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TEN PAGES—ONE CENT

May Call Off Strike If Eight Hour Day Bill Passed by Saturday

Brotherhood Heads Say This, But Presidents Believe it Best to be Ready—Embargoes in Effect—New York Famine Now Not Feared

Washington, Aug. 31.—The eight hour day bill, on which most congressional leaders agree, is expected by Saturday night, will be sufficient justification, in the opinion of brotherhood leaders, for calling off the railway strike for next Monday.

This, today, was the main source of optimism that the great industrial tie-up would not occur.

The senate interstate commerce committee arranged its first public hearings on the measure today and allowed three hours each for argument by brotherhood and railroad. The plan was to present the finished draft to the senate on Saturday, ready for immediate action.

The house, however, was not disposed to wait so long. Its leaders set Friday afternoon as the time when they would take the initiative if the senate had not acted, and gave assurance that the house would pass the measure then, under special rules, making it effective on November 1.

While Congress got down to work today on President Wilson's legislative program to prevent the strike, the president himself renewed his efforts to get the brotherhood leaders to recall the strike order and at the same time took steps to hurry congress along. He summoned the brotherhood leaders to the White House from two o'clock and made arrangements to go to the capitol to confer with administration leaders there.

the railroads will not become operative until tonight, the prospective railroad strike already is causing widespread inconvenience and anxiety throughout New York and New England.

At all the big railroad centers here, it was evident today that preparations are being made to keep as many trains as possible running, after the brotherhood men leave their posts. All the strike breaking companies have begun to recruit railroad workers. Day and night classes of instruction are in progress for men destined to take the places of the strikers.

H railroad officers here expect to handle, during the next three days, the greatest volume of passenger traffic they ever had to deal with.

Roads which had planned excursions over Labor Day, have either abandoned them or warned prospective travelers that tickets were purchased subject to delay in case of a strike.

Do Not Fear Food Famine

After the first thrill of apprehension, fears of food famine have somewhat abated. Railroad men and provision dealers say that if a strike is called, the residents of big cities in the east may have to go without some of their favorite dishes, but that no need is hungry.

Would Affect Newspapers.

New York, Aug. 31.—A very large number of daily newspapers of the United States will be forced to suspend publication on account of lack of paper if a nation-wide railroad strike continues for two weeks, says Lincoln B. Palmer, manager of the American Newspaper Publishers' Association.

Over Doctor's Writ.

(J. M. Robinson & Son Report.) New York, Aug. 31.—Feeling prevails in official Washington that union leaders will postpone actual walkout while legislation is pending.

Fifteen thousand militia men on the Mexican border ordered home in order to meet any possible emergency growing out of threatened strike.

Both sides deny that injunction issued by federal judge in Nebraska against (Continued on page 3, third column)

CREATING A DIVERSION



"Zeppelin raids closely follow on the heels of Germany adversity, the Kaiser hoping to hearten his people by the murder of our women and children."—Daily Paper.

The Kaiser (to the Young Hun)—"Don't mind Haig. Look at the pretty Zeppelin that kills little English babies!"

ROGERS WARNS 'EM TO BE IN READINESS

Tells Eligible Men That Government Will Adopt Any Measures to Raise Half Million Troops

Windsor, Ont., Aug. 31.—(Toronto Globe.)—Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works, delivered the opening address at the annual fair of the Windsor and North Essex Agricultural Fair Association on Wednesday. He declared that the government was prepared to adopt measures which might be necessary to provide the half million men which Premier Borden had promised should be raised by Canada to aid the motherland, and while he did not think conscription would be resorted to until every other means had failed, he warned eligible men to be ready.

BANANA CROP IS DESTROYED

Serious Damage is Done by Hurricane at Jamaica

Kingston, Ja., Aug. 31.—Information collected from all parts of the island respecting the damage done by the hurricane of Aug. 15, indicates that for all practical purposes this year's banana crop has been completely destroyed, the crop for 1917 reduced by fifty per cent, and, barring further blows, the full output from all plantations will not be in effect before the end of the season. The situation which has been brought about will be recognized when it is stated that bananas represent only sixty per cent of the island exports.

VOLUNTARY SYSTEM IN NEW ZEALAND HAS NOT FAILED

London, Aug. 31.—The colonial secretary has received a communication from the governor of New Zealand contradicting an article in the London press and cables abroad, which implied that the voluntary system had failed in New Zealand, and that it was therefore necessary to introduce conscription.

The New Zealand government points out that the voluntary system has not failed, but that it was necessary to maintain the country's obligation to the imperial government. Use of the powers of conscription has so far not been required.

News of Maritime Men In The War

Three German Spies

That three German spies were captured on the S. S. Ontario, a Canadian steamer, is the information contained in a letter received in Fredericton by Company Sergeant-Major Leslie G. Hatheway, of the 10th Battalion, now at Sandgate Camp, England.

Writing to his father, Fred. W. Hatheway, Sergeant-Major Hatheway says that one of the spies was an officer, another a member of the 11th Nova Scotia Battalion, and the third a member of the crew.

Six More for Killies

Six more recruits joined the 36th Battalion at Fredericton Wednesday. Four of these, Jas. McLean, 19, and Wilson McLean, 18, of Bartibogue Bridge, Northumberland county; James Callan, 21, of Nelson, and James McMillan, 25, of Chatham, arrived from Newcastle. Two others, Isaac Burden, 48, of Fredericton, and James Thompson, 22, of St. John, enlisted at the local recruiting office.

Major C. G. Geggie, medical officer of the New Brunswick Killies, has received word that no more recruits are to be enlisted for the Special Service Battalion who are not up to the standard required for overseas volunteers. This battalion is to be made up of men who, after enlisting for overseas service, have become unfit to accompany the unit to the front.

TODAY'S BALL GAMES.

American League—Detroit at New York, clear, 8:50 p. m.; Chicago at Philadelphia, clear, 8:30 p. m.; St. Louis at Boston, clear, 8 p. m.; Cleveland at Washington, clear, 8:30 p. m.

National League—Boston at Pittsburgh, clear, 2:30 p. m.; Chicago at St. Louis, clear, 8:30 p. m.; no others scheduled.

International League—Newark at Toronto, clear, 8:30 p. m.; Richmond at Montreal, clear, 8:30 p. m.; Providence at Buffalo, clear, 8:45 p. m.; Baltimore at Rochester, clear, 8 p. m.

Death in Moncton

Moncton, N. B., Aug. 31.—The death of William H. Groundwater occurred in the Moncton Hospital last night after an illness of five days. He was operated upon on Sunday. He was seventy-seven years old and a native of Lutes Mountain, Gordon, of the 14th Battalion, Valcartier, is a son. Four daughters also survive.

TO REPAIR HOPPER

The Union Foundry and Machine Works, Ltd., were this morning awarded a contract of repairing Hopper No. 46, which was quite badly damaged as a result of a collision with the Piper in the channel last week. The hopper is at present on Gregory's blocks, North End.

EXCURSION TO AMHERST

The members of the St. John Brass band left this morning for Amherst on their excursion. They will be joined by the Halifax band. While there the united bands will give a concert.

Flemming Still Boss In Carleton County

B. Frank Smith Will Have to Eat His Words Spoken in Westmorland Campaign

Woodstock, N. B., Aug. 31.—The Fleming ring of the government party has triumphed again. The premier is to take part in the Smith campaign and the new minister of public works will have to eat the words he uttered in Westmorland, that Fleming had done very wrong, but that the government had cleared houses. Smith and his friends, when they found his Borden class Fleming with the voters and the Garlands, grabbed the federal patronage and deprived the opposition of the fruit of his nomination as federal candidate.

But now, when Smith's words re-echoed, it is all supporters had all party fights shall be headed off. Fleming's friends demanded his return to the premiership, which was met with acceptance by Borden as a federal candidate, and the prospects of winning the election for Smith depended upon accepting his terms.

B. Frank Smith and his party conspiracy to become the party chief have been defeated, and J. K. Fleming, with Tremaine, Teal and other supporters win. Fleming, it is announced, will support Smith. Public plunder is a great concern for party difference. It is said that W. S. Sutton, one of Fleming's warmest supporters, will be the colleague of Smith.

The reception of Andrew McCain and George Upham as opposition candidates has been most enthusiastic. Everywhere the telephone took the good news and all over the county the personal and political friends of the candidates and the supporters of better government are preparing to give them a bumper vote.

GREECE IN THE WAR IS REPORT FROM ATHENS

King Receives Allies' Ministers—Staff Officers of Army Recalled From Leave—French Line Penetrated But Hun Soon Driven Out

Athens, Aug. 30.—(Via London, Aug. 31)—Rapid developments in the diplomatic situation here today, make it appear that within forty-eight hours, Greece will have abandoned the policy of neutrality in the war.

King Constantine will receive the French minister tomorrow (Thursday), and the British and British ministers shortly afterwards.

All staff officers on leave have been recalled for active service.

WOMAN FALLS FROM A LOAD OF HAY

Moncton, N. B., Aug. 31.—Mrs. James Gains, of Cherryfield, fell from a load of hay on Wednesday, hitting on her head and sustaining internal injuries. It was thought her injuries were fatal, but the doctor found no bones broken.

WEATHER REPORT

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

Synopsis—A shallow depression which was over Saskatchewan yesterday morning now covers Lake Superior, while a cold wave has moved into the western provinces from the northwest. Showers have been almost general from Alberta to Lake Superior, also in the Province of Quebec.

Fair; This Showers.

Maritime—Light variable winds, fine and warm. Friday, fresh southerly winds, fair, followed by local showers at night.

New England—Generally fair tonight and Friday; moderate west to southwest winds.

THE TRADE DELEGATES

A card from W. Frank Hatheway, dated August 19, says that the trade delegates, then in Birmingham, would go to Liverpool, Belfast, Manchester and Glasgow in the next two weeks. Mr. Hatheway says:

"Canada can sell much canned fish, etc. here if put up right. California packs better fruits than we do."

For Protection of Birds.

New York, Aug. 31.—Persons and organizations here interested in the protection of migratory and game birds, are related by the ratification of a treaty between Canada and the United States, intended to insure the co-operation of the two countries in bird protection.

GERMANS TO WITHDRAW FROM N. VON SALIENT?

Hint of This in Official German Gazette—Believed Von Hindenburg Plans to Shorten Lines Everywhere—Change of Chiefs Deeply Significant

Paris, Aug. 31.—(By C. F. Bertelli, French military expert, in Toronto Mail and Empire.)—The Kaiser's dismissal of Von Falkenhayn and the appointment of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg to take his place as chief of the general staff is a sign that things are going wrong with the German army.

The official North German Gazette hinted this week that the Germans might withdraw from the great Noyon salient in France, which the Somme offensive is intended to challenge. It is pointed out that only if a popular hero like Hindenburg decreed such a retreat would it be accepted without trouble by the German people. The expectation is that it will be Hindenburg's strategy to begin shortening the German lines everywhere.

Lieut. Col. Housset said today: "Hindenburg's appointment is a complete surrender by the German court party, headed by the Kaiser, to popular opinion."

General Delacour said: "The incident shows the German army is badly rattled. Von Moltke was made scapegoat for the Marne; Falkenhayn pays for the Ypres defeat and the Russian offensive."

A Bitter Wrangle

A Rotterdam despatch says: "The military crisis in Germany is reported on excellent authority to have been the climax of a bitter conflict between Falkenhayn and Hindenburg over the Verdun offensive. Hindenburg was utterly opposed to any offensive in France but wanted to strike immediately a blow at Russia. For this he was prepared, not only with a plan of campaign, but with preparations actually being made for the general staff for additional forces to carry out the enterprise, but they were refused him by Falkenhayn and Hindenburg's plan was abandoned in favor of the energy against Verdun."

Behind Falkenhayn in this disastrous decision was the German Crown Prince, who is held by well informed persons to be really responsible for the colossal disaster before Verdun.

"The fall of Falkenhayn is regarded here as of the greatest significance, even impelling the Hohenzollern dynasty," London Opinion.

London, Aug. 31.—The morning newspapers today devote many columns to a discussion of the retirement of General Von Falkenhayn, and the appointment of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg as

chief of the general staff, under such headlines as "A Crisis in Berlin," and "Welcome to the Wooden Man."

All the newspapers profess to see in the sudden change of leaders, a sign of Germany's weakness. Gen. Von Falkenhayn is generally paid the tribute of being the great strategist of a hopeless cause, while the opinion is expressed that Von Hindenburg is merely a popular idol, who is unlikely to prove even a temporary success, as a generalissimo.

The Times says: "In her deadly peril, Germany is unlikely to have chosen the new chief merely to placate public feeling. We shall do well to take Von Hindenburg seriously and to recognize that, though conditions are against him, he is no weakling. The glimpse of a popular hero suggest a man with big and simple ideas, which often make the success in war."

Shortening the Front.

The Times' military correspondent expects some immediate alterations of strategic ideas in the German conduct of the war, adding: "All this suggests Von Hindenburg has been seeing his heart out on the Russian front, while the troops for whom he clamored have been flattered away at Verdun. His interests and predilections are believed to lie in the east. He belongs to the strategic school which would have struck in the east. The position probably the probable shortening of the front in France and Flanders, and he is perhaps the only man in Germany who could order the ruthless shortening of the western front without the collapse of public faith."

The Daily Chronicle says: "One interpretation is that the Germans are preparing a Riga-Petrograd offensive. Contrasted with the growing failure of Austria and the accession of new enemies, they may be expected to act on the strategic maxim that the right defensive is an offensive, and the time when to strike is not when the enemy chooses, but when we choose."

Bitter Strife

London, Aug. 31.—The displacement of General Von Falkenhayn as German chief of staff and the appointment of Field Marshal Von Hindenburg to that post, are said by Reuters' correspondent at Berlin to mark the end of long and bitter strife between these men.

London Opinion says: "Von Hindenburg, he says, is believed generally to favor the moderate policy of Chancellor Von Bethmann-Hollweg, while Von Falkenhayn is among the opponents of the chancellor."

DO NOT BELIEVE STORY THAT GREEK KING HAS FLED

It Was Current in Saloniki; Also Report That Allies and Greeks Were Fighting

London, Aug. 31.—Ward Price, the British press representative at Saloniki, sends a report which is current there that King Constantine of Greece has fled to Larissa in Thessaly, to take refuge with a guard of 800 Uhlans. The text of the official message, which is dated Tuesday, reads:

"This evening's sensation is that King Constantine has fled from Athens to take refuge with a German escort of 800 Uhlans, who have been waiting for him several days at Larissa."

"Another report is that the allies have already landed a strong force at Piræus which force has been heavily engaged with the Greek army in battle around the king's country house at Tatou, where several Greek princes have already fallen. Perhaps tomorrow will bring more light upon the situation, which is extraordinarily involved even for the Balkans."

London, Aug. 31.—No confirmation of the reported flight of King Constantine has been received in official circles here, which considers it highly improbable.

"But we are not going to consider any compromise," the British soldiers tell them. The British who have seen the surrender of Germans, say that with characteristic organization they now have what the British call a "surrender drill" when they come out of their dugouts to give themselves up as in the case of the body today, they have all their letters, papers and valuables in their hands, ready as a peace offering to their captors."

BAPTIST PARSONAGE AND OUTBUILDINGS BURNED; LOSS \$3,000

Charlottetown, P. E. I., Aug. 31.—The Baptist parsonage, barn and outbuildings at Tryon were burned last evening. The loss is \$3,000, insurance \$1,200. The pastor, Rev. E. P. Calder, was absent at the time. The fire started in the barn. The origin is unknown.

FATALITY AT OAK POINT

A Russian, who was employed on construction work with the Valley Railroad at Oak Point, was almost instantly killed yesterday. He was struck in the head with a piece of coal and his skull was fractured.

Doctors were summoned, but the unfortunate man never rallied and died soon after receiving the fatal blow. Corporal W. F. Beyer of Borden's Flats had an inquest this morning.

WHY NOT ST. JOHN?

A St. John man writing from England says: "I am afraid the new Canadian line to Bristol may take Postland for its polar port."