

# Central Germany in Throes Of Wide Spread Political Strike Shadowing the Nation

### Railway Communication is Badly Demoralized — Poverty Seems Everywhere in Evidence and Famine on the Increase—The Condition of the Poorer Classes is Truly Desperate.

Berlin, Thursday, Feb. 27.—(By the Associated Press)—Central Germany is now in the throes of a widespread political strike affecting a large part of Saxony, Thuringia and Anhalt, and through its effects upon railroad communications, casting a sinister shadow over the entire nation. No disorder or excesses, however, have as yet been reported, and, from unaffected areas, like Dresden, and from the area of the strike region, the present conditions are exerting every effort to return to the normal.

A general strike prevails in Thuringia and Saxony. No disturbances are reported from these sections. Leipzig is in the throes of a general strike which has also paralyzed railway traffic. The situation in Dresden is normal and the working men in the Ruhr district is receding. A military operation carried on by troops in Thuringia, Saxony is proceeding according to the government programme.

Poverty increasing. Berlin, Feb. 28.—(Canadian Press from Reuters)—Every day's experience here only deepens the impression made by the present demoralization of the German situation. The stranger arriving here quickly witnesses the evidence of corruption and individual greed which attend the threatening social revolt.

A general strike has broken out at Erfurt, and there is news to the same effect from many other cities in Central Germany. The Government, however, has gained encouragement through the more complete reports received from Magdeburg, where a large part of the railway men who joined the strike, have resumed work.

Railway communication with southern Germany is possible only by round about routes in local trains. A section of the Munich express arrived in Berlin today, thirteen hours late. The fact that it came through was due to the presence among the passengers of the Austrian military courier from Munich, and the Austrian foreign minister. On their account the strikers provided a locomotive and two special cars for the trip to Berlin by way of Dresden.

Berlin, Feb. 28.—(By The Associated Press)—An official printed in the Zeitung Am Mittag describes the strike situation as follows:

The condition of the poorer classes is truly desperate. Apart from the scanty official rations food is only obtainable from illicit traders at exorbitant prices. The food, moreover, is estimated at 45,000, many of whom do not desire work, having been demoralized by long war.

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### Has Appealed to the German Revolutionary Government for Money to Pay His Debts—Claims He Has Been Forced to Borrow Money from His Host and is Getting in Dutch.

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## EMPRESS BRITAIN GIVES PORTLAND THE MERRY LAUGH

### Three Hundred People Crowded Portland Wharves to Welcome the C. P. R. Boat That Docked Here.

Portland, Maine, Feb. 28.—Information was received here this morning, through a dispatch from Halifax, that the Canadian Pacific Railway Steamship, Empress of Britain, was bound for this port and would dock sometime today. In view of the recent activities in connection with the prospective utilization of Portland's facilities, especially with the new steamer, by the Canadian Pacific management, this announcement of one of their boats was particularly interesting, to say the least. Much publicity was given the announcement, and, throughout the city, from the east to the west end, interest, near to excitement, prevailed.

A great deal of the expected event was made by those in the city who had been so active in their Canadian Pacific-Maine Central campaign, and by noon a rather large crowd, perhaps three hundred people, had gathered at the pier. Much excitement prevailed upon the streets, "Canadian Pacific" being the chief topic everywhere, on all sides much satisfaction was expressed. Those most interested in ocean shipping, and others connected with the Portland Chamber of Commerce, advanced the cases that the Canadian Pacific management by this step intended to display the purpose to make use of Portland harbor, when the state pier materialized. Not until 3:30 this afternoon was the report found to be false.

A telegram was received from St. John sources to the effect that the Empress of Britain had docked there during the forenoon. Every available effort was then made to secure a statement, or some comment from the Chamber of Commerce, or other interested officials, but no one had anything whatever to say for publication. The Evening Express, who has been featuring all Canadian Pacific developments with front page headlines, mentioned the facts in less than twenty-five words, hidden away under the caption "Waterfront Notes."

## SIR PERCY SYKES WAS THE MASTER

### Did Most Successful Work in Southwestern Persia, According to Lord Curzon.

London, Feb. 28. (British Wireless Service)—The forces, under Brigadier Sir Percy Sykes, sent into Persia toward Shiraz in southwestern Persia, near the Persian Gulf, three years ago, were relieved, last month, by other British forces from India, according to an announcement in the House of Lords last night by Lord Curzon. Early in 1916 General Sir Percy Sykes was sent to Persia to raise a force of Persian rifles to replace the mutinous troops. At the head of only five hundred men and two light guns General Sykes, Lord Curzon said, made an adventurous march through hostile territory and eventually established himself at Shiraz.

## VITAL PROBLEMS BEFORE CONFERENCE

### The Next Two Weeks Will See Important Decisions Affecting the Peace of the World.

Paris, Feb. 28.—(Havas)—The Peace Conference plans to reach agreement on the more important questions between March 8 and March 15. Captain Andre Tardieu, one of the French delegates to the newspaper correspondents last night. He said that the conference had vital problems to solve—the Franco-German frontier, the Adriatic situation, the Russian frontier and the question of the freedom of the seas. All these questions will be taken up and probably completed in a fortnight.

## LORD READING HAS UNBOUNDED FAITH IN THE PARIS CONFERENCE

### The Nations Represented There Are Determined to Arrive by Agreement at Solutions of the Momentous Problems Affecting the Future Peace of the World.

New York, Feb. 28.—Announces that he returned to the United States to say "an unequivocal" to the American government and people, who had been so "generous" in their treatment of Lord Reading, British ambassador, accompanied by Lady Reading, Sir Grimwood Messers, Brigadier General C. E. D. Channon, and Captain Guy Fortman, arrived here today aboard the Cunard liner Aquitania. The ambassador, in a statement to the press, said that "the moment now approaches when it must remain in our hands as Lord Chief Justice of England."

Lord Reading and his party did not stop over in New York, but went directly from the pier to the Pennsylvania station where they boarded a train for Washington. The ambassador went to England last August to represent his country as a member of the Allied Emergency Relief Council for the re-equipment of Europe. He said he purposed remaining there only for the constant of the League of Nations as drafted by the representatives of the powers there assembled. They have acted in accordance with the basic principles of justice and liberty to all nations which have inspired, alike, the development of the American union and of the British Empire.

## THE REPENTANT LUDENDORFF ALWAYS ANXIOUS FOR PEACE

### Events of Last August Convinced Him That the German Army Was Breaking up, and the Will of the People at Home Was Gone—Claims Kaiser Bill Was a Peace-Loving Man.

Copenhagen, Feb. 28.—A despatch from Berlin quotes an interview with General Ludendorff, former Quartermaster General of the German army, in which Ludendorff repeats, shows that he desired peace on the basis of the status quo, both in 1917 and in 1918. Ludendorff is reported to have said that the events in August, of last year, showed that the value of some units in the German army had separated, and that an improvement was not to be expected, in view of the fact that the war had broken the will of the people at home. Afterwards the ground had become shaky, said Ludendorff, and he informed the Government that it was no longer possible to make Germany's enemies desire peace by means of war and that the war should be ended quickly.

## TRANSPORT BILL GIVES MINISTER COMPLETE CONTROL

### It Provides All Railroads of the United Kingdom Are to be Conducted by the State for Two Years.

London, Feb. 28. (British Wireless Service)—Publication of the government's transport bill, which has been introduced in parliament, shows that it will give the Minister of Transport complete control over every conceivable mode of land transport. The bill provides that complete management of the railways of the United Kingdom is to be conducted by the state for two years, partly to enable the government to make the railways pay dividends, and partly to facilitate the moving of men and material during the period of reconstruction. Complete power is given to the minister during the two years to settle all railway rates and charges, salaries and wages and conditions of employment, and to make any alterations in

## All Danger of a Split in Unionism On the Tariff Dispelled By Speeches Delivered in Parliament Yesterday

Ottawa, Feb. 28.—Parliament rubbed its eyes today, when W. F. Cookshutt, of Brandon, Conservative, and super-protectionist, frankly declared that he was willing to make concessions on the tariff. With Dr. Michael Clark, "Red Michael," whose bible is Adam Smith, sitting directly behind him and applauding vigorously, Mr. Cookshutt actually admitted that the present tariff "was not perfect," adding that the whole would "go on compromise," that he was willing to "make concessions," and hoped Sir Thomas White could devise a tariff "satisfactory to all."

There are few tariff Thomases who, figuratively speaking, want to feel the wounds in Mr. Cookshutt's side before they accept his re-education from the tomb of protection, but, on the other hand, a great majority are asking no further proof of the miracle, and receding directly behind him and applauding vigorously, Mr. Cookshutt actually admitted that the present tariff "was not perfect," adding that the whole would "go on compromise," that he was willing to "make concessions," and hoped Sir Thomas White could devise a tariff "satisfactory to all."

## THE FAMOUS BIG STICK WIELDED BY PRES. WILSON TO DETRIMENT OF THE ALLIES

### One in Authority to Speak Says That Wilson Arranged the Armistice With Germany Conditioned on His Fourteen Points—Foch Believed He Could Have Continued the Struggle as a Victor Without Further Aid from United States.

By Wade Chances. "Would he continue the discussion with Germany?" To which Colonel House replied: "I cannot give you an assurance to the contrary." My informant says this was taken as a distinct threat from America to leave the Allies to their fate if they did not conform to the fourteen articles and the rest of the Wilson policies. After four years of cruel war they were confronted with the alternative of giving in to F. Wilson or endangering the fruits of victory.

## FRENCH TROOPS LEAVE MANNHEIM

### They Also Withdraw from Karlsruhe and Rheingau to the Left Bank of the Rhine.

London, Feb. 28.—The French troops unexpectedly evacuated Mannheim on Wednesday, according to a Berlin despatch forwarded by the Central News correspondent at Cologne. They also withdrew from Karlsruhe and Rheingau to the left bank of the Rhine, the message adds. A Mannheim despatch to the Basel Nachrichten under date of February 27 says that Entente troops were to occupy the Mannheim bridgehead at noon on February 26. No announcement of the actual occupation, however, had been received. The occupation was apparently planned because of the disorders in Mannheim and vicinity which threatened to affect the territory under Allied occupation.

## NEW YORK HARBOR WORKERS GO ON STRIKE TODAY NOON

### Not Satisfied With Findings of Board of Arbitration and Will Again Quit the Job—Sixteen Thousand Men Will be in the Walkout—Serious Results Expected.

New York, Feb. 28.—A strike of sixteen thousand harbor workers, effective at two o'clock tomorrow afternoon, was voted today, by the executive council of the Marine Workers' Association, as a result of dissatisfaction of the award of V. Everett Macy, umpire of the National War Labor Board, granting an eight hour day without increased wages.

## BRITISH ACCORD GOOD TREATMENT

### German General Gives Public Utterance to Consideration Shown His Men by Their Conquerors.

Copenhagen, Feb. 28.—(Canadian Press from Reuters)—Berlin advises quote General Lottow Vorbeck, commander of the German forces in southeast Africa, as stating, in a interview with a representative of the Wolff Bureau at Rotterdam, that he wished to declare, on behalf of himself and his men, that their treatment by the British, especially during their journey home, was very considerate and tactful.

## SWEEPING AND DRASTIC LEGISLATION DEALING WITH ALIEN ENEMIES

Vancouver, B.C., Feb. 28.—Sweeping and drastic legislation, dealing with all enemy aliens now resident in Canada, is asked in a memorandum forwarded to the Federal Government by the representatives of all the public and semi-public bodies of the city. Classified among the enemy aliens for whom deportation is asked for, along with the rest, are all such Italian residents who have been persistently "carrying on propaganda and organizing societies antagonistic to British institutions."

## PLEAD GUILTY TO EMBEZZLEMENT

### Former Teller of Boston Bank Admits Pilfering the Strong Box.

Boston, Mass., Feb. 28.—Wm. Ronker, former teller in the Manufacturers' National Bank of Cambridge, pleaded guilty in the Federal Court today to a charge of embezzling \$27,140 of the bank's funds. Sentence was deferred and the district attorney was ordered to provide counsel for Ronker.

## HALIFAX FIREMEN TO HAVE INCREASE

### Substantial Additions to Their Salaries Voted — Vendorship Settled—Many Cases of Smallpox.

Halifax, Feb. 28.—The firemen of Halifax are to receive higher pay. The Board of Control today decided to increase the chief's salary from \$1,800 to \$2,000, to appoint a chief motor engineer at \$1,600 and to give the mechanical superintendent \$1,600 instead of \$1,500. The salaries of all other men in the department will be \$2 a week extra, \$104 a year. This brings the firemen's pay to \$1,144 a year. The firemen will be given a fortnight's holiday instead of a week.

## SUSPEND MADRID PARLIAMENT

### Madrid, Thursday, Feb. 27.—(By the Associated Press)—In view of the obstructionist tactics by the opposition against labor legislation, the Government today decided to suspend Parliament. Great surprise was caused by the announcement that the cabinet had resolved to prorogue the budget and different bills favorable to labor until July. Reports from Barcelona, where the workmen have been on strike, are that the situation brought about by the strike of the employees of the Canadian Company seems to be improving.

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