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SENSATION SPRUNG BY SEC. OF STATE

Secretary of State Robert Lansing Quits Cabinet After Run in With Wilson—Practically asked to Resign—Wilson Charges Usurpation of Executive Powers.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Robert Lansing ended his career as secretary of state today after President Wilson had charged him with usurping the powers of president by calling meeting 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 then and still believes that the cabinet conferences were "of the best interests 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—last Monday—saying he had called the cabinet conference 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 wise for us to confer informally together on matters as to which action could not be postponed until your medical advisers permitted you to pass upon them."

Ready to Resign. The secretary concluded by saying that if the president believed that 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 last Wednesday 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 justified 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 some one else whose mind would more willingly go along with mine."

Before this letter was written, the day for the regular cabinet meeting, last Tuesday—had passed and the correspondence discloses why the cabinet did not meet. On the same day that he received this letter from the president, Mr. Lansing announced that he had written other cabinet officers that he would not call any more cabinet conferences for the present, but no explanation was offered. Inquiry at the White House brought only the statement that Mr. Wilson himself probably would call and preside at the next session of his official advisers.

But the difference between the president and secretary long predated the first cabinet call by Mr. Lansing, which was issued last October, 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, under date of yesterday, and had continued since that time—

TENNESSEE WAR LOSSES HEAVIEST OF NINE STATES

Washington, Feb. 13.—Tennessee suffered heaviest of the nine southern states east of the Mississippi river, in casualties among her officers and men who were members of the American Expeditionary Forces during the world war, Virginia's losses were second, North Carolina's third, and Alabama's and Georgia's fourth and fifth respectively. A statistical summary of all casualties prepared in the office of the adjutant general of the army and just announced shows the total casualties of these and four other southern states to have been 37,266, including officers and men, out of a grand total of 302,612 for the entire country. These casualties include losses from every cause which put the men out of action.

The total casualties for each state follow: Tennessee, 6,190; Virginia, 6,130; North Carolina, 5,799; Alabama, 5,160; Georgia, 4,425; South Carolina 3,919; Mississippi, 2,303; Louisiana, 2,169 and Florida, 1,171. North Carolina's losses from officers and men killed in action were heaviest, numbering 684; Tennessee's losses from that cause were second, totalling 680 and Virginia's, third, aggregating 664. In deaths from wounds Virginia was first with 291. Tennessee second, with 250 and North Carolina third, with 238.

Sick With Flu in New York.

Mrs. Jas. S. Cochran has been sick with flu in New York for the past several days. Mr. Cochran received a letter from Mrs. Cochran today in which she said she was much better and would be able to return soon. Mrs. Cochran went to New York about two weeks ago to buy spring and summer goods. Her friends here will be glad to learn that her condition is so favorable.

one of the chief differences being over the government's attitude towards Mexico.

Meeting in October. When the cabinet met on October 5, Joseph P. Tumulty, private secretary to the president, issued a formal statement explaining the reasons for the conference. He said:

"The cabinet was called to consider questions in which more than one department was concerned and also to discuss the industrial conference. He referred to the first conference called by the president with the hope of allaying the industrial unrest."

In his statement, Mr. Tumulty said that Rear Admiral Grayson, Mr. Wilson's physician, was present and suggested that only urgent matters be brought to the president's attention. Thereafter until this week, the cabinet met more or less regularly. During the coal strike it met twice a week in an effort to avert the walk out of the miners and several weeks ago it was decided to have meetings every Tuesday and Friday.

During the coal wage controversy the president was said at the White House to have been advised of the meetings and to have been kept informed as to the progress his advisers were making towards a settlement of the controversy. He finally took the matter out of the cabinet's hands and suggested a settlement which the miners accepted.

The correspondence between the president and Mr. Lansing which resulted in Mr. Lansing's resignation was made public tonight at the state department an hour after Under Secretary Polk had conferred at the White House with Secretary Tumulty.

Mr. Lansing, in his final letter to the president, said that "in thus severing our official association" he felt that he should make public a statement he had prepared recently showing that he had "not been unmindful that the continuance of our present relations was impossible" and that it was his high duty to bring them to an end "at the earliest moment compatible with the public interest."

DENIAL OF GENERAL WAGE INCREASE IS BELIEF IN CAPITAL

Washington, Feb. 13.—"President Wilson gave no indications, as far as appearance was concerned, of a man who has been ill for months," said Timothy Shea, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers, after the conference at the White House.

"His gestures were decided, his enunciation absolutely clear, and he frequently smiled."

Mr. Wilson shook hands with the committeemen before and after the brief conference. They said his grip was firm.

Mr. Shea, who conferred with Mr. Wilson when the strike of 1917 was threatened, said the president looked much the same today as he did then. His face is full, his color healthy and his eyes clear, said Mr. Shea.

Washington, Feb. 13.—Indications that there would be no independent strike of railroad trainmen were given late today when President W. G. Lee announced after a lengthy conversation with Director General Hines, that his organization "was bound by the White House decision", applicable to all the railroad unions. The trainmen had acted independently in cancelling their wage contract, effective February 25.

Mr. Lee said he had given Mr. Hines the trainmen's reply in the wage negotiations and would not see the director general again. There will be a meeting later of the trainmen's committee, after which they will go home.

An "unalterable" decision in the railroad wage controversy was made today by President Wilson in conference with representatives of the brotherhoods. The president said the government's policy "was based on justice to all interests."

The president's decision was not announced at the White House. Officials said it was "a decision containing a proposal." From this it was assumed the president had refused to grant general wage increases, but had made a counter-proposition to the men.

The brotherhood men would not say what the proposal was, Timothy Shea, acting president of the Brotherhood of Firmen and Enginemen, announcing that they would make no statement today.

To "Put It Up to Men"

B. M. Jewell, president of the railroad department of the American Federation of Labor, announced that the president's proposal would have to be "put up to the men" before any announcement could be made by the union representatives.

The White House was expected to issue a statement later in the day. Meanwhile there was no intimation whether the president had offered a substitute for an increase in wages in the nature of a continuation of the fight on the high cost of living or whether he has asked the workers to delay pressing their demands until the railroads were returned to the private owners March 1.

Besides Mr. Jewell and Mr. Shea, E. J. Manion, president of the Order of Railway Telegraphers, was present at the conference. The president met the representatives on the south portico of the White House and read a statement which he had prepared after a study of the report on the wage negotiations presented to him by Director General Hines.

Return from New York.

W. D. Wilson and W. H. White returned Sunday from New York, where they have been buying spring and summer goods. Mr. Wilson said this morning that New York was ice-bound and "dry"; that goods were scarce and advancing every day, but that he managed to secure everything he wanted except an abatement of the weather conditions.

Mrs. Wilson and Miss Mary Lawson Link, who accompanied Mr. Wilson to New York, will remain another week in order to "take in" the latest shows on Broadway.

BROTHERHOOD REPLY AND WILSON'S PLAN ARE BOTH ANNOUNCED

Washington, Feb. 14.—Following delivery of the reply of the brotherhood chiefs to President Wilson, the labor conference telegraphed immediately to A. E. Barker, president of the maintenance of way employes and shop men, and advised him to call off the strike.

It is understood Mr. Barker was informed the proposed strike would gravely embarrass the position of the other railroad organizations.

Washington, Feb. 14.—The railroad employes' representatives have agreed to accept the recommendation of President Wilson to hold their wage demands in abeyance temporarily, it was announced today.

President Wilson informed the men of his intention to appoint a commission of wage experts to go thoroughly into their claims. On this basis, the union leaders agreed to delay further demands for increased wages and called a convention of their general committeemen to be held in Washington February 23.

The union leaders' reply to the President's proposal to handle the controversy in this manner did not end the question finally. They made it clear that they desired word from officials who are in closer touch with their membership than they, the delegates who have been conferring with Director General Hines since February 3.

As one part of his reply the president requested the maintenance of way men to withdraw their strike order.

The president set forth these principles as covering the manner in which the grievances of the union could be dealt with:

Wilson's Plan.

"In event that in connection with the return to private control provision shall be made by law for machinery for dealing with railroad wage matters. I shall promptly use my influence, and so far as such law confers power upon me I shall promptly exercise that power to bring about the earliest practicable organization of the machinery thus provided.

"In the event that no such provision is made by law for dealing with these matters, I shall employ the influence of the executive to get the railroad companies and the railroad employes to join promptly in the creation of a tribunal to take up these problems and carry them to a conclusion."

The union answer to this proposal was a reiteration of their previous statement demanding immediate relief. They urged that the president not require them to await the creation of a tribunal by legislation. They warned that they did not believe the railroad employes would be willing to accept any plan which contemplated delay.

Parent-Teacher Meeting Postponed.

The regular monthly meeting of the Parent-Teacher association due to be held Tuesday afternoon in the high school building, has been postponed until next Tuesday afternoon, February 24, at four o'clock, on account of the schools having been closed for the past ten days.

Small Fire Sunday.

The fire department answered a fire call at the home of W. S. Cothran Sunday, a small outbuilding being ablaze. The fire was put out, though the building was practically destroyed before the engine arrived.

Schools Open.

The Abbeville high, graded and Mill schools opened Monday after being closed for ten days on account of the flu. Most of the teachers and about 70 percent. of the pupils were in attendance.

NEW SUPERINTENDENT FOR WATER AND ELECTRIC PLANT HAS BEEN SECURED

C. P. Townsend, Jr., Atlanta, has been secured by the Board of Public Works as superintendent of the Abbeville Water and Electric Plant to succeed C. E. Hix, resigned. Mr. Townsend will come to Abbeville within the next 30 days and take charge. Mr. Hix will leave for Concord, N. C., sometime in the next two weeks.

Mr. Townsend comes highly recommended. He is at present connected with the Western Electric people with headquarters in Atlanta. In the last year he has installed several lighting and water plants in Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

During the war he was an officer with the Engineers of the Rainbow Division and saw active service at the front.

He is a graduate of Clemson College and has taken post-graduate work in New York City.

COL. COTHRAN IMPROVES.

Col. W. S. Cothran is slowly improving from his recent indisposition and hopes to be up town with the boys in a few days. While he is sick Col. Patsy Roche is keeping him refreshed with all the gossip about the town. The "kinging" of Dick Sondley will not take place until Colonel Cothran is able to attend as he wishes to be present to carry a Millerand's staff, who arrived in candle.

The Colonel was not pleased with the directions of his new doctor in Hendersonville. The doctor forbade him to do any work or even to walk up a flight of steps for six months. He does not mind staying downstairs he tells us, but this thing of not working don't suit a busy man like him. Anyway we hope to see him on the Square at an early date.

EDWIN SCHOEN

News was received here Saturday from Atlanta of the death of Edwin Schoen, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Schoen, formerly of Abbeville, pneumonia being the cause. Mrs. Schoen was formerly a Miss Calhoun, of Abbeville, and has many relatives here. Mr. Lewis Perrin left Monday to attend the funeral, which was held Monday afternoon in Atlanta.

Moving In.

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Williamson moved in Monday to their home on Greenville street recently purchased from Mr. J. D. Kerr. Mr. and Mrs. Kerr have taken rooms with Mr. Williamson and are comfortable upstairs.

Birds Get a Rest.

Mr. W. D. Tusten, of New York, Mr. Campbell Miller, and Mr. G. B. Greene came in Saturday night from Col. W. D. Morrah's where they have been enjoying a bird hunt, and spent the night with Col. W. W. Bradley, who was also among the hunters.

A. R. P.'s Worship.

There were church services only with the A. R. P.'s Sunday, despite the fact that the flu quarantine had been lifted. Sickness in the families of pastors was the chief cause. The Rev. Louis J. Bristow, pastor of the Baptist church is just recovering from flu and several members of the family of the Rev. C. E. Peele, pastor of the Methodist church, are just recovering from the same ailment. The Presbyterians have no pastor.

Combination of Thirteens.

Trying to sell a horse thirteen years old on Friday the 13th, is a bad business judgment says R. L. Mabry, who put an advertisement in the Press and Banner Friday to the effect that he had such an animal of said age for sale. There was no sale and Mr. Mabry is considerate enough to blame the day and not the paper for the failure of buyers to respond.

WILSON TAKES HAND IN ADRIATIC

Criticism of Lloyd George's Plan—America Will Withdraw If Not Consulted—Disapproves of Tenor of Plan—Reply has Been Drafted To President's Note.

Paris, Feb. 15.—Hugh C. Wallace, the American ambassador, yesterday delivered to the foreign office a memorandum from President Wilson 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.

The Temps says President Wilson allowed it to be understood that the United States would find it impossible to continue in conference if the allies settle the Adriatic question without consulting the United States.

The premiers have drafted a reply to President Wilson's note on the Adriatic question, which will be transmitted through the American ambassadors at London and Paris, according to a member of Premier Millerand's staff, who arrived in Paris tonight.

The contents of the reply will not be made public until after it is received by the President of the United States. However, another delay in the Adriatic settlement as a consequence of the incident is foreseen in French official circles.

Disapproves of Tenor

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 which consists of giving the Jugo-Slavs the choice between this plan and execution pure and simple of the London pact.

In addition, according to the Temps, the President finds the Lloyd George plan too divergent from the memorandum drawn up at London last December by Premiers Lloyd George and Clemenceau, with the collaboration of the American representative.

The memorandum was immediately examined by the chiefs of the allied governments before the French premier left London for Paris this morning.

GOVERNOR PAYS FINE.

Atlanta, Ga., Feb. 14.—Governor Dorsey paid a fine of \$5.75 for speeding today when the automobile in which he was enroute to Newnan to make an address exceeded the 15-mile-an-hour speed limit of Hapsville, Ga.

The special policemen recently put on to break up speeding through Hapsville apparently did not recognize the governor who, however, went to the mayor of the town, and after apologizing insisted on putting up the money for the fine before leaving. Claude A. West, the governor's executive secretary, was driving the automobile.

Miss Bessie Lee Prince, Anderson, and Miss Marion Prince, Greenwood, were visitors in Abbeville Saturday and Sunday.

COTTON MARKET.	
February 16.	
Spot Cotton	39.50
March	36.45
May	34.15
July	31.92
October	29.75
December	29.20