

BREAK IN CABINET

SECRETARY OF STATE LANSING LEAVES OFFICE.

USURPED POWER SAYS WILSON

President Avers He Had No Right to Assemble Official Family.—Differences Long Standing.

Washington, D. C.—Robert Lansing ended his career as secretary of state last Friday after President Wilson had accused him of usurping the powers of president by calling meetings of the cabinet during Mr. Wilson's illness.

Mr. Lansing denied that he had sought or intended to usurp the presidential authority. He added, however, that he believed taken and still believes that the cabinet conferences were "for the best interest of the republic" that they were "proper and necessary" because of the president's condition, and that he would have been derelict in his duty if he had failed to act as he did.

As the record stands, Mr. Lansing tendered his resignation and Mr. Wilson accepted it. The resignation was offered, however, only after the president, under date of February 7, had written asking if it were true that Mr. Lansing had called cabinet meetings and stating that if such were the case he felt it necessary to say that "under our constitutional law and practice, as developed hitherto, no one but the president has the right to summon the heads of the executive departments into conference."

Mr. Lansing answered two days later, saying he had called the cabinet conferences because he and others of the president's official family "felt that, in view of the fact that we were denied communication with you, it was wiser for us to confer informally together on x x x matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them."

The secretary concluded by saying that if the president believed he had failed in his "loyalty" to him and if Mr. Wilson no longer had confidence in him he was ready to "relieve you of any embarrassment by placing my resignation in your hands."

The president replied that he was "much disappointed" by Mr. Lansing's letter regarding "the so-called cabinet meetings." He said he found nothing in the secretary's letter "which justifies your assumption of presidential authority in such a matter" and added that he "must frankly take advantage of your kind suggestion" to resign.

"I must say," continued the president, "that it would relieve me of embarrassment, Mr. Secretary, the embarrassment of feeling your reluctance and divergence of judgment, if you would give up your present office and afford me an opportunity to select someone else whose mind would more willingly go along with mine."

The differences between the president long pre-dated the first cabinet call by Mr. Lansing which was issued last October 5, seven days after Mr. Wilson returned from his western speaking tour and took to his bed.

They began at the peace conference in Paris, as Mr. Lansing disclosed in his final letter to the president, and had continued since that time—one of the chief differences being over the government's attitude toward Mexico.

Frank L. Polk under secretary of state, has been made secretary ad interim to act until President Wilson appoints a successor to Mr. Lansing. This is expected to be in the very near future.

Secretary Lansing is the third cabinet officer appointed by President Wilson to quit after differences with the executive.

To Pass R. R. Bill Soon.
Washington, D. C.—While some opposition to the railroad bill as finally agreed upon in conference has developed, senate and house leaders predicted that the conference report on the measure would be promptly adopted so that the legislation would be on the statute books before the roads are returned to private control March 1st.

Near Million Cases.
Washington, D. C.—Between 700,000 and 800,000 cases of influenza exist in the country, the United States public health service estimates.

Allies to Control Straits.
Paris.—Agreement has been reached by the supreme allied council to permit the sultan to maintain his court in Constantinople, but Turkey must give guarantees, especially relative to the Dardanelles, and must not have an army, according to London advices quoting a statement by Premier Millerand. Further advices from London, confirmatory of the above, are to the effect that the allies will maintain vigorous military and naval control over the Straits of the Dardanelles.

Says Lansing Within Rights.
St. Joseph, Mo.—William Howard Taft, ex-president of the United States, said here that the public will side with Secretary of State Lansing in the controversy with President Wilson which resulted in the resignation of Mr. Lansing. "I believe that Secretary Lansing was getting altogether within his rights in calling conferences of the cabinet members," Mr. Taft said. "I would not call them cabinet meetings. To my mind calling such meetings does not constitute an assumption of presidential authority."

LINCOLN BARRISTERS CLEARED

Nebraska Supreme Court Commission Makes Report on Famous Furlough Case.—McNeny Scores Governor.

Lincoln, Neb.—A report given out by the special commission appointed by the state supreme court to investigate the release of Beryl C. Kirk, Omaha bandit, from the Nebraska penitentiary last December on a furlough signed by Acting Governor E. K. Busbee of Kimball, declares the action was without authority of law and recommended the practice be discontinued.

Members of the commission were: A. D. McCandless, Wynote; John T. Ledwith, Lincoln; Charles A. Goss, Omaha; Joseph L. Fradenburg, Omaha; and Bernard McNeny, Red Cloud.

Mr. McNeny was the lone member refusing to sign the report, the Red Cloud attorney condemning Governor McKelvie for Kirk's furlough. He says that the governor's conduct and evidence before the commission evinces a disposition to regard his duties as governor secondary to other pursuits and occupations.

McNeny calls particular attention to the fact that Peterson and Devoe, Lincoln attorneys, had first solicited the governor himself to release Kirk, and that the governor had asked E. M. Johnson of the board of pardons to make an investigation; that Johnson's report, which opposed the release, cannot be found in the governor's office, though Johnson delivered it to the governor's secretary, Phil Bross.

The majority report gives Peterson and Devoe a clean bill. It states that the procedure leading up to the release is not legal, although the method has been granted and fifty-two furloughs have been granted in the last six administrations. The commission also found that bad faith on the part of the attorneys did not appear in the evidence and the report specifically recommends that no proceedings be had against any members of the bar or officers of the court.

WILSON OPPOSES ALLIES.

Declares U. S. Will Not Stand for Adriatic Compromise.

Paris.—A memorandum from President Wilson was delivered to the foreign office by American Ambassador Wallace according to the Temps, in which the president said he could not approve of Premier Lloyd George's proposed settlement of the Adriatic question, which has been submitted to the Jugo-Slavs. The newspaper says that an identical memorandum was delivered to the British foreign office in London.

In his memorandum, President Wilson criticizes Premier Lloyd George's plan as communicated to the Jugo-Slavs by the supreme council on January 20.

The president examined the plan, but declares he cannot approve of its tenor. He particularly opposes the idea of giving the Jugo-Slavs the choice between this plan and execution pure and simple of the London pact.

The president wishes to be understood that if the allied powers settle the Adriatic problem without consulting the United States government, the United States will find it impossible to concern itself in European affairs.

Italian circles in London are reported to be greatly disturbed over President Wilson's reported disapproval of the proposed compromise.

WOMEN IN POLITICS.

No Longer Mere "Auxiliary" Big Convention Notifies Parties.

Chicago.—Suffragists of America, 600 strong in convention here, served notice on the democratic and republican parties that hereafter they cannot be considered as a "ladies auxiliary." They declared they had been "knocking at the door" sixty years, and now they were going to be on the inside.

The outline of the future policies of the suffrage workers of the country was made by Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt here at the first congress of the League of Women Voters.

The National Suffrage association voted to dissolve, now that its objects were practically accomplished, and merge its membership with the Women Voters' league.

Mrs. Catt was named temporary chairman of the league, and announced the women were going to be something more than a "me too" organization in the political world.

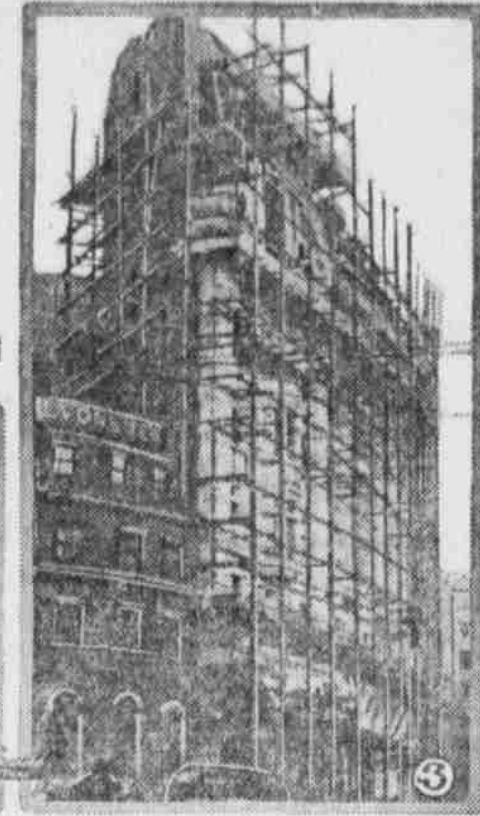
Sinn Feiners Are Violent.
Belfast.—A large body of Sinn Feiners attacked the police barracks at Bellatrain, county Monaghan, employing explosives. They overcame the small garrison, and removed the arms and ammunition.

Overseas Men Get Raise.
Washington, D. C.—Soldiers who have served overseas since July 11, 1918, will receive an increase of 20 per cent on their entire base pay in lieu of the old base pay authorized during the world war.

Asks Wilson to Explain.
Washington, D. C.—President Wilson was asked in a resolution adopted by the senate what agreement, if any he had made with British authorities regarding the disposition of the German ships for sale by the shipping board. The resolution was presented by Senator Brandegee, republican, Connecticut, who told the senate he had heard on what he considered good authority that the president had entered into an understanding as to final disposition of all the German vessels which came into American possession.



1—Poor people of Vienna gathering wood in a forest that formerly belonged to the emperor. 2—Bungalows near Atlantic City wrecked by the destructive storm that raged along the Atlantic coast. 3—First skyscraper erected in London.



3—First skyscraper erected in London.

NEWS REVIEW OF CURRENT EVENTS

Director General Hines Refuses to Raise the Wages of the Railway Employees.

DISPUTE PASSED TO WILSON

Gompers Against Organization of Labor Party—Farmers' Representatives Deny Inherent Right to Strike—Renewed Hope for Agreement on Peace Treaty.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Director General Hines and the heads of the railway unions failed to reach an agreement as to wages, and the whole matter was passed on to President Wilson for his decision of the final attitude of the government. The possibility of a general railway strike and consequent paralysis of industry loomed big, despite the assertion of the leaders of the four brotherhoods that no such move was being considered yet.

Mr. Hines, after many days of conference with the labor chiefs, came to the conclusion that, though the workers may be entitled to more pay under existing living conditions, it is economically impossible for the railway administration to grant the increases in view of the fact that federal control comes to an end on March 1. It was believed in Washington that the president would sustain Mr. Hines and appeal to the railway unions to submit their demands to the wage adjustment boards provided for in the pending railway legislation. The unions, however, do not seem to have any faith in such tribunals, and feel that they will have no chance after the roads have been returned to private ownership.

Everyone concerned in the matter directly feels that the union chiefs have been very courteous and have shown a genuine desire to avoid serious trouble. It is to be expected that some strikes will follow if the president decides against the workers, but there has been no threat of a general strike. One such strike already has been ordered. The maintenance of way employees and shop laborers have been directed to quit work on February 17. Their president, Allen C. Barker, said, however, that the submission of the controversy to President Wilson might avert this, as it was at Mr. Wilson's request that the strike plans made last August were held in abeyance while the government tried to lower the cost of living. Since it mainly failed in this, said Mr. Barker, he felt Mr. Wilson would afford the men the relief they had asked. This may be so, but official statistics do not bear out the claims of the maintenance of way workers. Since 1913 their wages have increased on the average 106 per cent, while the cost of living in the same time has gone up 83.1 per cent. It is not surprising, however, that the workers should join in the general grabfest. Since the war began there has been no greater profiteer than organized labor, but the capitalist, big and small, set the example and led the way.

In Kansas the maintenance of way men have been officially warned that their contemplated strike will be in violation of that state's new industrial court law.

The congressional conference committee fixed up a clever compromise railway legislation bill and its speedy acceptance was predicted. But formidable opposition developed. Representatives Barkley of Kentucky and Sims of Tennessee, both Democratic members of the conference refused to sign the report and announced they would fight the measure. Barkley objects to the provision for a 5 1/2 per cent return on earnings with an equal division of excess earnings over 6 per cent between the roads and a government fund for the benefit of the weaker lines. Sims makes his fight especially against the rate-making provision;

but he is opposed to the bill generally for he is an advocate of government ownership. The union labor leaders were waiting until they could study the compromise bill, but they were expected to join with the opposition to the measure. The sections dealing with wage adjustments do not please them.

Samuel Gompers, who several times lately has felt his throne tottering, has come out strongly against the organization of a political labor party and urges that organized labor devote its effort to the election of members of congress who will be friendly to it. The third party plan is especially favored by the Plumb plan leaders, but Mr. Gompers warns that it would be fatal to the interests of organized labor. His attack on congress was decidedly bitter, and called forth several vigorous replies, particularly from Senator Sherman, of Illinois and Representative Blanton, of Texas.

The antagonism between union labor and the farmers was accentuated last week when representatives of the National Grange, the American Farm Bureau federation, the Cotton States board, and the Association of State Farmers' union presidents met in Washington and drew up a memorial to congress denying that any group of organized workers possesses an inherent right to strike. Alluding especially to strikes of transportation workers, the memorial says:

"Those who believe that labor has an inherent right to organize a strike believe that such organizations have a right to starve the people of the cities to death, on the one hand, and to destroy the property of the farmers on the other.

"No such right had ever existed and no such right exists now.

"No set of men has ever had the moral or legal right to destroy property or cause suffering by conspiring together.

"What would be the verdict of the people if the farmers of the United States should suddenly decide to go on a strike and refuse to supply the wants and needs of those who are not in a position to produce food and clothing for themselves? They would be condemned from one end of the country to the other and the fact would be pointed out that they, as the owners and tillers of the land, had no right, either moral or legal, to bring about such a calamity.

"If the farmers have no such rights, those who handle their products have no such rights."

Hope springs eternal, and it is now the turn of the peace treaty compromisers to hope that their efforts will be crowned with success in the near future. President Wilson's latest letter to Senator Hitchcock on the subject, apparently written before Viscount Grey's pronouncement but made public much later, was interpreted as showing a yielding spirit, and the maneuvering to reach an agreement was renewed. At this writing hope for early ratification rested largely on the report that the mild reservationists, Senator Lodge and a group of Democrats had agreed tentatively on a substitute for the Lodge reservation on article ten. This substitute declares the United States assumes no obligation to preserve the territorial integrity or political independence of any other country, and Senator Hitchcock indignantly asserted it was no compromise and that its acceptance would be a complete surrender on the part of the supporters of the president. Lodge also proposed a series of amendments modifying the language of his reservations. The president, it is stated, has so far recovered his health and strength that he has taken personal direction of the Democratic forces in the present fight over the treaty in the senate.

The council of the League of Nations opened its meeting in London on Wednesday, with Arthur J. Balfour in the chair. The nations represented were Belgium, Brazil, Great Britain, France, Greece, Italy, Japan and Spain. Both Mr. Balfour and Leon Bourgeois of France expressed regret that the United States was not represented. To M. Bourgeois was intrusted the preparation of plans for the organization of the permanent court of international justice, and other steps

were taken toward carrying out the purposes of the league.

There was nothing new last week to indicate the course which the allies would pursue in the matter of the extradition of Germans accused of war crimes, except an unofficial statement that they would insist on the execution of the treaty clause. The Berlin government insists that delivery of the culprits is a physical impossibility and also would be an incredible violation of the nation's honor. The latter point may be disregarded, but the former may have some weight. The British, it is said, are willing to show leniency, but not the French. The former crown prince got on the front page with an offer to the heads of the allied governments to surrender himself in place of the 900 whom the allies desire to put on trial—a spectacular play to the grand stand which will have no results.

Hungary's representatives went to Paris to present their country's answer to the peace treaty. It was understood they would protest especially against the financial clauses, on the ground that it would be utterly impossible for Hungary to make the payments demanded. As for Austria, starving and freezing, she is still begging some millionaires or wealthy nations to come to her rescue, offering to pledge all the royal palaces or the entire country, if necessary.

The latest successes reported by the soviet forces of Russia include the occupation of Odessa after bloody fighting. The bolsheviks also crossed the Sea of Azov from Taganrog and obtained a foothold on the southern coast between the Don and Yaya rivers. On their western borders the peace movement continues. The Letts have now signed an armistice with the Moscow government. At the opening of the British parliament the government made it plain that its policy would be to replace force by a commercial policy in guiding Russia back to sanity and that the "ring of fire" to crush bolshevism is a failure. At the same time Lloyd George and his colleagues said bolshevism was not democracy and civilized methods of government must be adopted before any nation will make peace with Russia.

The Democratic members of congress, disregarding the wishes of President Wilson, formally decided in caucus to oppose any legislation for universal military training. Mr. Wilson's letter to the caucus not only urged that the matter be not made a party issue, at least until the national convention passed on it, but also made it clear that he heartily favored a project for moderate military training. The resolution against the training legislation was supported, of course, by such men as Kitchin of North Carolina and was passed by a vote of 106 to 17. Since the big majority of the lower house has adopted the same attitude there seems to be small hope for universal military training at present. Representative Kahn and others of its supporters, however, have not yet given up. Approval of the system expressed by the American Legion may have some influence on congress.

Herbert Hoover and his possible candidacy for the presidential nomination continue to afford food for speculation. Mr. Hoover has issued a long statement in which he denies that he is seeking the White House job or has any organization. He repeats that he must vote for the party that stands for the League of Nations if that becomes a partisan issue, and adds that he does not believe in more than two great parties. He declines to pledge his vote blindfolded, and does not say that he would accept either the Republican or the Democratic nomination if the platform suited him.

Responding to questions from Senator Borah, General Wood says: "I believe that we should accept the League of Nations as modified and safeguarded by the existing Lodge reservations—reservations which Americanize it and safeguard our traditional policies—reservations which leave America absolutely free and untrammelled to follow the will of her own people in all questions of foreign and domestic policy."

STRIKE IS DELAYED

R. R. SHOP WORKERS TO AWAIT CONFERENCE.

FAVOR SPECIAL TRIBUNAL

Brotherhoods Complain Because Government Lax in Drive Against Gougers of the Public.

Washington, D. C.—Peaceful settlement of the railroad wage controversy seemed certain after union chiefs agreed to lay before their organizations President Wilson's proposal for a settlement. The railroad union representatives will meet here February 23 to consider the president's propositions. The strike of the United Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way and Railway Shop Laborers, scheduled for February 17, was called off.

The telegram to the membership postponing the strike was sent to the approximately 6,000 local secretaries of the brotherhood. In it President Barker briefly reviews events leading up to the issuance of the strike order and the sending of the executive committee to Washington.

The union executives who have been meeting here, in a letter to President Wilson, announced this course of action and added that they favored creation of a special tribunal to examine the entire railroad wage problem and settle it.

They asked Wilson to obtain the assent of the railroad managers to this proceeding.

The attitude of the union officials, while they expressed gratification at the recognition of certain of their principles by President Wilson, is predicted on an apparently general belief among their membership that the government has "not held together in many of its drives on the high cost of living specter."

Much criticism was directed at congress and the heads of executive departments during the recent wage negotiations, leaders said.

The general feeling of railroad labor was expressed in this question, asked by a union official who has carried its grievances through the negotiations: "Are we, as Americans, to admit that we cannot control the profiteer?"

EXECUTION PUT OFF.

Grammer Wins New Chance for Life By U. S. Court Ruling.

Lincoln, Neb.—An entering wedge to litigation that may hold the execution of Allen V. Grammer in suspense for a period of from two to ten years, was driven last Saturday when a motion by the state of Nebraska to dismiss appeal of habeas corpus proceedings was overruled in the United States circuit court of appeals sitting at St. Louis.

The hearing of the case has been docketed for the May term. Pending its settlement, electrocution of Grammer for the murder of Mrs. Lulu Vogt, his mother-in-law, set for February 20, is automatically stayed.

Alton B. Cole, condemned to die with Grammer, will likewise benefit by the decision of the St. Louis court. Gov. S. R. McKelvie has said that reprieves and stays of execution in the case of either man will automatically affect the other.

Difficulties Loom Large.

Washington, D. C.—Indications of the difficulties that must be overcome before the senate can reach a compromise on article ten of the league of nations covenant were seen in rejection by Senator Hitchcock of a widely heralded "compromise" submitted by mild reservationists. Hitchcock declared that its acceptance by democrats would involve an even more abject surrender than acceptance of the original Lodge reservation.

Probe Poison Olive Deaths.

Memphis, Tenn.—Federal investigation of the deaths here within the past five days of seven persons, attributed by physicians to poisoning due to the eating of ripe olives, was begun with the arrival of an inspector for the United States department of agriculture. All of those who have died were guests at a luncheon here at which ripe olives were served.

No Peace Agreement in Sight.

Washington, D. C.—Peace treaty negotiations still stood at an impasse at the end of last week, with opinion among leaders divided on the possibilities of an early compromise to insure ratification.

Acquire Hog Island Property.

Washington, D. C.—An agreement with the American International Shipbuilding company was reached by the United States shipping board by which the board takes title to the land of the Hog Island shipyard at Philadelphia.

Dangerous Radicals Rounded Up.

Patterson, N. J.—Twenty-nine radicals, said by secret service agents to include the most dangerous terrorists in the United States—members of the notorious L'Era Nuova group, whose creed is assassination and violence by individuals without waiting for "mass action"—were captured by 100 picked agents of the department of justice in a dramatic raid on "red" headquarters here. Warrants had been sworn out for thirty-two, but three escaped the federal net.