

C. W. Randolph, from a taxpayers' ass'n in Lake View, made the following complaint:

"Cars on the east and west lines are held back and service is purposely made poor, so people will travel through the loop. Besides, the outside lines are getting all the old cars, discarded by the loop lines. Why can't we operate our own lines? Why pay New York traction men big profits to do so for us?"

"The traction lines have us by the throats now. Why give them another hold on us? Let's go slow about granting another franchise."

The answer of Walter Fisher to all questioners was to ask them where they stood on home rule. He contended that the measure introduced was nothing but a home rule bill designed to let the city do what it pleased with the traction companies.

He complained that every one who came before the committee wanted municipal ownership.

"But what have you done toward getting it? You knew ten years ago that we had to amend the state constitution to operate our own street railways. Did any of you start movement for a constitutional assembly for the purpose of correcting such conditions? No."

"But every time we bring in some plan you pop in and knock it with the continual cry that you want public ownership. So do I want public ownership and I think it would be a good thing for Chicago."

GERMAN SHIPS FREE TO LEAVE

Washington, March 22.—Scores of German merchant vessels, representing hundreds of thousands of tons of shipping, now in American harbors, are free to depart if the United States goes to war with Germany, it was learned officially today.

In fact, these ships could leave now under international law, it was officially pointed out, provided they could show a "clean bill of health as to intent, etc."

CLAIM ROMANOFFS TRIED FOR SEPARATE GERMAN PEACE

Petrograd, March 22.—Correspondence between the czarina and former Minister Propopoff has been discovered, the Bourse Gazette asserted today, proving that Protopopoff and others in the former/royalist government attempted to conclude a separate peace with Germany.

"We would have lost the war under the old government," declared the former Grand Duke Cyril of Russia today—now simple "Admiral Romanoff" under the democratic regime.

"Just now," he said, "my house porter and myself see alike."

"It was useless," he continued, describing attempts to ameliorate conditions of the old autocratic regime, "to discuss the matter with the czar. We simply could not break down the wall interposed by Sturmer, Protopopoff, Scheglovitoff and others."

It was learned today that the Grand Duke Cyril, foreseeing an uprising, had deputed his wife, the Grand Duchess Victoria, to attempt to influence the czarina, hoping thus to reach the czar and persuade him to adopt wider reform measures.

From the front today the Grand Duke Nicholas telegraphed to the premier expressing his firm determination to maintain discipline in the ranks and urging the premier to restore order in the country, especially in those industries whose product is essential to success of the army.

Another peaceful demonstration occurred outside the дума building Wednesday. A great crowd of people collected, waving red flags and shouting:

"Long live the revolution! Death to those arrested!"

A proclamation issued today by Minister of Justice Kerensky pointed out that none of the revolutionary or Socialist parties urged violence against leaders of the former bureaucratic regime or their conviction without adequate trial.