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Railway Presidents Not Inclined to Chief Executive's Proposition

PREPARED TO ARGUE WITH WILSON THAT GRANTING OF EIGHT-HOUR DAY AHEAD OF INVESTIGATION IS IMPRACTICABLE, SAID

Whole Principle of Arbitration is at Stake, Declare the Heads of Systems Gathered at the Capital for White House Conference—If Their Contention Should Be Borne Out After Men Have Secured What They Are After, Latter Would Never Give Up, State—The President Holding to View That Short Work Day Would Not Incur Prohibitive Expense—Leaving Responsibility for Whatever May Result Up to Railway Bosses

(By the United Press)

Washington, Aug. 18.—The railway wage conflict, with the threat of a general strike hanging over all proceedings, this afternoon appeared likely to come to a head before the day ended.

With favorable action by the 640 representatives of the brotherhoods forecasted as they met this morning to vote on the President's proposed basis of a settlement, the greatest interest centered on the attitude of the railway presidents. At 10 o'clock the failure of some of the railroad presidents to reach Washington caused postponement of the conference with President Wilson scheduled. Eleven were in the city. They met at 2 o'clock. The railway presidents contend that the whole principle of arbitration is at stake. If it is eliminated in the present crisis, they say, it will mean that every time the employees are disgruntled they will rush to the White House with a demand for a favorable settlement, with the threat that the President will have to take the consequences if it is refused.

They were prepared to tell the President that his plan to submit the eight-hour day to investigation after it is granted is impracticable. The Brotherhoods would never give it up, if once it is obtained, they say. The President was expected to insist that the eight-hour day can be applied to railway operation without prohibitive expense, and with better working conditions. He was expected to urge prompt acceptance or refusal of his proposal, in order that the people of the country might know the full details of the results of the conferences.

PACIFIC MAIL CO. IS TO RESUME ITS PASSENGER SERVICE

San Francisco, Aug. 18.—The Pacific Mail Steamship Company will resume its Oriental passenger service tomorrow when the oil burning 10,000-ton steamer "Eduador" gets under way from here for Honolulu, Yokohama, Kobe, Shanghai, Manila and Hong Kong.

The Pacific Mail company quit the trans-Pacific trade when the steamers' law became effective, on the theory that the law imposed too many hardships on the steamship companies for the trade to be a paying proposition. But with freight bringing \$20 a ton because of the war shortage of ships the company was soon reorganized.

As the new ships are oil burners they do away with the picturesque, but uncomfortable process of taking on coal at Oriental ports.

ROBERT BACON TO RUN FOR SENATOR IN N. Y.

New York, Aug. 17.—Robert Bacon, former Ambassador to France, today announced his candidacy for the nomination for United States senator from New York in the coming Republican primaries.

REV. R. B. JOHN WILL GO TO MAXTON COLLEGE

Maxton, Aug. 17.—Rev. R. B. John, who was last week elected President of Carolina College, has accepted and will take charge the first of December when the resignation of President Hester takes effect. Mr. John's early life was spent not far from Maxton.

FARMERS TO ORGANIZE TO GET GOOD PRICES FOR WHEAT IN SPRING

(By the United Press)
Fargo, N. D., Aug. 18.—Spring wheat growers through both the Dakotas and Minnesota tomorrow will confer here on a plan to combine and demand what they consider legitimate prices for their grain.

G. S. Morris of the editorial department of the Non-Partisan Leader, Fargo, will be one of the speakers.

"Each raiser of spring wheat will get a chance to tell of the cost of production of spring wheat," said Morris today. "We shall then add a reasonable profit and arrive at a reasonable price per bushel. When that price isn't paid, farmers will be equipped to store the wheat a sufficient length of time to command the proper price. Discrimination must be stopped."

ELKUS SAILS FOR HIS POST CONSTANTINOPLE

New York, Aug. 17.—Abram I. Elkus, recently appointed Ambassador to Turkey, sailed today aboard the Danish steamer Oscar II. He will go to his post by way of Berlin, Vienna and Sofia.

NEGRO CLAIMING TO BE DOCTOR PUT IN JAIL

New Bern, Aug. 18.—W. H. Harris, colored, claiming to be a physician, was arrested yesterday on a warrant charging him with practicing without a license. He was jailed in default of \$200 bail when sent up to Superior Court.

PRESIDENT VETOES ARMY APPROPRIATION BILL FOR THE YEAR

Objects to Exemption Retired Officers From Articles of War

POLITICAL CONTENTION

Over Leaving Out Men Past Age Limit, Etc., From Provisions of Code—Hay Had Stood Pat In Favor of Exemption

(By the United Press)
Washington, Aug. 18.—President Wilson today vetoed the army appropriation bill, appropriating funds for the maintenance of the army during the present fiscal year.

The President's objection is based, it is understood, on the section exempting retired officers from the provisions of the articles of war, about which there has been political strife. Chairman Hay insisted on exemption.

REPUBLICANS WILL FIGHT HARD A BOND ISSUE FOR TROOPS

To Strenuously Oppose Legislation Providing Extra \$130,000,000 for Mobilization Expenses Lately Favored

(By the United Press)
Washington, Aug. 18.—Republicans will bitterly oppose Democratic legislation providing a \$130,000,000 bond issue to meet the expenditures of the Mexican mobilization. The Finance Committee of the Senate recommended the issue at the time of its favorable report on the revenue bill.

CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TAKES STEPS CHECK BRITISH BLACKLIST

(By the United Press)
Santiago, Chile, Aug. 18.—Formal announcement that the government has taken initial steps to restrict the operation of the British blacklist, which is declared detrimental to Chilean trade, was made today. The press again urged a concerted American protest.

WAR DEPT' DOES NOT BELIEVE GUARDSMEN MAINED THEMSELVES

(By the United Press)
Washington, Aug. 18.—The War Department today refused credence to reports that militiamen on the border are suffering from self-inflicted wounds in an effort to be excused from service. It is reported that 20 guardsmen had shot themselves.

TEUTONS CLAIM TO BE GAINING IN THE EAST; LOSE FLEURY

French Retake Village in Fierce Attack That Precipitates General Battle

ITALIANS ARE HALTED

According to Berlin Official Statement—Says Austrians Are Advancing in Bukovina and Repulsing Counters

(By the United Press)
Paris, Aug. 18.—An official statement says that by a powerful attack, the French recaptured the village of Fleury, driving out the Germans from that portion which they held. The Germans still retain a few ruins outside the village, from near Chapire forest. The blow was struck on the 17th day of the great battle for Verdun fortress and the city. It was preceded by a heavy bombardment and a curtain of fire that prevented German reserves from coming up. Clinging desperately to houses in the northeastern part of the town, the Germans strove to stem the advance with machine guns. Violent combats occurred in the streets. Fighting broke out along the whole French front southeast of Maurepas, simultaneously with desperate attacks by the British at Pozieres.

Optimistic Herd Report.
Berlin, Aug. 18.—The Austrians continue to advance in southwestern Bukovina. They have repulsed six massed attacks northeast of Stanislau with heaviest losses to the Russians. An official statement says the advance is progressing on the whole front in West Bukovina. It claims the halting of the Italian advance along the "whole front."

Invasion Hungary Expected Soon.
Petrograd, Aug. 18.—Threatening an early invasion of Hungary, the Russians are pressing forward in the region of Jablonitz pass, approaching the summits of mountains near Koromez, in Hungary, it is said officially. The capture of villages and a series of heights in the direction of Arzels is announced. The war office admits that the Teutons have wrested from the Slavs the initiative "temporarily" south of Lemberg.

WHOLE COUNCIL OF ALABAMA WET TOWN UNDER INDICTMENT

Seale, Ala., Aug. 17.—Charges against Girard town officials in connection with the alleged illegal sale of liquor before the State forces raided the place, today were extended to members of the Girard council. All members of the council were arrested on indictments charging that they received bribes.

Mayor Earl Morgan and Clerk of Council A. I. Weaver, arrested yesterday after they testified in the trial of Town Marshal John Oaks, also were indicted today by the special circuit grand jury. Morgan and Oaks are under bond of \$2,500. Bonds for the others were being prepared today.

Oaks, the first official to be charged with receiving bribes, was found guilty yesterday and today was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. It is charged that the town council levied a tax of \$25 monthly on the "blind tigers," and that records do not show it or what became of the money.

BULLETINS

(By the United Press)
Chicago, Aug. 18.—A hurricane is gathering in the Gulf of Mexico, according to reports to the weather bureau, it is headed for Brownsville today and probably strike tomorrow.

PLANTERS OF JONES FLOCK TO TRENTON FOR ANNUAL PICNIC

Hear Address by Alexander on Education, Marketing Et Cetera

BUSY DAY FOR THE TOWN

County Seat Hadn't Seen So Many Folks in Many Months—Good-Natured, Happy Looking Throng on the Streets.

(Special to The Free Press)
Trenton, N. C., Aug. 18.—Between a thousand and fifteen hundred Jones county folks—planters and their families and friends—attended the annual picnic of the Jones County Farmers' Union here today. It was the busiest day in months for this, the county-seat town. Automobiles were parked everywhere in the business streets, trading was heavy, and the throng evidenced the unusual prosperity of the year. It was a very orderly, very good-natured, happy crowd. The weather was just right.

The majority of the representative farmers of the county took the day off. It is the busy season with them, especially the tobacco growers, but they were more than compensated for the day lost on the farm by the experience gained. Men from every township swapped their experiences of the season and heard optimistic reports of fine crops in each section. Their neighbors' improvements and record corn and wheat productions were among the principal topics of conversation.

The most prominent figure at the picnic was Dr. H. Q. Alexander, of Mecklenburg county, State president of the organized farmers. He spoke for an hour and fifty minutes on three or four subjects of interest to the average agricultural community. He stressed the importance of education and said there is need for the teaching of domestic science and agriculture in the rural schools; he referred to the farm life schools as "Little A. & M. Colleges," and took credit for the State Farmers' Union for the advancement of rural education in the State. He discussed at some length economic marketing and the monetary system. Dr. Alexander held the attention of his large audience as few men could have done. His hearers warmed to him when he praised the organization and the men who comprise it.

Presiding over the day's program was T. C. Whitaker, president of the Jones County Union.

The picnic was a country basket dinner on a big scale. It was spread in an ideal place and comprised every one of the edibles that the county is capable of producing. Keen appetites were plentiful, many of the picnickers having driven miles and miles to be present.

NEARLY QUARTER OF A MILLION SHAVES IS RECORD ONE MAN

Lorain, Ohio, Aug. 17.—Theodore Curtis, a Lorain barber, has just celebrated the 25th anniversary of the beginning of his career. He has kept account of every man he has shaved, and says he has removed the whiskers of 249,960 men.

"I have cut enough hair to make 11 mattresses and to pad 49,562 crutches," said Curtis.

The barber has shaved some of the country's widely known men, including Presidents McKinley, Roosevelt and Taft, Senators Mark Hanna, Mat Quay, Albert Beveridge and Ben. Tillman. "Doc" Cook, "Buffalo Bill," Jess Willard, Tod Sloan and Harry Thaw.

LIQUOR DEALERS ACTIVE.
Richmond, Va., Aug. 18.—There is much activity here on the part of liquor dealers, in efforts to dispose of their stocks before closing-up time.

INDEPENDENT BUYER GOING STRONG ON KINSTON MARKET---100,000 POUNDS SOLD TODAY---AVERAGE PRICE ABOVE 20 CENTS

(Daily Free Press—18th)
Friday, the fourth sales day of the 1916-17 tobacco season, did not produce as large breaks as were anticipated at the first of the week, when the prices paid on the opening day were expected to bring an even larger break than was had then. About 100,000 pounds of the bright leaf was sold today. The prices prevailing were as stiff as on Thursday. The average today was 20c and, like the preceding days, the inferior grades were showing no perceptible change as compared with the high prices paid on the opening day. There was some indication of a little stronger market on the best grades, the tendency being upward, but the actual increases over yesterday's sales were only in a few isolated cases. The quality today as a whole did not perhaps equal the average quality for Thursday's sales. The average price was about the same, indicating a little better market.

One of the independent buyers is taking a large share of the tobacco sold on the local market, and it is understood that this firm is representing a client, which has not heretofore bought in any considerable quantities of the bright leaf.

JAPAN PLANS BUILD BIG FLEET OFFSET AMERICAN INCREASE

(By the United Press)
Tokyo, Aug. 18.—Japan plans to improve her navy as fast or faster than does the United States build up its sea fighting machine. At least, that is the deduction made by the Japanese people from the just announced plan to spend 254,000,000 to 310,000,000 yen building new battleships in the next seven years.

Exactly what the plan under consideration by the Finance Department of the government is, nobody knows, but according to the paper Jiji, usually a well informed publication, the outlay for the "ideal fleet" calls for about \$150,000,000. Other papers' estimates are a bit lower.

Newspaper reports have it that Japan proposes to build 3 superdreadnoughts, 2 battlecruisers, 11 light cruisers, 10 destroyers and many U-boats.

CONFERENCE TO SEEK TO CHECK A BILLION DOLLAR FARM WASTE

Chicago, Aug. 18.—How to check the billion dollar waste in the marketing of farm products will be the dominant theme of the fourth national conference on marketing and farm credits, called today to meet in Chicago December 4 and 5.

Farmers of all states are expected to unite in a discussion of ways and means to remedy a condition termed "wasteful and iniquitous in the extreme" by the committee in its meeting notice.

DENIAL THAT TRADE SECRETS AMERICAN FIRMS WERE STOLEN

Washington, Aug. 18.—Denying charges that Britain has stolen trade secrets from commercial messages between the United States and foreign countries, the embassy today invited complaints of such thefts to be sent to the State Department for representations at London through American ambassador.

"Such use of the censorship is directly contrary to the British policy," the embassy said.

SPANISH LEGATION IN ARGENTINE ON A PAR WITH AMERICAN

Buenos Ayres, Aug. 18.—To avoid international jealousy, the Spanish legation in Argentina is to be elevated to the rank of an embassy, such as the United States has, it was learned here today.

King Alfonso's ministry has decided on the step and the approval of the Cortes is considered certain. When the Argentine legation at Washington was made an embassy and the Washington legation here was similarly elevated, there was much objection here and in Madrid on the ground that Spain, as Argentina's parent land, should have come first.

SOLDIER WHO KILLED ANOTHER ATTEMPTED TO SUICIDE, STATED

Brownsville, Texas, Aug. 17.—Corporal Carl Dunches, assigned to the quartermaster corps of the United States army, faced charges in the Cameron county court today of murder and assault to murder, in connection with the killing last night of Corporal James Clement, Company G, Second Virginia Infantry, and the wounding of Senator Sofia Valdes, a Mexican girl. Clement's home was in Warrington, Va.

The Virginian was killed, it is charged, when he sought to protect the Mexican girl from Dunches' advances. The girl, when approached by Dunches, called for help, and when Clement went to her aid, witnesses said, Dunches shot and killed Clement and wounded the girl.

Dunches then fired three shots with the intention, it was said, of killing himself. Only one took effect, producing a slight flesh wound, which was not discovered until he was taken

LABOR MEN OF STATE MEET IN SPENCER NEXT

Spencer, Aug. 17.—Spencer delegates returning from the tenth annual convention of the State Federation of Labor in Wilmington brought the information that the next convention will be held in Salisbury. The Wilmington convention went on record condemning the State for placing militia on the streets there at the recent street car strike, and passed a resolution favoring a "real" workman's compensation law.

Officers elected at the convention include: President, W. E. Shuping, Salisbury; First Vice-President, Thomas Hill, Wilmington; Vice-Presidents, L. R. Hastings, Raleigh, J. L. Suver, Salisbury; Howard Clayton, Asheville; E. J. Schantz, Durham; H. S. Bolton, Rocky Mount; T. L. Long, Spencer and E. R. Farris, Charlotte; Secretary and Treasurer, M. E. Meadows, Asheville.