

PRESIDENT WILSON UNDERTAKES TO AVERT RAILROAD STRIKE

Commission From Council of National Defense Will Confer at Once With Both Sides; Postponement of the Strike Will Be Asked If Differences Cannot Be Settled

ADMINISTRATION APPEAL BASED ON GROUND OF A NATIONAL EMERGENCY

Cabinet Members, a Railroad President and Samuel Gompers Are President Wilson's Emissaries.

Executive Also Sends a Personal Appeal to New York Brotherhood Chiefs, and Managers Are Said to Be in Receptive Mood, Ready to Hold Further Conferences and Awaiting Advances. Plans Laid for Conferences With White House Representatives.

Washington, March 16.—After a specially called meeting of the cabinet today President Wilson took steps called to avert the threatened railroad strike, which would tie up transportation throughout the country. The meeting held but a 15-minute session when it was agreed that a special conciliation or mediation commission of members of the council of national defense should be sent to meet representatives of the railroad managers and the brotherhoods. This commission, it was announced, is composed of Cabinet Secretaries Lane of the Interior and Wilson of labor and Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, and Samuel Gompers, president also sent a personal appeal to the railway managers and the brotherhood chiefs, urging them to do everything possible to co-operate with the mediation commission. The president expects that his action will avert a strike, at the present time at least.

Arrangements for conferences with the representatives of the two sides will be made at once. The mediators, acting for President Wilson, will ask the brotherhoods to postpone the strike if they cannot agree, on the ground of national emergency.

President's Appeal.

It seems to me my duty and right to appeal to you in this time of national peril to open again the discussions at issue between the roads and their operatives from a view to accommodation and settlement.

With my approval, a committee of the council of national defense is about to seek a conference with you with that end in view. A general interruption of the railway traffic of the country at this time would entail a danger to the nation against which I have the right to enter my most solemn and earnest protest.

Duty of Patriotic Men. It is now the duty of every patriotic man to bring matters of this sort to immediate accommodation. The safety of the country against manifest perils affecting its own peace and the peace of the whole world makes a convention absolutely imperative and seems to me to render any other choice or action inconceivable.

BOTH SIDES READY TO MEET WILSON MEDIATORS

Washington, March 16.—Upon being advised that mediators composed of officers and members of the council of National Defense were coming from Washington, W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Trainmen and Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio, and Samuel Gompers, president of the Brotherhood of Railroad Employees, met to discuss the situation. Mr. Lee said he did not know what the mediators were bringing, but he was sure they would be here to hear them. Until now I am always hopeful. I know what proposition they will make. Meantime there will be change in the situation. Ready to Co-operate.

of the railways announced that it was ready to co-operate with the president's mediation committee in efforts to prevent a strike. Several of the managers were about to leave for their headquarters in the west when the news of the coming of the mediation committee was received. Both sides in the controversy expressed a willingness today to hold further joint conferences. Indications were unofficially that both the railroad managers and the brotherhood chiefs were marking time pending opportunity for action by President Wilson and with each group prepared to respond to overtures from the other side. If the eleventh-hour efforts to prevent a walkout of the railroad brotherhoods failed, the strike would be on. (Continued on Page Five.)

BUTTE WILL NOT STARVE IF THE STRIKE MATERIALIZES

Food Supply is None Too Good, There is Sufficient to Last Few Weeks, Commission Men Say, 'Camp Cars' May Help.

Butte's food supply is none too good, but it will be a show-up. Butte's food supply will be adequate to last three days.

to a week after the strike goes into effect, believe the commission men. None of them pictured Butte as the center of desolation because of the strike. They said that fresh meat may be driven to the city on the hoof, vegetables and some root products will be available by motor trucks from adjoining counties in an emergency. Luxuries will be forgotten in a few days, they say. The supply of apples, oranges and lemons will hold out longer. The potato supply is not good. The potato supply is good for three weeks. Flour is fair with several cars rolling in, while smoked meats will not last two weeks. Among the representative Butte (Continued on Page Ten.)

DECLARE THE MEN ARE WITHDRAWING FROM AGREEMENT

Railroad Managers Hear of Defections From Ranks of Men to Strike.

BROTHERHOOD CHIEFS DISCREDIT REPORTS

Santa Fe and Other Engineers Will Not Strike, the Officials Claim.

New York, March 16.—Reports received from various parts of the country by the railroad managers indicated, they declared, organized withdrawal by some of the roads' employes from the brotherhoods' agreement to strike. The managers were informed that the engineers on the Santa Fe system had wired their grand chief they had withdrawn and would refuse to obey the strike order. The conductors and engineers on the St. Louis and Southwestern have withdrawn, according to word reaching the managers, and on the Illinois Central the firemen have announced their intention to withdraw. Do Not Believe it. "I don't believe it," said G. H. Sines, vice president of the Brotherhood of Trainmen, when the managers' reports of withdrawals were called to his attention. "The last reports we had from St. Louis and the railroads entering there showed the vote there for a strike was solid."

Mr. Lee, when informed later of the reports, discredited them. He insisted that all the men who took the strike vote would stand by it and strike. The sixth floor of the Grand Central terminal was being fitted up by the New York Central this afternoon with cots and other facilities for strike breakers and men who do not go on strike. It was learned that other eastern roads were making similar preparations.

IRISH MEMBERS MAY BRING ON A CABINET CRISIS

Bonar Law Says Their Attitude May Compel Appeal to the Country.

London, March 16.—In discussing the Irish situation in the house of commons today, Andrew Bonar Law, chancellor of the exchequer, declared the attitude of the nationalists might compel an appeal to the country on the ground that the nationalists were unwilling to permit the government to get on with the war.

Replying in the house of commons today to a question by John Dillon as to whether orders had been given the people of Dublin to remain indoors on St. Patrick's day, the chancellor of the exchequer said that Henry E. Duke, chief secretary for Ireland, had gone to that country. Mr. Bonar Law said that he personally knew nothing about the matter, but would make inquiries.

BLIZZARD TIES UP SOUTH DAKOTA RAILROADS

Nearly Foot of Snow Falls at Sioux Falls—Trains All Blocked.

Sioux Falls, S. D., March 16.—A March snow storm, which in many places reached the intensity of a blizzard, was general over South Dakota last night and today. A high gale accompanied the snow. Temperatures throughout the state were moderate and little suffering is reported. Rail traffic throughout the state, as well as all other travel, is seriously demoralized. Most of the roads running into Sioux Falls have cancelled all schedules until their lines can be opened with snow plows. Reports from the western and central portions of the state indicate a complete suspension of train service. Over the western section the storm was the worst of the winter, according to reports received here. The snowfall here registered nearly a foot early today. Street cars and all vehicles were at a standstill.

New Powers at the Helm in Russia Declare Nation Will Pursue War as Never Before

DISCREDITED ROYALTY AND THE IMPERIAL PALACE AT PETROGRAD



With the overthrow of his government, the czar was notified by a revolutionary committee that refusal on his part to acquiesce in the plans would endanger the dynasty. The czar immediately agreed, it is said, to abdicate in favor of his son, the Crown Prince Alexis. Until the form which the new government shall take has been determined it has been arranged that the Grand Duke Michael, young brother of the czar and until the beginning of the war an exile in England, shall hold the regency. The zarina, yesterday reported to be in hiding, is today officially said to be in the winter palace, the famous Tsarsko-Selo, shown above, where she is perfectly safe. The men in control of the revolutionary government say that no harm will befall their majesties.

TWO AMERICANS SLAIN IN A RAID ON EL ORO, MEX.

Mexican Refugee Brings Word to Border of Massacre by Bandits.

El Paso, Tex., March 16.—Partial confirmation of the massacre of the employees of the Magistral mines at El Oro, Durango, including the slaying of Luis Seigler and Charles Winn, Americans, has been received here by officials of a mining company in the Magistral district. A Mexican employe reached the border last night from El Oro and said Seigler, Winn and the Mexicans from Magistral had gone to El Oro for safety and were surrounded by bandits when the messenger fled to the border. A band of rebels entered El Oro seven days ago, he said, but were driven off by the Mexicans, led by Seigler and Winn. The bandits returned the same night with 500 men, he said, and surrounded the house where the Americans were. Winn and Seigler were fighting from the roof of the house when he fled, the Mexican said, and he believed they and the Mexicans had been killed. Seigler's home was in Chicago and Winn's in Pittsburg, according to the officials of the company here, although both have been in Mexico many years. Seigler was superintendent of the Magistral mine and Winn electrician.

HE WILL COMMAND THE RUSSIAN ARMIES



Grand Duke Nicholas, the idol of the Russian army, it is expected, will again be in supreme command of the troops. Russia's greatest successes were realized through his military genius.

COLOMBIA TREATY IS WITHDRAWN IN SENATE

Negotiations to Be Instituted to Frame More Favorable Document.

Washington, March 16.—The treaty with Colombia to pay \$25,000,000 for the partition of Panama was withdrawn from the senate today on motion of Chairman Stone of the foreign relations committee, and will not be acted upon at the present special session. Stone's action was taken to fore-shadow further negotiations with Colombia for a new treaty which would not be received with such strong objections. An effort to frame a more acceptable treaty is expected before the congress, which convenes in special session April 16, has adjourned.

BRITISH DESTROYER IS SUNK BY A MINE

London, March 16.—A British torpedo boat destroyer of an old type struck a mine in the English channel yesterday and was sunk, says an official announcement this afternoon. All the officers were saved. One man was killed and 28 soldiers are missing. It is presumed these men were drowned.

GRAND DUKE NICHOLAS, IDOL OF THE ARMY, IS CALLED TO COMMAND

President of the Duma, Who Is New Foreign Minister, Says Czar Nicholas Cannot Regain Throne.

Emperor's Brother to Be Appointed Temporary Regent, but Duma and Workingmen's Committee Agree That Constitutional Assembly, to Meet Immediately, Will Outline the New Form of Government—No Danger to Deposed Czar Nor to the Czarina.

Grand Duke Nicholas, idol of the Russian army and ranked as Russia's master strategist, looms up as the big military figure of the hour in the empire which has just witnessed a successful and almost bloodless revolution and the abdication of its emperor.

The relinquishment of the throne by Nicholas II automatically deprives him of his rank as commander-in-chief of the Russian armies. The heir to the throne is an infant and Grand Duke Michael, named as regent, while a soldier of repute, is not of commanding military experience.

Thus the nation, the Petrograd dispatches indicate, is turning to its most tried and trusted military leader. Grand Duke Nicholas is reported to have arrived at the capital and the probability is pointed to that he will take command of the troops.

Of the complete success of the revolutionary movement, in which the lead was taken by the duma, there seems no doubt. While there have been few advices received as to the attitude of the army at the front, such news as has been received indicates that the military, with the exception of reactionaries among the officers, together with all the population forces of the empire, is backing the new government.

Civil forces of the nation are co-operating with the government most heartily in restoring normality in the life of the empire. The duma, which is the chief factor in shaping the course of the new regime, and the Zemstvo council are reported co-operating successfully and straightening the various tangles which have resulted from the momentous change in government control.

The food problem is being attacked and the people themselves seem to be exercising their own authority to repress any elements of the population that might be inclined to indulge in excesses.

A measure of general political amnesty is reported in course of preparation by the new Russian minister of justice, Grand Duke Nicholas is said to have endorsed this move as one necessary to save the empire and bring the war to a successful conclusion.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OF PRESS DECLARES MINISTER

Petrograd, March 16 (via London, March 16).—The council of nobility already has held special meetings in 15 provinces and endorsed the new revolutionary government. The old regime of conservatives has been supplanted by liberals. M. Kerenski, the new minister of justice, is a socialist. He accepted the portfolio on the stipulation that there should be absolute freedom of speech and of the press and full political amnesty. The cabinet has been chosen exclusively from present and past members of the duma. It was named by the executive committee of the duma in conjunction with other deputies and representatives of the workingmen and the soldiers, which held an all-night session. Professor Paul Milukoff, the new foreign minister, informed the associated press that the new regime was determined on the elimination of Emperor Nicholas and the regency of Grand Duke Michael. "We shall not change these demands," he said. "We shall have this or fall. We can accept nothing less."

The new cabinet contains men who led in the struggle against the old government and enjoyed full confidence of the country. Professor Milukoff and M. Shingarov, the new minister of agriculture, have become especially prominent as champions of the rights of the people. It is due to Professor Milukoff that revelations regarding the political intrigue and corruption of the old reactionary government were brought before the public. While the duma and the workingmen (Continued on Page Seven.)

BUTTE WILL FEEL PINCH OF COLD IN CASE OF STRIKE

Local Railroad Officials Say Unemployment Would Be the First Serious Problem in Butte if Transportation of Ore is Suspended.

Butte would feel the pinch of cold long before the pangs of hunger in event of a railroad strike and it is very probable that unemployment in the city's dominant industry would come within 48 hours after suspension of transportation, according to local railroad men and coal dealers, who say that the city's surplus coal stocks would not supply the normal demand for more than 10 days. Inability to move ore or supply coal, in the opinion of railroad men in executive capacities in Butte, would force suspension of mining operations for two days of railroad inactivity had passed. No Special Instructions Yet. Other than the embargoes on "all freight of perishable nature or livestock destined to points that cannot be delivered before 5 p. m. Sunday," local railroad offices have received no special instructions or warning of the imminence of a strike. The Great Northern and Northern Pacific have been advised to accept shipments of freight subject to owner's risk and destination. (Continued on Page Ten.)