

# THE RONAN PIONEER

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## RAILROAD STRIKE HAS BEEN AVERTED

The Adamson eight-hour railroad law was held constitutional and valid in all respects in a decision by the supreme court on March 19. The decision makes eight hours the standard of a day's work and wages for men in operation of trains and legalizes the wage increase which went into effect on its passage. The immediate temporary wage increase won by the railroad employees affect 400,000 trainmen, as of January 1, and are estimated to total between \$40,000,000 and \$50,000,000.

The decision, coming within a few hours of the agreement of the railway managers and the brotherhood chiefs to use the provisions of the Adamson act as the basis for their settlement, finally disposes of the railroad controversy and opens the way for a thorough mobilization of the nation's industries in case of war.

## SLITER DAIRY HERD SOLD AT AUCTION

The public sale held on the Sliter ranch four miles south of Ronan on the 15th inst. brought out a large attendance and all offerings were disposed of at satisfactory prices. The ranch, favorably known in this section as an alfalfa producer, has been leased to J. R. Winn, who will take possession immediately.

Mr. Sliter has been for many years identified with the development of the Mission valley and is well known as the "Big Fork Booster." He states that he is now just as great a booster for Ronan, and that his faith in this community is supreme. During the past fortnight he has acquired the extensively improved Drake residence property in Ronan, the E. L. Hostetler ranch a mile south of town, and has in contemplation further investments in this vicinity.

## COUNT ZEPPLIN CALLED BY DEATH

According to a Berlin dispatch transmitted by Rueber's Amsterdam correspondent, Count Zeppelin died on March 8 at Charlottenburg, near Berlin, of inflammation of the lungs.

Count Ferdinand Zeppelin became famous at the age of 70 as the builder of the first practical dirigible balloon. On his 75th birthday he navigated his 20th airship to celebrate the occasion. But before he had achieved fame he had devoted a half century of his life, exhausted his personal fortune of \$750,000 and sacrificed a brilliant career as a German cavalry leader in conquering the air. Emperor William recently proclaimed Count Zeppelin to be "the greatest German of the Twentieth century." As a token of appreciation he conferred upon him the Order of the Black Eagle, the highest honor in the emperor's power.

It was in the United States that Count Zeppelin made his first balloon ascension. It occurred while he was following General Carl Shurz in the civil war as a military observer for the German army. A captive balloon in use for military observations by union troops greatly interested the German officer, and he was taken up in it in 1863.

Scion of a wealthy family of ancient lineage, Count Zeppelin was born in Constance, Baden, in 1838. As a youth he was trained for a soldier's career. He fought through the Austro-Prussian wars, and is said to have been the first German soldier to cross the frontier into France in the last named conflict. Serving in the German cavalry for three decades he rose to the rank of general at the age of 42. He retired ten years later, a distinguished soldier.

He began to study and experiment soon after arriving in Germany from the American civil war. Except for the time demanded in routine military duties, for the time spent in fighting and for a year spent in honeymooning with his bride, who was a girl of the German nobility, he spent the remainder of his life in building flying contrivances "hat, for the most part, refused to fly.

From a wealthy nobleman owning

vast estates, Count Zeppelin was gradually reduced to an aristocratic mechanic living in a humble cottage on an allowance supplied by his friends. He met many escapes from death, and disaster repeatedly overtook his airships. They became so frequent that port paragraphs began to appear in the German press and ridicule his efforts.

Then, in a day, the tide turned. He electrified a skeptical world in 1908 by staying aloft for 37 hours in the fifth airship he had built, and by sailing it in a straight course for a distance of nearly 900 miles. Emperor William and all Germany in fact, hailed him as "the conqueror of the air."

This monster balloon 465 feet long and of the rigid type and resembling a huge cigar, soon met with disaster, as had his predecessors. Each wreck was a great financial loss, for Zeppelin's balloons were valued as high as \$500,000 each. These disasters, however, proved the affection in which the German people held the aristocratic aviator. When one of his airships was torn from its moorings in a gale and wrecked the public subscribed \$1,000,000 to a fund, of which the crown prince was president, for the inventor. The German emperor frequently helped him out of financial difficulties, and the German reichstag appropriated several hundred thousand marks for the purchase of his airships for the German army.

At the close of his remarkable career Count Zeppelin had retrieved a large part of the fortune he spent in his conquest of the air. He trained his son, also an army officer, in the science of aeronautics and especially in his methods of building dirigible balloons. He also made an accomplished aeronaut of his daughter, who has made more than 100 flights in the airships her father fashioned.

In commemoration of Count Zeppelin Friedrichshafen, the city from which most of his voyages began, has decided to establish a Zeppelin museum.

## TOP THE MARKET FOR 1917 BEETS

The highest price in the history of the industry will be paid next fall to growers of sugar beets, according to the announcement of the Great Western Sugar Co., of 50 cents per ton bonus, if sugar maintains a price of \$7.50 per cwt. wholesale. Contingent on this figure a minimum price of \$6.50 per ton will be paid for beets with a 12 per cent sugar content and \$7.50 with a sugar content of 17 per cent, which is the average contained in the succulent roots grown in Montana.

Contracts made with beet growers in this territory for 1917 called for a minimum price of \$6.00 with a maximum of \$7.00, and the bonus of 50 cents per ton proposed by the company is substantial testimony of the cooperative attitude of the sugar manufacturers toward the beet grower.

F. L. Cooper, local field representative of the Great Western Sugar company at Ronan, states that up to the present time approximately eight hundred acres of sugar beets are under contract in reservation territory alone, and that this acreage will be materially added to before the time arrives for spring planting. With an approximate yield of from thirteen to fourteen tons per acre, which may confidently be expected, there should be paid to growers in this locality in the neighborhood of one hundred thousand dollars the current season. This too, with the culture of sugar beets in the Mission valley in practically an experimental stage.

It is hoped that the Missoula branch of the Great Western Sugar company will decide to acquire a desirable tract of land in the vicinity of Ronan where a demonstration farm will be operated, as is done by that company at Billings, Montana, and at other stations where their factories have been established.

"This," said the grocer proudly, "is the finest and strongest safe ever built. It is absolutely fireproof and burglarproof and is equipped with every device to protect and safeguard its contents."

"But what are you going to do with it?" we asked.

"Do with it!" exclaimed the grocer. "Why, keep my stock of potatoes in it, of course."

## EXTRAORDINARY SESSION IS CALLED FOR APRIL 2

President Wilson, recognizing that Germany practically is making war on the United States on the seas, on March 21 called congress to assemble in extraordinary session on April 2, two weeks earlier than the date originally set, to deal with the situation.

The purpose of the session, as announced in the president's proclamation, is to receive a communication from the chief executive on "grave questions of national policy."

The president in address to congress will detail how Germany has practically been making war on the United States by the ruthless destruction of American lives and ships on the high seas in contravention of all the laws of nations and humanity.

Congress is then expected to pass a resolution declaring that a state of war has existed between the United States and Germany for some time. Such a resolution in itself will not be a declaration of war in a technical sense, although practically it will amount to the same thing.

As a consequence the United States will take further steps to protect its interests on the high seas and elsewhere against the warlike acts of

Germany and whether an actual state of war will come to exist in its full sense will depend on the future acts of the imperial German government.

Since last Sunday, when three American ships were sunk off the British Isles in quick succession, with loss of American lives—bringing the total number of Americans lost through German submarine operations to more than 200—the president and all of his advisers have recognized that a state of war existed. From all parts of the country have come calls for the immediate summoning of congress in extra session.

Although the president, by the provisions of the constitution, must leave it to congress to make the practical declaration of war, such advice as have come to the white house from members of congress, governors, of states, public officials and many hundreds of citizens have contained statements of support of such a policy in its fullest sense.

The cabinet, which urged the move upon the president, is described by its members as having been more thoroughly united than it has been on any other question that has come before it.

## RONAN WOMEN'S CLUB FEDERATES

The Ronan Women's club met at the home of Mrs. Aldrich on Tuesday evening, March 20th, and were entertained by the Misses Marsh, Kahn and Savage. St. Patrick decorations were in evidence and each member responded to roll call with an Irish anecdote. Notice was received from the State Federation of Women's clubs that the application of the Ronan Women's club for federating with the state organization had been accepted.

The papers dealt with the present situation in Europe and vividly described the awful conditions now prevailing in that country. The papers were:

"The Peace Movement"—Mrs. A. Sutherland.

"The Situation in Poland and Belgium"—Miss Axelie Savage.

"The Situation in Armenia"—Mrs. J. J. Maloney.

Miss Olive Townsend and Harold Resner sang several Irish solos and duets, accompanied by Mrs. Aldrich on the piano.

Delicious refreshments were served and the green and white color scheme was carried out in this also. They adjourned to meet with Mrs. Cooper in two weeks.

## MORE LITERATURE FOR FREE LIBRARY

A new consignment of books, both adult and juvenile, has been received at the local branch of the Missoula county free library and is now available to patrons. The library is located in the Ronan high school building and is open to the public on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 5:30 and on Friday evening from 7:30 to 9:30, in charge of Miss Eleanor Hull, librarian.

The new issue is embraced in the list here appended:

Reign of Law—J. L. Allen.

Betty Alden—J. G. Austin.

Eben Holden; Silas Strong—Irvine Bacheller.

Hard Rock Man—F. R. Bechdel.

Eugene Field in his Home—I. C. Below.

Brandon of the Engineers—Harold Bindloss.

How It Happened—K. L. Boshier.

Locusts and Wild Honey; Wake Robin—John Burroughs.

Louisa May Alcott—E. D. Cheney.

A Far Country—Winston Churchill.

Puddin'Head Wilson—S. L. Clemens.

Cinderella—S. R. Crockett.

Vera the Medium; "Miss Civilization"—R. H. Davis.

Alice for Short—William DeMorgan.

Society's Misfits—M. Z. Doty.

Indian Boyhood—C. A. Eastman.

Biological Renaissance of Flathead (Continued on page two)

## BUILD BOATS TO OUTWIT GERMANS

A plan whereby cargo tonnage can be created in this country "faster than Germany can sink it" has been devised by F. Huntington Clark, an American engineer, according to an announcement made before a joint session of the Automobile Club of America, the Aero Club of America and the Motor Boat Club of America, in New York on March 8.

The new type of vessel, it was said, could be built in great numbers quickly at small cost, and by men of little skill. Each vessel would be mastless, smokeless and of diminutive size and would have such low visibility as compared with the great steel ships now afloat that it could be seen by a submarine at barely more than a third of the distance at which the 16,000 ton steamships are now detected.

In addition, it was asserted, the new craft, propelled entirely by motor, would offer a smaller mark, would be more easily maneuvered in event of an encounter, and because of its small draft of from 11 to 13 feet, torpedoes that usually would sink the larger vessel of steel construction, would "pass idly beneath it."

It was estimated that 1,000,000 tons, or a thousand vessels of 1,000 tons each, with a speed of nine knots, could be built at a cost of \$100,000,000 in a year. These boats would be 185 feet all over with a 36 foot beam. The same amount of tonnage, with a speed of 14 knots, it was said, could be built for \$150,000,000.

Mr. Clark's plan is to utilize all of the coastal wooden ship yards, which now have a capacity of 250,000 tons a year. To enlarge these plants, it was asserted, would require nothing more than the clearing of additional beach or bank, the laying down of more cheap wooden ways and the setting up of additional lumber planing and sawing machinery. The labor, he contends, can be created from the "rawest material."

## FARMERS' GRAIN COMPANY FAILS

The Reservation Farmers' Elevator company, with elevators at Ravalli and Dixon, has failed, with liabilities placed at \$15,000, and assets unknown. This failure came as a great surprise to everyone as it was supposed the company had made considerable money this year.

The following article printed in the Missoulian of Thursday morning, is the only available information the Pioneer has at the present time:

Helena, Mar. 21.—Though there is some indecision yet as to the final outcome of the financial difficulties

of the Reservation Farmers' Grain company at Ravalli, farmers who had grain stored in the company's elevators at Ravalli and Dixon are due to receive full payment. Charles D. Greenfield, Sr., commissioner of agriculture and industry, has returned from an investigation of the matter with the report that there is now on file with the secretary of state a bond of \$10,000 signed by 14 securities.

Mr. Greenfield states that the company is in bad shape financially. He says that in a report made by the president of the company to the department January 31, affidavit was made that there was some 8,000 bushels of grain in storage in the company's elevators and that the company had on hand some 10,000 bushels. On his arrival at Ravalli he was told by the manager of the company that there was no grain in storage. Upon investigation he found that there were 600 bushels of grain in the elevator and about 211 bushels in cars at Dixon shipped in the name of a man who holds a chattel mortgage on the property of the company.

The grain in the cars was not company grain and the man in whose name it was shipped informed Mr. Greenfield that a mistake had been made. The grain was then reshipped to Ravalli. It was also admitted that the 600 bushels of grain in the elevator was not subject to a chattel mortgage and the 800 bushels have been put in the care of a trustee, representing the sureties on the bond.

Mr. Greenfield says he was informed by the manager of the company that the company owes farmers for a little more than 5,000 bushels of grain which was in storage. Canceled issued in payment for the grain had dishonored at the bank aggregating \$3,578. The sureties have agreed to deposit the amount for which they are liable with A. P. Morse, of the Mission bank at St. Ignace, and within two weeks a start will be made toward paying off the claims of the owners of the stored grain. Mr. Greenfield is much pleased with the disposition shown by the sureties after they were shown their responsibilities. The president is unable to explain how the company got into difficulties, as he paid but little attention to the business affairs. A thorough investigation will be made by the sureties in an effort to find means for reimbursing themselves for the money they have paid out as bondsmen.

## PAT McLAUGHLIN ASSESSING RONAN

Chief Deputy Assessor Pat McLaughlin is in Ronan this week listing all property for taxation. He commenced in town Monday last and has just about completed his labor here.

With property being assessed at its cash value, the chances are very bright that the valuation will be greatly increased over former years, and that the tax levy this year in Missoula county for county purposes will not be greatly in excess of ten mills. Mr. McLaughlin states that merchants' stock will be assessed from their invoices, and that instances in Missoula show there has been an increase from \$1500 to \$15,000, and from \$3,500 to \$13,000, showing that in the past the big fellows have avoided paying their just proportion.

He says that on the advice of Attorney General Ford that anyone refusing to furnish invoices are to be promptly reported to that official for action by him.

## NOTICE

Dr. C. S. Bovard of Helena, will be here and preach in the M. E. church Sunday evening, March 25th, at 8 o'clock.

The mortgages and bank notes which have been held against the local church are now in the hands of the pastor and will be burned at the services Sunday night.

Our large choir which is doing excellent work, will be present. A good time and a full house is expected Sunday evening. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

Dr. Bovard will hold quarterly conference at the church Saturday night and all official members are urged to be present. Everybody is invited to attend.

E. D. SWISHER, Pastor.

The Ladies' Aid of the M. E. church held a parcel post social and supper at the church yesterday evening and a large crowd attended.

## CZAR OF RUSSIA IS OVERTHROWN

The daily papers of the latter part of last week contained the startling information that the czar of Russia had abdicated the throne in favor of his young son, under the regency of the czar's brother, Grand Duke Alexandrovitch. Later advices said that the heir had also abdicated and that a committee of twelve representing the Russian duma would control the country. This news came as a complete surprise to most everybody in this country, but from reading the papers it appears that all the countries of the allies were appraised of the doings and expected a change in the Russian government.

The revolution was over in a short time and almost every branch of the army, navy and government readily assented to the change. There was some desultory fighting in Petrograd for three or four days when all the troops favorable to the dynasty surrendered to the revolutionary troops and fraternized in the streets like brothers. Latest advices indicate that the ultimate outcome will be the establishment of the Russian republic, a master stroke for democracy and first by the people.

At first it was surmised that the revolution might mean that there was a strong anti-war party in Russia favorable to a separate peace with Germany, but later it has been learned that the real cause of the revolution was that the czar was influenced by his German wife to such an extent as to prevent the war being prosecuted in a manner desired by the people. All German sympathizers in the army have been relieved of their commands and it is said that the war will now assume a different phase than heretofore.

The new ministry is composed of members of the duma and everything is quiet and orderly all over the country.

## MRS. COOPER'S PAPER ON CHILD SURGERY

The following paper was read by Mrs. F. Leroy Cooper at the Ronan Women's Club at the last meeting, and at the request of several of the members present, it is published. The Pioneer commends this paper to its readers and urges that it be carefully read:

One of the finest things anyone can do is to discover a way to make someone well and happy for life. Like new inventions, surgery along new lines is being developed. Many times it is accidentally discovered, but usually one or more surgeons may work a life time experimenting and studying to perfect one idea.

A number of years ago, it will be remembered that a wonderful doctor was brought to this country from Austria to perform what was called a bloodless operation on a wealthy man's daughter. This doctor had very little time to spend in this country, so many crippled children were not able to obtain relief. The one special girl he came to help was Miss Armour, who is now just entering society, a straight, beautiful girl.

Very few things can be done by this method, the knife figuring in most of the wonderful things done. The removal of a bit of bone here or a bit of flesh there, changing the whole appearance and character of a child. Not long ago it was discovered that adenoids were the cause of many children being stupid, sulky and also delicate. This growth interferes with the intake of oxygen, thus lowering the nutrition of the brain. The body or intellect cannot develop if the brain is not in working order. Selfishness, deafness and dullness are brought on by this growth, as has been proven by its removal. A boy of nine, whose face was so flat, expressionless and frog-like that he was thought to be feeble minded, was brought to a physician here in the west. The boy's mind seemed blank and he was hard of hearing, so his teacher reported, while his parents said he was selfish and sullen. After the growth was removed his whole life was changed. He became interested in his school work, besides being considerate of other people.

Not only must the brain have nutritious blood going into it, but it

(Continued on page seven)