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## RAILROAD STRIKE NOT YET CERTAINTY; INJUNCTIONS ASKED AGAINST WALKOUTS

### BROTHERHOOD MEN ASK COURT FOR INJUNCTION

Pennsylvania Trainmen File Bill in Equity in Philadelphia Federal Court--Louisville & Nashville Officers Say Their Men Will Remain Loyal.

(By Associated Press.)  
Philadelphia, March 17.—A bill in equity was filed today for its purpose the prevention of the four brotherhoods from striking in Pennsylvania and from brotherhood men in federal court here today.

No injunction was sought although the bill is on file in order to prevent a walkout unless the paper is signed and an order is given to the men. As if the attorney for the men would take the usual course. It apparently was not intended to find a judge.

According to the trainmen they believe that more than 10 per cent are in favor of walking out. The bill alleges that the joint ballot on which the strike was ordered was taken last fall when times were not so serious as they are today. This strike order is unjustifiable in the view of the men.

### EXPRESS CONFIDENCE

(By Associated Press.)  
Louisville, March 17.—Seventy-five per cent of the Louisville and Nashville employees are expected to remain loyal in the event of the strike, according to a statement at the general office here today. About 75 per cent of the employees are members of the brotherhoods.

Confidence that the roads could continue practically uninterrupted was expressed by officers.

### BICKETT FAVORS AIDING ALLIES IN GREAT WAR

W. T. Bickett, the Greensboro News following from Raleigh. "I am in favor of upholding the president and the cause of the allies because the German theory of government is a monstrous anarchism and deserves to die," declared Governor Bickett today in the most strikingly unneutral or "differentially neutral" statement yet sent from the capital.

The New York World had telegraphed Governor Bickett for his sentiments on the present preparation for national defense has passed the "stage of debate," he said. "North Carolina has counted on to do her part in upholding the president and defending the rights of humanity. I have never been deeply interested in the question as to whether or not Germany has violated the rules of international law in conducting her submarine warfare. That question is insignificant and completely disappears in the presence of the larger question that is, whether the principles of Prussianism are to be the foundation of the world. War then for the next years the government of the German people will be fashioned after the German model. The nation will forget the pursuits of peace and will become armed camps. Already Prussianism has levied a heavy burden upon this country and is directly responsible for the increased expense in our army and navy. I am in favor of upholding the president and the cause of the allies because the German theory of government is a monstrous anarchism and deserves to die. The unpardonable sin in this whole bloody business is the sin of the German government against the German peoples. They are a great people and the riches which they could come to them under which they have perished from the earth. If we are to enter the next war we must enter it for some just justification for so we are fighting for the average man and for a world civilization grounded on reason and righteousness and not on blood and iron."

### THE GERMAN MINISTER AT BEING GIVEN PASSPORTS

Pekin, Wednesday, March 14.—The German minister to China and his staff and also all the German consuls in the country were handed their passports at noon today. A note accompanying the passports explained that the German people's expansionist warfare policy was unsatisfactory. The passports, the note stated, were for protection while leaving Chinese territory.

### BAPAUME FALLS TO BRITISH ARMS

(By Associated Press.)  
London, March 17.—Bapaume, on the Franco-Belgian front, has been captured by the British, Reuters announces today.

The foregoing dispatch from the Petrograd agency was sent from Petrograd today. "Our troops entered Bapaume this morning after stiff fighting," Reuters correspondent telegraphs. "This place was inflamed, the Germans having evidently made all plans for setting fire to it when forced to retreat. Our forces are now on the other side of Bapaume."

### APPRECIATE MR. GULICK

(By Associated Press.)  
Tokio, March 17.—The Rev. Clay MacCauley of Boston has been elected president of the American Peace Society of Japan.

The annual meeting of the organization adopted resolutions voicing its satisfaction with the work of the Rev. Sidney L. Gulick as secretary of the commission of peace and arbitration under the auspices of the Federal council of the Churches of Christ in America.

### NEW HEAT INSULATOR

Sun glass, a loose porous wadding consisting of threads of glass not more than one six-hundredth of an inch thick, seems to have given satisfactory results as a heat insulating material for covering steam-pipes. It is stated to be considerably lighter than even cork, it is given greater power of retaining heat by the air held in its pores, and the insulating effect is increased by the reflection of heat from the mirror like surfaces of the glass fibres. As it is not affected by high temperature, water, steam or acids, it does not deteriorate from use.

From German tests, it is recommended that rings of asbestos be placed around the pipes at intervals, the spun glass being wound loosely between these rings, and that the whole would be wrapped with asbestos braid and sail cloth and painted with tar or preferably oil paint.

### PLANTING DAY IS NAMED BY BICKETT

(By Associated Press.)  
Raleigh, March 17.—Governor Bickett today issued a proclamation designating April 5 as planting day. The substance of the proclamation is that all persons having to do with the tilling of the soil should meet together and consider planting food crops. Mayors of municipalities will be asked to cooperate.

### NEWS OF RUSSIAN CONFLICTING TODAY

Somewhat conflicting advices are coming out of Russia regarding the fate of the Romanoff dynasty.

Dispatches this morning announced that Grand Duke Michael has accepted the throne from his brother Nicholas II, subject to the consent of the people expressed through a plebiscite.

Last night's advices indicated the abdication of Nicholas II and the subsequent abdication of Grand Duke Michael.

Of the abdication of Emperor Nicholas there can now be no possible doubt, as the text of his manifesto has been received in London.

The Germans on the Franco-Belgian front are continuing their retirement and extending it northward. They have carried it far of Bapaume and have made a beginning of the drawing in of their lines at a point where they have been nearest to Paris.

The Berlin reports announce occupation of more trenches by the French troops.

Further retiring movements of the Germans in the Somme region are of almost daily occurrence. One was reported last night with the occupation of 3,000 yards of trenches.

The French are continuing their attacks in the Monastir region of the Macedonian front, where Berlin yesterday admitted gains for the enemy.

### RUMOR SAYS ALEXIS DEAD IN PETROGRAD

(By Associated Press.)  
Petrograd, March 16, via London, March 17.—It was rumored here tonight that the Grand Duke Alexis, the little son of the emperor, is dead.

### GERARD DECLARES FOR UNIVERSAL TRAINING

New York, March 17.—James W. Gerard, former Ambassador to Germany, emphasized in a public address at the city hall after his arrival here the necessity for military and naval preparation of the United States.

"When I came back to this country," he said, "it was a positive shock to me to find that in the two years in which the world has been on fire we have done nothing to prepare for even a reasonable means of national defense."

"There is only one thing," Mr. Gerard continued, "and that is universal military training. That nation that stands opposite to us today has probably not less than 12,000,000 men under arms. I have seen the Germans take prisoners in one afternoon more men than there are in the United States army."

Mr. Gerard, who has just completed a 7,231 mile trip from Berlin, paid tribute to the loyalty of the German-Americans and asserted that he would be willing to lead a regiment of them in the event of war with Germany and "feel sure that I would not be short in the back."

The former ambassador said he left Berlin with a clear conscience that he had omitted nothing that would further friendly relations between this country and Germany.

### CHORUS GIRLS DECORATED BY KING FOR HEROISM

(By Associated Press.)  
London, March 17.—The Dublin rebellion of Easter Monday last year was recalled at Buckingham Palace the other day when the king decorated with the military medal Miss Louise Nolan, a chorus girl, for heroism in dragging wounded officers and soldiers to safety under heavy fire. The inscription on the medal read: "For bravery in the field."

Miss Nolan was coming home from her music lesson in Dublin Easter Monday when she heard firing and saw wounded men lying in the street. Throwing down her music roll she ran to them and dragged them to safety. Although soldiers were killed beside her the girl returned to help more wounded and then ran through a hail of bullets to get bravely for them.

Describing her visit to Buckingham Palace to receive her reward, Miss Nolan said: "A gentleman came to tell me what to do and how to courtesy to the king. He was very nice, and then my name was called and I was shown into a beautiful room which was all in red, and there I saw the king. He pinned the medal on my dress and shook me warmly by the hand, and I took good care to give him a good shake of the hand in return. I was very proud to hear him speak my name."

### ENGLAND RAIDED BY AIRSHIP FRIDAY

(By Associated Press.)  
London, March 17.—The air raid last night was the first visit of Zeppelins in many months, and it seemed to be expected by the populace which was not excited.

The raiders were favored by a dark and moonless night.

The foregoing dispatch indicates that London was attacked by Zeppelins. At 12:30 last night a statement was issued saying that a raid was in progress.

The last Zeppelin raid on England occurred on November 27 when two of the raiding ships were shot down on the east coast.

### MORE CANDIDATES ARE AFTER MORGANTON OFFICE

Morganton, March 17.—The office of mayor of Morganton seems to be an attractive office and the race for election now becomes four-cornered, W. A. Ross, merchant and justice of the peace, trying for the place.

It is rumored also that former mayor Johy Martin, who has been in Richmond some time, will return and enter the race.

The rivalry is almost entirely for mayor and there seems to be little opposition for the offices of aldermen.

Owing to a recent bill the form being changed from a mayor and two commissioners, elected at large, to a mayor and four commissioners, one commissioner to be from each of four wards, and the mayor elected at large and the bill making the change eliminated the term of the present officers and a new start is to be made altogether although still under the commission form with city manager.

Miss Bobbie Rudisill of Henry River is the guest of Mrs. W. H. Little.

### LARGE DECREASE IN FOREIGN TRADE

Washington, March 17.—American foreign trade decreased approximately \$190,000,000 during February, the first month of Germany's unrestricted submarine warfare. A statement issued today gives the decrease in exports at \$147,642,659 and the decrease in imports \$42,357,341.

### MARKETS

COTTON FUTURES		
(By Associated Press)		
New York, March 17.—The cotton market opened steady today at an advance of five to 10 points. Business was by no means active, but prices were well up to the best during the first hour.	Open	Close
May	17.72	17.85
July	17.56	17.72
October	16.89	17.12
December	17.04	17.22
January	17.00	17.24

HICKORY MARKETS		
Cotton	17 1/2	
Wheat	\$2.00	

CHICAGO WHEAT		
(By Associated Press)		
Chicago, March 17.—Wheat price changes were indecisive today and trading was restricted pending strike developments. Opening quotations which ranged from 1-4 to 3-4 with May at 1.83 to 1.83 1-2 and July at 1.54 1-2 to 1.55, were followed by further fluctuations.		

### THE WEATHER

For North Carolina: Fair tonight except rain near the coast. Colder in the west portion and near the coast, probably frost in the interior. Sunday fair; frost at night, colder in east portion, fresh southwest to west winds.

### MICHAEL TAKES THRONE FOR PEOPLE

(By Associated Press.)  
London, March 17.—Grand Duke Michael has accepted the throne of Russia, conditioned on the consent of the Russian people, according to a dispatch from the semi-official Russian news agency.

The statement follows: "Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich accepting the throne from his brother declares that he does so only with the consent of the Russian people who should with a plebiscite establish a new form of government and new fundamental laws."

A dispatch from Petrograd last night filed at 5:30 says that Emperor Nicholas had abdicated in favor of Grand Duke Michael and that at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon the grand duke himself had abdicated, thus bringing the Romanoff dynasty to an end.

### SOUTHERN TO DOUBLE TRACK CHARLOTTE TO SPARTANBURG

Atlanta, Ga., March 17.—The Georgia railroad commission granted permission to the Atlanta Charlotte Air Line, which is leased to the Southern to issue \$4,000,000 in bonds, the proceeds to be used in double-tracking the line between Charlotte and Spartanburg. The bonds have been issued subject to the action of the commission.

Mrs. J. C. DeRhodes is home from the Richard Baker Hospital, where she underwent an operation three weeks ago. She is getting along all right.

### COOLER WEATHER IS PROMISED NEXT WEEK

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 17.—Fair and cool weather is forecast for the southeastern states for the first half of the week beginning tomorrow except in the Florida peninsula. The last half will be fair with local showers about Friday.

### OBREGON MAY LEAD NEW REVOLUTION IN MEXICO

El Paso, Texas, March 17.—Reports of a new political alignment in Mexico, with General Obregon leading the opposition to First Chief Carranza, which were brought in Juarez by Mexican and foreign refugees from the interior, were denied by Carranza officials. They said General Obregon was loyal to the First Chief, and that his detirement from the cabinet several days ago was due to ill health and not because of any political differences.

Obregon's name has been linked with Felix Diaz in rumors of the new revolutionary movement, with Villa having a part in the movement, but this is doubted here. The German question is said to have played a part in the supposed movement, as Carranza's apparent friendship for the Germans caused a number of his leaders to turn against him, it was said here today.

Officers of the American punitive expedition while in Mexico found letters written by Villa and addressed to Obregon offering to form a coalition against Carranza. Other letters of a similar nature addressed to Zapata also were found.

Recently there has been unusual activity among the old Federalists, who were said to have been friendly with Felix Diaz. Rebels operating against General Gomez in Sonora are said to be under Reynera, former Villa commander, and former Federal officers loyal to Diaz. The Diaz or Felicista movement has been under way in Sonora for several months. Obregon's friends were said to have had a part in it in that state, which is intensely loyal to Obregon who is said to be in Mexico City.

Villa partisans here were jubilant over the rumors, and said the new movement would be in charge of the government in a month.

Miss Pruitt Entertains  
The Five W's were delightfully entertained by Miss Alice Pruitt Wednesday afternoon. Apropos of St. Patrick's Day, Irish quotations were given in response to roll call.

Mrs. H. P. Williams gave a short historical sketch of Ireland and Miss Grace Patrick favored the club with an Irish melody. The hostess read an interesting story and gave a synopsis of her book "Queed" by Henry Sidnor Harrison. Miss Nannette Rudisill of Lincoln, was a visitor. Delightful refreshments consisting of three courses were served. The next meeting will be with Mrs. H. P. Williams March 28th.

### STRIKE SITUATION MORE ENCOURAGING AT 2 P. M.

Although no Agreement Had Been Reached Lane Promised Important Statement at 3 o'Clock --Brotherhood Chiefs Urged to Postpone Strike Order for Few Days.

### FRENCH DESTROY ZEPPELIN AT 2 MILES

(By Associated Press.)  
Paris, March 17.—A Zeppelin has been shot down in flames near Compeigne. All of its crew were lost.

The Zeppelin was sighted shortly before dawn and was reached by French anti-aircraft guns at a height of more than two miles. The airship caught fire and the wreckage and dead bodies fell on the outskirts of the village.

Compeigne is 41 miles northeast of Paris and is close to the battle-front which the Zeppelin apparently crossed.

### NEW RUSSIAN REGIME WORKING SATISFACTORILY

Petrograd, via London, March 16.—Russia appeared to be in a fair way toward solving the greatest problem with which perhaps any nation was ever confronted. Order is growing with incredible rapidity out of the chaos of the last week, and the new government, gathering up the broken threads of national and municipal life, is striving to set the organization of the country in motion so that the conduct of the war will suffer as little as possible from the revolution.

The members of the new ministry already have assumed their posts and the government buildings, empty and deserted for four days, are again open for official business. The banks, all the commercial and financial houses and some of the factories have already responded to the new government's appeal, and have opened their doors and expressed a willingness to do everything in their power to effect as quick a recovery as possible from the paralysis of last week. The soldier-policemen are guarding the streets, in place of the old gendarmes.

Hundreds of messages have been received from all over the country declaring the allegiance of important cities and fortresses to the new regime. Moscow, Kharkov, Tsaritsyn, and Volkada already have formally acknowledged the new government, and so far as is known, not a single section of the country still stands out for the old order of things. Supported by unanimous vote, the present government is in reality a government of the people.

According to the latest information, the executive of the duma and the committees of soldiers' and working men's deputies have reached a full agreement, or at least have decided temporarily to waive all minor differences until the meeting of the constitutional assembly which will decide just what form the new government of Russia will take.

Meanwhile, it is reported that the government of the country will rest for three months in the hands of a committee of 12 and it is stated that the monarchy for the time being will be abolished.

### BIG WHITE STAR LINER WAS ATTACKED

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, March 17.—Two attempts were made to sink the White Star liner Lapland on her last outward voyage from this port beginning February 14, according to officers of the ship which arrived here today from Liverpool.

(By Associated Press.)  
New York, March 17.—The national conference of railroad managers was summoned at 1:20 by the mediation committee, although at that time the mediation committee had not left the brotherhood chiefs.

The mediators had asked the brotherhoods to agree to a truce of ten days or at least until Monday, when the supreme court might hand down a decision on the Adamson law.

Shortly after 2 o'clock Mr. Lane announced that he would have an important announcement to make at 3 o'clock and that the situation was encouraging. Mr. Lane said he could not disclose what he had in mind pending the getting together of the two groups, but that the situation was more encouraging.

At the white house it was said that no reports had been received from Secretary Lane or the other mediators and that it was not known definitely what propositions had been presented.

The railroad presidents adjourned at 12:30 o'clock. No statement was made, but it was reported that their position was that they could not yield to the brotherhoods while the Adamson law was before the supreme court.

For more than six hours until 3:40 o'clock this morning the committee of the counsel of national defense labored with the railroad and brotherhood chiefs to prevent the strike called for 7 o'clock tonight. All hope is not abandoned, and further conferences were held today.

When the night session ended none of the wearied conferees would discuss the situation. The only announcement that came was from Secretary Wilson of the department of labor who said the conference would be resumed later.

The committee of national defense sent from Washington by President Wilson, consisting of Secretary Lane, Samuel Gompers, and others met with the brotherhood chiefs and managers.

Mr. Gompers did not take part in last night's conference and his whereabouts could not be discovered.

Prior to the conferences with the brotherhood this forenoon one of the brotherhood said the situation was devoid of promise. Neither side had anything to offer.

The mediators without Samuel Gompers being present resumed the conference this morning at 10:30 o'clock.

### NO NEWS OF STRIKE

(By Associated Press.)  
Washington, March 17.—President Wilson had received no report up to 10:30 a. m. from the mediators he sent to New York to confer with the brotherhood chiefs and railroad managers.

The president began today a study of ways to stop the strike if mediation fails.

The legal experts informed the president that there was no specific law to authorize him to prevent the strike, they informed him that he had almost unlimited power to act in the emergency.

CLERKS ARE LOYAL  
(By Associated Press.)  
Wilmington, March 17.—The several hundred department heads and clerks employed in the general office of the Atlantic Coast Line have notified the officials of the company that they are ready and willing to be used for any service of the road if they can be utilized. As yet no embargo has been placed on perishable stuffs.

### ANOTHER INJUNCTION

(By Associated Press.)  
Chicago, March 17.—Jacob M. Dickinson, receiver of the Rock Island line, and William Jackson, receiver of the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad, today applied to Federal Judge Perkins here for protection to the men who remain on duty and others who will take the places of strikers.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Gartrell and Mrs. Houston of Kentucky, who have been spending the winter in Florida arrived in the city today to spend about 10 days. Mrs. Gartrell is a niece of Mrs. E. Chadwick.