

MEDIATION FAILS; RAILROAD STRIKE ORDER STANDS BRITISH FORCES IN BAPAUME; CITY IS IN FLAMES

RUSSIAN NEWS AGAIN BECOMING TRIFLE OBSCURE

Position of Grand Duke Michael is in Doubt in Latest Dispatches.

ARMIES ON THE MOVE

Germans Are Extending Their Retreat Toward the South.

Somewhat conflicting advices are coming out of London regarding the fate of the Romanoff dynasty. Dispatches this morning announced that Grand Duke Michael had accepted the throne from his brother, Nicholas, subject to the consent of the Russian people expressed through a plebiscite. Last night's advices reported the abdication of Nicholas in favor of Grand Duke Michael and the subsequent abdication of Michael thus ending the Romanoff dynasty to an end. Of the abdication of Emperor Nicholas there can now be no possible doubt as the text of his manifesto announcing it has been received from Petrograd. What has occurred in the case of Grand Duke Michael, however, is still far from clear. The stirring news from Russia has attracted attention largely from military operations of the belligerent powers. Nevertheless these are almost daily assuming wider scope and importance. The Germans on the Franco-Belgian front are continuing their retreat and extending it to new sectors. They have carried it far south to the Somme and by a movement announced today by Berlin have made at least a beginning on the drawing in of their lines at a point where they have been nearest to Paris west of Roye. The Berlin announcements report the occupation by the French of trenches between Beuvraignes and Lanchy in this sector which the Germans had abandoned. The distance between these two places is about five miles. Paris last night gave some indication of this move by reporting further progress for the French at various points of the front from Andeche to the south of Lassigny. The front on which the withdrawal movement is thus indicated is approximately 11 miles.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH HAS NEW STATUE

Altars Have Been Remodeled and Were Blessed Last Sunday.

Remodeling of the altars at St. Joseph Italian church has been completed. The work which was done by Joseph Angelle & Son, is very beautiful and must be seen to be appreciated. Large opalescent electric lights have been installed, and a beautiful new statue of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel from the Daprato studio at Pietrasanta, Italy, has been placed on one of the side altars. Solemn Blessing of this statue took place last Sunday, with the Rev. Pastor, Father Joseph Marziana in charge. Special music was rendered by the choir. The members of the congregation extend their thanks and are very grateful to Miss J. Morga who kindly donated this statue.

Commerce Body Pledges Support

The following telegram was sent President Wilson by the Fairmont Chamber of Commerce this afternoon: "The Fairmont Chamber of Commerce pledges its support in any action you may take to settle what threatens to be a great calamity to this country in the possible tie up of railroad traffic. (Signed) "C. W. Evans, Secretary."

BRITISH TAKE BAPAUME AND 2 OTHER TOWNS

Germans Set Fire to Stronghold Before they Abandoned It.

BRITISH KEEP GOING

Had Sharp Brush With the Enemy During the Advance.

(By Associated Press)
LONDON, March 17.—Bapaume on the Franco-Belgian front has been captured today by the British the Reuters agency announces. Reuters correspondent at British headquarters in France telegraphs that the towns of LeTransloy and Achiet-le-Petit also are reported to be in the hands of the British. "Our troops entered Bapaume this morning after stiff fighting," Reuters correspondent telegraphs. "The place was in flames, the Germans having evidently made all plans for setting it on fire when forced to retreat. "Our troops are reported to be beyond the town."

FAIRMONT WINS OVER BUCKHANNON BY WONDER SHOT

Bud Wilson Hero of Sensational Finish to Today's Game.

(Special Dispatch to West Virginian)
BUCKHANNON, March 17.—Fairmont High won from Buckhannon this morning in the hardest played and most sensational game of the tournament, winning the game in the last forty seconds of play by a wonderful one-handed shot, made the entire distance of the floor, by "Bud" Wilson. The score was 15-16 in favor of Buckhannon when the last minute of play was rounded in. The first 20 seconds saw the Fairmont boys playing like demons but unable to get the ball away for a shot, then Bud cut in. When the ball was put in play again almost instantly, a Buckhannon boy fouled and Jimmy Knight dropped a pretty foul goal just as the whistle sounded. Cathedral High, showing a flash of speed that failed to develop yesterday, licked Martinsburg 31 to 21 in a bang-up game that again causes Cathedral to be looked on as the possible dark horse. Charleston, whom Fairmont will probably meet this evening, defeated Terra Alta by a 61 to 13 score. Because Charleston won from Morgantown yesterday by but 8 points, Fairmont feels pretty safe against the Capital city boys this evening. Magnolia still showed herself as being able to stay in the running by defeating Clendennin by a 34 to 27 score. That the Fairmont contingent of rooters will win the big silver loving cup for the best rooting, is practically admitted by every one connected with the tournament. During the game this morning, notwithstanding that Buckhannon was at home and the whole Buckhannon High school was present, Fairmont outrooted them by fully fifty per cent. Hundreds of additional fans will be pouring into town tonight, special trains being run to bring in fans who had time only to see the finals. The Fairmont boys are fresh and determined and feel that the unexpected brush they had with Buckhannon will but sharpen their endeavors when they dig into the finals and semi-finals. This afternoon Fairmont meets Cathedral, then Parkersburg, and should be able to put them both to sleep. Then with Charleston in the finals and the victory's won. HARRY E. WATKINS.

SHAMROCK FROM REDMOND.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17.—President Wilson and all White House employees wore sprigs of Shamrock today sent to the White House by John Redmond, Irish Nationalist leader.

WILLIAM CARLTON'S FUNERAL.

The funeral of William Carlton, of Monongah, will take place tomorrow afternoon at two o'clock from the home of Elza Lever at Monongah.

RAILROAD BROTHERHOOD HEADS FIGURING IN THREATENED STRIKE



W. G. LEE



WARREN S. STONE



W. S. CARTER

Lee is president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen; Garretson, president of the Order of Railway Conductors; during illness of Garretson, L. E. Sheppard acts as president. Stone is grand chief engineer of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers; Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen.

THOS. H. PIERSON TO BE PLEASANT VALLEY CZAR

Expert in Town Planning Has Been Elected General Manager of Greater Fairmont Investment Company—Has Done Big Things.

Thomas H. Pierson, of the firm of Sanderson and Porter, and a specialist in town planning and workmen housing, was selected as general manager of the Greater Fairmont Investment company this morning, and occupied the day in acquainting himself with the local situation. Mr. Pierson, whose home is now in New York city, will remove here with his wife and three children in a few weeks and become identified with the bigger Fairmont. Mr. Pierson is a graduate of Princeton in carrying out the plans of the Sanderson and Porter firm for the making of the Pleasant Valley project, a model, as well as the most important manufacturing development in the state. Mrs. Pierson is a graduate of Princeton university, holding the degree of civil engineer. He has had wide experience in designing and erecting plants and in the president of the engineering firm of Pierson and Goodrich. This company in the past few years has done more than four hundred operations, including two large sugar manufactories. In 1913 Mr. Pierson superintended the construction of the manufacturing town of Badin, North Carolina, for the Southern Aluminum company. He planned and laid out the town, designed and built the water and sewer systems and designed and built the houses. As the manager of the Pleasant Valley project, he is in a position to make that development the biggest step in the "fifty in five."

SIX NEW GAS WELLS WILL BE DRILLED

Traction Company to Invest \$110,000 in Hunt for New Supply.

Plans for drilling six new gas wells, to cost in all \$110,000, or more than \$18,000 each, was approved at a meeting of the directors of the Monongahela Valley Traction company called in the company's offices at three o'clock this afternoon. The drilling of the wells was authorized at a recent executive meeting and the action of the directors this afternoon was but an official approval of that action. The purchase of the three hundred coal cars for the Baxter mine of the company, delivery of which is expected in the next few weeks, was also approved. Other routine matters were taken up and disposed of.

HOLBERT & SPEDDEN TO BUILD TANK PLANT

First Building of New Factory Must Be Up in 45 Days.

Holbert and Spedden have been awarded the contract for the construction of the American Valve and Tank company's factory at Hickman's run. The final arrangements were completed and the contract signed yesterday evening and the construction of the buildings will begin at once. The contract specifies that the first building must be completed within forty-five days and all within ninety days. Building materials and supplies are being transported to the site and everything is being got in readiness for a speedy completion of the work.

Mrs. Mary M. Connor Buried at Woodlawn

The body of Mrs. Mary M. Connor, aged 43 years, wife of Gideon H. Connor, of Akron, Ohio, was brought to this city this morning on the 7:10 o'clock train and was conveyed to Woodlawn cemetery by Undertaker E. L. Musgrave and Son, where it was laid to rest.

Thief Returns Checks He Stole

Checks to the amount of \$268 which were lifted from the pocket of J. M. Richardson, of the Baltimore and Ohio maintenance of way department, were returned to Officer Bolyard, of the railroad company. With the checks Mr. Richardson was robbed of \$60 in cash. The checks were sent in by United States mail to Mr. Bolyard in charge of the railroad. A note accompanied the checks which read: "I found these near the round house." No signature was on the note.

BACK TO MEXICO.

WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17.—American consular officers withdrawn from Mexico many months ago when the border situation was acute, have been ordered back to their districts the State department announced today. For the present the policy of denying passports to Americans wishing to return to Mexico will be continued.

City Hall Notes

Citizens of Locust avenue last night met at the city hall with a proposition for widening that street. The matter was taken into consideration by the city authorities and will be investigated in due course by the engineers in charge of the work. As presented the work will cost a large sum, more than that allotted by the bond issue. Word was received from New York last evening that Reed and McCook, bond lawyers of New York, have investigated the legality of the bonds issued by Fairmont for the improvement of the streets and the building of bridges and have found them O. K.

MEDIATORS ARE UNABLE TO MOVE EITHER PARTY

Railroad Managers say They Cannot Act With Law in Court.

THE MANAGERS ADJOURN

Prospect Now is That Strike Will Begin at 7 O'clock Tonight.

BULLETIN

NEW YORK, March 17.—The prospect that the great railroad strike due to be inaugurated within a few hours would be prevented or at least that a truce would be declared, brightened this afternoon when shortly before 2 o'clock Secretary Lane, member of the mediation committee, of Council of National Defense, announced the situation was encouraging. Mr. Lane said he would have an important statement to make later. This announcement came soon after the committee had finished a three hour conference with Brotherhood chiefs. At about the same time the committee of railroad managers was summoned to the hotel where the mediation committee had been in conference with Brotherhood leaders. Whether a joint conference of both sides of the controversy was planned or whether mediation committee would confer with managers alone could not be definitely learned. Newspaper men were barred by hotel employees from approaching the room where the activities were going on and there were conflicting reports as to precisely what the next step in negotiations would be made. There was reason to believe that Secretary Lane had a concrete proposal for submission to the railroad managers which he expected would meet with their approval. This proposal it was reported had already been communicated informally to managers and had met with their unofficial approval.

TRAINS WILL RUN SAY R. R. CHIEFS

Roads in This Section Have Cleared Their Decks For Action.

The Baltimore and Ohio railroad company has already started its embargoes on freight and movement of empty coal cars thus seriously affecting Fairmont with its first order. This will cause the closing of all the mines in this section and will throw dozens of freight train men temporarily out of work. Most all the railroad men in Fairmont who are employed here in the rolling stock department are dependent for work on the mines and their output. The company has taken this action in anticipation of a strike on its lines as threatened by the four railroad employees' organizations. The railroad company was forced to take this action to prevent a congestion of slow freight on its sidings and tracks when the strike comes in order that the fast freight trains and the passenger trains can get over the roads to carry the United States mails and the shipments of food to and from terminals. This embargo cuts off about sixty trains daily from the amount now entering and leaving Fairmont. It will affect also the shops where the engines will not have to be made ready for movement of trains. The Monongahela railroad will not accept nor handle any freight whatsoever on its lines, for points on its line. It will, however, move freight to junction points where it can be handled by other railroad companies subject to strike conditions. Local freight and pick-up freight trains which move cars from small stations have been cut off as there is no work for them to do. The Baltimore and Ohio railroad will accept neither perishable freight nor slow freight for movement and has since last Wednesday embargoed livestock. Fifteen hundred coal cars are sent into this section daily for loading. This will be cut off and the embargo on food stuffs simply cuts off all railroad employees within five hours after the strike becomes effective. The local trainmen and engineers are ready for the strike and General Superintendent J. F. Keegan of Wheeling, with jurisdiction over trains entering and leaving Fairmont on the Wheeling division claims the road will run regardless of the men now employed on its lines. J. M. Scott of Grafton, superintendent of the Monongah division claims also that the Baltimore and Ohio will soon be running normally after the strike is called. The workers feel differently about this. They think nothing will get them what they have asked for except a strike and that no sooner will this be called than the railroad manager will fall to their knees. The local trainmen and engineers will positively make no demonstration one of their number said this morning. They have agreed to stay of the railroad company's properties and not to gather in the public streets. They will not resort to subterfuge, claiming that they have struck honorably and they hope to win honorably.

P. R. R. MEN TRY TO STOP STRIKE BY INJUNCTION

Declare Expense Would Seriously Drain the Brotherhood Funds

NO WARRANT FOR IT

Strike Vote of Last Summer No Longer in Effect.

Men on Ohio Road Wont Go Out on Strike

(By Associated Press)
COLUMBUS, March 17.—Engineers, conductors and trainmen of the Cincinnati, Lebanon and Northern railroad, a subsidiary company of the Pennsylvania railroad, this morning informed General Superintendent I. W. Greer, of the Southwest system of the Pennsylvania, that they would refuse to obey the strike order.

Jonathan Carpenter Died This Morning

Jonathan Carpenter, aged 59 years, a well known resident of Grassy run, died this morning at 1 o'clock at his home after an illness of several weeks. The deceased was born on April 12, 1858, and in the year 1886 was united in marriage with Miss Sarah Jane Hayhurst, who survives him with seven children, namely, Mrs. Emma Reed, of Frickett's Creek; Wayne Carpenter, Mrs. Almeta Lambert, Mrs. Ota Coffey, of Fairmont; William Clinton and Miss Isale Carpenter, at home. One brother, Joseph Carpenter, and two sisters, Mrs. Eliza Vincent and Mrs. Lavina Hawkins, also survive. Funeral services will be held on Sunday morning at 10 o'clock and interment will be made in the Hayhurst cemetery by Undertakers Carpenter and Ford.

LAST DAY OF THE HONOR ROLL STIRS INTEREST

The race yesterday for the roll of distinction in the West Virginian's Great Golden Festival was a hot one and stubbornly fought, with the position changing hourly throughout the day. Miss Alwilda Miller finally won out over Mrs. Goldie Pitzer. There was a difference of less than a year's subscription between Miss Miller and Mrs. Pitzer. Mrs. Sue Satterfield was third, Miss Edith Parker was fourth and Mrs. G. E. Hoover was fifth. Today is the last day for the Honor Roll, and the race and rivalry will be the keenest of the whole Golden Festival. Everyone is determined to have the final position. The results of the voting today will make the voting of former days look like a mere bean bag battle. As the closing hours race will become even more wild and furious. It is interesting to say the least, to watch this constantly changing battle, with the fortunes of the victors constantly changing, new ones fighting their way to the lead, only to be replaced a few minutes later by some other aspiring candidate. And the work that everyone is doing with the aid of their friends is nothing short of wonderful. Pivotal Week. This coming week is going to be a sort of pivotal week. By it, your friends will form their opinion as to whether you deserve any more of their support for the finish of the Golden Festival. There are three or four of the candidates who are making the great mistake of resting in confidence on their laurels. To these the manager would whisper a word of friendly (Continued on Page Eight)