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The Toronto World

THURSDAY MORNING FEBRUARY 6 1919

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Drastic Bill Order Halts Threatened Strike of Electrical Workers France Provides Severe Penalties for Undue Raising of Food Prices Starving Russian Prisoners in Germany Are Reduced to Cannibalism

GOVERNMENT TAKES DRASTIC ACTION TO CHECK STRIKE

Order-in-Council Makes It Summary Offence for Electric Workers to Go Out.

HAVE NO GRIEVANCES

Attempt to Force Government to Authorize 40-Hour Week Widely Condemned.

London, Feb. 5.—The government's quick action in taking advantage of the King's presence in London today to call a meeting of the council to enforce, under the Defence of the Realm Act, the same legal means to secure to the communities such an electric supply as already exists, and to protect in a similar manner the gas and water supplies against strike measures, has the full support of the general public, and also the Electric Trade Union at tonight's meeting to consider the changed situation reached no decision, but adjourned until tomorrow, it is believed there will be no electric power strike.

An order-in-council was issued today under the Defence of the Realm Act making it a summary offence for any person employed by the government, a municipality, or a company which has assumed the duty of supplying electricity, to breach his contract of service or otherwise to strike. The penalty is six months' imprisonment or a fine of £500.

It is also made an offence to persuade men to break such contracts. The attempt of the electricians to force the government to authorize a 40-hour week by threatening to deprive London of its light is almost universally condemned, especially as the electricians have no grievances themselves demanding such remedy.

Ensure Supply of Current. In addition to invoking the Defence of the Realm Act, the government also has taken measures to ensure a supply of current in the event that a strike is persisted in and to protect electrical workers. It is understood that Premier Lloyd George, now in Paris, is being kept informed of all the happenings in the electrical world and is in constant touch by wire with the cabinet.

Plans for the formation of a civic guard to maintain and protect the service have been submitted to the authorities, according to The Mail, which says that a similar plan has been successfully adopted in Switzerland, Holland and Australia.

Show Disapproval of Strikes. The Associated Society of Engineers, as evidence of its disapproval of the strikes in London and Belfast, and on the Clyde, has suspended the functions of its committees in the three areas affected. The secretary in each district has been suspended, and will not be permitted to hold office in the society for a certain period. This action, it is declared, is without prejudice to more drastic action being considered by the society.

London, Feb. 5.—There was no improvement today in the situation in London. All the tubes and underground lines, with the exception of the Metropolitan which, however, has only one line running through the city, were still tied up. The hotels and restaurants, while able to replace a few of their servants, still were offering only meagre imitations of their regular menus.

For Forty-four Hour Week. The best informed opinion tonight is that the strike in London is not in London is removed. Some suggestion for strikes in other trade unions were made, but nothing definite developed. Lord Henry Cavendish-Bentinck proposes to introduce in the house of commons a bill enacting a universal working week of forty-four hours.

The situation on the Clyde is still improving, though there has been no general resumption of work, especially in the shipbuilding yards. There has been no need to call upon the military, as everything was quiet. At Belfast, Lord Pirrie, controller of merchant shipbuilding, had a long conference with representatives of the strikers. He proposed a temporary arrangement of work for fifty-four hours weekly, with overtime paid for all work exceeding forty-seven hours, pending a complete settlement, for which he agrees to call a conference with the firms concerned. It is probable that a decision on this proposal will be reached tomorrow.

Armistice Has Been Signed By Poles and Czechoslovaks

Rasle, Feb. 5.—An armistice between the Polish and Czechoslovak forces, which has been signed on Feb. 5 according to advices received here, even days and renewed automatically for the same period unless either party chooses to renounce it in which event four hours' notice must be given. The opposing forces will retain the positions held on Jan. 22. Diplomatic representatives of both parties were permitted to travel by railroad over territory occupied by troops of either party.



These two smiling democratic gentlemen are Premier Lloyd George and the Hon. A. J. Balfour, photographed while on their way to the conference.

DRASTIC STEPS TO SUPPRESS PROFITEERS IN FOODSTUFFS

French Government Prepares Bill Which Makes it a Prison Offence to Prevent Free Competition.

Paris, Feb. 5.—The government bill, under which it is intended to repress increased prices of foodstuffs and speculation in and the cornering of foodstuffs, has been drafted. The cabinet met Sunday and examined into the subject of the increased cost of living, and it was decided then to prepare the bill. Under the measure any attempt to interfere with free commercial competition would be punished by a prison sentence ranging from a month to a year, and a fine of from 500 francs to 50,000 francs. Attempted interference was carefully defined in broad language in the bill. Penalties are provided on a greatly increased scale in the case of a person operating illegally in a commodity in which he does not deal habitually.

PROSPECTS IN B. C. LIGHT ENGINE BETTER THAN CLYDE STRIKES AUTO

Yarrows' Action in Gradually Discontinuing Work on Latter is Endorsed. Car and Driver Hurl'd Far Up Tracks at Level Crossing.

London, Feb. 5.—Discussing the decision of Messrs. Yarrows to gradually discontinue their shipbuilding on the Clyde, and increase their work at Esquimalt, Vancouver Island, one of the directors of the company today freely admitted that their action in transferring the business was due to the better industrial prospects of British Columbia, and the discouraging labor outlook in Scotland.

The wisdom of the action of Yarrows is supported by Lynden Macassey, in The Times, who, after stating that in Esquimalt, owing to the output per man being anything up to 250 per cent. greater than on the Clyde, wages are normally much higher. He asks if British labor, with the sands so quickly running out, will the gates to production be the life blood, not merely of a nation, but the paramount condition of their own prosperity.

The Times' shipping correspondent, describing a recent visit to Vancouver, contrasts the activity of Tacoma and Seattle with the comparative stagnation of Victoria and Vancouver, and insists on the capacity for development of the latter's shipbuilding plant, including Yarrows' which was acquired from the British Marine Railway Company five years ago. Yarrows' managing-director is at present in Vancouver. It is stated, preparing for its removal.

PROFITABLE COMPETITION IMPOSSIBLE.

This is the sixth day of Dineen's sale to clear out thirty thousand dollars' worth of furs, from their regular stock, at prices that will make the movement of the goods certain within thirty days from February 1. The unusual feature of the sale is that the entire quarter million stock is available for selection at prices which make competitive selling on a profitable basis impossible. W. & D. Dineen Company, Limited, Manufacturing Street.

AMERICANS DEFEAT BOLSHEVIK ATTACK WITH HEAVY LOSS

Fire From Artillery and Machine Guns Drives Charging Ranks to the Woods.

A TEMPORARY CHECK

Morale of "Reds" Lowered, But Troops Are Being Constantly Reinforced.

Archangel, Feb. 5.—Heavy losses were inflicted on the Bolsheviki by American forces Tuesday and the enemy was driven back in disorder from the village of Votavka, on the Vaga. The American casualties were five killed and several wounded. Many Bolsheviki soldiers were taken prisoner.

The enemy began early in the morning a bombardment with field guns and howitzers and under cover of a shrapnel and pom-pom barrage essayed a frontal attack with infantry in the Arctic twilight at three o'clock in the afternoon. The American troops, who were rested after their retirement from Shenursk and were now established in a good position, poured a heavy fire from artillery and machine guns into the charging Bolsheviki whose ranks broke and fled into the woods.

Captured Bolsheviki declared that the enemy had planned a flank attack simultaneously with the frontal movement, but this was abandoned when the Bolsheviks saw that the Chinese and Manchou troops are now included in the Bolsheviki forces opposing the Americans on the Vaga.

Yesterday's defeat of the enemy on the Vaga, together with the failure of the allied troops who are fighting with the utmost determination to hold their positions until reinforcements can reach them. These defeats have considerably lowered the enemy morale, but the Bolsheviki are being constantly reinforced, and their offensive has been temporarily checked.

There are indications that it will be renewed when fresh Bolsheviki forces reach the line.

Details were received at headquarters today of the bravery displayed by a little squad of about fifteen Frenchmen who were victims of an enemy raid on the village of Bolshoe Ozera, Monday. Mistaking the enemy for retreating Russian prisoners of war, the French detachment permitted the Bolsheviki to advance close to their position. Then they found themselves suddenly surrounded by a force of 100 of the enemy. Called upon to surrender, the Frenchmen refused and tried to fight their way out. Two were killed; three were wounded and six were unaccounted for today. Four of them were turned up today, two of them wounded, apparently having escaped from their captors.

The situation is unchanged on the Dvina and railroad points. Allied troops were again forced to retire in the face of Bolsheviki attacks along the Pinega River, but the positions of the Americans at the Town of Pinega have not been attacked.

Precious Journalists and Precious Metals.



Josephus: First it was, Where did the nickel come from? Stoot: An' noo it's, Whaur did the precious metals come from? Joe: If they came from Canada, we'd know it; they went out as nickel mate. Stoot: But who let them out? It's gettin' to be an awful affair, Whaur's the gaen tin? Joe: I don't know.

STEAMER ARRIVALS. From Lapland... At Liverpool... From Halifax... At St. John's... From San Francisco... At San Francisco... From New York... At New York... From Copenhagen... At Copenhagen...

OPPOSING INTERESTS OF ITALY AND JUGO-SLAVIA

Jugo-Slavs Have Six Plans Prepared, Scaled Down to Final Minimum Demands--Will Probably Be Dealt With in Same Manner as Greek Claims.

Paris, Feb. 5.—The Italian delegation which will present to the peace conference, embodying the Italian views regarding the disposition of the Adriatic states formerly belonging to Austria. This memorandum will be made public after representatives of the Jugo-Slavs are heard by the supreme council, which was expected to be this afternoon, or tomorrow. The Jugo-Slavs have likewise prepared a memorandum containing six alternative plans for settling their differences with Italy. According to the present plan, Jugo-Slavia would obtain the entire territory east of the Isonzo river, including Gorizia, Trieste, Istria and the whole of Dalmatia. In the succeeding five plans the claims are gradually scaled down, the final one asking only for the eastern part of the Istrian peninsula, Fiume and Dalmatia minus Zara.

M. Trumbitch, the Jugo-Slav foreign minister, and Dr. Vesnetich, the Jugo-Slav minister in Paris, will deliver addresses before the commission of the peace conference at The Hague, at which the Italian delegation has decided to enter any discussion with the Jugo-Slavs at least at present, but set forth the Italian viewpoint to their colleagues of the great powers, leaving them to judge between the conflicting claims.

Thus, complex issues raised by the claims of Greece, not only to enemy territory, but to sections also claimed by other friendly states after being referred to a committee of experts for further examination, leaving the supreme council free to take up other matters in the meantime.

TOO MUCH TALKING AT BERNE CONGRESS

British Delegate Complains Time is Being Wasted in Fruitless Debates.

Berne, Feb. 5.—At the meeting of the international socialist and labor congresses today, J. H. Thomas, a British delegate, complained that too much time was being wasted in fruitless debates. He addressed the conference on a plan for a society of nations and on the principles of President Wilson. Other speakers were Blumenthal of Germany, Wilmot of Holland and Locker of Palestine.

The conference committee on resolutions for the war lasted from 9 o'clock Tuesday until 5 o'clock this morning without agreeing to the resolution to be presented to the conference. Hjalmar Branting, Swedish president at the meeting, other members present were Renaud and Longuet for France, Henderson and Bunting for England, Eisner for Bavaria, Weitz and Ellenbogen for Germany, Selts and Nemes for German Austria.

The national council yesterday rejected by 101 votes to 18 a motion to reduce by twenty million francs the military budget for the year. A socialist motion to reject the budget and to introduce soldiers' councils and a uniform rate of pay throughout the army was defeated by 122 votes to 11. In the discussion of the non-socialist speakers insisted that a well-trained, armed and equipped federal army was necessary to guarantee the safety of Switzerland.

It was decided that responsibility for the great war would be imposed by a commission appointed by the conference. This commission will be made up of two British, two French, one Hungarian, one Austrian and two German delegates, with President Hjalmar Branting acting as a member.

BOLSHEVIK DIVISIONS VIRTUALLY ANNIHILATED

Omsk, Feb. 3.—Two divisions of Bolsheviki have been virtually annihilated by Siberian troops under General Galda at Kungur, fifty miles southeast of Perm, according to an official statement issued here today.

The City of Perm is now declared to be free from Bolsheviki attack. People who had fled from Perm to Ekaterinburg and other towns are returning. The heads of the Siberian troops in the battle of Kungur are not given.

ROYALIST SUCCESS REPORTED.

Paris, Feb. 5.—A despatch from Oporto, says that Royalist sources in Portugal announce the complete success of the Royalists at Elvas, twelve miles west of Balagos. The despatch adds that the troops have proclaimed a monarchy.

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RUSSIAN PRISONERS DEVOUR THE FLESH OF DEAD COMRADES

Over a Million in Germany and Austria Are Declared to Be Starving.

TREATED AS OUTCASTS

German Government Uses Some as Laborers, Others Remain in Prison Camps.

Special Cable to The Toronto World and New York Tribune. (Copyright.) Paris, Feb. 5.—The presence of more than a million Russian prisoners under conditions of acute suffering in Germany and Austria forms one of the most tragic features of the aggressive period. A Russian prisoner who escaped from a German prison camp and made his way to France declared that in some cases the state of starvation in the camps is so intense and desperate that the men actually are eating the flesh of their dead comrades.

Most of the prisoners are Russian, who were taken captive during the Russian advance into East Prussia in the drive to save Paris. They fell into German hands while fighting for the allied cause and giving service of the greatest value. Today they are practically deserted. The Soviets know they not, they would like to have them return and join the red guard. The allies are giving them no relief, except for a trifle from the international Y.M.C.A. The international Red Cross is said to be eager to help, but is prevented from doing so by restrictions.

From a number of the Russian committee in Paris comes the information that following the signing of the armistice the Germans began searching the Russian prisoners to the Russian frontier, requesting them to enter Russia and join the red guard. Starvation being the alternative, it is said that about 400,000 Russian prisoners were so marched before the practice was stopped by the allies.

My informant said reports showed that about 350 officers were shot at the frontier for failure to join the "Reds." The German government is fully aware of the present value of Russian prisoners and treats them, accordingly, as friendless outcasts, many of them being used as laborers but the bulk of them remaining in prison camps. The prisoners are said to be in a state of filth and raggedness that makes the spread of disease among them certain. Prisoners are possessed only by a few. Hats are mostly replaced by nondescript coverings made of scraps of materials.

"Something must be done for these prisoners by the allies," said the Russian committee man to me. "If they are left friendless, they will become a menace to the cause of the allies and will hate the allies for deserting them. What will now do them to the allied cause for which they fought bravely, is food. In simple justice, these men should not be left by the allies to die of hunger and disease."

BRITISH SLOOP SUNK BY MINE OFF THE TYNE

South Shields, Eng., Feb. 5.—The British sloop Hinchley is reported to have been sunk by a mine off the Tyne River. Two trawlers have picked up forty members of the crew.

Ambulance Transport Araguaia Has Toronto Soldiers Aboard

Ottawa, Feb. 5.—The militia department has received word that the ambulance transport Araguaia, with approximately 120 Canadian invalid soldiers on board, left Liverpool on February 3, for Portland, Maine. She will probably reach that port about Feb. 10. The invalids on board are all hospital cases.

BURLINGTON WINS OUT; GIBSON DEFEATED

The little Town of Burlington has won out. The Hamilton Radcliff Co. restores the service to Burlington at the fare guaranteed in the original agreement, and the plea of insolvency filed in court by Sir John Gibson and his fellow-directors will have to be withdrawn.

The rich and arrogant Cataract Co. and its associated companies for the first time have met a Waterloo. And if Burlington smote them, hip and thigh, it was due to the courage of the ratepayers, backed by The Toronto World. But that is only a part of the victory. It means that the Hydro-Electric Radcliff from Toronto and Hamilton to the Niagara River will be built this summer, and that the enemies of public ownership of power and railways are fighting in a cause already lost.

BRITISH AND FOREIGN MAILS.

British and foreign mail via England will close at the general postoffice as follows: Regular ordinary mail: 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5. Supplementary ordinary mail: 8 a.m., Thursday, Feb. 6. Registered mail: 5 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5. Parcel mail: 1 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 5.

BALTIC DOCKS TODAY.

Halifax, Feb. 5.—The troopship Baltic entered the harbor at 7 o'clock this evening with returned soldiers. She will dock at 8 o'clock in the morning.