

DETERMINE TODAY IF NATIONWIDE RAILROAD STRIKE IS TO BE CALLED

SITUATION HAS GROWN VERY BAD SINCE MIDNIGHT; EXECUTIVES ARE WILLING TO GRANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY AT SAME EXPENSE

If Brotherhoods Will Work That Number of Hours for Eight Hours' Pay, Well and Good—Can't Agree to Fifty Million Dollars Increase, However—President's Policy Openly Criticized—"Striking Down of Principle of Impartial Hearing Threatens Greater Danger Than Conflicting Freight Regulations"—Success or Failure of Wilson's Efforts Will Be Told by Night, It Is Probable

(By the United Press)

Washington, Aug. 24.—"Since midnight the situation has taken a change for the worse. The situation is very serious," was the statement of one of the executives at the conference with the President began this afternoon. The President's course in "striking down the principle of impartial hearing" has threatened greater permanent injury than the "multiform, conflicting freight regulations," said Walter D. Hines for the Santa Fe. Hines declared the President had without a hearing decided it was just for the railroads to pay fifty million dollars a year to trainmen through the eight-hour day.

One striking feature of the case, he said, was that the President's course establishes the proposition that labor may combine to stop the interstate commerce unless its demands are granted, and that in such cases the President's proper course is to "make up his own mind without a hearing as to concessions he would force employers to make."

Final Negotiations On.

(By Robert J. Bender)

Washington, Aug. 24.—Negotiations for settling the threatened railroad strike today went into the final stages.

The success or failure of the President's efforts may be written before night. The sub-committee of railway executives who for three days have been wrestling with the eight-hour problem met with the rest of the executives this morning, in the hope of reaching a conclusion before adjourning. They are expected to lay their final answer before the President at a conference this afternoon.

The railroad executives, it is said, have agreed there is no other way to meet the crisis than to grant the demand for the eight-hour day. However, those struggling desperately to provide the eight-hour day, this concession is not the same as demanded by the workers. Their efforts are concentrated on the task of putting the brotherhoods on the defensive. To this end, it is declared, there is general willingness to grant the eight-hour day, but not with the same wage as now paid for the ten-hour day. That would mean a twenty per cent. increase in wages, it is claimed. "If the brotherhoods are willing to grant eight hours for eight hours' pay this controversy would be settled in twenty minutes," the President of the Santa Fe is reported to have said.

TO START SERVICE ON THE DUPLIN R. R. IN A VERY FEW DAYS

Regular Passenger and Freight Service to Beaulville to Be Inaugurated By September 1, If Possible, Said

Passenger and freight service on the Duplin County R. R., as far as Beaulville will be inaugurated by September 1 if possible, Mr. Wm. Hayes, Superintendent of the Kinston-Carolina Railroad, announced today. A line which comprises a link of the new road has been constructed to the latter point for some time, and a semi-weekly freight service employed. Construction of the line to Chinquapin, some miles farther South, is in progress, and service to that point will be opened up in a few months. The construction of the line to Maple Hill, in Pender county, in the near future, is probable, Mr. Hayes stated.

There will be one train daily to Beaulville for the present. That train now runs as far as Pink Hill. The same schedule will be observed.

NEW TYPE ZEPPELINS WILL MAKE RAID ON ENGLAND IN AUTUMN

Germany Preparing New Air Fleet for Purpose, Lord Montague Warns—Test Raid at Midnight Is Announced

(By the United Press)

London, Aug. 24.—A zeppelin raided the English coast at midnight, says an official statement. Casualties are reported. Baron Montague has warned the country of a probable air raid by new German dirigibles, now said to be under construction. The craft are 780 feet long, travel 80 miles an hour, can ascend to 3 miles to avoid gun fire, and carry 5 tons of explosives each, he said. The raid is expected in September or October, when the weather is favorable. Last night's attack is believed to have been to test England's new air defenses.

Two of the new zeppelins have been completed, Montague declared, and four more will be available in the autumn.

MAJ. LEWIS GOES UP A GRADE IN THE ARMY

Major Will Lewis, a former Kinstonian for many years in the army medical service, has been promoted to a lieutenant-colonelcy, relatives here have learned. Just before the receipt of his new commission Lt.-Col. Lewis was ordered from the President at San Francisco, where he has been stationed, to the Mexican border, where, it is said, he has charge of the sanitary troops along a part of the front. Forty thousand men are under his professional supervision. Col. Lewis's father, Dr. Richard Lewis, and several brothers and sisters reside here. He is well-known throughout the army.

MEETING OF MASONS.

St. John's Lodge, No. 4, A. F. and A. M., will meet Friday night for work in the second degree.

DEUTSCHLAND SAFE IN GERMAN HARBOR AFTER LONG VOYAGE

Dodged English Fleet at Entrance to Channel; Kept Under Surface

WELCOMED BY BIG CROWD

Submarine Merchantman Did Not Notify Friends of Approach Until Almost Under Guns of Helgoland—At Bremen

(By the United Press)
Copenhagen, Aug. 24.—The Bremen, sister ship of the Deutschland, will arrive in America in a few days, it said from a German official source.

Berlin, Aug. 23.—The merchant submarine Deutschland arrived at the mouth of the Weser on August 23, according to the Overseas News Agency.

The agency says that the Deutschland arrived on the afternoon of August 23 and anchored before the mouth of the river. All on board were well. Arrived on Twenty-third.

Berlin, Aug. 24.—The submarine Deutschland evaded a score of warships watching for her at the entrance to the English Channel, coming to the surface Tuesday in the southern part of the North Sea, say Bremen dispatches. Not until approaching Helgoland and out of danger did she wireless news of her arrival. Great crowds gathered on the docks at Bremen to welcome her.

HEAVIEST SALES OF THE WEEK ON LEAF MARKET HERE TODAY

It was estimated this afternoon that 131,876 pounds of tobacco was sold here today. The average price was practically unchanged. It was right around 21 cents.

The sales were the largest of the week, eclipsing those of Wednesday, the next best day, by more than 40,000 pounds. The quality was on the whole, good.

Fair sales are expected Friday, and heavy breaks by the middle of next week.

MORE LAND FOR THE NATIONAL FORESTS

Washington, Aug. 23.—Addition of 62,880 acres to the government's forest reserves in the Appalachian and White Mountains, bringing the total area purchased up to 1,396,367 acres, was announced tonight by the National Forest Reservation Commission. Fifty-nine tracts are comprised in the new acquisitions, the largest being in the "Kinkenny Purchase area," in New Hampshire, and covering 36,000 acres.

Smaller tracts were purchased in the Southern Appalachian mountains, the largest total on any area being that of 7,678 acres in Transylvania county, N. C., on the Pisgah Forest. Other tracts in Avery, Caldwell, Macon and McDowell counties, on the Boone, Nantahala and Mt. Mitchell areas, aggregate 1,870 acres.

HUGHES ABOUT READY FOR VACATION IN ESTES PARK

Ogden, Utah, Aug. 24.—Ogden gave Charles E. Hughes a tremendous welcome this afternoon when the Republican candidate arrived to address a crowd which jammed the city's biggest auditorium.

While showing no marked effects from his campaign trip, Gov. Hughes is looking forward to a week's vacation in the Estes Park region of the Rocky Mountains beginning next Sunday.

GRAND JURY CHARGE COMMISSIONERS USE FUNDS IMPROPERLY

"Not Being Spent Economically and Justly to the Taxpayers"

ASK FOR INVESTIGATION

Desire Judge Devin to Appoint Committee Whose Names Are Suggested by Jury—Roast Reception at Roads Camp

"We the Grand Jury, think the county road funds are not being spent economically and justly to the taxpayers."

That is the charge contained in the report of the Grand Jury for the August term of Superior Court made to Judge Devin late Wednesday. The report further says that the Grand Jury believe that the funds "are being spent for the benefit of a few men."

"We find important main roads with heavy traffic neglected, others in a very thinly wooded community eight miles from the county seat being built at a very heavy cost to the county." The jury asked Judge Devin to delegate, to investigate the results of the expenditure of "about \$40,000 since January," the following men: E. T. Moseley, Kinston township; R. H. Hardy, Moseley Hall; E. L. Hardy, Institute; Jerry Sutton, Falling Creek; Mark Rouse, Vance; W. C. Worthington, Contentnea Neck; Zeb Kilpatrick, Sand Hill; Forrest Kennedy, Southwest; Oscar Hardy, Trent; Geo. Willard, Pink Hill; Sam Taylor, Neuse; and J. T. Spence, Woodington.

The report said that "on our inspection of the convict camp, we were treated very discourteously by the road superintendent; also found some convicts had been beaten rather severely by other convicts, under orders of the superintendent, also Mincher and Taylor. From the best information, Mincher is still walking boss."

Convict Guard Mincher has been in trouble in the courts several times for alleged maltreatment of convicts. An appeal is now pending before the supreme court.

The Grand Jury found, according to the report, the County Home to be "in good shape, very ably managed by Mrs. Lee;" the jail very well kept in sanitary condition; the Sheriff's Clerk's and Register's office well kept and the Clerk reporting that "all guardians' reports have been made regularly."

Comprising the Grand Jury were: J. W. Moseley, J. H. Leneave, W. E. Taylor, G. M. Henderson, S. H. Isler, W. M. Edwards, J. F. Holt, A. M. Eaines, N. E. Smith, B. F. West, R. L. Pelletier, E. S. Mewborn, foreman, W. E. Boyette, E. L. Johnson, J. H. Darden, Jr., E. J. Edwards, E. L. Hardy and Z. C. Gooding.

BELIEVE BRITISH U-BOAT SANK BATTLE IN THE NORTH SEA

London, Aug. 22.—A British official announcement this afternoon says it is believed that a German battleship of the Nassau class has been sunk by British submarine E22. The announcement reads:

"The submarine E-22, Lieut.-Commander Robert R. Turner, which returned today from the North Sea, reports that on the morning of Saturday last she made a successful torpedo attack upon a German battleship of the Nassau class. The commanding officer reports that while the ship was being escorted by five destroyers back to the harbor in a damaged condition, he attacked again and struck her with a second torpedo and believes she was sunk."

EPSTEIN TELLS HIS STORY OF KILLING OF LEON'D EDWARDS

Larger Man Had Him Down and He Shot In Self-Defense, Jury Hears

DEFENDANT NOT WORRIED

Well-Dressed and Calm—Mother and Others of Family In Courtroom—Former Fiancee Turns Back On Him

(Special to The Free Press)
Goldboro, Aug. 25.—The defense had not rested its case in the Epstein murder trial this afternoon. There is no prospect for the case going to the jury today or tomorrow, and it may even go over into next week.

Goldboro, Aug. 24.—Hyman Epstein, on trial for the murder of Leonard Edwards, was on the stand in his own defense yesterday. Epstein told of being encountered by Edwards on the street in front of the latter's home, of his life being threatened by Edwards because he persisted in calling upon Edwards' sister, and of being forced to the ground by the man whom he shot. It was after he was down that he shot Edwards, Epstein said.

The Epstein jury was secured in two hours' time. The defendant was calm and apparently unmoved when he entered the courtroom. He was well-groomed and nattily dressed. In the room were his mother, brothers and a sister, as well as Miss Judith Edwards, sister of the slain man and Epstein's fiancee at the time he killed her brother. Miss Edwards under stress of emotion reversed her seat to avoid looking at the prisoner.

Edwards was a powerful man. He, like the slayer, was a member of a prominent family.

ALLIED OFFENSIVE IN THE BALKANS IS BUT A BLUFF, IT IS SAID

Launched for Its Effect Upon Roumania—Entente Powers Would Not Attempt It Without That Nation's Help

(By the United Press)

New York, Aug. 24.—To create a political effect in Roumania is the main purpose of the Allied activity in the Balkans. There is no probability that a major offensive will develop at this time from the Greek base, unless the Allies are assured that Roumania intends to participate. Without Roumania's aid the recovery of Serbia would require a greater expenditure of men and munitions than could be spared from the main fronts.

OWEGO WAS FIRED ON WITHOUT WARNING BY GERMAN SUBMERSIBLE

(By the United Press)
Rotterdam, Aug. 23.—(Via London)—According to information here the American steamer Owego, regarding a reported submarine attack on which the American government has inquired of Germany, arrived here August 13 and reported encountering off the Isle of Wight a German submarine which fired 10 or 12 shots at her without warning, it is declared, some of the shells striking very close to her but inflicting no damage.

GREEKS FOUGHT THE BULGARS IN EFFORT TO CHECK INVASION

Athenians Were Engaged On Nearly Every Part of Front, Said

ADVANCE BEEN HALTED

Greek and French Troops Defending Seres Against Bulgarians—Russians Win Big Victory in Fight With Turks

(By the United Press)

London, Aug. 24.—The ancient Greek city of Seres, 43 miles northwest of Salonika, is under a strong attack by Bulgars, Athens dispatches say. The Greek garrison is co-operating with the French forces in defending the city. The Seres garrison is being reinforced by small Greek detachments, which retired upon the city after spirited fighting with numerically superior Bulgars on practically every other sector of the Balkan front. The Bulgar offensive has been brought to a standstill.

Slavs Claim Big Success.
Petrograd, Aug. 24.—The Russians have defeated 80,000 Turks in a great battle near Mosul, capturing two entire regiments, it is said officially. Much booty was secured.

Attacks On French.
Paris, Aug. 24.—Two German attacks near Sayercourt, south of the Somme, preceded by an intense bombardment, were completely repulsed, it is officially said. On the right bank of the Meuse, northeast of Verdun, the Germans today bombarded the Fleury-Thiaumont front. French aviators downed four planes.

British Repel Germans.
London, Aug. 24.—The Germans made a strenuous attempt last night to regain ground between Guillemont and Quarry, according to General Haig. They succeeded in reaching parapets of British trenches at some points but afterwards were repelled with heavy losses.

Bulletins

(By Eastern Press)
Berlin, Aug. 24.—The Bulgars have damaged the enemy in fresh fighting on the Struma river, says an official statement of the Bulgarians. Anglo-French, it is said, were put to flight.

GIVES HOLLAND ANOTHER CHANCE

Recorder T. C. Wooten today announced that he would hear "a strong appeal" for clemency for John Holland Friday morning. Holland is under sentence of 12 months for larceny of money from a window display.

ARMOR PLANT WILL BE LOCATED IN FEW WEEKS

Washington, Aug. 23.—Proposals from various cities offering sites for the \$11,000,000 government armor plant will be heard by Secretary Daniels on September 13, together with such offers as any private manufacturers may submit for the sale of their establishments to the government.

'ENEMY' WRECKS NAVY DEPOT HAMPTON ROADS

Washington, Aug. 23.—The Navy Department was taxing its resources tonight to fill up the great hypothetical gap in the country's defense which has developed in the naval war game in progress off the Atlantic coast. Theoretically, a mob of uniformed men today overpowered the naval guard at Sewell's Point, on Hampton Roads, destroyed great stores of coal and supplies collected there for possible use of the "blue" defending fleet, and burned the piers.

SANDERSON GOES ON TRIAL FOR KILLING AMOS BECTON TODAY

Bryant Sanderson, young white farm tenant, was to be put on trial in Superior Court this afternoon for the killing of Amos Becton, an elderly planter. The alleged crime occurred in the spring at the home of a colored tenant on Becton's plantation. Self-defense may be the plea of Sanderson. The Solicitor has stated that he will not ask for a murder verdict but will be satisfied with a conviction for manslaughter.

Cases disposed of Wednesday were: Mary White, larceny, eight months. William Dove, Henry Fields and Anne Fields, a. with d. w. guilty, judgment not passed. Jonas Williams, larceny, 12 months. Williams, now serving a term on the county roads, made the interesting request that he be sent to State's prison at Raleigh to spend the year, stating that he had been whipped while on the roads. Defendant's request. Tobe Mayor, tried on appeal from the Recorder's Court.

WHAT'S TEXAS HEAT ALONGSIDE THIS THE JAPS HAVE TO TAKE

(By the United Press)

Tokio, Aug. 24.—American militiamen drilling on the Mexican border in terrific heat may cool off when they hear that 2,000 Japanese soldiers marched and maneuvered for twelve days in Formosa and the Pescadores with the mercury mounted as high as 130 degrees Fahrenheit. And only three cases of sunstroke were reported during the entire period.

The first nine days were spent in constant marching, the troops covering 100 miles. Because of the heat, the soldiers were permitted to wear any clothing they pleased. Some of them wore helmets, some straw hats, some a knitted undershirt or a thin kimono.

The maneuvers were deliberately held in the intense heat, in order to give the experts a chance to study the best way to handle men under such conditions.

Judge Devin complied with the defendant's request. Tobe Mayor, tried on appeal from the Recorder's Court.