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STANDS—FIVE CENTS

## U. S. SUPREME COURT UPHOLDS ADAMSON LAW

### Opinion Holds That Congress Had the Power To Fix Hours Constituting Day's Work For Fixing Wages: Court Points Out This Was Done But Limited Period Leaving Matter After That Time To Be Arranged by Men and Managers—Is Six to Three Decision

Washington, March 19.—The Adamson eight hour is valid. This was the ruling of the supreme court today. Chief Justice White read the decision which declared constitutional the law passed under spectacular circumstances in the closing night hours of last summer's congress session.

Besides declaring the Adamson law constitutional, the highest tribunal held congress has a right to legislate wages, the supreme court's decision today is a formal reversal of the opinion of Judge William C. Hook, Kansas City, who held the law unconstitutional.

The court held the law constitutional in a division of six to three. Justices Pitney, Day, Vandever dissented. Chief Justice White and Justices Holmes, McReynolds, Brandeis and Clark signed the majority opinion; McKenna wrote separate opinion but concurred.

Justice Day read a dissenting opinion as soon as the chief justice concluded the majority ruling.

#### Contention Without Merit

White in his opinion concluded: "We say that the contention that the act was void and could not be made operative because unworkability of its provisions is without merit, since we see no reason to doubt that if the stand and fixed by the act were made applicable and a candid effort followed to carry it out, the result would be without difficulty accomplished. It is true that it might follow that in some cases, that because of particular terms of employment or exceptional surroundings some change might be necessary, but these exceptions afford no ground for holding the act void because its provisions are susceptible in practice of being carried out."

"Being of the opinion that congress had the power to adopt the act in question, whether it be viewed as a direct fixing of wages to meet the absence of a standard on that subject resulting from the dispute between the parties or as the exertion of power by congress which it undoubtedly possessed to provide by appropriate legislation for compulsory arbitration—a power which inevitably resulted from its authority to protect interstate commerce in dealing with a situation like that which was before it—we conclude that the act is within the power of congress to enact and in restraining its enforcement and its decree therefore must be and it is reversed and the cause remanded with instructions to dismiss the bill and it is so ordered."

Only Two Questions

White did not stick to manuscript. His statement differed materially from the printed opinion.

"I relied upon the arguments advanced ultimately come to two questions: "First, the entire want of constitutional power to deal with the subjects embraced by the statute, and second, such abuse of the power if possessed as rendered its exercise unconstitutional," White said in part. "We will consider these subjects under distinct propositions separately."

"First is the entire want of constitutional power to deal with the subjects embraced by the statute."

"There must be knowledge of the power exerted before determining whether as exercised it was constitutional."

## Full Text of Agreement Between Managers and Men In Settlement of the Strike

New York, Mar. 19.—The following agreement was signed today by the railway managers' committee and the brotherhood chiefs, formally settling questions over which they have been at odds.

"New York, March 19. Settlement awarded by the committee of the Council of National Defense. In all road service except passenger, where schedules now read, 'one hundred miles or less, nine or ten hours or less, overtime at ten or eleven miles per hour, eight hours or less for a basic day and twelve and a half miles per hour for a speed basis for the purpose of computing overtime to be paid for at not less than one eighth of a daily rate per hour. In all yards, switching and hostling service where schedules now read, '10, 11 or 12 hours, or less, shall constitute a day's work,' insert 'eight hours or less shall constitute a day's work at present ten hours' pay."

"Overtime to be paid for at not less than one eighth of the daily rate per hour."

"In yards now working on an eight hour basis the daily rate shall be the present ten hours' standard rate with overtime at one eighth of the present standard daily rate."

"If Law is Unconstitutional

"In case the law is declared unconstitutional eight hours or less at present ten hours' pay will constitute a day's work in hostling service."

"In passenger service the present mileage basis will be maintained. On roads now having a flat ten hour day in passenger service, the rule will be amended to read 'eight within ten hours.'"

"For all classes of employees in short turn around passenger service, where the rule now reads 'eight within twelve hours,' it will be amended to read 'eight within ten hours.'"

"For such territory as has no number of hours for a day's work in short turn around passenger service, the eight within ten hour rule applies."

"Overtime to be paid for at not less than one eighth of the daily rate per hour."

"The general committees on individual roads may elect to retain present overtime rules in short turn around passenger service or the foregoing provisions, but may not make a combination of both to produce greater compensation than is provided in either basis."

## ABE MARTIN



A good front is half the battle either in love or war. Some fellows live in the open and others cultivate full page beard.

## RECENT EVENTS NOT PLEASING TO KAISER

Following are some developments of the last few days that have not met with the German emperor's approval:

Overthrow of Russian throne and the reactionary government that was under German influence; promise of new vigor in Russian war on Germany.

Possible danger to Kaiser's throne in effect of victory of Russian people on the minds of the German people.

Evidence of unrest among German people; attack on government in Prussian Diet, one deputy exclaiming: "We are no longer serfs whom the king can buy or sell or order us to bleed and die at the word of command."

Issuance of British statistics showing loss of ships through submarine warfare only 2 per cent; failure of submarine campaign indicated.

Loss of Baghdad and continued retreat by the Turkish forces in Asia; continued advance by Russians through Persia.

Rupture of diplomatic relations by China and seizure of German ships in Chinese waters.

Further loss of ground, including Bapaume, on the Somme fronts.

Gain of depth of two miles on 13-mile front in the Oise by French.

## Jap Fleet Watching Interned Steamers

San Diego, Cal., Mar. 19.—Indications are today that Japanese and British patrol vessels in the Pacific are taking every precaution to prevent the escape of the fleet of German steamers and sailing vessels interned at Santa Rosalia, Lower California. Reports that these vessels were ready at any moment to take to sea, should America become involved in war with Germany, have reached British and French consular representatives and been transmitted to the representatives of this country.

As the ships are in Mexican waters the United States has no jurisdiction over them, but should steamers of the ore carrying fleet make sea and be captured by allied warships lurking in the harbor at Santa Rosalia, with crews aggregating about 400 men. A number of these sailors have managed to desert, and made their way into this country as seamen on coasting steamers.

## FOR PREPAREDNESS

Boston, Mass., March 19.—Governor McCall this afternoon sent a message to the legislature calling for an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for emergency defense measures.

## KILLED AT CORVALLIS.

Corvallis, Or., March 19.—Miss Irene Medinnes, age 23, is dead, and Mrs. M. L. Granning, wife of Professor Granning of the Oregon Agricultural College, is seriously injured today because their automobile turned turtle near here yesterday. The two women were the only occupants of the car.

Miss Medinnes was employed by a Portland bank. Six months ago she came west from St. Paul, Minn., where her relatives live.

## UTAH LAW SUSTAINED.

Washington, March 19.—The supreme court, in a far reaching ruling today, upheld Utah state court decisions which enjoined power companies from operating their plants on government land without paying the rates prescribed by recent laws.

The government's demand for an accounting of money made by companies in the past was granted.

## PRESIDENT ORDERS RUSH WORK ON WARSHIP BUILDING

President May Take More Drastic Step Than Arming Ships

## AN EXTRA SESSION OF CONGRESS MAY RESULT

Sinking of American Vessels Is Direct Challenge To War

By Robert S. Bender  
(United Press staff correspondent)

Washington, Mar. 19.—President Wilson authorizes Secretary Daniels to use \$115,000,000 appropriation to speed up ship building.

The president also authorized suspension of the eight hour law in ship yards as another speed up measure.

This applies to all plants having to do with naval construction for the government.

The greater part of the money will be used in constructing submarine chasers and scout cruisers, according to tentative plans made by Daniels several weeks ago.

"Whatever can be done will be done," Secretary Daniels declared in answer to questions as to dealing with the submarine in the barred area and likewise near our own coast.

Without detailing the full purpose of the more than two hundred small fast motorboats, he designated them "an emergency purchase, it was significant, too, that the suspension and expansion of the eight hour system was ordered because of the existence of "a national emergency."

President Wilson and Secretary Daniels did not take up the question of commandeering ship yards, but Daniels announced that this will be taken up "if necessary."

## Need Small Boats

Daniels laid particular stress upon the need for small boats, but said that a good deal of the \$115,000,000 would be spent upon speeding up work on the larger vessels. The whole amount may not be used, but only such amounts as the department "can wisely spend."

While the secretary did not say so (Continued on page six.)

## RUMOR OF GERMAN REVOLT

New York, Mar. 19.—Wild rumors of a revolution in Berlin swept the United States and Canada this afternoon—with no apparent basis so far as could be ascertained.

Appearing to be traceable to recent stories from continental sources stating there was unrest in Germany and that the success of the Russian revolution might, in the opinion of some, embolden the people of other European nations to take control.

## THREE SHIPS SUNK BY GERMAN SUBMARINES

American Vessels Sent Down Without Warning—One Boat Missing

Washington, Mar. 19.—Fear that Captain Borum and nine missing seamen of the City of Memphis, American freighter, are now possibly prisoners aboard the German submarine which sank the ship was conveyed in the second of two dispatches received today from Consul Frost at Queenstown.

"No news yet of Captain Borum, City of Memphis ship's papers found today in biscuit tin in captain's boat, which was picked up 11 a. m., 18th. Boat showed signs hastily abandoned, discarded overcoats, etc., with white silk handkerchief at masthead on flag, showing boat not abandoned until after daylight."

"It is barely possible that all nine in boat were taken by German submarine, but more probably by some friendly craft having no wireless."

(Signed), "FROST."

## Empty Board Found.

"Captain's boat did not separate from others until 1 a. m. today and was picked up empty at 10 a. m. Weather meantime remaining moderate."

"Vessel cleared Cardiff 16th in ballast with 58 persons, including 29 Americans. At 3:55, 17th, submarine fired warning shot from three miles on starboard quarter."

"Vessel was stopped. Submarine ap-

(Continued on page three.)

## ALLIES CAPTURE 500 SQUARE MILES AND 100 VILLAGES

German Retreat Orderly But Persistently Harassed by Allies

## NEW DEFENSES READY FOR TROOPS TO OCCUPY

Turks Retreating Before Russians—Two Destroyers Torpedoed

By Ed L. Keen.  
(United Press staff correspondent.)

London, Mar. 19.—The greatest occupancy of territory by any belligerent since the German sweep toward the Atlantic thrilled England today. Allied forces this time are the gainers. It is the German line that has given way.

Nearly 500 square miles of territory between the Arras sector and the River Oise have been added to the allies' holdings.

Although there was general rejoicing today over the success of the allies' "push," experts were inclined to put the soft pedal on the popular tendency toward over-optimism.

They pointed out that the German retreat was not a headlong flight, but a methodical, systematic turning back from untenable positions to others, doubtless long and carefully prepared.

The retreat has undoubtedly been accelerated by the allies' unexpected superiority—unexpected to the Germans. They have harassed the enemy with the vigor of their pursuit.

But the lack of reports of any considerable losses of men and materials by the Germans indicates the withdrawal was far from disorderly retreat.

There was much guessing here today as to the new line to which the Germans were retreating. The one most favored by military experts was from Donai to Cambrai, St. Quentin, La Fere and Soissons. Observers here do not think the Germans will permit the allies to gain the approaches to the valleys of the Cambre, Scheldt and Scarpe without strenuously contesting of their advance.

Today the allies were systematically constructing their lines and still pressing steadily against the Germans. On (Continued on page three.)

## Exports and Imports Show Great Decrease

Washington, Mar. 19.—American exports and imports decreased almost \$190,000,000 in February—the first month of unrestricted German U-boat warfare—according to a report of the department of commerce issued today.

This is the largest loss in export and import trade in a single month ever reported.

The report shows that exports fell off \$147,032,559, compared with the previous high month, while imports decreased \$42,929,685.

Government officials attributed a large part of the enormous decrease in exports and imports to fear of the ruthless German submarine campaign.

The total exports for February amounted to \$466,523,034, while imports totaled \$199,575,297.

Gold imports during February amounted to \$103,766,495, while the exports of gold were \$22,068,059.

For the eight months ending February 28, the total exports showed an increase of \$1,496,013,216 over the same period in 1916.

Imports for the same period increased \$256,858,645.

## TROOPS UNDER RED FLAG.

Moscow, March 19.—Troops and the populace united under the red flag that formerly stood for anarchy and violence was the strange spectacle here today. Most of the soldiers wore bits of red ribbon.

## An Appeal to the People of Oregon From Inmates of the Oregon State Penitentiary

The 29th legislative assembly introduced house bill No. 518 for an act to provide for the creation of a new state penitentiary. This bill goes before the voters for their adoption or rejection on June 4, 1917. We, the prisoners confined in the state penitentiary, ask the voters to act favorably on this measure.

March 5, 1917.

To the Editor:

Having been confined in the Oregon state penitentiary for a period of four years, and during that time carefully studied this institution, I feel that the readers of this article will appreciate what I am about to state, more than an article written by a prison reformer, and place more credence in it, because I can back the following by unquestionable proof.

When I read in the legislative program house bill No. 518 my interest was immediately aroused and I obtained permission from the warden to have copies of the bill printed, and I personally ask every prisoner confined here to enclose one of the slips in his weekly letter. Of the 425 prisoners here, all but 35 were more than eager to be of help in making our confinement more humanely habitable.

As the average visitor enters the south wing cell house, he or she, sees nothing especially depressing. The corridor is light and airy and sometimes the sun is shining in the windows, but many, many times I have noticed visitors, as they walked down the corridor, stop in front of a cell door, cup their hands at the sides of their eyes and try to see the interior of the cell. It is not possible to do so, with one or two exceptions. Think what it must be to prisoners confined in that cell, I should say two prisoners, for the cell houses two men. They measure 5 1/2 by 6 1/2 by 8 feet and one-third of that small space is taken up by two bunks, one above the other. The cell I am sitting in, writing this article has never known one single ray of sunshine. It is no wonder that on the days the doctor visits the prisoners in the cells nearest the library were waiting for him. Their ailments are comprised mostly of sick headaches, bad stomachs, insomnia, rheumatism, etc. There are no toilets in the cells, only an

## State Fair Premiums Will Total \$28,000

At the meeting of the state fair board Saturday afternoon, it was decided that the premiums for the 1917 fair should be \$28,000, which is \$4,500 more than the premiums for last year. Of this large amount, \$17,500 comes from appropriations by the legislature. The remainder comes from gate receipts and from the concessions.

The total premiums for the county agricultural exhibits was fixed at \$8,000, which is an increase of about \$2,000. The increase goes for larger premiums on sheep, swine and dairy cattle. On account of difficulty last year in the goat section, no premiums will be given them this year. On account of there being little competition on Dorset sheep and Essex swine, the premiums on these breeds were eliminated.

The board added \$2,500 from its fund to the \$4,000 appropriated by the legislature for the purpose of connecting the fair grounds with the Salem water system.

For the accommodation of the public, the board decided to install 73 patent lavatories, eight more water fountains. Fire hydrants will be placed in the principal buildings and all facilities for protection and safety improved.

There was some question as to whether or not the horse show will be held this year or not. That matter was not decided at this meeting.

## STRIKE AVERTED RAILROADS YIELD AT LAST MOMENT

Sinking Three American Ships Aided in Reaching Agreement

Will Pay No Attention TO THE SUPREME COURT

Will Carry Out Provisions of Law Regardless of Later's Decision

## Strike Averted Railroads Yield at Last Moment

Sinking Three American Ships Aided in Reaching Agreement

Will Pay No Attention TO THE SUPREME COURT

Will Carry Out Provisions of Law Regardless of Later's Decision

New York, Mar. 19.—The railroads have met the fullest demands of the Adamson eight hour law and thereby definitely averted the threatened nation-wide strike with the adjustment of its most serious crisis.

Patriotism, swayed to its height by the sinking of three American vessels, brought from the railway managers' committee early today the announcement that they would accept the Brotherhood's rather than give the impression at home or abroad that the efficient operation of the country's would be hampered or impaired in the face of its latest peril.

The railroads surrendered completely, leaving their end of the adjustment entirely in the hands of President Wilson's mediation board. A joint committee is to thresh out the minute details.

The following statement was issued by the mediators at 6 a. m.:

"We desire to express our appreciation of the large and patriotic action of the railway managers' committee which has put beyond peradventure the possibility of a nation-wide railroad strike."

"The railroads have met the full demands of the Adamson eight hour law. This concession was secured as the culmination of two days of negotiations."

Story of Conference.

"Our first effort was to secure a postponement of the strike, which was fixed for Saturday night. This was achieved by presenting to the railway managers a memorandum agreement aimed at the Brotherhood which, with some particularly expressed provision of the Adamson law."

"We asked the railway to agree that if the Adamson law was held to be constitutional that this construction and application would be given to it. The railway agreed to this at a joint session between the Brotherhood chiefs and the managers. And with much difficulty the chiefs stayed the strike, an act that was vital to the success of our efforts and further mediation."

"We next sought some adjustment that would be effective should the law be held to be unconstitutional. In this regard many propositions were made to both sides, but none was accepted until the railroads expressed their willingness to place the whole matter in the hands of this committee."

"This action proceeded, as the letter from the railway managers states, from a desire to demonstrate to the country that the railroads would not allow their own conception of railroad policy to stand in the way of the fullest use of the roads at a time of severe national strain."

Ignore Supreme Court.

"The committee considered the matter and decided that in view of the action of congress in passing the Adamson law and the necessity for immediate action that it was best to adopt at once the memorandum agreement of the previous day as applicable under all conditions."

"Thus the provision of the eight hour law, by agreement between the roads and the men became the basis of the settlement and whether the supreme court holds for the validity of the law or not, there will be no strike."

The decision of the railway managers which was as sudden as it was unexpected by all except those directly in the conference, came after virtually 48 hours' continuous conference.

The following letter was sent to the railroad managers' committee early today by the mediation committee:

Will Follow the Law.

"Elisha Lee, Esq., chairman national conference committee of the railways: "Dear Mr. Lee: We are in receipt (Continued on page three.)

## THE WEATHER

Oregon: Tonight and Tuesday unsettled, probably occasional rain north west, partly cloudy south and east portions; south-westerly winds.

## IM GLAD EGGS ARE CHEAPER

As you step from the turkey's office into the chapel, which connects the north and south wing cell houses, you will notice, if you are acquainted with the buildings, that you are looking at a veritable fire trap.

The wood ceiling, wooden floor and wood stairway erected many years ago, seasoned and dry as tinder, need but a chance match or coal from the big barrel stove in the chapel to turn it into an inferno, that all the fire companies in the state could not subdue in time to save the lives of the prisoners confined in their cells because there are no outlets from the cell houses except through the chapel. If such a catastrophe should occur, you, the people of Oregon will individually and collectively be responsible. In the past four months a small fire occurred in the library at 3 a. m. Before it was extinguished the men in the cells nearest the library were nearly overcome by the smoke, and it was only a small blaze.

Above the chapel, the shoe shop, ber-

(Continued on page two.)