



MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE



Forty-seventh Year. Daily—Twelfth Year.

MEDFORD, OREGON, MONDAY, JULY 23, 1917

NO. 104

KERENSKY DICTATOR OF RUSSIA

UNLIMITED POWER GIVEN TO PREMIER TO RESTORE ORDER, SUPPRESS ANARCHY IN RUSSIA

Council of Soldiers and Workmen's Delegates and Peasants of All Russia Grants Government of Premier Kerensky "Unlimited Powers" Under Title of "Government of National Safety," to Grapple With Sinister Forces Threatening to Wreck New Russian Democracy—Prompt Action Follows, Workmen Disarmed and Mutineers In Jail.

"Unlimited powers" have been granted the Russian provisional government under Premier Kerensky to grapple with the sinister forces threatening to wreck the new Russia, born of the March revolution.

The grant comes from the most powerful representative body in the nation, the council of soldiers and workmen's delegates and peasants of all Russia, assembled in Petrograd.

Recall Days of '03. The title of the ruling body, the "Government of National Safety," recalls immediately the famous committee of public safety of 1793, formed in the crucial period of the French revolution. With Kerensky serving not only as premier but as minister of war and marine, it is apparent that vast powers are thus lodged in the hands of this one man, suggesting those of a virtual dictator.

The mandate of this committee is to restore internal order, both at the front and at home—admittedly a difficult task in the face of the powerful influence, both within and without the nation working against the present regime. It is evidently one, however, with which Kerensky concededly the strongest man to be found for the task, is willing to grapple with all his widely recognized force and ability.

PETROGRAD, July 23.—The council of soldiers and workmen's delegates and peasants of all Russia voted today after an all night session to grant the government of Premier Kerensky "unlimited powers" under the title of "government of national safety" for the re-establishment of public order, both at the front and at home.

The sweeping new powers were granted to the provisional government in a resolution "adopted" by a combined meeting of the executive committee of the council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates and the council of peasants' delegates. The resolution which was passed by 252 to 57 read:

"Recognizing that the country is menaced by a military debacle on the front established by an anarchy at home, it is resolved:

"First—That country and the revolution are endangered.

"Second—That the provisional government is proclaimed the government of national affairs.

"Third—That unlimited powers are accorded the government for re-establishing the organization and discipline of the army, for a fight to the finish against the enemies of public order and for the realization of the whole program embodied in the governmental program just announced."

May Proclaim Republic.

LONDON, July 23.—A Ruter dispatch from Petrograd dated Friday reads: "Until early hours this morning the ministers discussed the question of immediately proclaiming Russia a democratic republic. The final

SQUELCH PROBE OF PAPER'S SUSPENSION

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Congressional investigation of the denial of the mails under the espionage law to certain socialist publications was squelched for the time being today when the house postal committee adversely reported a resolution similar to that introduced by Representative London. The postmaster general informed the committee it would be incompatible with public interest to publish the reasons on which he acted.

decision on the subject will be taken after the executive committee of the council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates has announced its course in the matter.

Disarm Workmen.

PETROGRAD, July 23.—The disarming of workmen, including so-called Red Guards, is proceeding systematically in the Vessily Island and Viborg quarters. More than 1200 rifles and revolvers were obtained at the fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul where cases just arrived from America had been broken open. According to the Russian Volia, about a third of the arms stolen since the outbreak have been accounted for. Several carts with shells were stopped on the banks of the Neva. The military authorities knew nothing about them. The drivers were arrested and the carts taken to the arsenal.

Expect Revolution.

PETROGRAD, July 23.—There are indications that the workmen's and soldiers' council, after the events of the past week, and all circumstances connected therewith, are apprehensive of a counter revolution. The central committee has issued a manifesto calling local organizations of the revolutionary democracy and army to be ready at any moment to rally round their political centers, namely the council of the workmen and soldiers.

Troops Fired Upon.

PETROGRAD, July 21.—Fighting which lasted some 20 minutes, occurred early today when troops were fired on while marching to their quarters along the palace quay on the river Neva. The shots came from across the Neva in the vicinity of the Bourse. The troops returned the fire.

Later machine guns were hurled to the scene and poured a stream of lead across the river, silencing the attackers. Several cadets who were aiding the government forces and firing from the winter palace, are reported to have been wounded during the fighting.

Mutineers Subdued.

PETROGRAD, July 23.—A dispatch to the Bourse Gazette from Nijni Novgorod relates that on July 17 a regiment of troops ordered disbanded for insubordination mutinied, were still in control July 20. Cadets sent from Moscow to subdue them battled with revolvers, resulting in casualties on both sides and the surrender of the mutineers, who at last accounts were held prisoner. A parley with the commander of the Moscow garrison after order had been restored resulted in an agreement to surrender control.

Reform the Church.

PETROGRAD, July 23.—An ecclesiastical conference is being held here today. (Continued on Page Two.)

PLANS TO INSURE SOLDIERS AT FRONT

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Plans for insuring and indemnifying officers and enlisted men of the army and navy were considered again today at a conference of life insurance companies with Secretary McAdoo and representatives of government departments. A definite program resulting from the conference is expected to be presented within a week to congress. The chief features under consideration at today's conference propose not only life insurance in case of death, but indemnities in case of injury.

ORDERS GIVEN TO KILL DESERTERS RUSSIAN ARMY

Chaotic Conditions Existing at Front Results in Orders to Punish Malcontents—Many Units Completely Disorganized—Soldiers Debate Whether to Rescue Comrades.

PETROGRAD, Sunday, July 23.—The chaotic conditions prevailing on the part of the Russian front are disclosed in a telegram sent to Premier Kerensky, the provisional government and the council of workmen's and soldiers' delegates by the executive committee and the commissioner of the provisional government with the second army, on the southwestern front. The telegram announced the inauguration of stern measures to combat disaffection.

"We unanimously recognize that the situation demands extreme measures and efforts, for everything must be risked to save the revolution from catastrophe," the message reads. "The commander in chief on the western front and the commander of the second army have today given orders to fire on deserters and runaways.

Shoot the Mutineers.

"Let the country know the truth. Let it act without mercy. Let it find enough courage to strike those who by their cowardice are destroying Russia and the revolution."

Referring to the threatened disaster, the telegram says: "Most military units are in a state of complete disorganization. Their spirit for the offensive has utterly disappeared. They no longer listen to orders of their leaders and they neglect all exhortations of comrades, even replying by threats and shots. Some elements voluntarily evacuated positions without ever waiting for the approach of the enemy.

Troops Lose All Shame.

"Cases are on record in which an order given to proceed with all haste to such and such a spot to assist comrades in distress has been discussed for several hours at meetings and reinforcements consequently have been delayed several hours.

"These troops abandon their positions at the first shots of the enemy. For a distance of several hundred yards long files of deserters, armed and unarmed, men in good health and robust, who have lost all shame and feel they can act altogether with impunity, are proceeding to the rear.

"Frequently entire units desert in this manner."

I. W. W. POISON SHEEP BELONGING TO GREY

KLAMATH FALLS, July 23.—Several sheep belonging to Charles Grey, who owns a ranch between here and Ashland, have been poisoned, according to reports made to authorities here today. Police suspect Industrial Workers of the World of scattering the poison. Grey lost a number of sheep the same way recently.

5 YEAR OLD GIRL BRUTALLY SLAIN

WENATCHEE, Wash., July 23.—Citizens of Cashmere, a small town 17 miles from Wenatchee, are scouring the country for a man who is alleged to have brutally murdered the 5-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George L. Cloud, last night while she lay asleep in her bed. The murder was committed while the parents were attending church services. Two brothers were asleep only a few feet away from the little girl, but were not molested.

MOONEY CASE GOES TO JURY FOR VERDICT

Woman Accused of Conspiring for Bomb Explosion Will Know Fate Tonight—Court in Instructions Says Partisanship and Political Feeling Must Be Barred by Jury.

SAN FRANCISCO, July 23.—The case of Mrs. Rena Mooney, charged with murder as the result of a bomb explosion here last July, which killed ten persons, went to the jury at 12:55 o'clock today. It was not expected that a verdict would be returned before tonight. Mrs. Mooney laughed and chatted with friends as the jury left the court room.

In the course of his instructions to the jury Superior Judge Seawall said: "The jury box is no place for partisanship and no political consideration must enter into your deliberations or verdict.

"You are not bound to heed any theories advanced by either the prosecution or the defense; you must act only on the evidence.

"If a reasonable doubt of guilt has been established, the defendant must have the benefit of such doubt. "It must be clearly established in first degree murder that the alleged murderer had a definite purpose and premeditated the act."

The unofficial jury retired to a separate building for deliberations. Its verdict will be presented to the central labor organizations.

28 INJURED IN TRAIN COLLISION EASTERN OREGON

Baker, Or., July 23.—Twenty-eight were injured, two seriously, when a westbound Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation company freight train collided head-on with a passenger train at Hindman, 16 miles east of here at 6:20 a. m. today.

Passengers were thrown from their berths when the trains crashed, reports said, most of them suffering cuts from flying glass and slight bruises. In the diner the negro cook was frying pancakes and was burned about the face by the hot grease.

Doctors who were hurried from here sent the seriously injured victims back to a local hospital. One is a brakeman who jumped from the freight just before the crash. When he landed he started to climb an embankment, but was caught under lumber falling from a car. His head fell in a hollow of the ground which protected it. He suffered bruises about the body.

Failure of the air brakes on the freight engine to hold caused the wreck, according to reports. The passenger train, pulled by two engines, was on the main line waiting for the approaching freight to take a siding. When the brakes refused to work the freight ran past the switch and crashed into the passenger.

The freight engine and the leading passenger engines were almost demolished. Five freight cars were turned over.

ALLIES REGULATE STEAMSHIP VALUES

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Regulation of ocean steamship rates between the United States and allied nations has been agreed upon in principle by the American and British governments.

France and Italy have signified their unwillingness to accept the principle. Negotiations probably will be opened with Japan upon the arrival here of the Japanese mission headed by Vice Admiral Takekita.

Negotiations are now proceeding between Chairman Denman, of the shipping board and Counselor Polk, of the state department, designated by President Wilson to represent the government, and British admiralty officials to devise a program to make the regulation effective and bring down present prohibitive rates.

DRAFTED MEN NOT ELIGIBLE AS VOLUNTEERS

Registrants Under Selective Draft Law Are Not Eligible for Voluntary Enlistment in Regular Army or National Guard After Their Names Have Been Posted Locally.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Registrants under the selective draft law are not eligible for voluntary enlistment in the regular army or the national guard after their names have been posted by local exemption boards as summoned for examination.

Brigadier General Crowder, provost marshal general, promulgated this ruling today to make definite the status of the men on the registration lists who now may desire to join the regulars or the national guard.

Checking Completed.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Checking the official tally sheets of the draft was about complete today and printing the master sheets which will guide local exemption boards in summoning the men for the first increment of 687,000 troops proceeded rapidly. The sheets probably will start out in the mails late today.

Regulations to govern the application of the master list by the local exemption boards have already been promulgated and include a method by which any difficulties arising from confusion of serial numbers are to be overcome. The plan is to regard such registration cards as additional to the number already provided and the local lists. A separate drawing will be held by the state authorities to place these additional cards and such other cards, as may have come in by mail since July 19, in order as they are drawn. They will then be appended to the registration list of their district and be immediately affected by the selection drawing of last Friday, just as they had been included in the list at that time.

Prepared for Inquiries.

Officials of Provost Marshal General Crowder's office were preparing today for the great number of inquiries and requests for rulings which they expect from the local boards as soon as examinations of the men for the first quotas begins. Probably it will take several days for the boards to become thoroughly familiar with their work. After that officials expect the examinations and exemptions of men or their certification to the higher boards for military duty will proceed rapidly. Within a week after the local boards begin operations the district boards also will be able to begin their work and take up questions of industrial exemptions as rapidly as they arise.

SIAM DECLARES WAR ON GERMANY

WASHINGTON, July 23.—Official notification that Siam had declared war against Germany and Austria at 6 o'clock of July 22, was contained in a telegram to the state department today from the American legation at Bangkok. German and Austrian subjects then were being interned and all German ships had been interned.

ALBANY, Ore., July 23.—Siam's entrance into the war will be of material aid to the allies, asserted W. H. Hornbrook, publisher of the Albany Democrat, and former American minister to Siam, here today.

"Siam's aviation corps is the best in the far east," he said. "Its aviators are remarkably skillful and daring. The country has a standing army of fifty thousand. Its navy consist of 21 vessels."

GERMAN AIR RAID MADE ON HARWICH

BERLIN, July 23.—A German aerial squadron bombarded Harwich, England, on Sunday, it was officially announced today. The squadron, it is stated, returned without having suffered losses.

WILSON USES INFLUENCE IN HOOVER'S BEHALF

President Seeks Adoption of House Provision for Single Food Administrator Instead of Board of Three—House Prohibits to Fight Liquor Amendments Vigorously.

WASHINGTON, July 23.—President Wilson probably will bring his personal influence to bear on senate and house conferees on the food bill to accept the house provision for a single food administrator instead of the board of three as voted by the senate. The president may take a hand in some of the other conflicting actions.

President Wilson is understood to prefer the senate prohibition section forbidding manufacture of distilled liquors but allowing the manufacture of beer and wine. The house put in a "bone dry" section. The president has heretofore opposed a congressional committee to investigate the conduct of the war and there is no reason to believe he will favor such an amendment to the bill.

Prohibits to Fight.

House prohibitionists declared today they would fight some of the liquor amendments to the food bill uncompromisingly, regardless of appeals for speedy agreement. Dry leaders look to making the bill nearer the form in which it left the house—"bone dry" for the duration of the war.

The house dries concede it may be impossible for them to restore the absolute prohibition or manufacture of beer and wine, but they hope to at least get in a section giving the president power to limit or prohibit their production. The Smoot re-distillation amendment also will be subjected to attack because it would not affect liquor out of bond.

GERMAN TROOPS IN EAST AFRICA IN LAST STAND

LONDON, July 23.—German troops in German East Africa attempted to make a stand last week against the allied forces which are gradually closing in on them. An official statement issued here today says heavy fighting took place, in which the Germans suffered large loss. The announcement follows:

"On July 17 the enemy evacuated Mount Shakama. A portion of his forces retreated southwest toward Likawage and the main body fell back on Narongombe. Throughout the 17th and 18th our columns pressed the retreating enemy in a most difficult country, capturing a few prisoners and occupying a ridge two miles north of Narongombe by nightfall of the 18th.

"On the 19th the main enemy positions in the vicinity of Narongombe were attacked. Severe fighting ensued, the enemy offering most stubborn resistance and making numerous counterattacks, in the course of which it is ascertained from prisoners, he sustained heavy losses. Our casualties also were considerable.

"In the Rutiji area the enemy evacuated Kitope, our column having driven his rear guard toward Medaba, on the 21st. In the Songea area the enemy continued his retreat toward Mchenge, offering slight resistance to our pursuing forces. In the northern area a small German column, reported in the Songe district, west of Lake Natron, is now moving south thru Egaruka, pursued by Belgian columns from Ikoma."

\$2.00 WHEAT MEANS FLOUR \$12 A BARREL

MINNEAPOLIS, July 23.—A minimum price of about \$12 a barrel retail for best grades of flour would result with a minimum price for wheat fixed at \$2 a bushel, as proposed in the food control bill passed by the senate Saturday, according to local flour men. They declared, however, that this does not mean that flour will fall to that level.

OFFENSIVE BY RUSSIANS NEAR VILNA

Gap Two Miles Deep Opened in Important Sector of German Lines in North, but Jeopardized by Extremists—Germans Take Tarnopol and Continue Advance in Galicia, Russians Retreating Into Carpathians—Demoralization Rules Armies.

Today's official reports from the Galician front are little if any more encouraging than those of the last few days. While efforts are being made to restore order among the Russian forces the Austro-German offensive between the Strpa and the Zlota Lipa is being pushed and additional villages have been occupied by the Teutons.

Toward the northern end of the Russian front, the situation is different. The Russians have taken the offensive and opened up a gap two miles deep in an important sector of the German line near Vilna, incidentally capturing more than 1000 Germans. Here too, however, certain detachments appear to have been worked upon by the extremists and are fighting so indifferently as to jeopardize the development of the Russian success.

Russian Offensive.

PETROGRAD, July 23.—The Russians yesterday attacked the Germans near Krevo and Vitna, north of the Pnisk marshes, and penetrated the Teuton lines for a distance of two miles, according to the official announcement today. The Russians captured more than 1000 Germans but the developments of success, the statement adds, are being jeopardized by the moral weakness and instability of certain Russian detachments.

Between the river Sereth, Strpa and Zlota Lipa, the Russian statement says, the Austro-Hungarians continued their offensive, occupying villages. The chief of the Russian divisional staff was killed while reestablishing order among the units on the East Galician front.

Germans Take Tarnopol.

LONDON, July 23.—The occupation by the Germans of the city of Tarnopol in eastern Galicia is reported by Ruter's limited.

BERLIN, July 23.—Along the front south of Smorgon, one which the new Russian offensive was launched, all points penetrated have been retaken, with two exceptions, it is announced officially. The Russians renewed their attacks on a wide front south of Smorgon but the statement says, were held in check.

On the eastern Galician front the Germans have occupied the heights west of Tarnopol, have crossed the Rohatyn-Ostropol railway and have begun to advance on both sides of the Dniester.

The Russians, the statement reports, have retreated into the Carpathians on the southern front.

Canadians Advance.

BRITISH HEADQUARTERS IN FRANCE, July 23.—The Canadians carried out a daring and highly successful raid early this morning on German trenches southeast of Avion. After heavy artillery preparation the raiding party forced its way to the second line of German defenses along a front of 700 yards, where it made determined assaults on strongly fortified German dugouts along the Avion-Morincourt railway. According to latest reports, most of these positions were rendered untenable. Final details are not yet available but at least sixty prisoners including an officer were brought back by the Canadians, whose casualties were light.

Crown Prince Attacks.

PARIS, July 23.—Continuing their violent attacks on the Aisne front the Germans last night stormed French trenches on the Casemates plateau, the war office announces. On the California plateau the French maintained their supporting trenches.