

RAIL HEADS AND EMPLOYEES NEAR BREAK

Brotherhood Men Not Disposed to Accept Compromise Offer.

MANAGERS INSIST ON ARBITRATION

Willing to Concede Eight-Hour Day But Want Final Issues Determined by Arbitrators—Railway Employes Declare Men Can Not Be Restrained After Tonight—President Wilson Regards Situation as Serious.

Washington, Aug. 25.—With negotiations for averting the threatened railroad strike at a deadlock, President Wilson went today to the capitol to confer with administration leaders on possible legislation.

The president summoned Democratic Leader Kern and Chairman Newlands of the senate commerce committee.

The trip to the capitol was wholly unexpected and no arrangements had been made for his reception there. Although it was known that the president came to discuss legislation his specific purpose was kept secret.

When he finished conferring with Senators Kern and Newlands, President Wilson came to the door of his room and hastily inquiring if "some news on certain matters" of legislation. That is all I can say now.

Among brotherhood officials it was declared that only unqualified concession by the railroads of the eight-hour day or a similar concession in the railroads for government operation could prevent the threatened strike.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The threatened railway strike situation took on added tension as the executive branch continued their deliberations over the form of their counter proposal to President Wilson's plan and the brotherhood leaders silently looked over the moves.

The executives have been told that the men's leaders expected difficulty in restraining the men after tonight. The president worked steadily inquiring of his cabinet members and executive officials, but shortly after noon had taken no final vote on it.

Short Day and Arbitration. As outlined unofficially it declines to concede the eight-hour day without arbitration, but makes some concessions to collaterals.

Some of the railway heads say their proposition is positively their last; some the men's leaders stand firmly against arbitration. On the other hand both sides have hopes that out of it all will come further negotiations delaying a strike and possibly averting it.

A statement issued by the federal board of mediation today on the settlements it had conducted was regarded as significant. It described a report about to be made to the senate which will disclose that in every case of settlements conducted under the act of 1913, the men's side won.

President Wilson regards the situation as serious.

Strike Is Up to Roads. If the reply proves to be an acceptance of the president's plan the union leaders will release the 640 district chairmen, who will leave for their homes at once with a message of peace to the 400,000 men in operating employes.

If the reply is only a partial acceptance of the president's plan and calls for concessions from the unions, Mr. Wilson will submit the question to the union leaders. If the brotherhood presidents rejoin that they can not grant concessions, Mr. Wilson will call in the employees and ask them whether they are prepared to yield acceptance in full of the terms he has proposed.

Will Order Tie-Up. In the event that the railroad chiefs stand pat on their reply the president, according to his understanding with the brotherhoods, will release the 640 union leaders from further attendance on the negotiations.

If they carry out their prearranged plan the brotherhood leaders, as soon as they are released by the president, will order the strike, and the 640 chairmen will depart for their districts to organize the suspension of traffic which is to become effective after the lapse of a certain specified short period.

Will Go to Congress. In case of the blowup of the negotiations in this manner the president will undertake in the interim of the strike goes into effect to obtain congressional or judicial action designed to avert the calamity.

He has various plans under consideration. One is legislation establishing the eight-hour day for employes of interstate carriers. Another is legislation authorizing the government to take over and operate the roads temporarily and to commandeer the services of all railroad officials and employes, a plan which the unions have agreed to support.

Wilson to Use Vast Power. If the railroads refuse to yield all that is demanded of them and the president carries out his agreement to release the unions from further negotiations he will issue a statement to the public stating that he has earnestly endeavored to bring the contending parties together on an agreement, that he has failed because of the refusal of the

carriers to accept to a fair compromise, and that he can not be held responsible for the consequences.

According to information from the White House, however, the president will assure the public that he will employ every ounce of his power to prevent interruption of transportation under conditions that will procure the employees the rights they demand.

Following a series of stormy sessions yesterday and last night the railroad presidents agreed to make a counter proposal to President Wilson today, conceding the principle of the eight-hour day, but demanding arbitration of the question of the wages to be paid for such a day.

President Wilson's original proposal provided that the present pay which the men get for ten hours' work should be given them for the reduced hours and overtime at pro rata pay.

Have Strike Order Ready. The brotherhood chiefs said they would not accept this compromise. They assert they will strike first, and they point out that they are all ready to order the men to quit their jobs.

They even have the strike order printed, with only the date of issuance missing, and they claim to have converted all their resources into cash and quickly convertible securities and that the total amount available to care for the strikers is \$15,000,000.

The action of the railroad presidents was in consequence of several events which transpired during the day and afternoon.

Spokesmen of the brotherhoods told the president that they are experiencing great difficulty in restraining the 640 chairmen in Washington, who believe the situation is being toyed with by the railroad executives, and hold that the only thing to do is to go back home and order the strike.

Promises Adjustment Today. Mr. Wilson informed his callers that until Thursday night the railroad officials were unwilling to make concessions without unacceptable conditions. He promised that he would give a definite answer by noon today, intimating that unless the railroad response was satisfactory he would release the men from the pledges they had made to him.

Then the president sent for the committee of railroad heads. He was brief and to the point with them. He told them that the negotiations were dragging and that he could not permit any further procrastination. He said he must ask for prompt action.

When the railroad heads were informed of the president's position, they promised that they would side with some of them about Mr. Wilson's plan for publication.

Fear Result in Future. The excuse is that they have been at a high state of tension for days; that they have resented the president's action in "coming in" and that they are presenting his program, which they recognize as an ultimatum; that they are apprehensive of the effect of an eight-hour day upon their profits and that his rejection of arbitration, they figure, will place them at an emergency of unions in the future.

Referring again to the road executives, Mr. Wilson, few dare to take the responsibility of leaving Washington without an agreement, thereby precipitating a strike.

These officials hold their proposal in favor because it grants the eight-hour day, but asks for arbitration, which, on the surface the brotherhoods demand. It is pointed out that if the brotherhoods set the eight-hour day and refuse to arbitrate the wage end of the proposition they will give the lie to their declaration to the president that there is no fight for the eight-hour day and nothing else.

WOMAN SLAYS GUARD CAPTAIN. Goes to Tent of Georgia Guardsman and Shoots Him Twice.

Macomb, Aug. 25.—Capt. Edgar J. Sprattling of Company F, Georgia, was shot and killed in his tent at the state mobilization camp near here by Mrs. H. C. Adams of Atlanta. At the county jail last night, where she was held on a charge of murder, Mrs. Adams was arrested. Captain Sprattling, who was a physician, had offended her by attacking her several weeks ago while she was in his office in Atlanta for treatment.

Mrs. Adams, about 30 years old, came from her home in Atlanta yesterday and went directly to the camp. Captain Sprattling's tent was but one thing for her to do, and I did it. When the testimony comes out I feel sure the public will be with me."

Mrs. Adams left her home in Atlanta shortly after her husband had gone to work, leaving her and their three children at home. Last night she had previously told her husband of alleged improper relations between her and the captain.

Captain Sprattling, 47 years old and married, was well known in medical and social circles in Atlanta. He was regarded as an expert on insanity and once was connected with the Matteson, N. Y., asylum in that capacity.

Accompanied by a military escort, the body of Captain Sprattling, Company F, Georgia, who was shot and killed at the state mobilization camp here yesterday by Mrs. H. C. Adams, of Atlanta, was taken today to the Sprattling home in Atlanta. After several hours in jail Mrs. Adams became hysterical. Her husband is expected here today.

Officers at the camp indicated a belief that illness, due to nervous disorders, caused Mrs. Adams to think Captain Sprattling had acted improperly toward her.

The Cologne Gazette stated that this is not the first case in which the French have put a woman to death during the war. It calls attention to the publicity given the case of Miss Edith Cavell, whose execution for high treason and continued spying, caused British and French newspapers to express indignation. The Gazette asks whether the same ideas will hold good now.

Venice Faces Economic Crisis. Rome, Aug. 25.—Venice is facing a

KAISER FAILS IN OFFENSIVE ON CHAMPAGNE

Launch Counter Attacks to Check Advance of Entente Allies.

CAPTURE TRENCHES BUT ARE EXPELLED

Take Position From the French But Fail to Hold Ground—German Assault on St. Michel Salient is Repelled by Counter Attacks—Thrust Directed at Hill 121, Near Maurepas, Also is Unsuccessful.

While determinedly resisting the allied advance on the Somme front, the Germans are launching an offensive movement in the Champagne region. They penetrated some French positions but were driven out, Paris declares.

An assault by the Germans on the St. Michel salient, southeast of Verdun, was repelled by a counter attack, according to the French report.

On the Somme front, a German counter thrust directed at Hill 121, near Maurepas, was repelled, the French bulletin declares.

The British statement announces the repulse of an attack by the Prussian Guard on allied positions at Thierval and says the British in their advance on that town have taken 400 yards more of German trenches.

Sofia reports an important victory of the Serbians over the Bulgarian right wing, and announces that on the other flank the Bulgarians have reached the Greek Aegean coast.

Vienna claims the checking of the Russian attempts to advance in the Carpathians.

The British admiralty announces the torpedoing of a British auxiliary cruiser in the North sea.

Paris, Aug. 25.—After an intense bombardment last night the Germans launched an infantry attack in the Champagne district. They penetrated the French position, the war office announced, but later were expelled. German attacks on the Somme were repulsed.

The German attack on the Somme front was made at Hill 121, near the town of Maurepas, recently captured by the French.

On the Verdun front, east of the Meuse, the Germans attacked the French line between Fleury and Thioumont after a heavy bombardment, but were able to make no advance.

Aerial engagements occurred all along the front. Three German aeroplanes were shot down in the Somme section, one on the Verdun front, and another on the Verdun front. Six others were damaged and two German captive balloons were destroyed.

A dispatch from Avlona today states that the Italians have taken Porto Paleramo and the summit of Mount Kalamari, in southern Albania, in order to watch the Albanian coast north of Cape Kephal, fifty miles north-west of Avlona, in which district there is said to be an Austrian submarine base. The territory occupied is quasi-Greek. The opinion of Rome newspapers, however, is that Greece will not protest the occupation.

Allies' Attacks Repulsed. Berlin, Aug. 25.—Attacks last night by the British in the Fourcaux wood sector on the Somme front, and by the French near Maurepas, were repulsed, the war office announced today.

In the Champagne, northwest of Tathure, French trenches were raided and forty-six prisoners captured.

Russians Pressing Advantage. Petrograd, Aug. 25.—The Russians are pressing the advantage recently gained over the Turks in Armenia. The statement says:

"On the line extending from the town of Kyki to Lake Van, stubborn fighting continues. Our troops after having occupied the town of Mush, advanced and we captured a number of prisoners.

In the foothills of the Carpathians in Galicia, the Russians have pressed back the Austrians.

"In the Carpathians," the statement says, "our advance guards, having dispersed the enemy, occupied the village of Guta and reached the sources of the river Bartriza in the region of Raffles."

Partial Repulse For Russians. Berlin, Aug. 25.—Russian troops attempting to advance in the Carpathians have been partially repulsed, according to the Vienna statement.

French Execute Woman Spy. Berlin, Aug. 25.—In Marselles, Aug. 21, a woman by the name of Pratz, 28 years old, was shot as a spy, says the Overseas News Agency.

German Government Honors "Sub" Captain Who Sank Lusitania

London, Aug. 25.—The Stuffs-Tidende, of Ribbenmark, is quoted in a Reuter dispatch as saying the commander of the submarine which sank the Lusitania was Capt. Max Valentiner, son of the dean of Sondersborg cathedral. Captain Valentiner, the paper says, has been decorated with a number of orders, including the Iron Cross of the first class and the Hohenzollern house order, with swords, a special distinction.

U. S. WARSHIPS LISTED AS SUNK

Two Battleships and Several Vessels Reported as Destroyed.

MIMIC BATTLE OFF SANDY HOOK

Several Ships of Both Defending and Attacking Fleets Theoretically Destroyed—Umpires on Each Boat to Determine When It Has Received Knock-Out—Contest Finally Goes to Invading Fleet.

Washington, Aug. 25.—The red and blue fleets have been engaged in battle, the culmination of the navy war game, since 5 o'clock this morning, off Scotland lighthouse, Sandy Hook.

Up to noon by the umpire's decision the battleships Nevada and Texas and the destroyers Tucker and Wadsworth, of the enemy's fleet, the scout cruiser Birmingham, Fanning, Drayton and several others of the blue defending fleet had been lost in action.

The battle will continue until 5 o'clock this afternoon unless the umpire orders one fleet or the other has been decisively defeated. Many other vessels may have been constructively lost, but orders were that ships regarded as sunk should proceed to port immediately and that their arrival should not be reported.

Umpires on Each Ship. Umpires stationed on each ship judge the firing conditions and determine when the vessel has been put out of commission.

The red transports with the invading army, which Admiral Mayo, commanding the hostile fleet, apparently was seeking to land in the vicinity of New York, were reported lying off Ambrose light, near Sandy Hook. Whether the ships could proceed or be compelled to flee for safety depended on the outcome of the fight.

Few details of the battle have reached the navy department. Officials, however, assumed that the invading battleships were destroyed by torpedoes from the torpedoes.

The defending fleet destroyed by the hostile fleet under Admiral Mayo in the naval war game and this afternoon an invading army was being landed in theory on the shores of Long Island.

Admiral Helm's submarine flotilla, which had already sustained severe losses, was the only portion of the fleet to remain to contend the landing. The annihilation of the defending fleet was announced as follows:

"Discontinue battleship engagement at 11:10. Red forces gain control of sea."

Other messages showed that Admiral Helm's squadron, steaming in battle formation, struck the hostile column at right angles. The leading defending ships were forced to bear off to avoid collision. As each defending ship was destroyed the pressure of the enemy was concentrated on it, duplicating the firing in the recent engagement in the North sea, in which several British battleships were destroyed.

The red fleet then moved in to effect a landing.

Range of Chicago Grain Prices. Chicago, Aug. 25. Wheat—September opened at 1.53 1/4; highest, 1.54 1/4; lowest, 1.51 1/4; closed, 1.51 1/4. December opened at 1.55; closed, 1.53 1/4.

Corn—September opened at 86 1/2; lowest, 85 1/2; closed, 86. December opened at 75 1/2; closed, 75.

Oats—September opened at 47 1/4; highest, 47 1/2; lowest, 46 1/4; closed, 46 1/4. December opened at 50 1/2; closed, 49 1/2.

WASHINGTON LETTER STOLEN. Found Missing From Vault of Baltimore Cathedral.

Baltimore, Aug. 25.—The original letter of George Washington to Catholics of the United States, which has been reposed for many years in the safe deposit vault under the sanctuary of the Baltimore Cathedral, has been stolen, according to a Catholic publication issued here today. The paper appeals to the person who now possesses the letter to "return it and repent." The loss was discovered in the course of the work of indexing documents in the vault which cover the history of the city and state for the last 300 years.

COMFORT MADE REFUSE. Des Moines Man Appointed to Succeed Harry Whitaker, Resigned.

Des Moines, Aug. 25.—The appointment by Federal Judge Martin J. Wade, of Frank J. Comfort, of Des Moines, to be referee in bankruptcy, succeeding Harry Whitaker, resigned, was announced today. Comfort will assume the office Oct. 1.

The territory assigned the new referee includes the counties of Dallas, Greene, Guthrie, Jasper, Madison, Warren, Marshall, Polk, Poweshiek, Story and Boone.

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READY FOR ENCAMPMENT. National Headquarters, G. A. R., Opened For Fiftieth Reunion.

Kansas City, Aug. 25.—First moves of a formal nature in connection with the fiftieth annual encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, which opens here next week, was made with the opening of the national headquarters. Information booths were opened at the same time in the leading hotels for the guidance of the visiting veterans. Headquarters of the many auxiliaries of the G. A. R. also have been opened and by Monday morning the units of the blue clad army will have all been marshaled and ready at the command of the commander in chief, Elias R. Monfort.

Wednesday, the day of the veterans' parade, has been declared a holiday in both Kansas City, Mo., and Kansas City, Kan.

MRS. M'ADOO ILL. President's Daughter Suffers With Slight Attack of Typhoid.

Spring Lake, N. J., Aug. 25.—Mrs. William G. McAduff, wife of the secretary of the treasury and daughter of President Taft, is confined to her home here with a slight attack of typhoid fever. The case was diagnosed by Dr. William Gray Schaeffer, surgeon general of New Jersey, and Dr. Cary T. Grayson, president's physician, who came on from Washington.

Mrs. McAduff went to the capital with her husband a week ago last Sunday and returned here on Saturday. It is believed that she contracted the disease while in Washington. It was at first thought she had an attack of malaria.

Secretary McAduff will cancel all engagements until Mrs. McAduff is improved.

NEWS OF THE DAY T. R. BULLETIN.

The Weather. Sun Rises Aug. 27 at 5:22; sets at 6:44. Iowa—Generally fair tonight and Sunday; somewhat cooler tonight in east and central portions; slightly warmer Sunday.

Weather predictions for the week beginning Sunday are: Upper Mississippi valley and plain states: Generally fair and moderate temperature, although widely scattered showers are probable about Wednesday.

Telegraphic News: Strike Appears Probable. Railways and Employes Near Break German Offensive in Champagne Fails.

Roumanian King Rebuffs Kaiser. U. S. Warships Theoretically Sunk. PAGES TWO, THREE AND FIVE.

Two Dead and Many Injured in Explosion. Oil Tank Explodes at Charles City. Iowa Guardsman Murdered and Robbed. Volmer Romance at End. State Fair in Full Swing. New Industry For Iowa. Story; McGill.

Editorial: Spare Harding's Privileges. Dorothea's Romance. No More \$2 New. Toples and Iowa. PAGES SIX, EIGHT AND NINE.

Markets and General: Wheat Longs Seek Profits. Lonsa Sell Corn. Cattle Trade Dull and Weak. Hogs on Strong Basis. Morrison's Disappearing Millions.

SHIP IS WRECKED; EXPLORERS SAFE

Borden Arctic Expedition Loses Boat in Bering Sea, But Members of Party Land Safely on St. Matthew Island.

On Board U. S. Coast Guard Cutter McCulloch, Bering Sea, Aug. 25, via wireless to Seattle, Aug. 25.—The power schooner Great Bear, carrying the Arctic expedition headed by John Borden, of Chicago, and Capt. Louis Lane, of Seattle, was wrecked on a pinnacle rock in Bering sea, Aug. 10.

The vessel was a total loss but the entire party landed safely on St. Matthew Island, where they were found yesterday by the McCulloch.

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ROUMANIAN KING REBUFS KAISER

Ferdinand Refuses to Receive Special Envoy Sent by Emperor Wilhelm.

GREEKS PROTEST BULGAR INVASION

Mass Meeting at Saloniki Develops Into Demonstration in Favor of Venizelos, Former Premier—Entente Allies Considering New Demands as to Attitude of Greece—Bulgars Administer Defeat of Serbs.

Paris, Aug. 26.—According to information from diplomatic sources, says a wireless dispatch from Berne, Emperor William of Germany wrote to King Ferdinand of Roumania that he intended to send Duke Albrecht of Mecklenburg on a special mission to him with regard to the position of Roumania.

King Ferdinand replied that the mission would be inopportune, because as a constitutional monarch, he would be obliged to refer the envoy to his ministers, and in the circumstances he preferred that any missions should be received thru ordinary diplomatic channels.

Greeks in Protest. Saloniki, via Paris, Aug. 26.—A large popular meeting was held here last night to protest against the occupation of Greek territory by the Bulgarians, followed by a demonstration for Venizelos and the singing of the national hymn. A formal protest against the Bulgarian occupation was drawn up and left with the prefect of police. Dispatches from Athens saw the government is much concerned about the liberal party's manifestation which is being organized for Sunday and threatens to hold counter demonstrations.

More Demands on Greece. Athens, Aug. 26.—The present political and military situation, says the Patria, has resulted in an exchange of views among the entente powers regarding the attitude to be taken toward Greece. It is questioned by entente diplomats, the newspaper states, whether measures agreed to by Greece in response to the demands of the allies, including demobilization of the army, and guarantees for benevolent neutrality, is now sufficient in view of the new situation.

Bulgars Defeat Serbs. Sofia, Aug. 26.—After severe fighting on the Bulgarian right wing, on the Macedonian front, the Serbians have been defeated and compelled to retreat, the war office announced today. Eighteen consecutive attacks were made by the Serbians.

The Bulgarians have reached the Greek Aegean coast and put British cavalry detachments to flight. Several villages have been occupied by the Bulgarians.

Greek Garrison Massacred. Paris, Aug. 26.—The Bulgarians have attacked and captured the Greek fort of Starlia, after killing its command and the entire garrison, which offered a spirited resistance, says a Saloniki dispatch to the Matin. The dispatch is dated Aug. 25, and was delayed.

SAW WAY TO LIBERTY. Three Convicts Escape From Missouri State Penitentiary.

Jefferson City, Mo., Aug. 25.—Four convicts, one of them serving a life term for murder, sawed their way out of their cells in the state penitentiary here last night, and during a severe thunder storm sealed the prison walls and escaped. Bloodhounds were put on the trail.

How the convicts obtained saws is a mystery to prison officials. All the cells in the tier in which they were confined lock with a sliding steel bar and this was cut. They eluded three night guards and gained the outside of the cell building