemy vessel hunting for possible German raiders, was sighted off the Azores islands on February 24 by the officers of the Norwegian steamship Askild, which arrived here today from Gibraltar.

The officers said the stranger, carrying four masts and two funnels and painted gray, did not interfere with the Askild after coming close enough to determine her nationality.

A tank vessel which reached here last week reported the presence of what was believed to be an armed German merchant ship north of the Azores.

5 DEAD, 15 ENTOMBED PENNSYLVANIA MINE

PITTSBURGH, March 13.—Five bodies have been recovered and fifteen men are still entombed in the mine of the Henderson Coal company near Canonsburg, Pa., where two explosions occurred early this morning, according to officials of the Pittsburgh station of the bureau of mines late today. The announcement was based on the report of D. J. Parker, in charge of the government's rescuers at the mine.

CHINESE TONG WAR EXTENDS TO LA GRANDE

LA GRANDE, Ore., March 13.—William Eng, a Hip Sing Chinese tong man was killed in a tong revolver duel staged here today noon on the street in front of the La Grande post-office. His assailant, police said, dodged through the crowd of spectators and escaped through the Hip Sing headquarters. A bystander, Mrs. George, was struck but not seriously wounded, by a glancing bullet.

UNITED STATES CEASES BELGIAN RELIEF EFFORTS

Probable Early Withdrawal of All American Participation in Aiding Belgians Due to Germany's Torpedoing Relief Ships in Effort to Break Up Relief Work.

WASHINGTON, Mar. 13.—Probable early withdrawal of all American participation in Belgian relief, including the withdrawal of Brand Whitlock, American minister, from Brussels, as a result of the pressure of the German submarine campaign was forecasted today at the state department. The official report on the submarine of the relief ship Storstad intensified the situation. Consul Frost at Queenstown reported as follows:

Norwegian steamship Storstad, Buenos Aires, bound to Rotterdam, nine thousand tons maize, Belgian relief under English charter, sunk by German submarine seventy miles to west of Skellig, eleven thirty, a. m. March 8. Submarine first shelled ship from three miles for fifteen minutes during which Storstad stopped and hoisted abundant unmistakable signals Belgian relief errand.

"After fifteen minutes interval submarine torpedoed Storstad without warning from 400 yards, Belgian relief signals being prominently visible. Ship carried neither gun nor wireless, no shelling during abandonment. Submarine interviewed captain's boat for all particulars, refusing request for towage, then fired an additional shell at torpedoed sinking ship, no attempt to escape or resist. Weather heavy, sea strong, east wind, dull, showery skies. Three boats became separated, captain's boat rescued by patrol near Skelligs. After severe battle with seas, fourth engineer died exposure and shock. Sole American aboard, John Roy Christian, 121 Mercer street, Seattle, saved, affidavit taken. Other two boats landed Capricehaven at evening tenth. Have telegraphed consul Liverpool take affidavits officers. Total deaths three. This report also ambassador, consul general."

Swiss Share in Work.
Arrangements have been made for some time for the replacement of Americans by a joint Dutch-Spanish commission, but as there are practically no Spanish in Belgium, it is possible that the Swiss will share in the work. Germany's unwillingness to guarantee safety of relief snips leads officials here to the belief that she is trying to break up the relief work.

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The senate was in session six minutes today and adjourned until tomorrow, when it is expected that the foreign relations committee may be ready to recommend some action on the Colombian treaty.

The senate foreign relations committee today approved in modified form the treaty with Colombia by which the United States will pay that republic \$25,000,000 for the partition of Panama. It will be pressed to a vote in the present special senate session.

NINE INJURED IN LOS ANGELES FIRE

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 13.—Nine persons were injured and 23 were overcome by smoke and taken to hospitals today in a spectacular downtown fire that blocked all traffic for hours, destroyed one end of a five-story building and furnished the setting for scores of rescues while thousands applauded.

The damage probably will not exceed \$125,000, according to insurance adjusters, but for three hours practically every fire company in the city was at the scene.

Scores of persons were carried from the Occidental hotel down ladders and fire escapes, many of them scantily clad. Sales girls from surrounding department stores and from the burning building fainted and some were overcome by smoke.

Among the injured were eight firemen.

ARMED MAN CHASES GOVERNOR LISTER OUT OF OFFICE WITH GUN

OLYMPIA, Wa., March 13.—An unknown armed man chased Governor Ernest Lister out of his office this afternoon. The stranger holds possession of the office, while the sheriff and police guard all the doors and watch outside.

MAIL IS SEIZED ON AMERICAN SHIP BY GREAT BRITAIN

NEW YORK, March 13.—Mail carried on an American ship, the Standard Oil tanker John D. Archbold, was removed by the British authorities at Halifax, according to the officers of the vessel, which arrived here today from Bergen, Norway. This is said to be the first time that a ship flying the American flag on the Atlantic has been denied the privilege of transporting mail from a foreign country either neutral or belligerent.

The John D. Archbold took out of Bergen 30 sacks of mail from Norway, Denmark and Sweden. The vessel followed the custom of other neutral ships by putting in at Halifax instead of Kirkwall. There she was detained three days, according to the officers, and all the mail taken off for examination. The tanker resumed her voyage without it.

Since the German submarine blockade began no mails have reached here on Scandinavian or Dutch ships. The Bergensfjord and Kristianfjord, the only two Scandinavian passenger liners to risk the voyage since February 1, sailed without passengers, cargo or mail.

THAW ADJUDGED INSANE BY COURT

PHILADELPHIA, March 13.—Harry K. Thaw was today adjudged a lunatic by the common pleas court of this city and under the law cannot be taken to New York on requisition to stand trial on charges of assaulting Frederick Gump, Jr., a high school student at Kansas City, Mo. Thaw will be kept in St. Maries hospital here pending his removal to a Pennsylvania asylum.

The court's action was based on the report presented today by a lunacy commission which yesterday took the testimony of Thaw and his mother.

MORE MONEY NEEDED BY GREAT BRITAIN

LONDON, March 13.—Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, stated in the house of commons today that a supplementary vote of credit to meet increased unforeseen expenditure would be moved on Thursday. When the last vote of credit was passed it was expected that it would carry over the present fiscal year.

SENATE CONSIDERS COLUMBIA TREATY

NEW YORK, March 13.—The decision of the common pleas court of Philadelphia declaring Harry K. Thaw insane, which it is believed there will frustrate attempts to bring him to this city for trial on charges of assaulting Frederick Gump, Jr., will not deter District Attorney Swann, it was learned here today, from making application to Governor Brumbaugh for Thaw's extradition.

CAPTAIN BOY-ED GERMAN PLOTTER HERE IN DISGUISE

Naval Attache Dismissed for Conspiring Against Munition Plants, Seen in Philadelphia—Supposed to Be Brains of Mexican Plot—Now Supposed to Be En Route to Mexico

PHILADELPHIA, March 13.—Captain Boy-Ed, former naval attache of the German embassy at Washington, was in this city as recently as a week ago, it was admitted late today by Frank Garbarino, head of the Philadelphia bureau of investigation of the smuggling plot involving the two interned German commerce raiders of the Philadelphia navy yards for which five Philadelphia-Americans are under arrest.

Brain of Conspiracy.
Captain Boy-Ed with Captain Von Pape was dismissed from the country by President Wilson in December, 1915, for alleged conspiracy. Boy-Ed is believed to have returned to the United States on the German submarine merchantman Deutschland or the U-53 or a German submarine having its base on the Mexican coast. He is suspected of being the brains of the smuggling plot under investigation here.

Traced to Girl's Home.
It is stated that Garbino's men a week ago traced Boy-Ed to the house of a young woman in this city to whom he is said to have been engaged at the time of his forced departure from this country. When the young woman was questioned by the government agents as to her knowledge of Boy-Ed's whereabouts, she declined to answer.

Nothing can be learned of Boy-Ed's present whereabouts. Government agents are said to be searching unsuccessfully for him. He is said to have been in disguise when last here and one theory advanced is that he is now on his way to Mexico.

GERMAN TROOPS IN FOOD RIOTS

NEW YORK, March 13.—Captain Karl Boy-Ed sailed for Europe on December 28, 1915 on the Holland-American line Rotterdam. Little has been heard of his activities in Germany since his departure. He sailed under guarantees of safe conduct from the allied governments.

AMSTERDAM, March 13.—Serious disturbances among the German troops in the vicinity of Namur and Huy are reported by the Telegraf. The paper says it is known that such a large number of soldiers had been imprisoned on charges of insubordination that the prisons in the two towns are crowded to four or five times their normal capacity.

The Telegraf also publishes an account of further food riots in Barmen in which the chief of police was seriously wounded by the stones of the women rioters.

CUNARD FREIGHTER SUNK BY U-BOAT

WASHINGTON, March 13.—The sinking of the Cunard non-passenger liner Follo with one American on board was reported to the state department today in a preliminary dispatch from Consul Frost at Queenstown, as follows:

"Cunard non-passenger Follo sunk off Waterford, tenth. Survivors landed Dungenarron. Single American, boats' surgeon, W. J. Care, Nashville, Tenn., saved uninjured."