

INCREASED FREIGHT RATES ARE GRANTED

EASTERN RAILROADS ARE ALLOWED INCREASE OF FIVE PER CENT.

THE PRESIDENT IS PLEASSED

Wilson Expects Decision to Have Immediate Effect on Business. Will Add \$30,000,000.

Washington.—Further increases in freight rates were granted to the Eastern railroads by the Interstate Commerce Commission in a decision from which Chairman Hallan and Commissioner Clements dissented vigorously.

Except on lake and rail traffic, coal, coke, iron ore and certain other traffic, upon which the commission heretofore has fixed rates adjudicated "reasonable," all railroads operating in the territory between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers, were allowed the flat five per cent increase for which they have been asking for four years.

The railroads hoped to get increases which would add to the annual revenues some \$50,000,000. The commission's decision is expected to give them additional revenue approximating \$30,000,000.

The roads east of a North and South line drawn through Buffalo, Pittsburg and Charleston, W. Va., won by today's decision from the increases other than upon the traffic excepted which were denied them in the commission's decision last August. The roads west of this line, which got partial advances in the August decision, received further advances; so that now all the roads in what is described as official classification territory will enjoy uniform advances in both class and commodity rates.

The majority of the commission held that the roads had established in the latest hearings a greater need of additional net income than ever before. This was due, the decision held, to exigencies arising out of the war and to an already existing necessity for additional revenues to maintain the railroad properties.

Chairman Harlan in his dissenting opinion, held that sufficient aid had been given the roads by the August decision and that the findings of the majority was "morally wrong." Commissioner Clements based his dissent upon what he regarded as the inability in law of the commission to take cognizance of anything in the making of rates other than their justice and reasonableness.

UP AND AT 'EM NOW.

England Rises in Anger—Would Avenge Scarborough.

London.—Although there seems no doubt the Russians are retreating, and that for the present any expectation the Allies may have held of an early invasion of Germany must be dismissed, considerable mystery surrounds the reported decisive German victory which Berlin celebrated.

Vienna gives a few details of fighting in the East. The claim is made that the Russians have been driven from their positions north of the Carpathian mountains from Krosno to Salkicya which would indicate that part of the Southern line of railway in Galicia again is in the hands of the Austrians and that Piotrkow and another Central Poland town have been stormed, but silence is maintained as to North Poland where the German victory is said to have been achieved.

"Avenge Scarborough! Up and at 'em now."

Mexican Bullets Still Flying.

Naco.—Five bullets from the Mexican fighting around Naco, Sonora, struck near shelters built by United States troops on the border. Many other shots fell on United States territory.

Intermittent firing on the Mexican side continued all day. Hill's Carranza troops, defending Naco, seemed to be doing most of the shooting.

Methods Still Asunder.

Atlanta.—No definite action on the proposed amalgamation of the Northern and Southern branches of the Methodist Church was taken by the Church Commission on Federation, which adjourned here after three days of deliberation. Three bishops from the Southern Church, four bishops of the Northern Church, six ministers and six laymen comprised the commission. All sessions were strictly executive, but it was stated that more progress was made than at any time previous.

Teach Farmers to Sell.

Atlanta, Ga.—Establishment of a "marketing agent" in every state "who will instruct farmers in the scientific marketing of their crops was advocated by Judge E. R. Kone, Texas commissioner of agriculture, in an address to the final session of the annual meeting of the Association of Agricultural Commissioners of the Southern States here. Judge Kone said that "the most important work of a state department of agriculture lies in teaching farmers how to profitably market their crops."

Allies Advance at Arras.

Paris.—The French war office gave out an official communication as follows: "The day of December 17 was marked, as we said recently, by an advance on our part in Belgium, where every counter attack undertaken by the enemy failed. In the region of Arras a vigorous offensive made us masters of several trenches. These are located at Auchy, La Gasse, St. Laurent and Blangy. At this last mentioned place we occupied a front more than one kilometre long almost the first live trenches of the enemy."

MISS DOROTHY DRAKE



Miss Dorothy Drake, one of the prettiest of the Washington debutantes of the holiday season, is a sister-in-law of Commander Adelbert Althouse, U. S. N.

ADVANCE MADE BY ALLIES

AUSTRO-GERMAN FORCES ADMIT FALLING BACK TO OLD POSITION IN WEST.

Replenished Supplies From the Austrians Driven Back From Borders of the Little Country.

London.—The offensive movement of the French and the British has become general and is being pushed with strong forces, particularly in Flanders, the Argonne, the Woeyre, and Alsace. While the French claim success at all points except Steinbach in Alsace, the general official reports from Berlin say the Allies' attacks have been unsuccessful at several places.

On the whole, however, it would appear that the Allies, who now have a superiority in numbers as well as in artillery, have made some progress and have withstood vigorous German counter-attacks.

In the Argonne region the French say: "We have made progress and maintained our advance of the preceding days."

The force which has been checked at Steinbach is the left wing of the army which for some time has been fighting its way toward Muehlhausen and which has cleared a considerable part of Alsace of Germans. It is evident that while the Germans are prepared to offer stubborn resistance to attempted advances in the regions mentioned in the official communications they expect the main attack of the Allies to be made in another direction or themselves are preparing for an offensive, for they have gathered considerable forces at Courtrai from where they could be transferred quickly either to Flanders or southward across the French frontier.

The Austrians again have crossed the Carpathians, and according to their own account, are driving the Russian left back toward the River San. This Austrian army assisted by German reinforcements, has undertaken to force the Russians to withdraw from in front of Cracow and also also to relieve Przemysl. The Austrians apparently have met with at least partial success in the first project.

SEND WARSHIPS TO CANAL.

To Enforce Regulations of Radio Stations of United States.

Washington.—President Wilson and his cabinet decided to send American warships to the Canal Zone to guard against neutrality violations by belligerent ships. Just how many ships will be dispatched will be determined after a full report has been received from Governor Goethals, of the Canal Zone and Captain Rodman, naval officer at the canal.

Both Secretary Garrison and Secretary Daniels made it clear that the delay in acting on Colonel Goethals' request for destroyers was due to a lack of information. Mr. Garrison explained that the colonel had asked for destroyers without specifying the purpose of their use. In reply to a message of inquiry, Colonel Goethals explained that wireless regulations were being violated in canal waters and referred to the misuse of the Canal Zone as a base of supplies.

Moore Troops to Naco.

Washington.—Further demonstration was made by the United States government of its determination not to tolerate continued firing by the Mexican factions at Naco. President Wilson, after a brief discussion with his cabinet, instructed Secretary Garrison to comply with the request of Brig. Gen. Tasker H. Bliss at Naco, Ariz., for reinforcements to handle a possible emergency situation. Three regiments of infantry and three batteries of artillery were ordered to Naco.

Send Ship to Belgium.

New York.—The commission for relief in Belgium announced that in future it would assign ships to each state asking for them, and that whenever donations of the states were not quite sufficient to fill the ships the commission would buy in that state so far as practicable foodstuffs to complete the cargo.

South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia are co-operating to load an entire ship that will sail from Charleston early in January. Lindon W. Bates is vice chairman.

MEXICAN ARMIES STILL ON BORDER

GENERAL BLISS REPORTS THE RESULT OF HIS DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS.

NO ULTIMATUM ISSUED YET

Denies to Secretary Garrison That He Has Made Definite, Final Demands on General Maytorena.

Washington.—Secretary Garrison gave President Wilson the latest reports from Brig. Gen. Bliss on the situation at Naco, where the Mexican generals have not yet moved their forces to avoid firing into American territory.

The reports showed that the situation had undergone no apparent change, although little firing was in evidence. While the United States is determined, if necessary, to open fire on the two Mexican forces to compel them to stop shooting into the State of Arizona, it was feared that no decisive action was planned, pending efforts to Naco to influence the two factions to adjust the situation.

The general belief in official quarters was that some satisfactory understanding would be reached.

Agents here of the Gutierrez Government to which General Maytorena is loyal, claims that he is preparing to move his force down the railroad south of Naco, so that he can continue to besiege the Carranza force under General Hill with the American border out of the range of fire.

While reports from General Bliss to the War Department were not made public it is believed they indicated that he thought he had persuaded General Maytorena to stop firing across the line. Until there is a definite understanding on the whole situation, it is thought General Bliss has warned General Hill not to take the offensive, which would draw the fire of the Maytorena troops.

RUSSIAN ARMY RETREATING.

Falling Back From Poland to Get Better Base of Operations.

London.—The Russians are retreating along the entire front in Galicia and Poland.

This statement officially issued at Vienna is the outstanding feature of news from the battle fronts. While there is no confirmation from other sources, such a move on the part of the Russians would be in line with the announcements in Petrograd dispatches that the Russians threatened on both flanks had decided to take up new positions where they could better meet the Austro-German onslaughts from the Carpathians to the East Prussian frontier.

The Russian delay in fulfilling expectations that they would prove a serious menace to German territory mentioned in the official communications they expect the main attack of the Allies to be made in another direction or themselves are preparing for an offensive, for they have gathered considerable forces at Courtrai from where they could be transferred quickly either to Flanders or southward across the French frontier.

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Admiral Fisher Talks of Efficiency.

Washington.—Five years would be required to put the United States Navy in the highest state of efficiency to meet a hostile fleet, according to a statement by Rear Admiral Fiske before the House Naval Committee. The Admiral, who is chief of the Bureau of Operations, member of the general board and a former president of the Naval Institute, said the Navy was deficient in air craft, mines, scout cruisers, torpedo-boat destroyers, submarines and in number of trained officers and men and had no mine sweepers.

Members of the committee were particularly interested in Admiral Fiske's view as to the possibility of foreign air craft dropping bombs on American cities. He expressed the opinion that an attacking fleet might begin sending its airships on bombing flights over New York from a range of 500 to 600 miles off the coast.

One foreign Navy, which was aimed, the Admiral said, was more efficient than the American fleet in gunnery. This he declared however, was so only because the American marksmen had not been given adequate opportunity for practice.

Norwegian is Ashore.

Colon.—The Norwegian steamer Falk has been ashore on the San Blas coast near Diablo for several days, according to advices received here. She has little cargo and her position is regarded as dangerous. She carries no passengers.

Lions Escape in New York.

New York.—Six trained lions escaped from their cage on the stage of an East Eighty-sixth street theater and bounding into the audience, consisting principally of women and children, created a panic. One lioness, Alice, largest of the pack, escaped into a crowded street. Policemen pursued her into the hallway of an apartment and shooting at her, probably fatally wounded Sergeant Daniel Glenn. Two other officers were slightly wounded by the claws of the beasts in a battle at close range.

Revised Dead List.

Hartlepool, England, via London.—The latest official estimate of the casualties resulting from the German bombardment of Hartlepool, says that 82 persons were killed and about 250 were wounded.

Sailed With Horses.

Newport News, Va.—The British steamer Anglo-Patagonia, carrying a cargo of 1,000 horses for use by the Allied armies in the European war zone, sailed from this port for Bordeaux, France.

CAPT. JOHN GLOSSOP



Captain Glossop is commander of the Australian Cruiser Sydney which cornered and destroyed the German cruiser Emden at Keeling Island.

ADOPT COTTON LOAN FUND

MEN FROM THE SOUTH DISCUSS ED PLANS FOR USE OF LOAN FUND.

Estimated That \$70,000,000 at Least of the \$135,000,000 Pool Will Be Applied for by Growers.

Washington.—The \$135,000,000 cotton loan fund plan to finance the surplus cotton crop, was approved unanimously by representatives of committee which will aid in handling the fund in Southern States. The representatives held an all-day conference with the cotton loan committee, which has final supervision of the fund.

Although no definite statements were made at the meeting as to how much cash will be drawn from the fund to carry the surplus crop, estimates ranged from \$10,000,000 to \$70,000,000 and members of the cotton loan committee were confident hundreds of applications for loans would be forthcoming before January 1.

Most of those present believed that between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000 bales of cotton must be carried over until next year. It is estimated that about \$150,000,000 would be needed to take care of this cotton, and it was the general opinion that unless there is a natural expansion of credit throughout the South the loan fund will be used to aid cotton producers.

There was evidence that many of the state committeemen agreed with the idea advanced by officials here that cotton producers next year must cut their cotton production. The cotton loan committee will use every means to convince growers of the necessity of curtailment.

The representatives from 10 states included: Moorhead Wright, Arkansas; R. F. Maddox, Georgia; Sol Wexler, Louisiana; Z. D. Davis, Mississippi; Joseph G. Brown, North Carolina; A. C. Trumbo, Oklahoma; R. G. Rhett, Texas; E. L. Rice, Tennessee; and State Senator Milton, Florida.

The cotton loan committee was represented by W. P. G. Harding and Paul M. Warburg, of the Federal Reserve Board; J. P. Forgan of Chicago; Festus J. Wade of St. Louis, A. H. Wiggin, New York, and Levi Rue, Philadelphia.

DANIELS FAVORS NORFOLK.

Is Place for Dry Dock—Recommendation to the Committee.

Washington.—Formal announcement of successful naval tests of coal from government-owned fields in Alaska was made by Secretary Daniels before the naval committee of the house. Trials by the cruiser Maryland about 10 days ago, Mr. Daniels said, had demonstrated that the Matanuska coal was as good as any to be found.

Three recommendations were made by Secretary Daniels. They were: Appointment of all second lieutenants in the navy hereafter as "acting second lieutenants" so that those who do not measure up to requirements after appointment may be dropped.

The secretary said the navy was trying to put its yards on a business basis with industrial managers, trying the plan at New York, Norfolk and perhaps some other plants.

Turkish Cruiser Torpedoed.

London.—A communication issued by the official bureau announced the Turkish battleship Mesudieh had been torpedoed by a British submarine.

The Mesudieh as a very old boat, having been built at Blackwell, England, in 1874 and reconstructed in Genoa in 1904. In the war with Greece she was reported badly damaged in a naval battle in the Dardanelles. She carried a crew of 500 men. "When last seen the Mesudieh was sinking by the stern."

Austria Admits Defeat.

London.—The most striking feature of the day's official news is the candid admission by the Austrian government of the defeat of the Austrian army in Serbia and apparently the abandonment of its third attempt to invade its small Slav neighbor.

While attributing the failure to the enemy's superior force, as all Government bulletins explain, the Austrian War Office announces plainly an extended retreat and heavy losses.

GERMANS BOMBARD THE ENGLISH COAST

WHITBY, SCARBOROUGH AND HARTLEPOOL ATTRACTED BY SWIFT CRUISERS.

ESCAPE UNDER COVER OF FOG

Casualty List Totals 110, Dead 31; Big Property Loss—Unusual Excitement.

London.—For the first time in centuries England had been struck by a foreign foe. A squadron of swift German cruisers crept through the fog to the eastern coast and turned their guns against the Britons.

When day broke they began bombardment of three important towns—Hartlepool at the mouth of the Tees, Whitby, noted as a pleasure resort, 15 miles beyond. Hartlepool suffered most. There two battle cruisers were engaged. The British war office fixes the number of dead at Hartlepool as seven soldiers and 22 civilians. At Scarborough, shelled by a battle cruiser and an armored cruiser, 13 casualties are reported while at Whitby two were killed and two were wounded.

Men, women and children of the civilian population were left dead or wounded struck without warning while at work. In all the casualty list totals 110, according to the official estimates, of whom 31 are known to be dead.

At Hartlepool, churches were damaged and the gas works and lumber yards were set afire, while the abbey at Whitby was struck. The Balmoral Hotel at Scarborough received the full effect of a shell. A number of houses and shops were shattered and partly burned in each of the towns.

The hostile squadron escaped in the mist after an encounter with coast guard vessels.

CARRANZA AND VILLA CRASH.

Armies in First Big Battle East of Torreon.

El Paso.—The first important battle between the Carranza and Villa armies is in progress near San Pedro de las Colonias, east of Torreon. Several columns of Carranza troops from Coahuila State, aggregating about 5,000 men under Colonel Ilfonse Vasquez, are engaged by a slightly larger force under General Villa.

Both sides have ample artillery and the fighting is described as desperate.

The Carranza forces made a threatening movement to take Torreon and to shut off Villa's communication with the North. Villa garrison in Northern Mexico have been depleted by the movement into Mexico City and troops from the National Capital probably will be sent to the northern theater of war.

It appears that Carranza, from Vera Cruz, has ordered a general movement into the North. Four hundred men from General Hill's forces in the extreme east of Sonora are moving on Juarez, held by a small Villa garrison. Five hundred Carranza troops from Coahuila recently passed below Sierra Blanca, Texas, on their way toward Juarez.

U. S. Navy Short of Plans.

Washington.—The navy is "from 30,000 to 50,000 men short of its needs as laid down in the confidential war plans of the war college," according to Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the navy, who testified at the house naval committee's hearings on the naval appropriation bill. Mr. Roosevelt explained that many additional men would be needed for purposes other than manning ships now in commission. Asked why serviceable vessels were laid up in reserve, he said no nation kept all of its ships constantly in commission. Mr. Roosevelt explained a table worked out some months ago by the navy department, according to an established formula, showing the strength in navies in "points." It placed the armored fighting craft of various three leading powers as follows: England, 7,758; Germany, 3,818; United States, 3,562.

Goethals Again Asks for Fleet.

Panama.—Governor Goethals has again cabled to Secretary Garrison setting forth need for destroyers in canal ports to preserve neutrality. Colonel Goethals says he has no means of preventing the use of canal or Panamanian ports as a means of communication and that these ports apparently are being used to that end. Colonel Goethals expressed opinion that there was as much necessity for destroyers at canal ports as at any other American ports where they were stationed to prevent breaches.

Right Side of Balance.

Washington.—November foreign trade statistics show a balance in favor of the United States of \$79,299,417. For October the balance was \$56,630,650, for September \$16,341,722, while in August it was \$19,400,406 against the United States. November's exports, announced by the Department of Commerce totaled \$205,766,424 and imports \$126,467,007. There is a decrease of \$71,000,000 in cotton exports compared with November, 1915.

Ratified Safety Convention.

Washington.—The international convention for safety of life at sea, signed at London January 2, 1914, by many world powers was ratified by the Senate after a resolution had been adopted reserving the right to enact higher standards than the treaty prescribed for health and safety on American vessels and to impose them upon all foreign vessels within its territorial waters. Champions of the pending seaman's bill insisted that without the reservations the treaty might nullify immigrant bill.

PROMINENT PEOPLE

"HANSI," ALSATIAN ARTIST



is anti-German in every line. And while this book and "Mon Village" are selling like hot cakes in France and doubtless being smuggled into Alsatian homes by the hundred, there to be scanned with delight spiced with the thought of what may befall if "the men from across the Rhine" get wind of the treasured volumes, "Hansi" himself is fighting in the French army against the nation which he has so consistently and humorously criticized in word and picture.

Not long ago a mild sensation was created when John Waltz, an Alsatian artist and writer, widely known under the pseudonym of "Hansi," was condemned by the German authorities to a year's imprisonment on account of a book for children which he had written and illustrated. In this book, which was called "Mon Village," he dealt in a humorous and satirical vein with life in his native village, and he was lavish both with pen and pencil in criticism of the German masters of Alsace-Lorraine and praise of the French, its rulers of yesterday.

Since then "Hansi" has produced another work, which, together with its predecessor, has become so enormously popular in France since the outbreak of war against Germany that copies are scarcely to be obtained. This, "The History of Alsace for Little Children, Told by Their Uncle Hansi," gives little Alsatians a survey of the story of their native land that is anti-German in every line. And while this book and "Mon Village" are selling like hot cakes in France and doubtless being smuggled into Alsatian homes by the hundred, there to be scanned with delight spiced with the thought of what may befall if "the men from across the Rhine" get wind of the treasured volumes, "Hansi" himself is fighting in the French army against the nation which he has so consistently and humorously criticized in word and picture.

NO COFFEE FOR SMOOT

Senator Reed Smoot, in consequence of his Mormon training, uses no stimulants—no tobacco, alcohol, coffee or tea. No one who has ever undertaken to go through life without the use of coffee or tea has any idea of the petty annoyances that such abstinence entails. A man ran quit drinking malt, vinous, or spirituous liquors, and his friends merely remark: "On the wagon, eh?" and let it go at that. They don't ask why he quit, and usually do not insist on his drinking, regardless of what may be the prevailing notion to the contrary. Anybody knows that when a man quits drinking he does so because he does not wish to take all the natural finish off his insides and die ahead of schedule, or have a befuddled brain, such as one can see on the charts in any doctor's office.

But with a man who does not drink coffee or tea it is different. Everybody desires to know why. Wherever Smoot goes to dine people ask: "Do you find that coffee makes you nervous?" "Don't you drink it for breakfast even?" "Did you ever try that Battle Creek substitute for coffee?" "Does it keep you awake?" And, oh, a great many more. Then some woman is certain to say: "Mercy, I've taken a cup of coffee at every meal since I can remember, and I don't think it hurts me a bit."

Of late years, in order to avoid a scene, Smoot usually takes a cup of coffee when it is offered to him, but does not drink it. But this avails him little. Sooner or later his hostess inquires: "Do you find your coffee too strong?" or, "Did you get cream and sugar?" Then the truth leaks out and the questions begin.

Even in a restaurant the coffee proposition is one of life's little irritations in Smoot's case. Every waiter assumes that everybody drinks coffee. The waiter always says: "Will you have your coffee now or later?"—even though nothing has been said about coffee at all. Senator Smoot sometimes wishes the "dry" movement would be amended to include coffee.



MISSOURI BOY SHOWS KANSAS



Next year Shouse was elected a state senator and his brilliant work in that position resulted in his election to congress. Only twice before has that district sent a non-Republican to Washington.

Everyone in Kansas, and particularly in the Seventh congressional district, is talking about a former Columbia and Mexico, Mo. boy, Jouett Shouse. He moved to Kinsley, Edwards county, from his former home in Lexington, Ky., on November 18, 1911, and on November 3, 1914, was elected to represent the largest congressional district of the Union.

Shouse is the son of the late Rev. John S. Shouse, one of the most widely known and beloved ministers of the Christian church. During the period from 1892 to 1898, Mr. Shouse had charges in Columbia and Mexico. His son Jouett was a student at the University of Missouri. In 1911, through Shouse's efforts, the delegates to the state convention from the Seventh went to Topeka with instructions for Champ Clark. The state convention instructed for Champ Clark. And Kansas was one of the first states to have a whirl at the Clark boom.

MAJ. GEN. SAM HUGHES

One of the most picturesque figures in public life in Canada is Maj. Gen. Sam Hughes, minister of militia. His admirers call him independent and efficient; his critics say he is a marvel of indirection. He organized Valcartier camp, where the Canadian contingent was trained for the European war, and, bossing the job to suit himself, succeeded in arousing a lot of adverse criticism. But on his return from England he wiped all that out with this typical speech: "I have it on the word of the late Lord Roberts that Valcartier camp displayed on the part of your humble servant, a capacity for organization and driving power, unsurpassed in military history."

But Hughes was not long in finding fresh trouble. General Lessard, a French-Canadian officer, who did valiant service in South Africa, but who is ineligible for active service now on account of falling eyesight, as general officer commanding the Toronto district, ordered a surprise mobilization of troops for the purpose of testing the efficiency of his organization to meet a possible invasion of German-Americans.

Hughes did not approve. But instead of reprimanding the G. O. C. privately, he blazed forth his criticism in a public address. Immediately the fat was in the fire. Opposition papers said little. But government papers forthwith demanded Hughes' head.

Consider the Poor.

It is written not, "Blessed is he that feedeth the poor," but "Blessed is he that considereth the poor." And you know a little thought and a little kindness are often worth more than a great deal of money.—Ruskin.



Change in Auntie.

Little Margaret's aunt had been ill for several weeks and Margaret had not seen her during this time. On seeing her for the first time after her illness she cried: "My auntie, how you have evaporated!"