



# MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

MEDFORD, OREGON, WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 1917.

NO. 136.

## REFORM OF ARMY VITAL TO RUSSIA

General Alexieff, former commander in chief tells of demoralization—Discipline must be restored—Speakers at Moscow conference—all against separate peace—Mother of revolution appeals for action to help army conquer foes—Prince Karapatin calls Russians to arms.

MOSCOW, Aug. 29.—General Groussinoff, formerly military governor of Moscow, speaking for the Jews, told the delegates that the chief problem was to save Russia from the enemy and that this end was necessary to re-establish army discipline by eliminating politics, strengthening the authority of the leaders, limiting the power of soldiers committees to economic functions and giving the commander in chief opportunity to exercise unreserved authority.

General Alexieff, former commander in chief of the army, made a long address in which he recounted the history of the Russian military setbacks and their causes. He drew contrasts between the army of the old regime, poorly equipped with mechanical resources but strong in warlike spirit, and the present army well supplied with food and arms but completely demoralized and enfeebled by ill-interpretation and ill-applied doctrines which have been put forward, notably in the famous order of the day, number one. These doctrines, he declared, had split the army into two opposite camps, officers and soldiers, which have become almost irreconcilable.

**Fatal to Discipline.**  
Speaking of the committees elected by the soldiers of the front lines, General Alexieff said they were useful to the army from an economic standpoint but were fatal to discipline of the troops. None the less, he said, the influence of government commissaries whose appointment he asserted created dangerous duality of power.

The general maintained that after publication by the government of the declarations of the rights of soldiers, all respect toward leaders disappeared, the officers becoming virtual martyrs and having to pay very dearly for the offensive of August 1 and the subsequent retreat. The general cited some remarkable illustrations of this. One occasion, he said, when an attack was being launched, the force which advanced was made up of 28 officers, 20 non-commissioned officers and two soldiers. All the others looked on coldly while these heroes perished.

**No Separate Peace.**  
The general declared it would be impossible to carry on the war to a victorious conclusion unless the strongest possible efforts were made by the provisional government and by the troops themselves to re-animate and regenerate the army.

After Madame Catherine Breshkavskaya, the "grandmother of the revolution," had appealed to the government to pass from words to actions and help the army conquer the enemy, Prince Peter Kropotkin, who was not on the list of speakers, was heard at the request of the whole conference. He called upon all Russians

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## BORDEN'S OFFER TO RETIRE REJECTED

OTTAWA, Aug. 29.—An offer by Premier Robert L. Borden of a prolonged ministerial career today to retire in furtherance of the efforts to bring about a coalition government, precipitated by the conscription act was declined. It was announced that Sir Robert would remain at the head of the conservative party now in power. The caucus pledged its loyalty to the premier and co-operation of the bill to a vigorous war policy.

## RUSSIANS QUIT BEFORE ENEMY; FLEE IN DISORDER

Division abandons positions on the Rumanian front and Teutons advance all day—Italians take 1100 prisoners in offensive—Storms halt actions on western front.

PETROGRAD, Aug. 29.—A Russian division yesterday abandoned its positions in the region of Fokhani, on the Rumanian front and fled in disorder, the war office announced.

The statement says the enemy continued to advance all day yesterday on the southern Rumanian front, reaching the line Treoty-Deus-Varnita-Fioneshi-Chyolaiteli. In the night Russian positions in the region of Varnitza were penetrated.

**Italians Advancing.**

ROME, Aug. 29.—The Italian troops, pushing forward on the Bainsizza plateau, have reached a powerful Austrian defensive line and are now attacking it, the war office announced. On the heights beyond Gorizia the Italians made gains.

More than 1,000 prisoners were taken yesterday.

The announcement follows:

"Fighting continued yesterday on the Bainsizza plateau. After having overcome the enemy rear guards our troops encountered and are at present attacking a powerful line of resistance which had been previously organized and which the enemy is defending with desperation. On the heights beyond Gorizia we made some gains. Altogether 247 airplanes participated in the battle. A squadron of 40 Caproni machines which took part in the action east of Gorizia dropped more than 7,000 kilograms of projectiles on enemy batteries in the Panovizza wood.

"In the Stelvio region on the Trentino front the enemy at dawn Monday attacked one of our advanced posts on the glaciers in the upper Zebra valley and succeeded in penetrating it. Our men, however, were able to occupy a higher summit, from which they keep their old positions under fire."

**German Report.**

BERLIN, Aug. 29.—via London.—In the Oltaz Valley region of the Rumanian front, Teutonic forces stormed hill positions yesterday, says today's army headquarters statement. More than 600 prisoners were taken.

Field Marshal Von Mackensen's forces, the announcement also states captured the village of Mancehl and pushed back the opposing forces in a northwesterly direction past several positions on both sides of the Sushitza valley.

Prisoners to the number of 1,000 were taken and three guns captured.

**Raid by British.**

LONDON, Aug. 29.—"During the night we carried out successful raids northeast of Gouzeaucourt and southwest of Hulluch and captured a few prisoners," says today's official announcement. "Southeast of Lange-marek our troops cleared up a strong point in which an enemy party was holding out immediately in front of our line."

**Big Guns Roar at Verdun.**

PARIS, Aug. 29.—Violent artillery fighting is in progress on the Verdun front between Avocourt and Hill 304 east of the Aisne front, the war office announced. North of Courrieres wood in the Verdun sector German reconnoitering forces were repulsed.

## YEAR IN PRISON FOR SEDITIOUS POSTMASTER

PORTLAND, Aug. 29.—George W. France, postmaster at Ten Mile, Ore., pleaded guilty in the federal court today of having violated the espionage act by trying to dissuade men from enlisting in the navy. He was sentenced to serve one year in the federal prison at McNeil's island. In federal prison at McNeil's island, France said he was a conscientious objector to war.

## PACIFISTS SEEK LEGAL ACTION TO HALT MEET

Peoples' Council Protest Order of Minnesota Governor Who Prohibited Gathering on the Ground That it Could Aid Only Enemies of the United States.—Lochner Appeals to President.

NEW YORK, Aug. 29.—Plans for legal action to establish their right to hold a convention in Minneapolis were considered here today by the organizing club of the Peoples' Council of America for Democracy and Peace as a result of the order issued yesterday by Governor Burnquist of Minnesota prohibiting the meeting within the borders of his state because it could "aid only enemies of the United States."

**Injunction Considered.**

It was said at the headquarters of the organization that an injunction was under consideration on the ground that the governor's action was an "invasion of the constitutional right of free assembly." The convention, it was declared, would be held on schedule time somewhere in Minnesota if possible and if not, as close to its borders as could be arranged and no cancellation had been made of the special train engaged to leave tomorrow to carry delegates to the city of Minneapolis.

The convention is scheduled for September 1 to 6. Representatives in Minnesota were instructed by wire to look into the legal status of the case there. Among those at the meeting today were Morris Hillquist, recently refused passports by the state department to attend socialist conventions abroad.

**Lochner Protests.**

MINNEAPOLIS, Aug. 29.—Louis P. Lochner, secretary of the Peoples' Council of America, today sent a telegram to President Wilson protesting against the action of Governor Burnquist in issuing an order yesterday prohibiting the holding of a national conference here next week for the announced purpose of discussing peace.

It was said at the council's headquarters that information had been received indicating that the governor of North Dakota and Wisconsin would permit the meeting to be held in their states.

Mr. Lochner's telegram to the president also appealed for aid and asked if there was no way in which the right of free speech and peaceful assembly could be secured.

## WALL OF FIRE IN WESTERN MONTANA

MISSOULA, Mont., Aug. 29.—With an onrushing wall of flames menacing them from three sides, a force of several hundred men is waging a desperate struggle against the big forest fires in the vicinity of Lolo Hot Springs. The fires increased in volume last night in spite of the efforts of the federal fire-fighters.

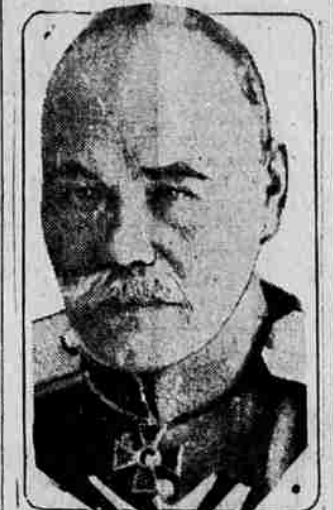
Back fires have been started to points along the Lolo road and the forestry officials believe that it will be possible to keep the flames from crossing the trail. Trenches have been dug for many miles, but these will be of little avail against high winds.

No rain has fallen for 65 days in Western Montana, and without rain the forestry officials do not hope to extinguish the forest fires. The officials are attempting only to control them. The fires, it was stated, are not of incendiary origin. Most of them were started by electrical storms and campers.

## HEAD OF GRAND TRUNK RAILROAD RETIRES

MONTREAL, Aug. 29.—Edson J. Chamberlin, who yesterday resigned as president of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway, today retired from the presidency of the Grand Trunk railway, the parent company, in which office he is succeeded by Howard G. Kelley, who has been appointed head of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway.

## DEMANDS RESTORATION OF ARMY DISCIPLINE TO PREVENT DISASTER



General Alexieff, former commander-in-chief of Russian armies, who appealed to Moscow conference to save Russia.

## WAR EXPENSES ESTIMATE TOTAL NINETEEN BILLIONS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—Questioning of Secretary McAdoo on general financial transactions between the United States and its allies delayed further consideration of the \$11,538,945,460 war bond and certificate bill today in the ways and means committee. Only unexpected speed will make possible reporting the bill to the house tomorrow.

Some republicans want further delay, while prominent bankers and labor leaders testify about the general fiscal situation. Democrats and republicans alike joined today in asking the secretary how long he thought it would be necessary for the country to lend financial aid to the allies. Mr. McAdoo foresaw no end until the end of the war.

The secretary also approved as correct a statement presented to him by Representative Moore of Pennsylvania forecasting total governmental expenditures for the present fiscal year in excess of \$13,000,000,000. Mr. McAdoo thought it possible that no further appropriations than those now contemplated might be necessary at this session of congress, but he declined to forecast what he might have to ask for when congress reconvenes in December. Opinion was virtually unanimous today that the new bonds should bear a 4 per cent interest rate, but views as to the tax rate they should bear still differ.

## GERMANS RIDICULE MOSCOW CONFERENCE

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 29.—German newspapers are not disposed favorably toward the Moscow conference. The Cologne Gazette describes it as the "comedy of Moscow," adding that it is intended to excite the Russian people to further mad sacrifices. The Kreuz Zeitung says:

"Premier Kerensky's speech proves that the Russian government is acting autocratically. The Russian peasant has to bleed at the government's command and without knowing the government's aims. This is the freedom which the revolution has given the country."

## GERMAN TARIFF ON COAL SHIPMENTS

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 29.—Swedish industrial and business circles are stirred greatly over an export tax of 25 kronor a ton which Germany has put on all coal for shipment to Sweden. The tax is effective at once no matter when the order for the coal was given. Germany also has a tax on parcel post payable after August 15.

## CHINA LEFT IN SUSPENSE THRU RECENT REVOLT

Collapse of Monarchy Advantageous Only to Eliminate Chan Hsun, Menace to Republic for Years—Opponents Are Monarchists at Heart—Lack of Funds Prevents Further Warfare.

PEKING, July 27.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press)—China has been left in a state of suspense by General Chang Hsun's abortive attempt to restore the monarchy.

A single advantageous result of the struggle was the elimination of Chang Hsun. He has been a menace to the Chinese republic for many years. His great wealth and military strength enabled him to control the railroad between Nanking and Tien Tsin and made him a leader to be reckoned with in all political movements. China suffered many setbacks in achieving the elimination of Chang Hsun. He was undoubtedly tricked and betrayed by military governors who had promised to support him. Bogus telegrams and letters were used in inducing him to restore the boy emperor and thus brought about his own downfall.

**Leaders Under Suspicion.**

But Tuan Chi Jui and other military leaders who worked Chang Hsun's end have practically all been known as monarchical supporters and are under suspicion in their efforts to restore the republic and in their protestations that they are genuine republicans.

Vice-President Feng Kuo Chang (now president), always has been regarded as a monarchical supporter. He does not enjoy the confidence of Wu Ting Fang and other prominent republicans whose honesty cannot be doubted. Consequently General Feng Kuo Chang's assumption of the presidency would not necessarily insure the reconciliation of the discordant elements in South China.

**Favor Li Yuan Hung.**

Vigorous effort is being made by Tuan Chi Jui and many other leaders to induce President Li Yuan Hung to return to the office of president. He apparently now is the only man whom North China would accept as president. Although Li Yuan Hung displayed his weakness by yielding to the pressure of the military leaders and disbanding parliament, the south still regards him as a republican and at the present time he is the only compromise candidate for the presidency that the south seems to be willing to consider. Were General Li Yuan Hung to resume the presidency the south also doubtless would insist upon re-convening of the old parliament which he disbanded. It is doubtful whether the northern military leaders will consent to the return of the old parliament. They will probably insist upon the election of the new parliament. Most of the old parliament are in Shanghai. Some of them have gone to Canton. In both places republican leaders are anxiously discussing ways and means for the actual creation of a southern republic.

**Rebels Lack Funds.**

Both the Peking government and the seceding factions in South China lack funds. Consequently it is not likely that there will be war on a large scale even if all harmony efforts fail.

The unfortunate monarchical restoration has upset authority in China and has inspired bandit outbreaks which are very harmful to business operations. Szechuen province is in a ferment. Bandits are active at many points near the Mongolian borders. Looters are reported in towns and cities in at least twelve provinces.

## MILK CARDS FOR PEOPLE OF PARIS

PARIS, Aug. 29.—The food commission is considering the advisability of introducing milk cards, a scarcity of milk during the winter being foreseen. The measure would also be taken with a view to preventing the more well-to-do classes from buying up the supply.

## SENATE DEFEATS 5 PER CENT TAX ON NEWSPAPERS

Shields Declares Tax Indispensable—Tax on War Profits Fixed at 60 per cent on Profits Over 300 per cent by Committee—Exemption Rule Enlarged Because of Pre-War Depression.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—The pre-war profits rate of the war revenue tax bill was retained by the committee today, but it added a new maximum war profits tax rate of 60 per cent on profits in excess of 300 per cent. The maximum in the bill was 50 per cent on profits over 250 per cent.

Another substantial change was made in provisions for exemptions. A minimum of 6 per cent and a maximum of 10 per cent of income on capital actually invested was approved. These provisions would care for corporations suffering abnormal depression during the pre-war period. Corporations making less than 4 per cent during that period would be entitled to at least that exemption, and if more than 10 per cent they would not receive over 10 per cent deduction.

Senators LaFollette and Gore, prominent in the faction urging more radical war profits taxation, did not attend today's committee meeting. Chairman Simmons and others of the majority hope the new levy—almost doubled—will command sufficient support to cause rejection of the more drastic proposals.

**Debate Publishers' Bill.**

Debate on the publishers' taxes was begun by Senator Shields of Tennessee, who supported Senator McKelless' substitute and argued that magazines and other periodicals, not newspapers, cause the deficit in carrying second-class mail.

"I am satisfied," he said, "that the daily newspapers are paying practically all if not the full amount for the service they receive. Rates on magazines and other publications which cause the loss should be increased."

Senator Shields said newspapers do not require the same service of the postoffice department that magazines do and that they render much of it at their own expense.

"The newspapers really are the people's papers," the Tennessee senator continued. "They are the papers which supply information to 90 per cent of the people of the United States, and any increase in the burden of transportation is an increased burden on the people."

**Tax Indefensible.**

Magazines, according to statistics, are not read by more than 12 per cent of the people, he added, and those people are more able to pay an increased cost than those who read newspapers. Senator Smith of Michigan took exception to the statement regarding the percentage of magazine readers, declared he believed it was much higher.

Senator Shields characterized as "indefensible" and "discriminatory" the proposed 5 per cent tax on publishers.

"It is the most unjust and iniquitous in this whole bill, and I think

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## SHASTA MINES CLOSED BY STRIKE

CORAM, Cal., Aug. 29.—More than one thousand miners now are on a strike in Shasta county and in the entire copper belt, mining is at a standstill with no present prospect of settlement. Saloons are closed in Kennet and elsewhere in the mining belt and deputy sheriffs are out in force to preserve order. The Balakaha, Stowel, Iron Mountain and New Year mines and the Mammoth Copper company and Mountain Copper company are among the properties affected by the strike.

Sheriff A. S. Ross appealed today to Governor William D. Stevens to furnish guards so that work in the mines of Shasta county might be continued regardless of the miners' strike.

## NO PEACE WITH KAISER FOR ALLIES

President Wilson Replies for Entente Allies to Peace Proposal of Pope Stating That Word of Present German Government Cannot Be Accepted as Guarantee of Anything That is to Endure As it Furnishes No Proper Basis Upon Which to Build Peace.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—President Wilson's rejecting the Pope's peace proposals was regarded here today as finally settling the question dealing with present German rulers un conquered or unhealed at home. The president makes it clear that a lasting and durable peace can be negotiated only by a complete understanding with the German people and not alone on unstable guarantees of the existing government.

The note indicates that if the American government does not intend post-bellum reprisals on the German people, but desires in the interests of world peace that they be allowed to share in international economic opportunities, "if they will accept equality and not seek domination."

**Allies' Sentiments.**

The note with its unequivocal denunciation of the German military autocracy is believed to reflect accurately the attitude of the allied governments. The general tenor of the reply has been anticipated by the diplomats, but they were surprised to find in it a virtual appeal to the German people to strive for emancipation from military control and become fitted to deal with a world democracy.

The text of the note follows:

"August 27, 1917.  
"To His Holiness,  
"Benedictus XV,  
"Pope."

"In acknowledgment of the communication of Your Holiness to the belligerent peoples, dated August 1, 1917, the president of the United States requests me to transmit the following reply:

"Every heart that has not been blinded and hardened by this terrible war must be touched by this moving appeal of His Holiness, the pope, must feel the dignity and force of the humane and generous motives which prompted it and must fervently wish that we might take the path of peace he so persuasively points out. But it would be folly to take it, if it does not in fact lead to the goal he proposes. Our response must be based upon the stern facts and upon nothing else. It is not a mere question of arms he desires; it is a stable and enduring peace. This agony must not be gone through with again, and it must be a matter of very sober judgment that will insure us against it.

"His Holiness, in substance, proposes that we return to the status quo ante bellum and that there be a general condonation, disarmament, and a concert of nations, based upon an acceptance of the principle of arbitration; that by a similar concert freedom of the seas be established; and that the territorial claims of France and Italy, the perplexing problems of the Balkan states and the restitution of Poland be left to such conciliatory adjustments as may be possible in the new temper of such a peace, due regard being paid to the aspirations of the peoples

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## BONA FIDE LABOR TO BE REPRESENTED

WASHINGTON, Aug. 29.—So that the bona fide labor movement of America may be represented at the national conference of the American Alliance for Labor and Democracy at Minneapolis, September 5, President Gompers of the American Federation of Labor today directed all organizers to have local unions and labor interests send delegates.