

NATIONWIDE STRIKE DELAYED AT LAST HOUR YESTERDAY

Forty-eight Hour Armistice Declared to Permit Further Consideration.

EMPLOYEES ASSERT THEY BOW TO THE PRESIDENT.

What Happens Today and Tomorrow Will Settle The Vital Question—Strike Postponed Until 6 O'clock Monday Afternoon—Supreme Court Decision.

(By United Press.) New York, March 17.—The great nationwide railroad strike was to have started its sweep of the country tonight but has been postponed and, perhaps, averted.

The brotherhood chiefs, after virtually eighteen hours continuous conference with President Wilson's mediators and the railway managers, agreed late today to grant a 48-hour armistice.

Tonight both camps are burning new oil, discussing the proposition Secretary Lane and Wilson and Daniel Willard brought from Washington in the name of the President. The outcome of these conferences, which were not attended by the mediators, will be told to the three men, who hope to finally settle the question that would throttle the Nation's rail transportation.

Optimism ruled in all three camps tonight and clouds that had darkened the horizon at least temporarily. Even if these meetings fail to effect a permanent agreement a Supreme Court decision on the constitutionality of the Adamson law on Monday may clear away all the threatening dangers of the situation.

"The brotherhoods would not fly in the face of the President's advice," W. S. Stone, president of the engineers, said, "and President Wilson has given the mediators full power to go to great lengths to prevent a railroad paralysis."

"We can't say that the postponement portends a definite settlement," Stone told the United Press.

The President has sent a body of representatives with the request that they give them time to work out plans (Continued on Page Three.)

NEW RUSSIAN ERA MAKING PROGRESS

Grand Duke Only Holds on Subject to Will of People. Solving Problems.

(By United Press.) Petrograd, March 17.—Even the Romanoffs have bowed to the will of the Russian people.

Grand Duke Michael, originally designated by the Russian provisional government as Regent until the Czar-evitch should come of age, was announced today as having refused the throne proffered him by Czar Nicholas, in abdicating his rights of heredity, unless the people of Russia should choose him as ruler.

The Grand Duke's acquiescence in the popular vote for formation of the new Russian government tonight accelerated the spread of the movement. Practically all of Russia is now pledged to the democracy which has succeeded the autocracy and order is rapidly being restored. Food stores have been commandeered for distribution under direction of the new governmental leaders.

Railroad traffic is speeding up under complete co-operation of all employees. Hundreds of carloads of foodstuffs are already en route to those districts of Russia where the pinch of hunger was most severe.

Fair trial will be accorded all of the former government officials accused of duplicity, corruption and even treason to Russia. Army garrisons at various posts have lent their aid to the provisional government.

For the time being Russia will be administered by the committee of the Duma. Presumably steps will be taken shortly to submit to the people, through a general vote, the question of the form of government to be adopted.

SOLID SOUTH TO BE STORMED BY SUFFRAGETTES

Intrepid Leaders Will Make a Sortie Upon Thirteen Southern States.

NORTH CAROLINA TO BE VISITED.

Conference Will be Held in Charlotte and Tar Heel Congressmen to be Interviewed.

(By United Press.) Washington, March 17.—Suffragettes will invade the heretofore sacred Solid South April 1—by motor—to line up Southern women in a political alliance with the West—particularly with the National Women's Party, promoting the trip.

Thirteen States will be visited, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Tennessee, Arkansas, Kentucky, West Virginia and Maryland.

Richmond, Fredericksburg and Petersburg, Va., comprise the first stops of the Suffragette delegations. In North Carolina, Charlotte, where a conference is to be held, Rocky Mount, Greensboro and Salisbury, will be visited next. Majority Leader Claude Kitchin, Chairman Pou, of the House Rules Committee, and Representative Webb, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, all North Carolinians, will be called upon.

Southern women, according to the suffragists, have shown "intense interest" in the trip. Louisiana women, it was said tonight, have asked for assistance in lining up their State.

The Governor of Mississippi has offered the State capitol for suffrage headquarters during the trip, it was stated, and will be a speaker at the conference. Conference in Mississippi, it was said, will be made an official matter by Mississippi women. Miss Vivian Pierce, of California, Miss Beulah Amidon, of North Dakota, Mrs. St. Clair Thompson, of North Carolina, Miss Doris Stevens, of Nebraska, Miss Mabel Vernon, of Delaware, and Miss Lucy Branham, of Maryland, will be among the organizers on the trip. Miss Maud Younger, of California, will be leader.

"The President has told us that he cannot go too far ahead of his party," Miss Younger said tonight, "but we believe he is not as far ahead of his party as he thinks he is. We are going ourselves to strongholds of his party to ask their help."

SAMUEL GOMPERS NOW BUSY ON SCENE.

(By United Press.) New York, March 17.—Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, didn't know until 3 o'clock today that he had been appointed a member of the board to mediate the threatened railroad strike. Then he made a dash from Atlantic City to New York and arrived here tonight.

"I left Washington for a little rest two days ago," he told the United Press. "I went to Atlantic City and this afternoon was told my Washington office was calling. They apprised me of my appointment and I took the first train."

"I'll be with the mediators tomorrow and stick right through until the end."

WELL KNOWN RALEIGH WOMAN PASSES AWAY.

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., March 17.—Mrs. Ellen Colburn Seawell, mother of Supreme Court Clerk Joseph L. Seawell and Commissioner B. B. Seawell, died tonight at her home on East Hargett street.

Mrs. Seawell was 82 years old and one of the most interesting of all Raleigh residents, who had seen the city in all its developing stages and had observed the influence of politics upon the Capital. She had numerous relatives in Salisbury and Charlotte, while in Raleigh her family's history had been a portion of the Capital life.

The funeral services will be held Monday afternoon from the First Presbyterian church.

PEOPLE WOULD QUICKLY FEEL PINCH OF WANT

Government Experts Tell of The Dire Result From a Nationwide Strike.

NEW YORK WOULD BE AMONG FIRST

Thickly Populated Spots Would Need Food Within Two Weeks—Other Means Transportation.

(By United Press.) Washington, March 17.—Practically every thickly populated section of the East would feel the pinch of want for food within two weeks after a railroad strike, the Bureau of Markets of the Agriculture Department told the United Press tonight.

An expert in the bureau who is probably one of the best advised men in the country on the food supply, estimated that New York would be crying for food in less than ten days after a tie-up of the railroads.

Recent data collected by the department on the food storage in and about New York indicated that the storage supply is far below normal and that much of the food in storage there is awaiting shipping to European countries.

Especially is this true regarding grain at New York elevators where thousands of bushels of wheat, purchased by agents of the Allies, is being held until bottoms are available to carry it to Europe. Other large Eastern cities, according to the bureau of agriculture, would feel the pinch almost as soon as the metropol-

Philadelphia and Boston storage plants contain about 75 per cent of their normal capacity. This condition is due largely to the recent railroad congestion. The possibility of transporting food by other means than the railroads were discussed today by Government officials.

It was suggested that meat and grain and other foodstuffs might be shipped from Chicago, via the Great Lakes and the Hudson Canal to New York, in greater quantities than is now being carried by this route. Coastwise trade will be also stimulated to meet the needs of seaport towns.

The country's vast number of auto trucks might also do valuable service in the transportation of food, according to bureau officials, but it is not believed that this mode of conveyance would be able to provide sufficient food for the thickly populated centers.

The principal storage centers for grain at the present time are Chicago, New York and Philadelphia. The greatest supply is in storage in western cities. In case of a tie-up of the railroads by a strike it would be a difficult problem to devise a way by which this grain might be moved East.

BIG ZEPPELIN FELL A BURNING MASS

Brought Down By Gunners in France—All Members of Crew Killed.

(By United Press.) Compiègne, France, March 17 (By Automobile to Paris).—Men, women and children, comprising the bulk of the population of Compiègne, today witnessed the destruction of a Zeppelin in broad daylight.

They saw the huge air-raider come whirling dizzily from the sky in a two-mile fall. They saw the bodies of four members of the crew come hurtling through space after they had leaped from the blazing craft. The bodies of the four men were completely carbonized when picked up. They were buried later in a field nearby.

The Zeppelin was first sighted at 6 o'clock this morning drifting before a westerly wind. The air cruiser had apparently exhausted its supply of petrol or its machinery had been broken. The crew had apparently lost their way and were drifting two miles up in the air when the French anti-aircraft guns opened fire.

Within ten minutes an incendiary shell struck the Zeppelin. The air cruiser seemed powerless to move out of range. As the bombardment increased in intensity the Zeppelin burst into flames and began to settle slowly. It was within a few hundred feet of the ground when four of the crew jumped.

***** VILLA EXECUTED GERMAN. (By United Press.) El Paso, Texas, March 17.—Edgar Koe, German consul, and another German citizen, together with five Syrians, were executed by Villa at Parral, following capture of that city by Villalistas, according to an American refugee reaching here late tonight. *****

HUNDREDS FAILED TO GET ORDER AND THEY WALKED OUT

Baltimore and Ohio and Nickel Plate Roads Had Strike Anyway.

NO FREIGHT WENT OUT OF CLEVELAND

Men Had Been Advised Not to Believe Press Reports So They Quit—Delay in Reaching Them.

(By United Press.) Cleveland, Ohio, March 17.—Not a pound of freight will be handled on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad out of Cleveland tonight, and freight may not move tomorrow or Monday. The stoppage of freight exists all along the Baltimore and Ohio, according to H. B. Green, general superintendent, who declared the road "was already for the strike—had prepared for one," and would change its plans.

Vice President Carey, of the Order of Railway Conductors, disputed Green's statement, which indicated practically a lockout. Carey declared the reason the Baltimore and Ohio freights are not operating are because the men have not yet received the postponement order. He also said approximately 200 Big Four men had not been reached until after 9 o'clock, but then were on their way to work.

Reports from points East and West on the Nickel Plate indicated that road was in much the same condition as the Baltimore and Ohio. From Conneaut East came word that crews had struck because no postponement of the strike had been received officially. A local chairman of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen there declared he had received explicit instructions to disregard press reports. Crews refused to take out trains. From Bellevue West, and as far as Fort Wayne, reports were received that the Nickel Plate employees had left their trains at the Bellevue division point, having received no official postponement.

The tie-up of the two roads which it was recognized was only temporary, resulted from difficulty general chairmen experienced in reaching lower officials in smaller cities. The general chairmen here received word of the postponement shortly after it was announced in New York.

Slow Service Responsible. New York, March 17.—Slow wire service undoubtedly caused freight employees on the Baltimore & Ohio and the Nickel Plate railroads in Ohio to go on strike as scheduled at 6 o'clock tonight, W. S. Stone, president of the Brotherhood of Engineers, told the United Press tonight.

"It was 4 o'clock before we got a wire," he said.

"These men simply haven't yet received the orders wired to them. They will go back to work as soon as those messages are received. The service was naturally slow because of the weather and that is the cause of this situation."

WALKED OUT ON TIME.

Washington, March 17.—Members of the Big Four brotherhoods, employed on the Baltimore and Ohio freight line, between here and New York, walked out on strike shortly after 7 o'clock tonight on failing to receive official notice of the forty-eight hour postponement, according to one of the trainmen here.

The strikers, the United Press informant stated, being under orders to strike at 7 o'clock (6 o'clock, Central time) waited 20 minutes at terminals on receiving press reports the strike had been postponed.

They had been specifically warned, he said, against acting on the press reports of a postponement or rescind of the strike order.

Later, however, the men returned to work upon receiving the postponement order, which had been delayed by wire congestion.

Nickel Plate Tied Up. Conneaut, Ohio, March 17.—The Nickel Plate Railroad is tied up here by the strike of freight crews. Brotherhood men refused to act on press reports telling of postponement of the strike order and having received no official postponement they went out at 7 o'clock, Eastern time.

Five Hundred Quit. Pittsburgh, March 17.—Five hundred engineers, firemen, conductors, brakemen and trainmen on the Pittsburgh division of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad went on strike at 7 o'clock tonight. They failed to get notice of the postponement.

Leaders declared they would not return until formal notification of the postponement was received. The strike tied up the road completely between Pittsburgh and Conneautville.

Switchmen Out a Short Time. Chicago, March 17.—Timothy Shea, leader of the Chicago brotherhoods, announced that switchmen in the Chicago yards of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific, the Baltimore and Ohio, and the Indiana Harbor Belt railroads walked out at 6 o'clock tonight, not having been informed of the postponement of the strike. They returned at the end of an hour, Shea said, after they had been apprised of the situation. Operating officials of the three roads denied any of their switchmen had walked out.

CLARION CALL BY GOV. BICKETT FOR MORE FOOD CROPS.

SHOT TO DEATH NEAR MONROE

Tar Heel Posse Visited Vengeance on Negro Who Had Shot Farmer.

(By United Press.) Charlotte, N. C., March 17.—Bunk Marks, a negro, was shot to death at Wingate, twenty-five miles east of this city late today, by a posse of men who had gone to the aid of Edgar Williams, a well-to-do farmer, who had been shot by the negro when Williams attempted to take him to Monroe to jail for attempted assault on the farmer's wife.

The negro was shot eight times with shot guns and died a few minutes after being taken to Monroe. He held the posse at bay for several minutes and fired more than a dozen shots before being downed.

Mr. Williams was brought to a hospital in this city. Little hope is held out for his life. He is shot through the head and abdomen. Bunk Marks, a brother of the dead negro, was also taken to jail at Monroe tonight, to avoid possible trouble at Wingate.

The nature of the dead negro's assault on Mrs. Williams was not learned here tonight.

ONLY PARTLY ACCEDES TO POPE'S REQUEST.

(By United Press.) Rome, March 17.—Germany has acceded to Pope Benedict's request for reparations for Belgium and returned 13,000 out of 80,000 deported, according to a newspaper, Corriere D'Italia, today. The German government, however, has intimated that no further reparations will be made beyond the 13,000 announced.

***** (Continued on Page Three.)

DECLARES IT IS THE ONE WEAPON TO WIELD AGAINST ATTACK OF BOLL WEEVIL.

SETS APART APRIL 5TH AS "PLANTING DAY."

(Special to The Dispatch.) Raleigh, N. C., March 17.—Governor Bickett's proclamation to North Carolina to plant every arable foot of land against the ravages of the boll weevil, on the one hand, and Prussianism on the other, was issued today and his new season is "Planting Day" for April 5th.

The Governor set the pace two weeks ago, when he persuaded the Legislature to give him some ground at the State Hospital. Today he appeals to mayors of all cities and towns to urge the people to plant in food crops every piece of land adjacent to the cities and sends the thrilling appeal to farmers, landlords, merchant and every condition of men. He backs it up with powerful Scripture, in which he is pastmaster. It is the Governor's novel idea and here it is: "From the South the boll weevil is marching on North Carolina. Full cribs and smoke houses are the sure and safe defense against the coming of this pest. In every State the destruction of cotton by the boll weevil has been followed by a paralysis of the farmers' credit. Being forewarned of the steady advance of this enemy and the certain consequence of its attack it will be colossal stupidity to fail to meet it with the only weapons that have proved effective, to-wit: Broad acres of grains and grasses.

"The amended crop lien law was framed to give to that small farmer a decent chance to escape from a credit system that levies upon the right to live and labor the heaviest tribute imposed upon a helpless people since August Caesar issued his decree that all the world should be taxed, but the farmer who fails to in-

***** (Continued on Page Three.)

BEFORE FURIOUS BRITISH ATTACK BAPAUME FALLS

MUST HAVE 8-HOUR DAY, SAYS SHEA

Chicago Chief Declares Triple Walk-Out Will Occur Monday at Six P. M.

(By United Press.) Chicago, March 17.—A general strike on practically all railroads operating out of Chicago will go into effect at 6 o'clock Monday night unless the differences between the railroad managers and the brotherhoods are settled by that hour, according to Timothy Shea, spokesman for the brotherhoods' representatives here.

Such instructions will be issued, Shea said, to supplant the previous orders for a progressive strike. The earlier orders provide one group of lines would be affected by the strike today and others on Sunday and Monday nights. Instead of such procedure the three groups will walk out simultaneously Monday unless a strike settlement is reached.

Shea said brotherhood leaders here were well pleased by developments at New York, but he stated firmly they will not accept any compromise without an eight-hour day.

WORE YELLOW TIE; WAS PAINTED GREEN.

(By United Press.) New York, March 17.—Magistrate Nowlan couldn't find it in his heart today, so he refused to issue a warrant to Victor J. Brown, who complained that three men leaped on him, ripped a yellow tie off his neck and smeared him with green paint.

The magistrate insisted on witnesses and Brown didn't have them.

Haig's Army Pushed On and Snatched Powerful Position From German Grasp

GENERAL TEUTON RETREAT EXPECTED.

Capture Marks Greatest Advance at Smallest Cost Since Outset of War—City Was Pillaged By Germans Before They Deserted It.

(By United Press.) London, March 17.—Bapaume, the city which Field Marshal von Hindenburg dubbed "the Gibraltar of the western front," is in British hands tonight. Its occupancy by Field Marshal Haig's troops completes a sweep forward which began a month ago, when the Germans first began finding their positions on the Ancre rendered untenable by the terrific hail of fire which the British have poured unceasingly on that territory.

It marks the greatest advance at the smallest cost that has been achieved on the western front since the Germans made the advances at Trouts, at the outset of the war.

Because of the strength and peculiar position of the new British position at Bapaume, and the old position around Arras, which project out like twin arms, England looks for a general retirement by the Germans on the whole Arras-Bapaume lines, to avoid an encircling movement by the British. That would add some 12 square miles of new territory to the British gains already registered.

Began a month ago with the retirement that was heralded by scarcely any resistance to the British advance, the German retreat during the last few days has developed into a retirement under bitter fighting. The Germans fought back (Continued on Page Eight)

WILSON HAS EYE ON EACH MOVE BEING MADE IN STRIKE

Realizes That The Danger Point Has Not Been Passed Yet—In Close Touch.

WILL SUPREME COURT DECIDE TOMORROW?

That is a Vital and Live Question in Connection With The Negotiations—Highest Tribunal May Take Delay As An Affront.

(By United Press.) Washington, March 17.—President Wilson is not completely satisfied that danger of a strike on the 250,000 miles of this Nation's railroad system has been wholly averted.

At any rate, he continued tonight to work on plans for meeting any emergency that might come when the 48-hour postponement, secured at literally the eleventh hour this afternoon, is up.

And at the same time, he hoped, officers, with other administration officials, that the concession by the big four brotherhood chiefs might mean they are willing to go their limit in finding a solution of their differences with the Nation's railroad managers.

With his advisers he argued the concession means the representatives of the railroad employees are still open to argument against action which might prove a tremendous handicap to the government at a time of such national stress as has not confronted the government in over two score years.

The President tonight, his advisers said, is not unmindful also of some lack of whole-hearted cooperation in the ranks of the railroad workers as shown by the action of the brotherhood locals over the country in opposing the strike order. In this connection, the action of Pennsylvania locals in asking an injunction to (Continued on Page Four)

VILLA READY TO STORM THE CITY

Drives Carranza Commander Into Chihuahua City and Gets Ready to Attack.

(By United Press.) El Paso, Texas, March 17.—Driven back step by step by Villa's bandits, General Murguía is tonight entrenched in Chihuahua City, preparing to make a final stand. The Carranzista commander will receive Villa with barred wire entanglements and cannon mounted on the hills of Chihuahua City, should the latter risk an assault. The capture of Chihuahua City would prove a tremendous advantage to the Villa cause at this time, but in the opinion of military authorities here the bandit leader will be wise not to attempt an assault, preferring rather to lay siege to Murguía's Federal forces.

Meanwhile reports of a clash between Villa's vanguard and a detachment of 2,000 Carranzistas was expected hourly from Bachimba Pass, where they are expected to meet.

FRENCH CABINET RESIGNS.

(By United Press.) London, March 17.—The French cabinet has resigned. Paris dispatches here tonight asserted.