

The St. John Standard

VOL. VIII. NO. 298

SIXTEEN PAGES.

SATURDAY MORNING, MARCH 17, 1917.

WEATHER—FAIR.

PRICE TWO CENTS.

ROMANOFF DYNASTY FALLS; TRYING TO STOP STRIKE

TRANSPORTATION ISSUE SERIOUS ONE IN CANADA

Necessity of Rushing Munitions and War Supplies to Front Might Result in Further Curtailment of Passenger Service—Coal Problem Serious Factor.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, Mar. 16.—A serious transportation situation faces Canada as the threatened railway strike in the United States eventuates. This is recognized by the authorities here. The chief problem will be to secure adequate supplies of coal, and it is understood that the railway companies have very little on hand at present. If there is a shortage the transportation interests of the country will be seriously affected, and in the necessity of rushing munitions and war supplies to the sea-coast as well as carrying on domestic transportation which are all interdependent the authorities here are viewing with gravity the possibility of the strike.

The Grand Trunk Railway announces an embargo on all freight with the exception of fuel coal pending developments in the situation as regards the strike, and it is expected that other railways may take similar action unless the strike does not materialize.

It is said that the coal supply at Oswego is very limited and western coal cannot be hauled economically farther east than the Great Lakes. In the Maritime Provinces recruiting has created a shortage of labor in the Nova Scotia mines and the output has been considerably curtailed. The western provinces will not suffer to the same extent as the east as adequate supplies can be obtained from the Crow's Nest and other mining districts.

Passenger Traffic.

Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the railway commission, stated this evening that the whole transportation question as affected by the strike situation was being very carefully considered, and if it was found necessary to further curtail passenger traffic an order to this effect would be issued immediately.

Meanwhile he advised the public to conserve all coal supplies. It is realized that a strike will affect other industries, munition plants and other industries.

THE ONCE POWERFUL ROYAL HOUSE OF ALL THE RUSSIAS NO MORE

Emperor Nicholas II. Abdicated at Midnight Thursday on Behalf of Himself and the Heir Apparent, Grand Duke Alexis, in Favor of Grand Duke Michael, but Latter Yesterday Declined the Honor

GOVERNMENT PENDING MEETING OF CONSTITUTIONAL ASSEMBLY IS VESTED IN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF DUMA (PARLIAMENT) AND NEWLY CHOSEN COUNCIL OF MINISTERS.

BULLETIN—Petrograd, via London, March 16.—Emperor Nicholas abdicated at midnight last night on behalf of himself and the heir apparent, Grand Duke Alexis, in favor of Grand Duke Michael Alexandrovich.

At 2.30 o'clock this afternoon, Grand Duke Michael himself abdicated, thus bringing the Romanoff dynasty to an end. The government, pending a meeting of the constitutional assembly, is vested in the executive committee of the Duma and the newly chosen council of ministers. A manifesto to this effect was issued by the Duma committee today, and it will be telegraphed to the general army headquarters this evening.

Solving Great Problem.

Petrograd, via London, Mar. 16.—Russia today appeared to be in a fair way toward solving the greatest problem with which, perhaps, any nation was ever confronted. Order is growing and the chaos of the past week, and the new government, gathering up the broken threads of national and municipal life, is striving to set the organization of the country in motion so that the conduct of the war will suffer as little as possible from the revolution.

Business as Usual.

The members of the new ministry already have assumed their posts and the government buildings, empty and deserted for four days, are again open for official business. The banks, all the commercial and financial houses, and some of the factories have already responded to the new government's appeal, opened their doors and expressed a willingness to do everything in their power to effect as quick a resumption of the normal life of the country as possible. The soldier policemen are guarding the streets in the place of the old gendarmes. Hundreds of messages have been received from all over the country declaring the allegiance of important cities and fortresses to the new regime. Moscow, Khar'kov, Taurisya, and Volodga have already acknowledged the new government, and, so far as is known, not a single quarter of the country still stands out for the old order of things.

Government of People?

Supported by unanimous vote, the present government is in reality a government of the people. According to the latest information the executive committee of the Duma and the committees of soldiers and working men's deputies have reached full agreement, or at least have decided to waive all minor differences until the meeting of the assembly, which will be held in the near future. Meanwhile it is reported that the government of the country will rest for the present on the shoulders of the people.

Freight Embargoes.

The chief preparedness measure taken by the railroads during the day was the declaration of freight embargoes, designed to clear their lines in preparation for emergencies. Advice from Washington says that the president is confident there will be no strikes. He already is considering what may be done if his appeal is in vain.

President Wilson Anxious.

The managers committee made public, however, a telegram sent the president in which they assured him they would co-operate in "an earnest effort to avert the national calamity which would result from an interruption of railroad service."

Both sides to the conflict continued the policy of reticence they had maintained all day. The managers were making plans to combat the strike, if it is not to be averted through the efforts of the railroad companies. The efforts of President Wilson's representatives, and the brotherhoods were simply marking time, as all their plans have been made to meet an emergency.

Both sides expressed willingness to renew their joint conferences, but at 6 o'clock.

BRITISH WIN AGAIN IN NO. FRANCE

Also Successful in Mesopotamia—Far Reaching Reforms for Russia—Another Air Raid on England.

Continuing their attack on the German lines in the centre of the Somme region in France, British troops have gained further successes. Almost all of the St. Pierre Vaast Wood, the scene of previous heavy battles between French and German forces, has been occupied, says the official statement from the British war office.

German trenches on a front of 3,000 yards north and south of the wood also were taken, the communication adds. The St. Pierre Vaast Wood lies about midway between Baupenne and Peronne, and its possession by the British would increase the menace to those strong points in the German defence. The wood dominates the outlying positions north of Peronne.

A German attack on a British post northeast of the Somme, London says, was repulsed.

French troops continue to make progress on both sides of the Avre. In Champagne the French carried out a surprise attack east of the Butte De Souain.

While the British troops are advancing up the Dala river from Baghdad, Russian troops have occupied a height west of Kermanshah, Persia. British forces have taken part of the town of Bakubah, 30 miles northeast of Herat, and on the main road to Kermanshah. The Turkish forces continue their retreat up the right bank of the Tigris, from Bagdad.

German airships have renewed their attacks on southeastern England. London announces, and bombs have been dropped in the County of Kent.

A German airplane previously dropped bombs at Westgate. Another British torpedo boat destroyer has been sunk as a result of striking a mine.

GREAT BRITAIN RECOGNIZES NEW GOVT

Provisional Administration of Russia Also Recognized by France and Italy, Says Reuter.

London, Mar. 16.—Official action by Great Britain, France and Italy in recognition of the provisional government of Russia was taken in Petrograd yesterday, according to Reuter's Petrograd correspondent.

The despatch says that the executive committee of the Duma and Colonel Englishart, commander of the Petrograd garrison, received the military attaches and diplomatic representatives of Great Britain, France and Italy, who declared their readiness to enter forthwith into relations with the committee as the sole representative of authority in Russia.

The judgment of the trial judge for the respondents was sustained. M. G. Teed, K.C., for the respondents.

"MOST CRITICAL PERIOD OF WAR," SAYS SIR ROBERT

Important Cable Received from Premier—Canada Calls for 50,000 Men for Home Defence in Case of Emergency.

Men Will Be Needed Along Border to Repel Possible Raids Should United States and Germany Actually Commence Hostilities.

Special to The Standard.

Ottawa, March 16.—Sir Edward Kemp, Minister of Militia, announced tonight that fifty thousand men were required for home defence in case of emergency. It will be a volunteer force. They will be organized and enlisted in connection with the present militia regiments. They will be clothed and equipped similarly to the overseas troops but the latter will wear a distinguishing badge on the arm. Until May the men will train in the evenings and then they will go to camp along with the overseas units. Pay will be slightly less than for active service. Sir Edward stated that in the event of hostilities between the United States and Germany there might be trouble along the border and these home defence troops would be required. The service would be for one year but, if the war lasted longer, until it was over and for six months afterwards if necessary.

National Service.

With regard to the question of national service in connection with necessary industries, the minister said that tribunals would be appointed to decide whether a man who wanted to enlist in the new force could be spared from his civilian duties. Sir Edward handed out the following statement:

Of the troops which have volunteered for service overseas there still remain in Canada approximately 50,000. It is necessary that the country should not be left without an adequate force for home defence in case of emergency. The prime minister, who has recently visited the front, states that the desire of the men who have already enlisted and who are still in the men overseas as well as of their Imperial government that we should send overseas with as little delay as possible the troops now in Canada which have enlisted for overseas service. These men have been warned and are making ready to depart from Canada for the scenes of active warfare.

Proud of Her Sons.

Canada has every reason to be proud of her sons who have taken such a noble part in winning the war, and their deeds of valor have been recounted time and again. And now, when the British Empire is struggling to maintain its existence and secure liberty and justice for the world, it is Canada's duty to do still more. In order that the 50,000 troops of the Canadian expeditionary force at present serving in Canada may be released for active warfare, an appeal is now made to the manhood of Canada for an equal number of men to volunteer for home defence by joining the active militia. An opportunity is therefore now afforded to those who have been prevented from enlisting for active service to join this movement of active service for home defence, and to entrust the whole task of home defence to this historic force which never yet has failed to rally to the service of our country. A tribute must be paid to the admirable work done by the existing units of this force and kindred associations in recruiting the Canadian expeditionary force which has largely been accomplished through its aid.

Recruiting for Overseas.

It is to be clearly understood that the enlistment of the above mentioned force for home defence is not intended in any way to lessen the strongest possible effort for recruiting for active service overseas, the necessity of which at this critical stage of the war cannot be too strongly urged.

The troops to be mobilized will consist of infantry and field artillery, with a due proportion of supply and transport, medical and other administrative services. Men who enlist for active service in the C. E. F. will be formed into companies, etc., and attached for training to the home defence units until required for overseas service.

During March battalion staffs will be organized, officers and non-commissioned officers will undergo instruction, and recruits will be enrolled.

Continued on page two.

WORKMEN AND SOLDIERS ARE BACK OF NEW GOVERNMENT

This Statement was Made by New Russian Minister of Justice, According to Reuter Despatch from Petrograd—Sensational Address.

London, Mar. 16.—Addressing an assemblage of thousands of soldiers and civilians from the gallery of the lobby of the Duma, Deputy Minister of Justice, says a Reuter's despatch from Petrograd, dated today, announced that the provisional government took office by virtue of an agreement with workmen and soldiers' delegates. The means and soldiers' delegates approved the council of these delegates approved the agreement by several hundred votes to 15. The first act of the new government, M. Kerenski declared, has been the immediate publication of a decree of full amnesty.

Siberia An Issue.

Continuing, the despatch adds, the minister of justice said: "Our comrades of the second and fourth Dumas, who were banished illegally to Siberia, will be released forthwith. In my jurisdiction are the old premiers and ministers of the old regime. They will answer before the law for all crimes against the people."

"Show them no mercy," many voices in the crowd are reported to have exclaimed.

"Comrades," added M. Kerenski, "re-generated Russia will not have recourse to the shameful methods utilized by the old regime. Without trial none will be condemned. All prisoners will be tried in open court."

Free Russia.

"Comrades, Officers, Citizens: All measures taken by the new government will be published. Soldiers, I ask you to co-operate. For Russia is now born and none will succeed in wresting liberty from the hands of the people. Do not listen to the promptings of agents of the old regime. Listen to your officers. Long live free Russia!"

The speech was greeted by a storm of cheers. The labor leader Chkheidze, addressing officers and soldiers, paid a glowing tribute to the soldiers and working men who had participated in accomplishing the revolution. He recounted, the despatch says, the recent provocative efforts of the secret police in publishing proclamations reciting the murders of officers by soldiers. He exhorted the soldiers to regard their officers as citizens who had helped raise the revolutionary flag, law for all crimes against the people.

"Show them no mercy," many voices in the crowd are reported to have exclaimed.

"Comrades," added M. Kerenski, "re-generated Russia will not have recourse to the shameful methods utilized by the old regime. Without trial none will be condemned. All prisoners will be tried in open court."

DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO STOP BIG R. R. STRIKE

All Night Session of National Council of Defence and Both Sides of Struggle Began Before Midnight in New York—Wilson May Interfere.

New York, March 16.—Three of the four members of the National Council of Defence, appointed with the sanction of President Wilson to act as mediators in the hope of averting the nation-wide "progressive" railroad strike, called to begin at six o'clock tomorrow night, went into conference at 11.30 o'clock tonight with the chiefs of the four railroad brotherhoods.

Secretary of the Interior, Franklin K. Lane, and Secretary of Labor, Wilson, arrived in the city at 8.30 o'clock. Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore and Ohio Railway, had preceded them from Washington. No one knew at what hour Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, the fourth mediator would arrive.

All Night Conference.

It was the purpose of the defense council's committee to carry their discussion with the representatives of the men as far as possible before then call in the members of the National Committee of Railroad Management. All the persons concerned in the conference believed it might last all night.

When Mr. Wilson arrived at the hotel where the meeting is being held he declared he brought no mandate from Washington. The mediators had no "cut and dried" plan, he said but it was their purpose to bring about a compromise, although they had no idea along what lines.

Mr. Lane declined to discuss the programme of the mediators, except that it was their mission to bring about a settlement, if possible.

"I have not come here with a check in my hand," he said, "but to listen and investigate."

He and Mr. Wilson held a preliminary conference with the representatives of the men pending the arrival of their conferees. The brotherhood chiefs refused positively to discuss, for publication, their probable attitude. They admitted, however, that they had sent no message to President Wilson in response to his plea that they strive to bring their controversy with the railroads to "immediate accommodation," for patriotic reasons.

President Wilson Anxious.

The managers committee made public, however, a telegram sent the president in which they assured him they would co-operate in "an earnest effort to avert the national calamity which would result from an interruption of railroad service."

Both sides to the conflict continued the policy of reticence they had maintained all day. The managers were making plans to combat the strike, if it is not to be averted through the efforts of the railroad companies. The efforts of President Wilson's representatives, and the brotherhoods were simply marking time, as all their plans have been made to meet an emergency.

Both sides expressed willingness to renew their joint conferences, but at 6 o'clock.

CHINA HANDS PASSPORTS TO HUNS

Peking, Wednesday, March 14.—The German minister to China and his staff, and also all the German consuls in the country, were handed their passports at noon today.

A note accompanying the passports explained that the German reply to China's submarine warfare protest was unsatisfactory. The passports, the note added, were "for protection while leaving Chinese territory."

HUNS DROP BOMBS ON WESTGATE, ENG.

London, Mar. 16.—The war office announces that at 5.30 today a hostile airplane dropped bombs at Westgate. There were no casualties and the material damage was reported slight.

TWO KILLED BY BOMB IN BOSTON

Boston, Mar. 16.—A bomb exploded in the Suffolk county court house late today, killing two men and injuring another. One of the dead was Louis A. Zellinger, a janitor employed in the building, the other, unidentified up to a late hour tonight, was believed by the police to have been the bearer of the explosive.

The object of the bomber is uncertain. The anteroom where the explosion occurred and the lavatory adjoining were the only parts of the structure to suffer materially.

The unidentified dead man apparently a foreman.

Shamrock Tea. Shamrock tea at Mrs. Powell's, Queen Square, this afternoon, 4 to 6 o'clock.

St. John Lawyers Successful in Cases Decided at Fredericton Yesterday Afternoon.

JUDGMENTS GIVEN BY APPEAL DIVISION

JUDGMENTS GIVEN BY APPEAL DIVISION

St. John Lawyers Successful in Cases Decided at Fredericton Yesterday Afternoon.

Special to The Standard.

Fredericton, Mar. 16.—The appeal division of the Supreme Court delivered judgments in Culligan vs. the Graphic, on appeal from the Restigouche County Circuit, the application of counsel on behalf of the Graphic to set aside the verdict of the trial judge was refused. Attorney-General Baxter, K.C., and Hugh A. Carr for Mr. Culligan, and Arthur T. LeBlanc for the Graphic.

In the matter of Traflet vs. Deschamps, another appeal from the Restigouche County Circuit, where judgment was given for the defendant, the court set aside the verdict of the trial judge and ordered that judgment be entered for the appellant. Attorney-General Baxter, K. C., for the appellant and Arthur T. LeBlanc for the respondent.

In the matter of the Prescott Lumber Company vs. Jardine and Clinch, the judgment of the trial judge for the respondents was sustained. M. G. Teed, K.C., for the respondents.

Fredericton, Mar. 16.—The appeal division of the Supreme Court delivered judgments in Culligan vs. the Graphic, on appeal from the Restigouche County Circuit, the application of counsel on behalf of the Graphic to set aside the verdict of the trial judge was refused. Attorney-General Baxter, K.C., and Hugh A. Carr for Mr. Culligan, and Arthur T. LeBlanc for the Graphic.

In the matter of Traflet vs. Deschamps, another appeal from the Restigouche County Circuit, where judgment was given for the defendant, the court set aside the verdict of the trial judge and ordered that judgment be entered for the appellant. Attorney-General Baxter, K. C., for the appellant and Arthur T. LeBlanc for the respondent.

In the matter of the Prescott Lumber Company vs. Jardine and Clinch, the judgment of the trial judge for the respondents was sustained. M. G. Teed, K.C., for the respondents.

Fredericton, Mar. 16.—The appeal division of the Supreme Court delivered judgments in Culligan vs. the Graphic, on appeal from the Restigouche County Circuit, the application of counsel on behalf of the Graphic to set aside the verdict of the trial judge was refused. Attorney-General Baxter, K.C., and Hugh A. Carr for Mr. Culligan, and Arthur T. LeBlanc for the Graphic.

In the matter of Traflet vs. Deschamps, another appeal from the Restigouche County Circuit, where judgment was given for the defendant, the court set aside the verdict of the trial judge and ordered that judgment be entered for the appellant. Attorney-General Baxter, K. C., for the appellant and Arthur T. LeBlanc for the respondent.

In the matter of the Prescott Lumber Company vs. Jardine and Clinch, the judgment of the trial judge for the respondents was sustained. M. G. Teed, K.C., for the respondents.