

## GOVERNMENT'S PLAN FOR BREAKING STRIKE

### A Proclamation Issued, Conceived in Paternal Tone

### THE SITUATION NOT SO ACUTE

### Strikes Have Spread to Several Towns

But There Have Been No Great Demonstrations and No Bloodshed—Strikers Are Supplied With Money to Meet Their Needs—The Workmen Seem to Have No Definite Plans for the Future—Funerals of Many Victims of Sunday's Tragedy Held Yesterday—The Authorities at Moscow Claim That They Have the Situation Well in Hand—Citizens There Are Alarmed, However, at the Prospect of Trouble and They Demand the Proclamation of a State of Siege.

St. Petersburg, January 25, 2:15 a. m.—Governor General Trepoft, and Minister of Finance Kokovsoff issued a proclamation last night which reveals the government's plan for breaking the strike not only here, but throughout Russia. The proclamation is conceived in a paternal tone and points out that honest workmen, who want to better their condition, should have brought their demands to the government, instead of being misled by agitators into affiliating with a movement which is not confined to economic aspirations. It invites them to return to work, promising them in the emperor's name a revision of the general law so as to restrict the hours of labor, the institution of a plan for state insurance, and otherwise to meet their demands so far as the law will permit, and guarantees them protection from interference by agitators. This document will be followed either by an imperial manifesto along the same lines, in the hope of preventing the spread of the strike or by specific proclamations by the local authorities wherever strikes are in progress. By promising to yield the question of the hours of labor, which are now legally eleven in Russia, the authorities believe they will meet the many grievances of the workmen. This, together with the guarantee of protection, the authorities hope will induce those strikers who are indifferent to political demands, which class they declare constitutes a great bulk of the men, to resume work.

It is certain many strikers were forced out against their wishes; but the general effect of the proclamation is still problematical. Though the strikes have been spreading to various towns the situation tonight, while disquieting, is not acute anywhere. The great demonstration with an accompaniment of bloodshed which was anticipated at Moscow yesterday did not occur, and the strike in the ancient capital has not spread rapidly, only about 20,000 workmen being out, according to latest reports. Cossacks charged and dispersed a crowd of three thousand women, and reports were circulated in St. Petersburg that many were killed, but advices direct from Moscow at midnight, deny this, the information being that only a few blank volleys were fired. The Moscow military have received orders to avoid a repetition of Sunday's tragedy here, and not use ball cartridges unless they are driven to do so by the direct necessity.

In several Baltic province towns there has been considerable disorder, especially in Riga where the military are in complete possession. In the streets of Helsingfors there was last evening a resumption of Tuesday night's rioting with bloodshed, some thirty persons being wounded. If a general movement breaks out among the Finns it is likely to take the form of an armed uprising, as almost every Finn has a weapon in his house.

Sir Charles Hardinge, the British ambassador last night received from Captain Grove, the British consul at Moscow, confirmation of the Associated Press dispatch from Moscow announcing the public posting of a London telegram imputing the disorders to British and Japanese influences, and he will ask explanations from foreign Minister Lansdorff today. It is not expected, however that the affair will lead to a serious diplomatic incident, and it is thought the Russian government will disavow responsibility for the course

of acting Chief of Police Roudeneff. The dispatch to Ambassador Hardinge makes no mention of Roudeneff's offer to meet Captain Grove.

**QUIET AT ST. PETERSBURG.**

St. Petersburg, January 25, 6:15 p. m. Quiet continues in St. Petersburg. Evidence accumulates that the strikers are supplied with money to meet their present needs. All sorts of stories are afloat as to the size and origin of the fund. Money is undoubtedly being supplied by the Liberals. It is said that they have a fund of \$2,000,000, some of which was supplied by German socialists, but there is no way of verifying the stories. It is seriously believed in some quarters that money is being furnished from Japanese-British sources to bring on a revolution or such internal complications as will compel the government to make peace.

Some foreign correspondents who have been indulging in the wildest exaggeration of the situation in anticipation of arrest are trying to arrange for the embassies of their respective countries to make prompt representations in their behalf.

The strikers seem still to be without definite plans for the future. It is said that a demonstration has been decided upon for tomorrow on the occasion of the funerals of several of the more prominent victims, but this is denied. For the moment the strikers appear to be content to remain quiet. All the outgoing trains are filled with people going abroad mostly foreigners.

The stories of the illness of the emperor and the empress are officially denied. The correspondent of the Associated Press today conversed with a member of the court who saw the emperor walking in the garden at Tsarskoe Selo this morning.

**BURIAL OF THE DEAD.**

St. Petersburg, January 25.—The night was quiet, although a few shots were heard in the Vassili Ostroff quarter. Troops paraded the streets all night long, stopping and interrogating people. Bodies of workmen continued to march through the principal thoroughfares until midnight. The shops are still closed today. Bodies of troops remain in several streets, though on the whole the city has a quiet aspect.

With the exception of the "Official Messenger and the Russki Invalid, no newspapers have appeared.

The workmen at the Nevsky yards presented themselves there today in order to receive the balance of their wages. The demeanor of the strikers was quiet.

The funerals of many victims of Sunday's tragedy were held today. Pitiful sights were witnessed. In several cases a man and wife carried between them a wooden box containing a child killed. Some of the coffins were borne on common carts, the mourners following on foot according to the Russian custom. It was noticeable that in many cases, the usual priest and ikon at the head of the procession were absent. No demonstration occurred, but workmen and others stood uncovered in streets as the little groups passed with the dead. In the Volkoff cemetery beyond the Uarva gates, 167 bodies were lowered to their last resting place.

**PETITION FOR FREEDOM OF THE PRESS.**

St. Petersburg, January 25.—A deputation from the St. Petersburg press waited on Interior Minister Svyatopolk Mirsky during the day and presented a petition formulated at a conference of editors. M. Souvorin, Sr., (editor of the Novoe Vremya) said that the only means of restoring public confidence was to grant freedom of the press to summon a congress of Zemstvos. He declared that if the press had been free none of the recent deplorable events would have happened.

The minister replied that this petition would be considered, but that he must confer with Governor General Trepoft.

**GORKY ARRESTED AT RIGA.**

St. Petersburg, January 25.—4:45 a. m.—The Associated Press has been privately advised that Maxim Gorky, the author and reform party leader, has been arrested at Riga whither he had been summoned by the illness of his wife.

**SITUATION WELL IN HAND.**

Authorities at Moscow Are Determined to Avoid Blood-Shed—Citizens Demand the Proclamation of a State of Siege.

Moscow, January 25, 5 p. m.—There is complete tranquility within the boundaries of this city, but the people are keeping indoors, owing to the official warning. The strike is spreading gradually, but thus far is confined to the smaller mills. The larger industrial concerns are being guarded in order to prevent the men employed there from being intimidated, but it is the belief that the strike will become general. There are no troops in sight in the city proper. Probably there will be no papers tomorrow.

The citizens are alarmed at the prospect of an eruption of hundreds of thousands of workmen and demand the proclamation of a state of siege. The Moscow garrison is no more than 20,000, but the authorities consider that this is sufficient for the present needs, and evidently are determined to avoid blood-

shed if possible. They declare they have the situation well in hand.

Captain Grove, the British consul, has called upon M. Roundneff the assistant police master, who is acting in the absence of Chief Volkoff, and requested an explanation of the posted telegram from London alleging that Russian disturbances were due to Anglo-Japanese instigation.

M. Roundneff produced the original telegram in evidence of good faith. Captain Grove stated that he would report the matter to the embassy at St. Petersburg as he considered that the posting of the alleged telegrams imperiled the lives of subjects of Great Britain who are employed in factories here. M. Roundneff assured him that there was absolutely no cause for apprehension but assumed the responsibility for the publication and offered personal satisfaction in a resort to arms.

**PEOPLE WARNED AGAINST PUBLIC DISTURBANCES.**

Moscow, January 25.—A correspondent of the Associated Press who arrived here today from St. Petersburg found no signs of troops at the depot or in the surrounding streets. The street cars are moving, but many of the stores are closed and there is scarcely any of the freight traffic which ordinarily fills the streets. At all corners were posted bulletins signed by Police Chief Volkoff warning the people against public disturbances and forbidding them to assemble in groups.

**NO FATALITIES ARE REPORTED.**

Moscow, January 25.—7 p. m. A squadron of Cossacks this evening dispersed about three thousand workmen who were growing obstreperous across the Moskva. No fatalities are reported. This was the only event of the kind during the day. Reports that a mob was overturning and wrecking shops in the Tverskaja are untrue. The merchants have sent an appeal to the emperor to avoid blood shed.

**FEARS OF A REVOLUTION.**

Foreign Office in England Views the Situation in St. Petersburg With Alarm.

London, January 25.—The foreign office views the situation in Russia with alarm. It believes that while the present risings will be put down, the affair of Sunday at St. Petersburg is certain to bring about a change in the form of government. The Associated Press learns that the foreign office would welcome a Russian government with which it could enter into a treaty similar to the Anglo-French agreement, feeling that a contract with the present regime would be repudiated at will. But fears are entertained of a revolution which might result in international complications.

The remarks of War Secretary Arnold-Forster at Croydon last night when he expressed the sympathy of the people of the united kingdom with the people of Russia, are exciting considerable comment, coming from a cabinet minister. He seemed to voice the general suspicion that the British government has of Russian bureaucracy. Mr. Arnold-Forster also made the astounding statement that it would be a bold man who would say whether this movement would be likely to help or hurt the British nation, but "We must be on our guard."

The British press as a whole takes a no less gloomy view. The papers have been given up almost exclusively since Sunday to alarmist reports from Russia, hostile articles and scathing editorials on the "Massacre," one of the mildest terms used for the affair of Sunday and the Russian emperor and his government are generally compared to "Beasts at Bay."

The whole discussion of the situation in Russia serves again to reveal the poorly disguised hostility of the British press to everything Russian. The dispatches to the London papers all report the conditions prevailing in Russia to be worse than the Associated Press accounts. The Russian official figures of the killed and wounded are stigmatized as "Ludicrously official."

**BIG DEMONSTRATION EXPECTED.**

Helsingfors, Finland, January 25.—Cossacks are patrolling the streets of this city. A big demonstration is expected tonight, upon the arrival of Finns who have been expelled from the country and who were recently given permission to return.

**DEMONSTRATION AT HELSINGFORS.**

Helsingfors, Finland, January 25.—Although the crowds on the streets were smaller tonight, there was severe fighting. Cossacks and police firing their revolvers. Some thirty persons were wounded, of whom nine were taken to the hospital. Three are severely wounded. The demonstration is slackening.

**A PANIC IN A KISCHINEFF THEATRE.**

Kischineff, January 25.—A seditious demonstration during the performance led to a panic in a theatre here last night. A crisis in the hostility toward the government was raised in the crowded auditorium by incendiary proclamations which were showered from the gallery. The audience became panic stricken and some time elapsed before order was restored. Twenty arrests were made including four Jewish soldiers.

**GENERAL STRIKE AT REVAL.**

Reval, Russia, January 25.—A general strike was called here today. All the works are closed.

As between regulating the railroads and being regulated by them it will not be difficult for the American people to choose.—New York Tribune.

Governor Preston Lea, of Delaware declares that vote-buying in that state must stop. Let him begin by coralling Addicks.—Louisville Herald.

## LESS COTTON

### Convention Agrees on Plan for Reduction in Acreage

## PLAN OUTLINED

### The Delegates to the Southern Interstate Cotton Convention Declared Unanimously in Favor of a 25 Per Cent. Reduction in the Acreage of Cotton and in the Use of Fertilizers. They Plan to Secure the Support of Every Cotton Grower—It is Believed That the Following Out of the Plan Will Solve the Cotton Problem.

New Orleans, January 25.—Firmly believing it to be the most important step in the solution of the cotton problem, the Southern Interstate Cotton convention without a dissenting vote today declared in favor of a 25 per cent. reduction in acreage, and an equal reduction in the use of commercial fertilizer and backed that action up with the adoption of a comprehensive plan to secure the support of every farmer, big and little in the cotton belt. An overwhelming majority of the delegates were present when the report was received and acted upon.

At the opening of the afternoon session, former Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, spoke along the lines of national protection for the cotton grower, saying that heretofore the cotton planter had been sacrificed to the doctrine of free raw materials. A reference to President Roosevelt's friendliness provoked a favorable demonstration on the part of the audience.

Former Lieutenant Governor Jester of Texas, from the committee on holding and financing the balance of the present crop" presented a report setting forth that each state and territorial station seemed amply able to finance its present holdings. The committee believed that the cotton now in the hands of the producers should remain on the farm or stored in local warehouses protected against weather and fire and said that the banks and commission men evinced a willingness to aid in marketing the balance of the crop so as to hold in check any disposition to rush cotton unduly and break the market. Belief was expressed that the plan in reducing the acreage and reduction in fertilizers will solve the cotton problem.

After the convention had voted an invitation to Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson to speak, R. H. Jenkins of Texas was recognized to read the report of the committee on acreage which the convention had voted to be of paramount importance.

The report follows:

"The Hon. Harvie Jordan, Chairman Interstate Cotton Growers' Convention: 'We, your committee on acreage and the use of fertilizers, do recommend that acreage planted in cotton in 1905 shall be 25 per cent. less than in 1904, and that there shall be a reduction of 25 per cent. in the use of commercial fertilizers in growing cotton.'

"We recommend the following plan for the accomplishment of the said reduction:

"First, that the vice president of this association for each state shall call a meeting of all persons interested in cotton on the 15th day of February, 1905, in the county seat of each county not already organized on the plan hereinafter set out, at which meeting there shall be elected a county chairman for each school district or other small political sub-division of the county.

"Second, that there shall be held in each school district or other small political subdivisions of the county on the 18th day of February 1905, at 1 o'clock p. m., a meeting of all citizens of said district or other small political subdivision who are interested in the growing of cotton, which meeting shall elect a committee of three on membership.

"Third, at said precinct meeting the farmers and landowners present shall be asked to sign the following agreement:

"We, the undersigned farmers or land owners living in (School district), (Beat), (Precinct), number \_\_\_\_\_, County of \_\_\_\_\_, State of \_\_\_\_\_, hereby pledge ourselves to reduce the acreage planted by us in cotton and to reduce our consumption of fertilizer in growing cotton as shown by the statements set opposite our names."

"Fourth, that said committee on acreage and membership shall immediately canvass said district and ask all farmers and land owners in said district who do not attend said meeting, to sign said pledge and said committee shall return said pledge to the chairman of said precinct.

"Fifth, said precinct chairman shall preserve said pledges and they shall immediately report to the county chairman showing the total number of acres planted in cotton in said precinct in 1904 and the total number to be planted in 1905, the total amount of fertilizer used in growing cotton in said

precinct and the total amount to be used in said precinct in said year.

"Sixth, the county chairman shall immediately forward to the state vice president of their respective states a written statement showing the total number of acres planted in cotton in their respective counties in 1904 and the total amount to be planted in 1905 and shall make a like report as to the fertilizer used and to be used in said years.

"Seventh, the vice president of each state shall immediately upon receiving the reports of the county chairmen forward to the president of this association a report showing the number of acres planted in cotton in this state in the year 1904 and the amount of fertilizer used in said year in growing cotton and the amount of cotton to be planted and fertilizer to be used in 1905.

"Eighth, the president of this association upon receiving these reports shall immediately tabulate the same and send a copy thereof to the county chairmen in the different cotton states and territories.

"Ninth, if any county not already organized should fail to organize, the vice president of the state in which the said county is situated, shall cause said county to be organized as herein provided and if any precinct should fail to organize, the county chairman of the county in which such precinct is situated, shall cause such precinct to be organized as herein provided.

"Tenth, it shall be the further duty of the officers of this association to report the names and addresses of such persons who refuse to sign the agreement to reduce acreage for 1905, together with the number of acres of cotton planted by such persons in 1904, and the number of acres that they will probably plant in 1905 and to make a like report as to fertilizers.

Martin F. Calvin and Bert Miller, of Georgia, wanted the report made a special report for tomorrow, but the latter expressing the belief that the reduction might have gone to the extent of 33 1-3 per cent, but T. E. Massengale, of the same State, asked the convention immediate consideration on the ground that this was the most vital business that could come before the convention. By an overwhelming vote the convention decided upon action, finally adopting the report with a thunderous 'aye, and without a single vote in the negative.

Without transacting any other business or listening to any of the papers on the programme the convention recessed until night.

## FISHBURN ON TRIAL.

### First Evidence Taken Against the Banker for the Murder of Dr. Lefew.

Roanoke, Va., January 25.—The first evidence in the trial of Charles R. Fishburn, banker and broker, for the murder of Dr. Fred Lefew, was heard today. It was shown that Fishburn struck Lefew's step-son, because he yelled "Ice" at him, the term referring to Fishburn's motor bicycle. Lefew's widow was the first witness to testify about the tragedy in which Lefew was stabbed. The blood-stained garments worn by Lefew were exhibited in court. The dying declaration of Lefew was read and admitted. It was to the effect that Fishburn went to the Lefew home and told the doctor of the difficulty he had had with his step-son. The men had a quarrel, and Lefew struck Fishburn a light blow in the face with the back of his fingers. After Fishburn went out of the yard he reached over the gate and plunged his knife in Lefew's breast. Lefew was not armed.

## Norfolk in the Grasp of a Blizzard.

Norfolk, Va., January 25.—Norfolk is in the grasp of a blizzard tonight and the temperature is heading for the zero mark with steady drops. A fifty mile wind is blowing. A dense fall of powdered snow covers the streets and traffic is almost suspended. Aside from the wreck of the small bay trading schooner John A. Russell at Sewell's Point this morning no marine disasters of consequence have been reported, though many small craft are on shores of the harbor. The Russell, coal barge, dragged her anchor and struck bottom at 6 o'clock this morning. She immediately became waterlogged and her crew of three were aided in reaching the shore by an Associated Press correspondent and another newspaper man who reached the scene four hours after the boat struck. Up to that time the people on board had been helpless on an ice coated deck.

## A Hearing to Railroad and Shipping Interests.

Washington, January 25.—The Interstate commerce commission today gave a hearing to the railroad and shipping interests in connection with the requests of various commercial bodies to investigate the differential rates on foreign and domestic traffic by all rail and by water and rail lines to and from interior points in the United States and the various North Atlantic ports, from Halifax to Norfolk and Newport News, particularly New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore.

The principal witness was Vice President J. B. Thayer, of the Pennsylvania railroad. He contended that the abolition of the differentials in favor of Philadelphia and Baltimore would very seriously reduce the amount of export traffic carried to those points and would reduce the competition now enjoyed by the shippers. He said that if the inland rates to all Atlantic ports were the same, the ocean rates from all of them would be the same, which, because of the greater cost of ocean carriage from Philadelphia or Baltimore, would result in the gradual if not immediate withdrawal of ocean lines from the latter cities.

## LEGISLATURE

### Proceedings of State Senate and House Yesterday

## AN ACT REPEALED

### After Long Discussion in the House the Bill Passed Wednesday Granting Relief to State Treasurer Lacy Was Repealed—Bill to Enable Married Women to Make Contracts Made a Special Order for Friday—County of Lee Proposed—Several Memorials Presented on the Divorce Question—Other Proceedings.

(Special to The Messenger.)

Raleigh, N. C., January 24.—The Senate met at 11 o'clock, Lieutenant Governor Winston presiding, and prayer was offered by Rev. W. C. Tyree of the First Baptist church.

**MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.**

A message from Governor Glenn was received stating that there was absolute necessity for the provision of adequate departments for the preservation and safe keeping of valuable papers now in the office of the secretary of state, superintendent of public instruction and insurance commissioner, and saying that the Supreme court building was not a proper, safe, or suitable place for the keeping of books. The governor said further that the renting paid for keeping law books and records amounted to \$800 and this was too expensive and growing more so every year and he recommends one or two things a wing added to the state Capitol, or the erection of a building known as the Hall of Records on the corner of Salisbury and Morgan streets. The message was referred to the committee on public buildings.

**PETITIONS PRESENTED.**

Aaron of Wayne, Eller of Forsythe, Morson, of Gastonia presented petitions asking for the repeal of the merchants' tax. They were referred to the finance committee.

**INTRODUCTION OF BILLS.**

Bills were introduced by the following members:

By Senator Webb: To amend chapter 159, public laws of 1903, to protect water supplies.

By Senator Jones: To divide the net proceeds of the dispensary of Johnston county.

By Senator Bryan: To place the names of J. W. McCampbell and brother on pension roll.

By Senator Ward: To protect deer, squirrels and birds in certain dates.

By Senator Everett: To amend chapter 58, public laws 1903, regarding stenographers for Richmond.

By Senator Sinclair: To regulate conditional pardons.

By Senator Vann: In regard to repeal of merchants tax.

By Senator Aaron: For establishment of free schools in Fremont.

By Senator McLean: To relieve the board of agriculture from contributing to A. and M. college expenses.

By Senator Zollicoffer: To amend general road law extending its provisions to Vance county.

By Senator Odell: To incorporate Citizens Bank & Trust Co.

By Senator Stringfield: To amend the charter of town of Wooddale.

By Senator Eller: To provide for erection of building called Hall of Records.

By Senator Stringfield: To provide a hall in each county for veteran meetings.

By Senator Stringfield: To prevent fishing in Scott's creek in Johnston county.

By Senators Arendell and Turner: destruction of a certain small fish in Eastern Carolina.

By Senator Ellington: To amend public school law of Wake county.

By Senators Arendell and Turner: That committees on insane asylums and deaf and dumb and blind institutions appoint a sub committee to visit these institutions.

By Senator Crisp: Permitting pensions to soldiers and sailors who are unable to work.

Mr. Gilliam moved that House bill 40 and Senate bill 140 which was reported unfavorably by the committee and tabled be recalled and be referred to the judiciary committee. The bill is in regard to extending the time for proof of deeds. The bill was referred to the judiciary.

## THE FOLLOWING BILLS PASSED FINAL READING.

To amend chapter 273 of the public laws of 1903 for the relief of certain Confederate soldiers, sailors and widows. Mr. Odell, who introduced the bill stated that his original bill was to increase by \$100,000 the Confederate pensions, but that it seemed afterwards that the fourth class of pensioners were not receiving enough nor as much as the law says. He stated that this was done at the request of the state auditor and the bill makes about \$7,000 increase in pensions. Mr. Stringfield, chairman of the pension committee, said there were some who un-

(Continued on Fifth Page.)