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Warning That Strikes Are Not To Be Taken Too Seriously

London Views German Outbreak With Suspicion—Fear Government Is Permitting Propaganda In Hope Of Stirring Up Similar Trouble In Entente Countries—Policeman Killed In Clash With Strikers

London, Feb. 1.—Little fresh information on the strike movement in Germany had come through early today and virtually all the news in the morning papers had been delayed in transmission. None of the Berlin newspapers of Wednesday's date have arrived in Amsterdam, and several of them are not printing owing to the strike among their employees.

Delegates representing the strikers, according to Amsterdam reports, attempted to interview Chancellor Von Hertling, but he refused to see them, as had Herr Watzfahl, minister of the interior.

The actual situation today (Thursday) is extremely vague. The scarcity of news indicates some critics in Holland to assume that the situation has grown worse, but they warn against attaching importance to the strike movement as far as the army is concerned.

REVOLT DIFFICULT IN PRUSSIA

The Berlin correspondent of the Daily Mail deprecates a too ready assumption that the strike will have serious effects in Prussia. He says no strike or revolt in Prussia can be taken seriously until it has won its spurs.

"The mind and moral will of the whole population has been made too effectively mechanical by a century of military drill. It must be remembered, too, that strike funds are almost non-existent in Prussia, for, although the workmen have been earning high wages they have virtually been compelled to subscribe them nearly all to the war loans and get no interest."

Newspaper opinion in London regarding the strike is divergent. Some papers incline to the belief that the strike really denotes the growing strength of a democratic spirit in Germany, while others favor the view that the whole thing to a great extent has been engineered by the government for its own purposes.

The Daily News, while accepting with reserve the above extravagant accounts, thinks it is obvious that there has been spread into Germany and Austria some measure of the spirit which destroyed the Russian Empire. It adds:

"The tide for which President Wilson has so long and so patiently cut the channel is beginning to flow at last. A cleavage between the German people and their rulers stands revealed, but as yet the cleavage is no more than an incipient one."

REPLY AIMED AT ALLIES

On the other hand, the Daily Mail argues that if revolution is talked about in Germany, it is because the German government wants it to be talked about. It says that it is vitally true that no strike can happen there in any way that really the government sees profit in it. The Daily Mail regards the movement as really an appeal to British and French workmen to strike and says that if the appeal succeeded, the Germans would immediately suppress their own strikers and renew the war with increased energy.

WEDNESDAY'S DEVELOPMENT

In their late editions the morning newspapers of Wednesday contained a strike received by way of Holland, but all apparently refer to happenings on the Dutch coast.

The Nord Detache Allgemeine Zeitung, which is published in the Netherlands, reports that the strikers in the Scheldt yard and the strikers were joined by 4,000 workers in the Dutch coast.

The Vorwarts in an announcing its suppression for the three days, says this step was taken because it incited to a mass strike. Strikes have broken out in two more Dortmund mines. The strikers at Nuremberg, Bavaria, have resumed work after a two day demonstration strike.

UNCHANGED

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THE GERMAN PRESS generally agrees that the outbreak has reached its climax in Berlin, and is now receding. The demonstrations are said to show lack of centralized control.

Reports from the chief industrial sections of Germany indicate that the strike movement nowhere is finding the support necessary to carry it along.

SOLDIERS IN CANADA HAVE LOTS TO EAT

Ottawa, Feb. 1.—After conference with Gen. S. C. Mewburn, minister of militia, the food controller has issued a statement pointing out that it is entirely unnecessary for additional food to be supplied by relatives and friends to Canadian soldiers while in this country, in view of the liberal and varied food ration issued to the troops by the militia department.

The statement adds that the aggregate quantity of food thus privately sent to the soldiers is very large and that much of it, having been conveyed long distances in heated express or mail cars, is more or less spoiled and consequently injurious to the health of the men. The public are, therefore, asked to discontinue the practice of sending foodstuffs to the soldiers in Canada. The situation overseas is so critical that every ounce of food waste must be closed, the statement adds.

COAL DISTRICT LAID WASTE BY THE BOLSHEVIK

Damage is Estimated at Ten Million Roubles

CAROUSERS PERISH

Two Hundred Lose Lives When Alcohol Factory Burns—Finland Situation More Reassuring

Peking, Jan. 31.—The Tcheremovo coal mining district, seventy miles from Irkutsk, Siberia, being a despatch from Harbin, has been laid waste by order of the local Bolsheviki authorities. The district, producing a despatch of 100 million tons of coal and supplies the Siberian railway. The damage is estimated at ten million roubles. Some one hundred and thirty miners, and a number of German prisoners were employed in the mines.

200 Burn to Death

Petrograd, Jan. 31.—Two hundred persons perished in a fire in a coal factory at Novo Archanjelok. A crowd of carousers broke into the factory and destroyed the machinery. The fire was caused by a candle and the alcohol fumes exploded.

Kiev Entered

London, Jan. 31.—A despatch to the Exchange Telegraph dated Thursday says that Bolsheviki forces entered Kiev last night. They have occupied the arsenal. The town surrendered after four shots had been fired.

Seize Roumanian Vessels

London, Feb. 1.—Owing to the break between the Bolsheviki government and Roumania, the revolutionary committee of the Black Sea fleet has resolved to confiscate the means of transport belonging to Roumania, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Petrograd. About forty steamships and several warships have been seized in Black Sea harbors.

Shot at Lening

London, Jan. 31.—Another unsuccessful attempt on the life of Premier Lenin was reported in the morning edition of the Daily News. A young man in a student's uniform, who gave a special collection when they met on Tuesday evening for Tuesday. A large number gather every Tuesday evening in the church porch to see for the Red Cross and for other benevolent purposes. Once a month a social evening is given, sometimes at the home of a member of the congregation. This fills a long-felt want in the life of these girls.

ASSURANCES OF AUSTRIA'S SINCERITY AND GUILTELESSNESS

London, Feb. 1.—It is known positively to the Daily Mail, that Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, has sent a message to President Wilson assuring him of the sincerity and guilelessness of Austria's diplomacy.

Flow Supply Inadequate

London, Feb. 1.—Austria is absolutely dependent on Hungary and Roumania for grain, Herr Hoefler, the Austrian food minister, said in an interview in the New Wiener Tagblatt. Since last August only 160,000 tons of wheat have been received from Roumania, while shipments from Hungary were quite inadequate to meet present needs. It is impossible to think at present of increasing the four nations. Minister Hoefler added that the production of beer in Austria would have ceased entirely but for the cessation of supplying the troops and certain classes who do heavy labor. The beer is now made chiefly of substitutes, especially the catrow seed.

Phelix and Phredhead WEATHER REPORT

Issued by Authority of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, R. F. Sturmart, director of meteorological service

Synopsis.—The weather has decreased very considerably over the northwestern portion of the continent and is now highest over the middle states and the Great Lakes. The weather has moderated in the western provinces, but continues very cold from Ontario to the Gulf of St. Lawrence. Moderate winds, very cold; Saturday, Lower St. Lawrence, Gulf and North Shore—Fine and very cold today and Saturday.

Decidedly Cold.

Maritime.—Fresh northerly winds, light local snow but mostly fair and decidedly cold today and Saturday.

Superior.—Fresh southwesterly winds, fair and moderate; Saturday, fair and not so cold. All West—Fair and moderate; Saturday, fair and not so cold.

New England.—Fair, continued cold tonight, Saturday, fair and not quite so cold, light north winds.

FOR AND AGAINST



—W. E. Downing Telegram.

GOOD WORK FOR WORKING GIRLS

A valuable work for working girls has been started by Miss Laird, deaconess of St. David's church. A class for Bible study meets in the parlor of St. David's church at 8:45 every Sunday afternoon and though only organized about two months has an average attendance of fifteen. There is a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, all chosen from among the girls themselves.

Miss Laird, the deaconess, conducts the Bible class and a collection is always taken for home and foreign missions. The work in India is the special object of the girls of the young ladies, and all are anxious to make the fund as generous as possible.

At 5 o'clock a special collection was taken for the Red Cross and for other benevolent purposes. Once a month a social evening is given, sometimes at the home of a member of the congregation. This fills a long-felt want in the life of these girls.

TESTIMONY WAS GIVEN IN THE POLICE COURT THIS MORNING BY THE TWO DEFENDANTS IN THE CHARGE OF KEEPING A DISORDERLY HOUSE LAID AGAINST MRS. McDONALD OF MIDDLE STREET, WEST ST. JOHN, AND PRIVATE HARRY EAGAN OF THE 62ND O. S. DRAFT OF AN INFANTRY.

The first witness was Police Constable Gosselin, who swore that on several occasions he had seen soldiers coming from the house in which Mrs. McDonald lives. He said that he (Officer Gosselin) had seen Mrs. McDonald and Harry Eagan, who was a tenant of the house, and that they were in the house at the time he saw the soldiers.

Mrs. McDonald was then put on the stand and gave her side of the matter. Her husband was overseas, she said, and while he was gone she had tried to live decently and had done nothing in her life to be ashamed of. She had known Private Eagan's parents and sister in Boston four years ago when he was but fourteen years of age and she had only one evening at a dance given by the 62nd, she had renewed her acquaintance.

"I had no friends in the city and she visited her house, remaining several times to meals. The only other soldier ever in her house was her husband's brother, who as a member of the family, had put up there for a night."

Mr. Tait here asked her concerning Mrs. Ross, but Magistrate Ritchie refused to have any evidence which might concern Mrs. Ross brought out in the case. Mr. Tait re-examined, but the evidence was ruled out.

The police magistrate here asked Mrs. McDonald why she went to a dance or allowed anyone to visit her when her husband was overseas. "I had no friends in the city and she visited her house, remaining several times to meals. The only other soldier ever in her house was her husband's brother, who as a member of the family, had put up there for a night."

"I don't use the front part of my house at all," was the answer, "and have only been down the front stairs twice since I have lived in the building, myself. You haven't any business letting soldiers speak up and down the back stairs if it's possible to let them in the front way."

"But Your Honor," said Mr. Tait, "the woman herself doesn't use the front stairs and why should this boy do so?" "It makes no difference, the thing counts against her,"

"Have you had any trouble with Mrs. Ross?" asked Mr. Tait.

"I don't want to hear anything about that," said His Honor, "we'll never finish the case if we go into all that."

"But it's only fair to the defendant to let her have all the defense she can expect," objected the counsel for the defense.

"It doesn't matter, I don't want to hear it."

The evidence was dropped.

Private Eagan was then put on the stand. He said that when he was a youngster of fourteen he had known this woman as a friend of his parents. That was in Boston four years ago when he came to Canada to enlist and met her here, he asked if he might come up and see her, as he knew absolutely no one. "The night of the arrest," he said, "Mrs. McDonald was sitting on the table talking and I had just shown her my pay-book when I had been paid that day. I put it away and was buttoning my tunic again when I heard steps on the stairs. I thought it was the little girl who had been sent on an errand to the store turning and called out in a joking way, 'Halt, who goes there?' The door opened and the two detectives walked in. One of them took my coat off the chair where it was hanging and threw it under the bed. Then he wrote something in his book. (Continued on page 2, seventh column.)

Turks Propose Separate Peace With Russians

Report That Negotiations For Restoration of Steamer Services Are In Progress—More Entente Warships at Vladivostok

London, Feb. 1.—Five more Entente warships have arrived at Vladivostok, according to special despatches from Petrograd. It is added that China, acting on Allied advice, has forbidden exportation of foodstuffs to Russia.

As is reported in Moscow that the Turks have proposed a separate peace to the trans-Caucasian council of workmen and soldiers' delegates. It is said that negotiations are in progress looking to the restoration of steamship services from Odessa and Constantinople and Odessa and Galata.

The Mussulman in South Russia, including the Crimea, are reported to have formed a government in opposition to the Bolsheviki and are co-operating with the Foreign Minister Trotsky having announced the arrival of the Kharkov delegation of Ukrainians, the German detachment of the commander on the western front that a state of war existed between the Polish army and the Bolsheviki.

In the ancient Tartar capital of Bakhchisarai representatives of the Crimean Tartars have held a constituent assembly and issued a declaration of the establishment of an autonomous Crimean republic. The entire population of the Crimea of the soldiers' and workmen's delegates are said to have acknowledged the new republic.

An epidemic has broken out in Crimea.

At Beirut, Lebanon, Feb. 1.—In reporting the reopening of the negotiations at Beirut, the semi-official Russian news agency says that the presence in the conference of Dr. Count Fedorovich-Durni is due to the opposition of the Bavarian press toward the Berlin government.

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DRIVERS TO STARVE U. S. WAR PRISONERS

Documents Found On Captured Germans Said To Contain Instructions To This Effect

With the American Armies in France, Jan. 31.—(By The Associated Press.) American officers at the front have come into possession of documents said to have been taken from German in the rear and which deal with the treatment to be accorded prisoners.

The documents say that all prisoners, including commissioned and non-commissioned officers, after being captured are to be kept in cages for four days without food and compelled to stand all the time. At the end of the four day period only small quantities of food are to be given.

Although definite information on the point is lacking, some American officers today expressed the belief that the orders resulted from the difficulties the Germans probably experienced in extracting information from the first American prisoners captured in November. Such treatment of prisoners, it is felt, could be designed only to make them give up military information.

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To Strengthen Toronto.

Toronto, Feb. 1.—Manager Querre, of the Toronto club, will make an effort to secure Spry and Cleghorn and Tom Smith, when the Blue Shirts go east tomorrow to play the Canadians. He realizes that his team must be strengthened in order to win the championship of the second series.

AIRMEN BOMB HUN WORKS BUT ALSO SUFFER

Attacked Airdrome, Munition Dump And Railways

THE RAID ON PARIS

People Have Not Yet Learned To Take Cover—Greeks Call Out Sixteen Classes Of Reservists

London, Jan. 31.—The official announcement from the war office dealing with aviation issued tonight, says:

"An airdrome south of Ghent, a large ammunition dump east of Roulers and railway sidings at Courtrai were heavily bombed Wednesday.

"In air fighting four hostile machines were brought down; four were driven down out of control, and another was brought down by anti-aircraft gunfire. Nine of our machines are missing."

The Paris Raid

Paris, Feb. 1.—Revised figures on the casualties resulting from the German air raid Wednesday night show that 114 were injured in Paris and seventy-six in the suburbs. The total number of deaths remains at twenty.

Paris, Jan. 31.—Paris has yet to learn the lesson which London appears to have learned. This is the comment of those who are experienced in London raids.

"The peaceful Londoners at the warning," they say, "disappear from the streets and the town becomes as a city at arms, while curiosity at Paris comes caution."

A Paris policeman, who by reason of his occupation, was conversant with the regulations, rushed to a window of his home and was killed by a fragment of a bomb. His wife, who stood beside him, was not hurt. Few persons took refuge in the underground stations, as compared with the people of London.

French Raid Repeated

London, Feb. 1.—A raid attempted by the enemy last night west of Arras in Belgium was successfully repulsed. The hostile war office statement: "We captured a few prisoners.

"The hostile artillery showed some activity during the night in the neighborhood of Gouzeaucourt and Lens."

Conserving Man-Power

London, Jan. 31.—(Via Reuters Agency.)—Replying to R. L. Outwater, a Liberal member for Hanley, in the House of Commons, who suggested in order to conserve man-power, the British army on the western front should remain on the defensive until American reinforcements arrived, Right Hon. A. Bonar Law again emphasized the necessity of government fully realizing the necessity, not merely from a humanitarian viewpoint, but from the viewpoint of winning the war, of conserving man-power to the utmost.

Not to Close Port

London, Jan. 31.—(Via Reuters Agency.)—In the House of Commons Sir Leo G. Chlossa Mosey stated the government did not propose to close the port of London. Owing to reasons for safety, western ports had been relatively more used than the eastern, but the dependence of London on sea-borne supplies was fully appreciated, and the port of London would be used to the fullest extent consistent with the safety of the national food supply.

Greeks Increase Army

London, Feb. 1.—Sixteen classes of Greek reservists have been called to the colors, a Reuter despatch from Athens says.

French Finances

Paris, Feb. 1.—During the discussion in the chamber of deputies yesterday of a bill authorizing advances to allied and friendly nations, Deputy Albert Grodet pointed out that these advances amounted to 48,000,000 francs, bringing the total advances to 6,421,000,000 francs, and asked the government's intention regarding the Russian coupons.

He said that the French government already had paid two billion francs to French holders of Russian bonds, thus favoring them over the holders in other countries of bonds whose coupons had not been paid since the beginning of the war.

Finance Minister Klotz replied that the financial actions taken in the name of Russia were independent of any changes in regime there. The Allies were discussing the question of the Russian coupons. Meanwhile, he said, France would pay the February coupons as it had paid those falling due in January. The bill was passed by a vote of 360 to 117, the Socialists opposing the measure.

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HEARD PROTEST OF PUBLIC'S EARS

Price Of Newspaper Subject Of Conference With Sub-Committee Of Cabinet In Ottawa

Ottawa, Feb. 1.—A sub-committee of the cabinet, of which Hon. A. K. MacLean is the chairman, this morning heard the protest of the publishers of the Dominion against the recent order of Commissioner Pringle, recommending that for three months, from Feb. 1 to May 1, the price of newspaper should be \$2.50 per hundred pounds instead of the present price of \$2.00.

The sub-committee was composed of Hon. H. W. Rowell, Hon. J. A. Calder and Hon. J. D. Reid. Commissioner Pringle, Mr. Stewart, government counsel, and Geoffrey Clarke of Toronto, who has been in charge of the accountants' work in connection with the inquiry, were also present.

Mr. MacLean, as a preliminary to the hearing, expressed the hope that it would be possible to have committees representing the manufacturers and publishers get together and come to an agreement as to prices. It was recognized, he said, that the manufacturers should not receive more for their product than the cost of production and a fair profit. He presumed that the publishers do not desire any one to sell to them a product below cost. Commissioner Pringle's interim order was subject to the approval of the government-in-council and he presumed that it was the desire of the publishers that such approval should not be given.

F. D. Ross, of Ottawa, on behalf of the publishers, said it was their desire that there should be no change in the present price of \$2.50 for newspaper until the inquiry into the matter had been completed. They would protest against any advance at present. The matter was one of vital concern to the publishers, the present price of newspaper representing an advance of twenty-five per cent on the prices that previously prevailed. As the manufacturers were selling the greater part of their production outside of Canada at good profits it was only reasonable that they should supply Canadian consumers at a fair profit.

Hon. N. Tilley, K. C., counsel for the publishers, in elaborating the protest against the increase in prices, stated that there had been real inquiry into the cost of production manufactured in Canada. The inquiry had been largely confined to the eleven per cent of the production of the mill sold in this country.

There had been, he asserted a determined effort on the part of the manufacturers to obstruct the inquiry and to limit its scope. It was desirable, he said, that the profits on exports should be ascertained, as these have an important bearing on the price that should be charged for newspaper sold in Canada. The inquiry had demonstrated that one firm had a profit of \$1.50 per ton for netting the production of certain mills.

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