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MORE THAN 20,000 MEN HAVE JOINED WALKOUTS

Insurgent Strike of Switchmen and Enginemen Spreads Throughout Country - 8,000 Out In Chicago District - Leaders Say Strike Is Grow-

(By The Associated Press)

CHICAGO, April 9-One switchman was shot and several slugged at meetings of the striking railroad men last night, police learned today.

John Krintz, a striker, who proposed that the men return to work, was shot, it was reported. He was spirited away in an automobile by friends.

Trouble broke out at two meetings of the newly formed Chicago yardmen's association when members suggested a return to the ranks of the established brotherhoods.

Sabotage was advocated by one of the speakers, E. C. Esty, a C. Y. A. organizer who participated in the Gary steel strike and several labor disturbances here. "They call me a rebel," Estey told the strikers. "I'm proud to be a rebel. In 1910 I had charge of a railroad strike in Minneapolis and St. Paul. The men all went out and stayed out. I went down to the I. W. W. headquarters and got some help. Then one day four passenger trains were wrecked. The next day seven freight zrains were wrecked. Then we sent word to the railroads that if they didn't come across we would tear down the roundhouse. They didn't answer we did. The roundhouse was torn down.

"Then the railroads begged for mercy and asked to meet us. We told them to come to us. There was a meeting. The union drew up a contract and the railroad refused it. The next day we blew up a bridge. That night an ice jam formed in the river and tore down the rest of the bridge so they don't know to this day who did the job. But we won the strike.

"I did ninety days in jail for blocking the mails. I got off light because I told the judge I didn't know the law. But, of course, I knew it then as well as I do now."

NEW YORK THREATENED

WITH SERIOUS FOOD SHORTAGE (By The Associated Press)

NEW YORK, April 9. - New York city, affected by strikes of railroad marine workers, switchmen and freight yard supployes, is threatened with a serious food shortage, according to a statement Zoday by J. J. Mantell, head of the railread managers' organization. He added that during the night "65 carloads of milk were moved into the city to protect the infants" and railroad officials now are manning engines and switches in the Eric, West Shore and Pennsytvania wards.

"The yard switchmen, conductors and brakemen in the freight terminals on the Jersey shore are all out, including the following roads: West Shore, Erie, Jersoy Central, Pennsylvania and Lehigh Valley," said Mr. Mantell.

Absences were reported today in the Harlem yards of the New York, New Haven & Hartford. Raitroad officials, however, declare these gaps were not affeeting operations and the men who falled to appear probably had been kept away by illness. Vacancies also were reported in New York Central yards.

CHICAGO, April 9-Continued spread of the neurgent strike of switchmen and enginemen on railroads throughout the country was indicated by reports today showing that more than 20,000 men had joined the walkouts.

Eight thousand insurgents were in the Chicago district, where the strike had its inception nine days ago, and reports from a score of cities from coast to coast in which walkouts have occurred predicted additions to the strikers ranks

during the day .

Railroad brotherhoods officials, who have denounced the new "rump" unions and appealed to loyal union men to assist in breaking the strikes, declared, however, the walkout in the Chicago district had reached its maximum, would be broken in 48 hours and strikes in other ports of the country then would end. The spread of the "strike fever" to other cities, they insisted, was only an indication the strike was running its

natural course. Chairmen of the brotherhoods anonneed there had been a nimprovem in the Chicago district and that the men were slowly returning to work. They amerted that freight traffic was 50 per

On the other hand, leaders of the revolting yardmen's union declared, the strike was growing and that the men would continue to remain out of the parent unions, ignoring notices from chairmen of the Brotherhood of Railrond Trainmen threatening expulsion unles

strike breakers here, officials said. Between 40,000 and 50,000 packing house and stockyard workers had been thrown out of employment today as the result of stoppage of cattle shipments, packers announced. Many industrial plants reported thousands of employes would be thrown out of work if the freight tie-up continued another week.

Nearly 4,000 employes of 23 railroads entering Toledo, including switchmen, enginemen and firemen, were reported idle today.

FLETCHER SAYS NAVY WAS FULLY PREPARED

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 9. - Two years GASTONIA AND LINCOLNTON before the United States joined the allies in the world war the navy genera board prepared a comprehensive plan for war against a "central power" of E rope, Rear Admiral F. F. Fletcher t day told the senate investigating go mittee. He was replying to Rear Admit al Sims' charge that when the United States entered the war the navy department had no "well considered" plans or policies for fighting Germany.

Many such plans had been made in the past, Admiral Fletcher said, but the plan referred to "covered every phase of naval operations under the assumed conditions of war." It dealt with the mobilization, organization and composition of the fleet, its disposition and employment, protection of the coasts, bases of supplies on the United States coast and in the West Indies, routes across the Atlantic and the enemy's forces and probable courses of action, he said, and comprised nearly 300 typewritten pages.

Admiral Fletcher was a member of the general board during the war, but was engaged for the most part with his duties s a member of the war industries board, the priorities board and the council national defense.

Explaining that he wished to comment on certain specific charges made by Admiral Sims before testifying regarding his duties as a member of these various boards, the witness first took up Sims criticism that the navy was not prepared for war in April 1917. No navy ever was or ever will be fully prepared for war in the eyes of every one, the admiral declared, but the American navy entered the war was "just as well prepared as any other navy in the world when the great war burst forth," he asserted.

Admiral Sims' declaration that , the navy department should have immediately sent all available destroyers and small craft abroad to fight submarines sounded "plausible and convincing," the witnees said, but such a course of action would have left the American coasts and ports full of invaluable vessels and cargoes open to attack by German subma vines that had demonstrated in 1916 their ability to cross the ocean, menace the United States coast and return to Germany unaided. Such an attack, he asserted, would have caused great alarm in this country and have affected sending

any small vessels to the war sone.

Admiral Fletcher characterized the work of the war industries board as on of the "great achievements of the war" and declared the members of the board complimented highly the efficiency with which the navy department conducted the business end of its participation in the

No loss of shipping or failure of the navy to transport troops to France, prolonged the war for a single day, the admiral asserted. Admiral Sims' assertion that "the navy department is responsible for the less of two and a half million tons of shipping, the prolongation of the war for four months, fifteen billion dollars of debt and the loss of 500,000 lives' was based upon assumption and had no foundation in fact, the officer dedared.

"The whole conclusion reached in th recusation is built upon the flimsy foundation of a hypothetical condition and is wholly without value," he said.

GERMAN REGULARS WITHDRAW.

(By The Associated Press.)

BERLIN, April 9. - The German regular troops which had crossed the river Buhr were withdrawn yesterday to the northern bank of that stream, it we anounced today. (The Ruhr passes just to the south of Essen in the northern cen tral part of the industrial district.)

An agricultural union has been forme rakis for the in methods of inJOSEPH C. GREW, NEW MINISTER TO DENMARK



Joseph C. Grew was counsellor to th American embassy in Vienna at the time of break in diplomatic relations between this country and Austrin - Hungary came in 1917. Previous to that Mr. Grew had served as counsellor to our embassy in Berlin.

DEBATERS MEET TONIGHT

Misses Mary Grier and Beulah McKenzie Meet Lincolnton Here — Messrs. Frank Kin-caid and Ben Ratchford Will Represent Gastonia in Lin-colnton Tonight.

Gastonia and Lincolnton high schools meet tonight in the annual high school debating contest in North Carolina in which 200 high schools in 75 counties of the State are participating. The original triangle was composed of Shelby, Lincolnton and Gastonia, but Shelby high school dropped out this year.

The local debaters are Misses Mary Grier and Beulah McKenzie, representing the negative side of the question and Messrs. Frank Kineaid and Ben Ratchford, who uphold the affirmative. The negative team, Misses Grier and McKenzie will meet Lincolnton's affirmative here while Messrs. Kineaid and Ratchford go to Lincolnton to meet the neg: tive team from that school. The school winning both sides is entitled to send its representatives to Chapel Hill to compete for the Avcock cur. '

The only other two schools in the coun ty debating tonight are Belmont and Bessemer City.

Gaston county schools have been signal ly successful in sending their teams to Chapel Hill. The Gastonia debaters of years ago, Messrs. Charles Boyd. Gorlon Kincaid, Alex McLean and Miss Rebekah McLean won from Shelby and Lincolnton and won honors at Chapel Hill. Belmont, Dallas, Lowell and Mt. Holly teams have also won trips to Chapel Hill.

The exercises begin at the Central chool auditorium at 7:30 o'clock. Concerning the debate a special from

Chapel Hill says: Debating teams from 200 high school in 75 counties, all members of the high school debating union, will open their guns, offensively and defensively, on the question of restriction of immigration, tomorrow in the eighth statewide debate conducted by the University of North Carolina

Secretary Ralph Rankin, of the unto said today that word had come in from the schools that all the oratory was in readiness, and he estimates that at least 50,000 persons in the state will listen to

"Of the 800 high school students who will debate," he continued, "approximately one-half will be girls. The number of girls has been increasing ateadily in the eight years the union has existed until now girls held as many places on the debating teams as boys. No, I can " estimate how much further that increase will go and whether eventually the girls will drive the boys from the teams."

Schools which win both their debates will send their representatives to Chapel Hill for the state championship contes April 22-23. An elimination round will e held here and the two best teams se lected for the final debate for the honor of the state and for the Aycock memorial cup, donated by former members of university debating teams. This cup is not held by Durham high school, winner last

The query which will be fought ove this year is "Resolved, That the United States should adopt a policy of further material restriction of immigration." A 100-page bulletin, containing outlines and arguments on both sides of the que information relating to the subject and references to further sources has been recently published by the bureau of extension and sent to all the echools in the

The high school debating union was started by the Dislectic and Philanthro pic Literary societies of the university in the fall of 1918 and has conducted

TO LAY CORNERSTONE

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Knights Templar, Royal Arch Masons and Other Fraternal Orders of State and County to Officiate at Laying of Cornerstone of N. C. Ortho-paedic Hospital — High Dig-nitaries to Be Present.

The cornerstone of the North Carolina Orthopaedic Hospital will be laid by the Masons and other fraternal organizations of North Carolina, according to a resolution offered and unanimously earried at, the banquet of the Knights Templar of Gastonia Thursday night. Following the conferring of the degrees of Red Cross and Knight of Malta upon 16 candidates in the lodge room, the members of the commandery and invited guests totaling more than 50, enjoyed a sumptaous banquet in the Armory served by Pete Kaperonis of the Carolina Care. resolution mentioned was offered by Rev. W. C. Barrett, pastor of the First Baptist church, in behalf of the Masonie bodies of the city and was unanimously adopted by a rising vote:

Resolved: That in view of the fact that the Grand Lodge of A. F. & A. M., of the State of North Carolina, through our Grand Master, and its other Grand Officers, have been requested by the Masonie bodies of Gastonia to have charge of the laying of the cornerstone of the North Carolina Orthopaedie Hospital at such a date as is convenient during the month of May or June, and be it further

Resolved: That the Eminent Commander of this Commandery, together with the High Priest of Gastonia Chapter No. 66, the Worshipful Master of Blue Lodge No. 369, Brother S. N. Boyce, our Grand Custodian, Brother W. Y. Warren, representing Oasis Temple, and Brother R. B. Babington, representing the North Carolina Orthopaedic Hospital, be named and created a general committee for said cornerstone laying, with all power vested in said committee to appoint all such committees as they deem necessary to properly handle and make all arrangements and plans to carry out said seremonies to a complete conclusion, and that Brother S. N. Boyce be named to act as Chairman of said committee.

The North Carolina Orthopaedic Hosit al being a State Institution, as well as a | non-denominational, non-political and non-fraternal, we do hereby further Resolve: To invite all sister fraternitics of Gastonia and of North Carolina to join with us in this work of love for our poor and orphan boys and girls of the State, of sound mind, who are crippled and deformed, and that the head executive officers of such fraternal orders, in dastonia are hereby invited to act on committees, to be named later, with nembers of this order.

Also, that Grand Eminent Commander of the Grand Commandery of North Carolina, is requested to allow the Commander ies, who will attend the ceremonies, to to so in K. T. Uniforms.

That a cordial invitation be, and to hereby extended, to all Masons and other fraternal orders in North Carolina, and to the public in general, to participate with us on this occasion.

That a copy of this resolution be fur nished The Gastonia Gazette, The Charlotte Observer, The Charlotte News and through them, the press of the State.

The General Committee is composed of the following men: S. N. Boyce, chairman, W. J. Rosch, W. L. Thompson, W. Y. Warren, R. B. Babington,

This committee will appoint subcommit tees to assist, and to make this occasion one of the greatest in the history of Gaston county, a day, that the State of North Carolina will look back to with pride, realizing the fact that her people have established one of the best and most needed institutions for the conser vation of its crippled and deformed children of sound mind. Not only will the Orthopaedic Hospital be a blessing to the children of North Carolina, but to children of other States, who may be fortunate enough to be admitted, as this is the only state institution of the kind in all the southland. North Caroling is the fifth state in the United States that has such an institution.

The Gazette will from time to keep its readers posted as to the Committees, arrangements, etc. Governor Thomas W. Bickett, will be the principal speaker of the day. There will be other notable men here. The committees whose appointment will follow will make this a red letter day, closing the chapter of a great achievment for the state and for humanity.

QUARTER-MILE PUBLIC MARKET. NEW YORK, April 9 - A public market nearly a quarter of a mile long will be started in Brooklyn April 20 in the city's war on the high cost of living. The department of markets, announcing the opening today, added that if the market proved successful a half mile more of market would be epened.

Dairy and farm products first will be offered for sale, direct from farmers agons. Lates meats will be included, it

den in 1913, Winston-Salem in 1914 Wilson in 1915, Graham in 1916, Waynes-ville in 1917, Wilson in 1918 and Durham in 1919.

ORTHOPAEDIC HOSPITAL AMERICA'S ATTITUDE IS THAT OF AN OBSERVER

Concerning Entry of French Troops Into Ruhr District of Germany State Department Declares United States Will Not Be An Interested Participant.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, April 9-America's attitude towards any adjustment of the GERMANY ASKED TO CUT new situation created by the entry of French troops into the Ruhr district of Germany will continue to be more that of an observer than an interested participant, from what can be learned in official circles here. It is known the state department was in communication with London and Italy as well as France up to the time the French army moved forward from the Mayence bridgehead, and there has been no indication here of any change in the position taken more than a week ago when the state department announced this government knew no reason why German troops should not be sent into the troubled district if it were clearly understood they would be withdrawn once order was restored.

While recognizing the seriousness of the situation created by the independent action by France, officials here were not inclined to regard it as "delicate," as the British foreign office indicated last night. It was regarded as one of those situations full of potential danger, but in which the probabilities of adjustment was predominate.

All reports have indicated Germany's unwillingness to contest the force of French arms, and, it was pointed out, there is no reason to assume France will not adhere to her assurance that her forces will be withdrawn once the German troops have fallen back to the eastern boundary of the neutral zone.

INDIGNANT AT ATTITUDE OF BRITISH GOVERNMENT

(By The Associated Press)

LONDON, April 9-The London Times which has been consistently distrustful of the soldier in charge of it to lose his Germany and strongly antagonistic to | Premier Lloyd George, this morning exextreme indignation at British government's attitude with regard to France's occupation of German neutral territory as set forth in the "authoritative'' statement issued last night.

"We seldom have read a more la mentable or more shameful exposition of British policy," says the newspaper. "Is this the return we are to make to France for all that she has done and suffered by our side? We tremble at the results of this scandalous announcement, this explosion of inconceivable folly, upon that union of the British and French peoples whereupon our rulers well know the stability of the peace so dearly bought now chiefly depends."

The Times regrets the French "error in judgment" in sending so many African troops to Frankfort, saying this will give the Germans pretext for indignant protestations; but it thinks that otherwise the French action effected great good and "brought the Germans to heel."

The Daily Mail, in a similar strain, says the British people never will per-mit British friendship and the alliance with France to be sacrificed to aid Mr. Lloyd George "In a vote snatching campaign."

BITTER PILL FOR FRANCE.

PARIS, April 9. - Great Britain attitude relative to the advance of French troops into German territory cast of the Rhine as defined in press despatch es from London is viewed by newspapers here as a bitter pill for France and it is considered the action of Belgium supporting the policy of France hardly compensates for it.

"Pertinax." the political editor of The Echo de Paris, writes an unusually savage article attacking Premier Lloyd George, whom he calls a "demagogue" He says in conclusion:

"Mr. Lloyd George has never forgiven the policy adopted by France since January of becoming independent within the entente. He has bided his time and be thinks it is now come. We count on the clear sightedness of our friends across the channel and the deep friendship we have found with them to bring the chief of the Downing street cabinet back to an interpretation of the Anglo-French alliance from which he should never have departed. Such an evolution was to be expected of him. He has taken up and dropped every doctrine and could the entente cordiale escape under this rule?

"The English people well know how to force him to make an exception in this

St. Brice, of The Journal, with other foreign specialists, is more impartial and blames all of the allies of France in more measured terms. He incidentally de-

pread by some

sent an ultimatum to France, provoked the Frankfort incident "

DOWN ARMY TO 200,000.

(By The Associated Press.)

PARIS, April 9. - Demands that Germany disband her army and retain only 200,000 men with the colors, presented at Berlin on Wednesday by General Notlete, president of the inter-allied commission of control, have been sent to the governments of various German states by the minister of the interior, says a Berlin despatch.

The minister asks the states to give assurances that the civil guards are dissolved, adding that the Prussian minister of war has already decided upon such a step.

The demands are said to have been acompanied by a note from the minister teclaring they contained a passage "implicating untrue suppositions on the part of France", but stating the Berlin government "did not believe itself obliged enter into new representations to the French government."

MACHINE GUN FIRE WAS MISTAKE

(By The Associated Press.)

FRANKFORT, April 8. - Assertion that there was no intention to fire a machine gun into a crowd here Wednesday and that the incident was really a mishap, is made by a French officer who witnessed it. Fear on the part of s French soldier that the crowd intended to rush the patrol in the street led to the tragedy.

This man, it is declared, put a belt of cartridges into the gun for the purpose of firing one shot to disperse the crowd. The explosion of the gun, however, caused head and the whole belt was fired. It is explained by the officer that every care d been taken to preve the "accident".

Inspection of the 36 machine guns brought to Frankfort by French troops has been made and it said none of them was found defective or to show a tendency to fire upon the insertion of the cartridge belt. All of them were used during the war. Accounts of the incident have stated the safety catch of a gun was defective and that it began to fire automatically as soon as the belt was placed in position. Twenty of those who were hit during the fusillade were only slightly wounded and were able to walk to their homes.

Two new French proclamations appeard here today, one denying yesterday " rumor that the troops would be with-drawn and the other forbidding the people to jeer and agitate against the troops and instruct the citizens to obey all French military orders.

Inquiry has failed to obtain confirmation of a report given out at the mayor office that a woman and girl were struck by revolver shots fired last night from the windows of the Imperial hotel, where the French have established their headquarters.

This report stated a crawd gathered in

ront of the hotel after the shooting in the Schillerplatz and made a hostile demonstration until dispersed.

Blame for Wednesday's tragedy is placed on German students by the French, who declared they tried to stir up the

MRS. J. S. CUNNINGHAM NAMED AS HONORARY DELEGATE.

(By The Associated Press.)

RALEIGH, N. C. April 9. - The adoption of a platform which included a plank asking the special session of the legislature, which meets in July, to vote for ratification of the suffrage amend-ment, was one of the outstanding features at the democratic state convention held bere yesterday.

The plank favoring suffrage was in porated in the platform by the convention by a vote of 585 to 428 1-2 after a fight was made to adopt the majority platform committee report which included a plant rejecting suffrage.

In addition to four delegates from the state at large, one woman, Mrs. J. S. Cunningham, & Durham, was chosen as honorary delegate to the democratic na-tional convention, ten congressional dis-tricts elected twenty delegates to the national convention.

The convention voted to enter the na of Senator P. M. Simmons in the Juprimary as North Carolina's favorite candidate for the democratic president