

BRITAIN THREATENED WITH A BLOCKADE

Dockers' Strike Effective at All British Seaports

Workers Injure Cause By Refusal to Arbitrate Wage Demands.

QUESTION OF FOOD SUPPLY

The Public Looking for The Government to Intervene at Once.

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

London, Feb. 18.—The dock strike which was declared Saturday noon, affecting 120,000 men in the ports of the United Kingdom, was expected to reach full effectiveness to-day, according to officials of the Transport and General Workers' Union. The country thus is threatened with a blockade from within as complete as that which the German U-boats vainly tried to achieve during the war. As regards London, no hope is based on the action of the "Blue Ticket Union," a new and hitherto unrecognized rival of the Transport Workers' Union, the executive of which has recommended a "stay-in-strike," under which the men would continue on duty, but go slow on piecework and refuse to do overtime.

This action is viewed, not as embodying any altruistic motive toward the public, but it is aimed at injuring the Transport Union and enforcing recognition of the Blue Ticket by the employers, who have hitherto ignored the existence of the organization. There is a demand in some quarters that this attitude should be met by the employers immediately locking out the Blues.

Public Looking to Government.

At the moment of writing, there is nothing to confirm the reports that Premier MacDonald or the council of the Trades Union Congress is likely to intervene to-day, but the public is turning its hopes on them. The morning newspapers assure their readers that the Government, foreseeing the present outcome of the quarrel between the dockers and their employers, which has been in progress for some weeks, made extensive plans to ensure a supply of foodstuffs and say everything is in readiness to put the plans into execution.

They also assure the public that the stocks of imported food in the country are so abundant that nothing will justify increases in price by the distributors, but the public has its own views on this question.

The papers express sympathy in the first place with the public, who are being made the victims of a quarrel between two comparatively small sections of the community, but the dockers' position in the dispute is regarded by most of the commentators as worrier of defence than that of the employers. The latter are accused of showing indifference at the outset, followed by high handed brusqueness in the later stages of the negotiations.

Workers Weaken Cause.

At the same time the workers are held in many quarters to have weakened their cause by angry impatience and their refusal of arbitration on the demand for a shilling more increase, than the employers are willing to concede rebuffs considerable condemnation, as showing what the commentators term selfish indifference to the welfare of the general public.

The strike is already threatening to affect the newspapers through the stoppage of newspaper supply.

The Daily Chronicle to-day prints a smaller paper than usual, attributing it to this cause.

SENATOR GREENE IN SERIOUS CONDITION

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Washington, Feb. 18.—Senator Greene of Vermont, the victim of a prohibition chase within the shadow of the Capitol remained in a serious condition this morning, no change having been observed during the night.

The bullet, which hit him over the eye, Friday night while he was passing an alley in which two men in an automobile were being urged by a prohibition enforcement party did not penetrate the skull. It drove a bone splinter into his brain, however, necessitating a delicate operation. He showed some improvement, but his physicians described his condition as still serious.

BURNED TO DEATH.

Almonte, Ont., Feb. 18.—When a frame cottage in which he had taken shelter while fox hunting caught fire, Wm. Montgomery, aged 26, was burned to death at Duncan's Point, near here, Friday night.

Passengers Forced to Wheel Own Baggage

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Plymouth, Feb. 18.—More than 3,000 bags of mail which arrived via the Nieuw Amsterdam were held up on the tender because the dockers are not working and the post office officials only accept delivery on the quayside. Although a post office staff is usually sent to assist in getting the bags into the tender, this was not done to-day.

Twenty passengers from the Nieuw Amsterdam assisted in disembarking their own baggage, which they wheeled to the customs warehouse for examination and then entrained for London.

MAILS LIKELY TO BE TIED AT DOCKS

The Workers Lined Up in Full Force Outside the Dock Gates.

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

London, Feb. 18.—The immediate effect of the dockers' strike, so far as London is concerned, is a lack of mails from Canada and the United States. In the city office much grumbling was heard at the considerable inconvenience caused by the non-delivery of the mails, held up at Plymouth.

The Smithfield market was almost free of supplies this morning because the meat porters refused to handle meat taken from storage, and retail merchants from the suburbs who assembled early had great difficulty in getting enough for their immediate needs.

The dockers lined up in full force outside the dock gates in the early hours, but only as spectators. A large force of police was on hand to care for possible trouble when a union stevedore commenced work, but quiet prevailed when this despatch was filed, shortly before noon.

Inside the docks the scene was one of desolation. Several steamers arrived during the night with full cargoes, but the only work going on was that performed by the regular employees of the port of London authority.

Mails to and from America are likely to be tied up at the docks on this side for the duration of the strike, unless some emergency arrangement for handling them is made, it was indicated at the general post office. The postal officials said there existed a stipulation providing that post office employees must not load or unload mail bags on ships or tenders, these operations being left to the dock workers.

The White Star liner Olympic, sailing on Wednesday, would in the ordinary course of events carry a large amount of mail, but the postal officials said the present prospects were that none would be taken aboard.

At the White Star offices, it was said at this time as to what would be done about it. Five thousand bags of mail are stacked intenders at Plymouth but a few yards from the railway tracks leading to London.

INQUIRE INTO WHIPPING.

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Toronto, Feb. 18.—As a result of Crown Attorney Armour's inquiry into the whipping of Private Bowen, at the Stanley Barracks Riding School a week ago, criminal charges are to be laid against several men. It is understood, says the Globe.

Insurrectionary Outbreaks In Several Parts of Ukraine

Desultory Firing Has Been Heard for Some Days in Rumania From the Other Side of the Dniester—Number of Refugees Try to Cross River.

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Bucharest, Feb. 18.—According to a message from Jassy, insurrection outbreaks have occurred in several parts of the Ukraine. Desultory firing has been heard during the last few days across the Dniester and numbers of refugees have tried to gain admittance to Rumanian territory, but have been refused. Steps are being taken to reinforce the frontier pickets.

The Heir to the Italian Throne to Wed?



Queen Marie of Rumania, by her arrangement of royal matches, has already won the title of "Grandmother of the Balkans." One of her daughters is queen of Yugoslavia and another married King George of Greece. Since Queen Marie's recent visit to Rome many Italian papers are predicting the marriage of Princess Ileana, left, her youngest daughter, to Prince Humbert, right, the Italian crown prince. It was rumored some time ago that Princess Ileana was to marry King Boris of Bulgaria.

Twelve Killed in an Explosion in England

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Brith, Kent, Eng., Feb. 18.—Eleven workmen and one man were killed here to-day in an explosion which followed the outbreak of fire in a cartridge filling factory.

BUSINESS SECTION PRESQUE ISLE BURNS

A Dozen Business Houses Destroyed by Fire There This Morning.

[Special despatch to The Daily Gleaner]

Presque Isle, Me., Feb. 18.—At this time the business section of the town in the vicinity of the Presque Isle House is in a mass of flames, and will be completely destroyed by fire. There are in all about twelve business houses in the ruins. Upstairs in the same buildings there were numerous offices. A call for help was sent out at about 5:45 this morning, and was preceded by a fire yesterday morning at 3:30 a. m., which completely destroyed Hedrich's wholesale house and restaurant, recently conducted by Wm. Tafticos.

At this time it is not known the amount of the loss.

The first and second departments of this town were called out, together with the artillery call. Citizens also responded in a magnificent manner.

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CONSTABLE KILLED.

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Danbury, Conn., Feb. 18.—George Goetz, 35, a constable of Kent, was shot and instantly killed, and Thomas Kern, 30, of this city, is in a serious condition in a hospital here as the result of a shooting at a roadhouse in Mill Plain on Sunday. Pietro Vasco, proprietor of a restaurant here, alleged to have fired the shots, is being sought by the police.

RECOMMENDATIONS EXPERT COMMITTEE

Experts Reach Unanimous Accord on Germany's Capacity to Pay.

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Paris, Feb. 18.—The two expert committees which have been investigating Germany's financial situation under the presidency of Brigadier General Charles G. Dawes and Reginald McKenna, met at 11 o'clock this morning to discuss the reconstruction of their recommendations to the Reparations Commission.

Mr. Hottard and Janssens, the Belgian experts, arrived in Paris by way of Brussels, where they had a long conference with Premier Theunis and Foreign Minister Jaspar, in which they were joined by M. de la Croix, senior Belgian member of the Reparations Commission. They were very optimistic.

"We have reasons to be satisfied with the results achieved thus far, and hope for a favorable issue," M. Franquini said upon his arrival at the Gare du Nord. Farther than this, however, the Belgian experts would only break their silence to pay tribute to their "unbounded admiration" for those journalists who had already published what purported to be the expert conclusions before they reached them themselves.

Members of the party employed in minor capacities were not quite so reticent.

"It seems as though we have arrived at the last quarter hour," one of the secretaries told the correspondent. "There is something more than hope for a satisfactory result. For my part I must say I firmly believe we are headed toward definite arrangements."

"There the Berlin conference were numerous. Our comrade Franquini from the very first meeting took hold of the situation with decision and energy, without undue acrimony, calling a spade a spade and merely taking into account facts which he exposed with remarkable lucidity. He told the Germans that by continuing their little game, which had already lasted too long, they were leading the entire world to ruin, in which they would be the first victim."

All the experts appeared to reach a unanimous accord on Germany's capacity to pay. The Germans themselves, with apparent honesty and good-will, affirmed their desire to reach a modus vivendi. * * * The day seems near when a general entente will be reached which will permit us to believe that at last we are arriving at sincere peace and the reconstitution of Europe upon a stable basis."

PRINCE AND PRINCESS SAIL FOR EUROPE

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

New York, Feb. 18.—Prince Erik of Denmark and his wife, formerly Miss Lois Frances Booth, sailed for Europe on Saturday on the Berengaria, group of relatives and friends, including Prince Vladimir, the bridegroom's father, and Prince Viegro, his brother, saw them off.

DENBY RESIGNS AS SECRETARY OF NAVY

Was Mixed Up in the Oil Lease Scandal Now Being Exploited.

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Washington, Feb. 18.—Edwin R. Denby has resigned as Secretary of the Navy and his resignation has been accepted.

After repeatedly declaring he never would quit the Cabinet under the fire of those who have criticized his part in the oil leasing programme, the Secretary notified President Coolidge this morning that he was ready to step out. His decision followed a telephone conversation between the President and Mr. Denby, in which all of the latest aspects of the situation were talked over in the light of information passed on to the President by Republican leaders in the Senate.

Recently a number of the Secretary's friends also have been consulted by Mr. Coolidge and they are understood to have advised the President that they fully understood the embarrassment that might result in retaining Mr. Denby in the cabinet while the oil annulment suits are in progress.

Not only is Secretary Denby a party to the oil leases, having affixed his signature along with that of Alfred B. Fall, former Secretary of the Interior, but he has repeatedly defended his part in the proceedings and has declared publicly since the recent controversy arose that he believed the contracts legal and would be willing to pursue the same course again.

It was further pointed out by Hon. Dr. Beland that the amalgamation of the higher paid officials previously in charge of these branches, with salaries ranging from \$3,600 to \$5,000 per annum, and the placing of the work in the hands of the chief clerks, in many instances even here there has been a reduction due to the ability of one clerk to handle the work of several divisions."

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The Maintenance of Railway Traffic in the Cologne Zone

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Coblenz, Feb. 18.—A protocol has been signed at Mayence between the mechanical experts of the British army of occupation and the Franco-Belgian railway administration.

Protocol Signed Between the Mechanical Experts of the British Army of Occupation and the Franco-Belgian Railway Administration.

[Associated Press by Leased Wire]

Coblenz, Feb. 18.—A protocol has been signed at Mayence between the mechanical experts of the British army of occupation and the Franco-Belgian railway administration, concerning the details of the application of the agreement for the maintenance of railway traffic in the Cologne zone. Directo, Mayence and Dusseldorf trains passed through Cologne Sunday for the first time since January, 1923.

NO ACCURATE IDEA OF FINANCIAL RESULT OF OPERATION SALES TAX

Reducing Staff of Railways and Canals

[Canadian Press by Leased Wire]

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The staff of the Canada Highways Commission, a branch of the Department of Railways and Canals, is being reduced. It is stated, in explanation, that the work of the Commission is gradually coming to an end, and that the full staff is no longer necessary. Just what number of employees will be involved in the reduction is not known, but it is understood that they will be released gradually as the work decreases.

MANY ECONOMIES EFFECTED IN D.S.C.R.

A Reduction of 1,792 in Members of Staff in Past Two Years.

[Special Despatch to The Daily Gleaner]

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—A department of the Federal Government which makes claims in the matter of economy since the formation of the King ministry is that of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment, which had on January 1, 1922, a staff of 4,886, and which on January 1, 1924, had been cut down to 3,094.

a reduction of 1,792, according to a statement made by Hon. Dr. H. S. Beland, the Minister.

"It is most unfair," said Dr. Beland, "in establishing a comparison to base it strictly on the 'permanent staff' of the Departments. A great number of temporary civil servants who were occupying positions of a permanent nature were made permanent by virtue of a 'blanketing in' order in council passed in November, 1919. If, on the other hand and to be more accurate, we take the number of all the employees, whether permanent or temporary, of both the inside and the outside service, it will be found, I am certain, that the number of civil servants has been considerably reduced since January 1, 1922."

"In this Department alone we had on our strength 4,896 employees on January 1, 1922, and on January 1, 1924, the staff had been decreased to 3,094, a reduction of about 1,800 in personnel of this one Department, in the course of the last two years."

"A few years ago, when the work of the Department was at its peak, the head office organization was naturally a large one, being composed of some 14 separate and distinct branches each in charge of a director with a salary in proportion to the amount of work. Some of these branches were: Medical service, Vocational training, Orthopedic and Surgical appliances, purchasing, stores and equipment, motor transport, information and service, dietetics, accounts and audit, etc. As the work has decreased special attention has been given to the reduction of overhead expenses in administration, so that today there are in existence practically only two branches, treatment and administration, with a corresponding reduction through amalgamation of the higher paid officials previously in charge of these branches, with salaries ranging from \$3,600 to \$5,000 per annum, and the placing of the work in the hands of the chief clerks, in many instances even here there has been a reduction due to the ability of one clerk to handle the work of several divisions."

It was further pointed out by Hon. Dr. Beland that the amalgamation of the higher paid officials previously in charge of these branches, with salaries ranging from \$3,600 to \$5,000 per annum, and the placing of the work in the hands of the chief clerks, in many instances even here there has been a reduction due to the ability of one clerk to handle the work of several divisions."

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Revenue Derived From A Six Per Cent. Tax On Finished Product.

RAW MATERIAL COMES IN FREE

Effects of New Tax Being Closely Watched In United States.

[Special Despatch to The Daily Gleaner]

Ottawa, Feb. 18.—The new Canadian sales tax went into operation on Jan. 1st, and for various reasons it will be some time before an accurate idea can be obtained of its effect. Returns are available for the month of January, but the collections for that month are mainly on December business. It is expected, indeed, that returns from the sales tax will show very great reductions for the first four or five months. Now all raw material imported for licensed manufacturers come in free of sales tax; formerly, if raw materials were not exempt from duty, and very few were, they paid 3 1/2 per cent. sales tax on the duty paid value. Domestic raw materials purchased for manufacture paid 2 1/2 per cent. This is now all wiped out. The revenue will be derived from a six per cent. tax on the finished product in the condition in which it goes to the consumer. On sales of goods made since Jan. 1st the manufacturer deducts the tax paid before Jan. 1st on the raw materials he is using in such goods. It will be some time, therefore, before receipts from this source will be available.

The Customs Department is now working on the December manufacturers' payments, and returns from customs outputs have still to come in. It is on importations that the effect of the tax will be first noticed. The sales tax on importations for December on both raw and finished materials, amounted to \$2,013,858. That for January of this year amounted to only \$1,558,440, illustrating what has been said above. It is expected that there will be a loss of revenue of about \$800,000 a month on raw material, and the returns from the new tax will probably not begin to be materially visible until March returns are in, at least.

The effects of the new tax are being watched with interest in the United States. A bulletin recently issued by Balacon's, the well known United States statistical organization, says: "United States' clients should watch the Canadian sales tax. Many people regard a scientific sales tax as a logical possibility for the United States, instead of the present bungling methods of extorting revenue and virtually confiscating capital. All business men should watch closely the operation of the new sales tax in Canada. When the manufacturer pays the tax the wholesaler is exempt. When the wholesaler pays the tax, the manufacturer is exempt. In other words, there should be less of the pyramiding of taxes which, under the blundering tax system in the United States, has hurt business. Moreover, this Canadian sales tax does less to penalize efficiency and threaten enterprise than the suicidal incomes taxes. Undoubtedly there are plenty of rough spots in this new tax, and only experience can perfect it, but fundamentally it is sounder than an income tax. It is one of the underlying reasons why we are inclined to be optimistic on the basic outlook for Canada. The United States takes great pride in their progress industrially, but what it comes to economies they have much to learn from the Dominion's search for right public policies."

There is still some snow clearing to be done on the end of the link west of Bay of Islands. This will, it is expected, be accomplished within a short time and then passengers, mail and freight will again be routed from Port Aux Basques to St. John's as usual.

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