

## GREAT RAILROAD STRIKE IS CALLED

The "Progressive Strike" of 400,000 Railroad Men to Start Tomorrow.

Walkout Extends to All Railroads in the Country in Five Days. New York Roads First. Strike Will Start on New York Central Lines and Extend West. Only Successful Intervention by President Can Avert Tieup.

(News and Observer.)

New York, March 15.—A "progressive strike" of the 400,000 members of the four great railroad brotherhoods, to begin at 6 o'clock (central time) Saturday on eastern roads, was ordered late today. The walkout will extend to all the railroads in the country within five days. Chiefs of the workmen's organizations set the strike machinery in motion within a few minutes after an ultimatum delivered to the conference committee of railroad managers had been rejected. A compromise proposal offered by the managers was declined without debate.

Only successful intervention by President Wilson, it appeared tonight, can avert a strike. The brotherhood leaders gave no indication that even an appeal from the nation's chief executive can change their purpose to obtain a basic eight hour day and pro rata time for over time through the use of the "protective feature" of their organizations. They refused flatly to submit their case to the eight hour commission headed by Major General George W. Goethals or to await the decision of the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of the Adamson Law.

Freight employes, yardmen and engine hostlers on the New York Central east and west, the Nickel Plate and Baltimore and Ohio railroads and in the great yards in Chicago and St. Louis will be the first to leave their posts.

They will be followed Sunday by the same classes of workmen on the Southern railway, the Norfolk and Western, the Virginia, Chesapeake and Ohio and on a group of northwestern roads.

No formal outline of the brotherhoods' program beyond the plans for these two days was made, either to the managers or to the public. It was said, however, that the freight employes on the other roads in the country would be called out in groups at 12 or 24-hour intervals after Sunday.

If the paralysis of freight traffic thus caused does not result in surrender by the railroads before that time the employes on all passenger trains will be ordered out Wednesday.

### Raleigh To Welcome Soldier Boys.

Raleigh, N. C., March 15.—Raleigh is arranging for the glorification of its returning soldier boys from the Mexican border, who are expected to reach the State in the course of the next few days. One of the practical measures under way is an effort to find jobs for about fifty members of the Raleigh Company (B) and the Third Regiment band. A large proportion of the men enlisted in these organizations are not natives or residents of Raleigh, and some of them "joined the army" largely to secure jobs. But they have served their country at pretty hard labor and very small pay and if they are capable they deserve to be given consideration in filling positions suitable to them.

### AT THE CAPITAL OF BANNER.

Mr. John Dixon Passed Away at His Home in Elevation Township Saturday. New Presbyterian Church Nearing Completion. Quarterly Conference to Be Held at Methodist Church. Numerous Items of Local and Personal Interest.

Benson, March 15.—Messrs. A. W. Hodges and son, L. A. Hodges, are in Smithfield today attending the Superior Court.

Mr. A. H. Caldwell, who has been here for the past several months, has moved to Barclaysville and will engage in mercantile business there.

Mr. Ed. S. Edmondson, of Smithfield, was here Monday demonstrating a cotton-seed grader. This machine will be of great service to the farmer when used by him.

Rev. A. T. Lassiter is spending the week near Kenly where he is holding a series of meetings.

Mr. B. A. Grant, of Goldsboro, was here for a few days recently. He formerly lived here with his family.

Miss Iva Pearson, of Dunn, spent the week-end here with friends.

Mr. Calvin Barbour, of Elevation township, was a visitor to Benson recently. He is one of the most up-to-date farmers of the county.

Mr. Carl Barefoot, who has been in the Fayetteville Hospital for several days, because of his hand being mashed in an automobile wreck, was able to return home Monday.

The three-weeks-old baby of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Hill died at their home here last Saturday night and was buried Sunday afternoon in the Benson Cemetery.

Miss Beatrice Goodrich went up to Kenly last Sunday to visit for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Barefoot were visitors to Four Oaks Saturday and Sunday, spending the time with relatives there.

Mr. Dalton Lee and Dr. J. H. Stanley, of Four Oaks, were here yesterday on business for a few hours.

Miss Daisey Bryant went up to Wilson Saturday night and spent Sunday with relatives, returning Monday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Heber Creech, of Smithfield, were here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Rose recently.

Elder J. T. Coats, of Coats, preached here Sunday at the Primitive Baptist church.

Miss Ruth Jones, of Smithfield, was a visitor to our city Sunday for a few hours.

Mr. Claud Canaday was a visitor to the city of Raleigh Tuesday, returning Tuesday night.

Messrs. Eli Turlington, J. L. Hall and Alonzo Parrish were visitors to Smithfield Monday for a few hours.

Mr. M. T. Britt went down to Lumberton Monday to spend the day at the Lumberton Farm of the Real Estate Trading Company.

Mr. H. W. Weeks, of Robinsville, N. C., was a visitor to relatives here for a few days recently, returning to his home Monday afternoon.

Mr. A. W. Hodges went down to Fayetteville Monday on business matters.

Messrs. R. D. Langdon, George Moore, R. C. Pool, N. T. Ryals and others attended Court at Smithfield Monday.

Rev. O. B. Garris, of Watha, spent Sunday and Monday in Benson visiting friends.

Mr. J. M. Jones, a prominent farmer and lumberman, of Cumberland County, was here Monday and Tuesday on business.

The regular services were held at the Baptist church Sunday, by the pastor, Rev. W. H. Rollins.

The new Presbyterian church, which is in building here, is nearing completion. It will be ready for use within sixty days.

The Quarterly Conference of the Methodist church will be held at the Benson church, Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock. The Presiding Elder, J. E. Underwood, of Raleigh, will be present and will preach Sunday morning at the eleven o'clock services.

Several Bensonians attended court at Smithfield Wednesday, among them being M. T. Britt, Alonzo Parrish, A. E. Surles, R. T. Surles, Jesse Surles, Joe Neighbors, S. D. Stone, J. E. Wilson, A. B. Hudson, M. B. Porter, O. A. Barbour, W. H. Slocumb, J. H. Godwin, H. A. Parker, John Whittenton, Quester Moore, George Moore, Ezra Parker and others.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon C. Jackson, of Sampson County, visited here at

### CHINA QUILTS GERMANY.

Washington Is Hopeful Other Neutrals Will Follow China. Administration Officials Believe Concerted Cutting Off of Relations With Germany Would Soon Bring U-Boat Campaign to an End and Possibly Avert the War Which Now Closely Approaches This Nation. Situation Is Still Critical.

Washington, March 14.—American Minister Reinsch, at Peking, today reported to the state department that China had severed diplomatic relations with Germany and that the German minister had been handed his passports.

China has also taken possession of all German merchant ships in Shanghai, about six in number, placed their crews on shore under guard, and placed armed guards on the vessels.

Recent dispatches from Peking have spoken in high terms of the part American Minister Reinsch has taken in the steps leading up to China's action.

China's action is expected to have far-reaching effect on far eastern history as it aligns her with Japan and the other entente powers. German trade, which before the war had become the most dangerous competitor to British and Japanese business in China, amounted to about 20 per cent of Japan's trade and offered a tempting prize for the latter.

The immediate effect of China's severance of relations will probably be a greatly increased output of munitions for Russia. China is Japan's source of iron and has provided much of the raw material on which the latter's immense munition trade has been built up.

China already has sent 100,000 coolies to France and Russia as laborers and can increase the number almost without limit.—Associated Press Dispatch.

### MORE NATIONS MAY FOLLOW CHINA'S LEAD.

Washington, March 14.—Hope for more or less general action among the neutrals of the world to break off relations with Germany as a protest against submarine ruthlessness was revived in Washington tonight. Reports to the state department and the navy department and the navy department that China had broken with the German government, led to the hope that President Wilson's desire for a general break by the neutrals, expressed in his original address to Congress on the German break, might yet bring forth fruit. Administration officials believe that a concerted cutting off of relations by several of the important neutral nations would soon bring the German submarine campaign to an end, and possibly avert the war which day by day approaches more closely to the United States.

The Chinese break, officials believe, may open the way for further neutral action, and tonight it was suggested that certain South American nations were considering following the lead of the United States in combatting the submarine warfare. China's determination to break with Germany was announced in a cablegram from Minister Paul S. Reinsch at Peking. The ranking American naval officer in Chinese waters reported that China had seized all interned German shipping at Shanghai and had brought the crews of six ships ashore under guard.—International News Service.

### Collie to Be Superintendent.

Mr. W. M. Sanders went to Raleigh yesterday to attend a meeting of the directors of the State Penitentiary. Mr. J. R. Collie, of Louisville, Chief Clerk to the Committee on Claims, was chosen upon Governor Bickett's recommendation, to be Superintendent of the Penitentiary.

the home of their mother, Mrs. Martha Jackson, Sunday.

Mr. John Dixon, a prosperous farmer, of Elevation township, died at his home four miles west of Benson Saturday and was buried Sunday afternoon at the family burying ground near his residence. He had been sick for several months with heart trouble and paralysis and his death was not unexpected. He was nearly sixty-four years of age and was highly respected by all who knew him. He leaves a wife and several children surviving him.

### GERMANY GETS AMERICAN SHIP

Algonquin Was First Seized, Then Sunk by U-Boat on March 12. "There Was No Warning" Says Captain of the Ship. Was Just After Daylight. Submarine Started Fire at Range of Three Miles and Fired Twenty Shots.

A London dispatch dated March 14, and published in yesterday's dailies, gives the story of the sinking of the first American vessel by a German U-boat as follows:

The American steamship Algonquin which sailed from New York for London February 20 with an American crew on board was shelled without warning by a German submarine and sunk on March 12. All on board were saved. The vessel was owned by the American White Star line and was recently transferred from British registry.

Adding to advices from Plymouth the German submarine opened fire upon the Algonquin from a distance of 4,000 yards, firing about 20 shells. These were not sufficient to sink the steamer so she was boarded by men from the submarine who placed four bombs and the Algonquin was then blown up. The crew was given plenty of time to leave the vessel.

"It was just after daylight on Monday when we were attacked," said the captain of the Algonquin, as quoted by the Press Association. "There was no warning. The submarine started fire at the Algonquin at a range of three miles. When about 25 shells had been fired at the Algonquin of which four hit her, forward, the crew decided to take to the boats, and pulled away from the sinking vessel.

"Then the submarine approached and with only her periscope showing, sailed around the steamer several times. Finding that the crew had abandoned the ship, the submarine came to the surface. Some of the Germans boarded the Algonquin and placed bombs aft. These were exploded, and within a quarter of an hour the steamer disappeared.

"I appealed to the submarine commander for a tow towards land, in view of the roughness of the weather, but the German gruffly replied: 'No. I am too busy.' The crew pulled away in their boats, none being injured by shell fire, but all suffered from exposure.

"All personal effects and the ship's papers were lost."

**Algonquin Is Shelled and Destroyed.**

Capt. A. Nordberg, of the American steamship, Algonquin, which was torpedoed by a German submarine, on March 12, is now at Pensance. He will arrive with his crew in Plymouth tomorrow morning. In an interview Captain Nordberg said that the Algonquin was bound from New York for London with foodstuffs.

"On Monday morning," he said, "just after daylight I was on the bridge. It was the mate's watch. I saw two steamers, apparently colliers, steaming west, one on the starboard and the other on the port side. Two minutes later the mate called my attention to another object and at once I said 'I think that is a submarine.'

"The submarine was about three miles distant, as were also the steamers. Immediately I saw a flash of a gun and a shell fell short. At once I stopped the engines and then went full speed astern, indicating this by three blasts on the whistle. The submarine kept on firing, the fourth shot throwing up a column of water which drenched me and the man at the wheel. It was a close thing."

### SINKING OF THE ALGONQUIN DOESN'T CHANGE SITUATION

Washington, March 14.—In the absence of details as to the destruction of the steamer Algonquin, officials withheld comment, but the unofficial view was that nothing in the incident changes the situation between the United States and Germany.

President Wilson already has taken steps to place the nation in a state of armed neutrality, which with the breaking of diplomatic relations with Germany is practically the last measure possible short of war.

American ships are now being armed to defend themselves against unlawful submarine attack. The general view today is that arming of ships is the only answer to submarine operations short of a declaration of war, which may be made only by Congress.

Consul Stephens at Plymouth re-

### DR. WANAMAKER AT KENLY.

Makes Powerful Address in School Auditorium to Large Audience. While a Splendid Musical Program Adds Much to Occasion. Dr. Robert H. Wright to Be the Next Speaker on March 25th. Other Items.

Kenly, March 13.—Sunday afternoon at three o'clock, Dr. W. H. Wannamaker, head of the department of German at Trinity College, delivered a most powerful address in the Kenly High School auditorium concerning the weakest point in American civilization—"Poor Town Government and the Remedy." Between three and four hundred people heard Dr. Wannamaker and the program of special music was both appropriate and delightful.

Dr. Wannamaker agrees with James Bryce that the American people have largely failed in municipal government. "Call to mind," he said, "the recent food riots in New York City and think of the suffering in the large majority of all our American cities, and you will easily be able to see that one of our greatest problems is to make our city government both sufficient and democratic. Partisan politicians must be ruled out, and scientific experts must be brought in, and the work of city government must be carried forward with the same exactness with which the work of our greatest corporations is carried on."

Dr. Wannamaker then went on to show, by citing illustrations from Germany and other progressive nations, how city government may be made more efficient.

The music was especially appropriate. The audience sang "America," our national hymn; the Kenly Quartette sang "The Watch on the Rhine," the national hymn of Germany; and the children's chorus, directed by Mrs. H. P. Johnson, sang the Welsh national hymn. Also Mrs. C. F. Darden and Mrs. W. J. Hooks rendered a duet; and the quartette sang as a last music number "Jesus, Saviour, Pilot Me."

Dr. Robert H. Wright, President of East Carolina Teachers' Training School, of Greenville, is the speaker for March 25th. His subject is: "The Golden Age of America—The Next Forty Years."

Monday afternoon the Rollins Literary Society held a preliminary for the selection of the speakers for the triangle debate; the following students were chosen: Affirmative—Rudolph Kirby and Harvey Jones; negative—Earl Southard and Jesse Godwin. The Kenly teams will debate Selma and Smithfield at night on the 30th of March.

Mr. M. B. Andrews, Superintendent of the Kenly State High School, has accepted an invitation to deliver the commencement address at Glendale, Johnston County, which will be held some time during the next few days.

### FLEET OF WOODEN VESSELS.

Builders of Wooden Ships Meet at Call of Shipping Board. Can Expand Production.

Washington, March 14.—Speeding up measures to enable the United States in the event of war with Germany to procure without delay a great fleet of vessels for transportation of supplies to the allies were discussed here today by wooden ship builders of the Atlantic and gulf coasts, who met at the call of the shipping board. Yards that produce steel tonnage, already are working to their capacity.

The meeting was held primarily to give the shipping board information as to what the wooden ship yards could do through standardization, the use of a larger percentage of unskilled labor and other processes.

Theodore Brent, of the shipping board, told the builders the board desired to prepare for any emergency the country may face and that the information asked was vital as a measure of preparedness.

All the yards represented, it developed, could expand their production under emergency conditions.

ported the sinking of the Algonquin in the following dispatch:

"Steamer Algonquin, of New York, from New York for London with foodstuffs sunk by German submarine 65 miles west of Bishops (Rock) March 12, 6 a. m. Captain reports vessel not warned and sunk by shell fire. Crew of 27 all saved in own boats. Submarine refused assistance. No other boats in sight."

## RUSSIAN EMPEROR ABDICATES THRONE

Grand Duke Michael Is Established As Regent, Ministry Is Swept Out.

Petrograd for Days Scene of Rising Thoroughly Remarkable. Beginning Without Food Riots and Labor Strikes, Cry for Food Reached Hearts of Soldiers, Regiments Rebellious One by One Until the Government Was Without Military Support.

(News and Observer.)

Petrograd, March 15.—The Emperor of Russia has abdicated and Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovitch, his younger brother, has been named as regent. The Russian ministry, charged with corruption and incompetence, has been swept out of office. Minister Alexander Protopopoff, head of the Interior Department, is reported to have been killed, and the other ministers, as well as the President of the Imperial Council are under arrest.

A new national cabinet is announced, with Prince L. Voff as President of the council and Premier, and the other officers held by the men who are close to the Russian people.

For several days Petrograd has been the scene of one of the most remarkable risings in history. Beginning with minor food riots and labor strikes, the cry for food reached the hearts of the soldiers, and one by one the regiments rebelled, until finally those troops that had for a time stood loyal to the government, took up their arms and marched into the ranks of the revolutionists.

The President of the Duma, Michael V. Rodzianko, was the leading figure among the deputies who unanimously decided to oppose the imperial order for a dissolution of the House. They continued their sessions and M. Rodzianko informed the Emperor, then at the front, that the hour had struck when the will of the people must prevail. Even the Imperial Council realized the gravity of the situation and added its appeal to that of the Duma that the Emperor should take steps to give the people a policy and government in accordance with their desires and in order that there should be no interference with carrying on the war to a victorious ending.

### MICRO NOTES.

The Philathea Class of the Free Will Baptist church was very highly honored on last Tuesday evening, being the guests of the Baraca Class of their lovely "Reception." The hall was very beautifully decorated in the class colors.

After the invocation and singing of the Baraca Hymn, many interesting contests and games were enjoyed by all.

Truly the most important feature of the evening was the elaborate refreshments that were served, which consisted of fruit salad, whip cream, cake and punch.

The Philathea Class extends many, many thanks for the very pleasant evening of March 13, 1917.

Baracas, we love you,  
Baracas we do;  
If you think we don't love you—  
What a foolish idea.

### PHILATHEAS.

London, March 14.—Thirteen British vessels of more than 1,600 tons were sunk during the week ending March 11, says today's official announcement on shipping losses. Four British vessels of less than 1,600 tons and three fishing vessels also were sunk.