

## STRIKE ON EASTERN ROADS ORDERED SATURDAY, 6 P. M.

### Managers' Conference Committee Rejects Demands of Brotherhoods

### EMPEROR NICHOLAS OF RUSSIA GIVES UP HIS THRONE

#### WALK-OUT WILL EXTEND TO ALL RAILROADS IN 5 DAYS

Country Divided Into Sections, and Each Will be Affected a Section at a Time Under "Progressive" Plan Until All Freight Men Have Left Their Posts—If Roads Refuse to Give In, Passenger Employees Will Strike Wednesday.

#### MANAGERS HOPE TO KEEP UP 'SKELETON' SERVICE

Chiefs of Workmen's Organizations Flatly Refused to Submit Case to Eight-Hour Commission—No Indication is Given That an Appeal by President Wilson Can Prevent Brotherhood Leaders From Putting Strike Order in Effect.

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 here 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.

##### Brotherhood Leaders Determined.

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 overtime through the use of the "protective feature" of their organizations. They refuse flatly to submit their case to the Eight Hour Commission, headed by Major General Geo. 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 & Ohio railroads and in the great yards in Chicago and St. Louis, will be the first to leave their posts. They will be followed on Sunday by the same classes of workmen on the Southern Railway, the Norfolk & Western, the Virginian, Chesapeake & 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 all other roads in the country would be called out in groups at 12 or 24-hour intervals on 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.

#### President, Amazed At Action of Brotherhoods, Declines Comment

Washington, March 15.—Word that a general railroad strike had been ordered to begin Saturday night was received by President Wilson tonight with amazement. He had confidently expected that some kind of agreement would prevent interference with transportation facilities at least while the nation is on the verge of war.

No statement was authorized by the White House, and all officials professed to be ignorant of what the President might intend to do. Apparently he feels he is powerless unless it becomes necessary for him to adopt measures to keep the mails moving.

After a telephone conference with Secretary Wilson of the Labor Department, it was understood the President decided to make no move tonight.

operate a skeleton service on most roads and they estimated between 30,000 and 40,000 men are employed on the roads on which the strike is to begin Saturday night. The members of the managers' committee will remain here until tomorrow. If the men ask another conference, it will be granted. They said they would make every effort to operate their roads in spite of the strike. Preference will be given to the movement of trains carrying food and fuel. When the managers, in their counter proposition at the final conference, offered to abide by any decree of the Goethals commission if the Adamson act were declared unconstitutional, W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, spokesmen for the employes, declared:

"That would be only another form of arbitration and our men are sick and tired of arbitration." The brotherhood chiefs contend their demand for the basic eight-hour day for all classes of work, with pro rata time for overtime, would give them only what they would gain under the provisions of the Adamson law. They have abandoned their original demand for time and a half for overtime.

Membership Impatient. Declaring that the rank and file of the brotherhood membership had become impatient and would tolerate no further delay in enforcing their demands, Mr. Lee said the Supreme Court might adjourn without handing down a decision on the Adamson act. In that event, he declared, there would be no decision until next winter, and the men would wait.

The managers' refusal to comply with the ultimatum of the brotherhoods was (Continued on Page Two)

The general belief in official circles is that the President will make an appeal to the patriotism of the men, urging them not to tie up transportation facilities with the country facing a great international crisis.

There was every indication that the President would not call the representatives of the two sides to Washington again as he did last year when the strike was threatened.

ANY STEPS THE GOVERNMENT COULD TAKE IS MOOT QUESTION Washington, March 15.—It is a moot question what steps the government could take to prevent paralysis of transportation facilities and consequent weakening of the nation's resources in the international crisis. The general opinion among officials seems to be that the President could do little (Continued on Page Two)

#### AWARDS MADE BY NAVY FOR GREAT BUILDING PROGRAM

Private Bidders Given Orders for Four Battle Cruisers and Six Scout Cruisers.

#### GET 10 PER CENT. PROFIT

Contracts Let Yesterday Probably Largest Ever Made by Any Nation for Warships.

Washington, March 15.—Contracts for what is believed to be the largest single order for fighting craft ever given by any nation were placed today by the Navy Department. Private builders undertook to turn out four great battle cruisers and six scout cruisers, and pledged themselves to keep 70 per cent. of their working forces on navy construction.

In response to an appeal to their patriotism by Secretary Daniels, the major ship builders have agreed to accept 10 per cent. net profit on the battle cruisers, whose cost will represent about \$76,000,000 of the total sum involved in today's contracts. A fifth battle cruiser will be built at the Philadelphia navy yard so as not to strain the limit of facilities of private establishments.

Government Given Preference The builders are besieged with offers of merchant work, and are getting as high as 50 per cent. profit on these jobs with more work in sight than they can do. They have placed their facilities at the disposal of the government, making it unnecessary for the President to consider employing authority to commandeer plants.

Both classes of cruisers ordered today are new types to naval architecture, and are designed for a speed of 35 knots an hour. The scouts were awarded on bids submitted yesterday, prices ranging from \$5,950,000 to \$5,996,000 and stipulated time of delivery from 30 to 32 months. Under the emergency clause of the naval appropriation bill, construction will be hastened to the limit, government footing the bill for additional cost.

Bidders to Whom Awarded The battle cruisers, the fixed limit of cost of which is \$19,000,000 per ship, exclusive of speeding up expense, were placed as follows:

Newport News Shipbuilding and Dry Dock Company, two ships; Fore River Shipbuilding Corporation, one ship; New York Shipbuilding Company, one ship.

With the exception of the New York company each private builder will have to install new ways and machinery for the huge craft. The government will bear its fair share of this expense.

Four of the scout cruisers will be built on the Pacific coast and the other two will be built by William Cramp and Sons, Philadelphia, Cramp and the Union Iron Works may be called upon also to build a number of destroyers.

Open Other Bids April Of the authorized building program there remains to be contracted for three dreadnaughts, 38 submarines, 15 destroyers and several auxiliary vessels. Bids will be opened early in April on these craft and at the same time orders will be placed for more than 100 coast patrol boats.

The ultimate cost to the government of the ships ordered today will exceed by many millions the figures given for hull and machinery. It will cost \$465,692 per ship to arm and outfit the scouts and \$5,337,810 additional for each battle cruiser.

The shipbuilders having made financial sacrifices to meet the government's needs Secretary Daniels is seeking similar agreements with the contractors who supply material to go in the ships.

The plans for the three 42,000-ton dreadnaughts are not completed. At least two may have to go to government yards. In addition a considerable number of destroyers and submarines must be laid down at the yards, as the private plants are overtaxed with the work given them.

Statement by Daniels. In a statement tonight Secretary Daniels said:

The representatives of the Navy Department are to have the right to require the contractors to employ at all times the maximum number of men that can be utilized to push the work, and if a sufficient force of mechanics can be obtained, it is hoped that the battle cruisers may be finished in about three years.

#### REVOLUTION FORCES HIM TO ABDICATE THE THRONE.



CZAR NICHOLAS OF RUSSIA

#### RUSSIAN REVOLUTION TOOK DEFINITE SHAPE ON SUNDAY

Workingmen Started it by Quitting Work as Protest Against Shortage of Bread—Regiment After Regiment Joined Revolters as Also Did the Duma—City of Petrograd One Vast Battlefield.

Petrograd, March 15.—Events leading up to the revolution began a week ago with street demonstrations of working men who quit work as a protest against the shortage of bread. The first two days mounted patrols kept the crowds moving without resorting to violence. When ordered to fire on the people they refused. Police were substituted and a battle occurred between them and the troops. Regiment after regiment joined the revolt and seized arsenals and other strategic points.

The duma joined hands with the revolution, on being dissolved by the emperor, and declared that the existing government had been overthrown. The duma resumed its sittings. It had sent the notification to the emperor of these developments, warning him that the fate of the dynasty depended on his acceptance of the new order of affairs.

Jails Thrown Open The city is now quiet. Perfect order prevails. So far as is known, no foreigners were injured. All the ministers resigned, with the exception of M. Protopopoff, former Premier Sturmer, Premier Goltzine and the head of the secret police and several government buildings were burned.

Until Sunday night there was no indication that the affair would grow to the proportions of a revolution. From then until Tuesday morning, almost continuous fighting in the streets and throughout the city occurred, leaving the revolutionists in full control. The latter are proceeding to reorganize the government.

Business Again Resumed. Today the city emerged from a week's nightmare of revolution and figuratively smiled under a brilliant flood of sunshine after the series of gray days ending with a snowstorm yesterday evening. Planks were pulled down from windows long closed. Stores, banks, and business establishments reopened their doors as confidence in the new temporary government gained in force. Truck sledges and little sleighs for hire, began to appear again in the streets that for six days had been absolutely void of any means of private transportation.

Newspapers, with the exception of revolutionary publications which sprang into life with the success of the revolt, had failed to appear. Street car service, it was believed, would be partly resumed tonight.

The only visible signs of the desperate clash of authority that turned the city into a battle ground were the charred ruins of the jail, which are still pouring a cloud of smoke skyward and the remains of other police institutions and the homes of the few individuals who were regarded as offenders against the rights of the people. In front of other government institutions are piles of charred embers showing where wreckage and documents have been dumped.

#### OLD REGIME IN RUSSIA IS OVERTHROWN BY REBELLION

Emperor Abdicates and Grand Duke Alexandrovitch is Appointed Regent—Entire Ministry Swept Out of Office and a New Cabinet, Headed by Prince Lvoff, is Named—Empress Reported to Have Fled or to be in Hiding.

#### CITY OF PETROGRAD THE SCENE OF A GREAT BATTLE

Government Troops Join the "Cause of the People" and the Movement is Backed Unanimously by Members of the Duma—Minister Protopopoff is Reported to Have Been Killed, While All the Other Ministers Are Under Arrest.

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. One 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 Lvoff as president of the council and premier, and the other offices held by the men who are close to the Russian people.

Troops Join Revolutionists. For several days Petrograd has been the scene of one of the most remarkable uprisings 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 realigned 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.

Empress May Have Fled. The emperor hastened back from the front, only to find that the revolution had been successful and that a new government was in control. The empress, who it is alleged, has been influential in the councils opposed to the wishes of the people, is reported to have fled or to be in hiding.

Although considerable fighting took place, it is not believed that the casualties are large. The early period of the uprising bore the character rather of a mock revolution. Cossacks charging down the street did so in a half-hearted fashion, plainly without malice or intent to harm the crowds. The troops exchanged good natured rallery with the workmen and women, and as they rode were cheered by the populace.

Long lines of soldiers stationed in dramatic attitudes across Nevsky Prospect, with their guns pointed at an imaginary foe, appeared to be taking part in a tableau. Machine guns firing roundly or blank cartridges seemed only to add another realistic touch to a tremendous theatrical production.

Broke Into Flame Sunday. Until Sunday night this pageant continued without serious interruption. Then in a flash the whole scene lost its theatrical quality; it became a genuine revolution.

The regiments had received an order from the commandant to fire upon persons assembled in the streets. This caused immediate dissension among the troops, who did not understand why they should be compelled to take violent measures against fellow citizens, whose chief offense was that they were hungry and were asking the government to supply bread. Several regiments deserted and a pitched battle began between the troops who stood with the government and those who, refusing to obey orders, had mutinied.

A long night battle occurred between the mutinous regiments and the police at the end of St. Catharine canal. (Continued on Page Ten)

#### London Shows Unmixed Joy Over The Turn of Affairs in Russia

London, March 15.—The news that "great Russia" had joined the democracies of the world and that one of the three great absolutist rulers of the world had resigned his throne in accordance with the demands of his people, was received here with unmixed joy. There has been no illusion here about Russia. Particularly in the last year it has been well understood that the situation there has been the people against the throne.

The people and the army are all for the war and against Germany. It has been the word which came from Russia from all channels repeatedly. That the court has been enshrouded in a pro-German atmosphere and that the emperor was a weak man under the domination of his wife and also under the domination of several members of the bureaucracy, some of whom were influenced only by the tradition of the old bureaucracy and others of whom were informed by in the pay of German diplomats, also had been reported.

The men now in control of the destinies of the great empire of western Europe are Russians who are anti-German and pro-Russian to the core, so the Russian developments are regarded here as wholly to the benefit of the entente powers in the war.

#### CITY OF KRONSTADT IS SAID TO HAVE JOINED REVOLUTION

London, March 15.—Telegraphing from Petrograd Wednesday, Reuters correspondent says Kronstadt, the fortress and seaport at the head of the Gulf of Finland, twenty miles west of Petrograd, has joined the revolutionary movement. Two deputies, Pelelauff and Taskin, on instructions from the duma committee, proceeded to Kronstadt where the troops placed themselves at the disposal of the duma.

M. Pelelauff was appointed commander of Kronstadt, which is Russia's great naval station.

#### TRENCHES ON FRONT OF TWO AND HALF MILES CAPTURED

London, March 15.—Another important gain has been made by the British troops between Peronne and Bapaume, according to the official statement issued tonight. Trenches on a front of two and a half miles, running from south of the St. Pierre-Vaast wood to north of the village of Salliseul, have been captured.

Southeast of Arras the Germans entered British trenches.