

WEATHER.

Fair Tuesday; Wednesday probably rain.

THE MORNING STAR

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WILMINGTON, N. C., TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 26, 1916

EMS left in stock Holidays will go usly advertised just now. Clearance sales are popular.

WHOLE NUMBER 39,905

AMERICAN RAILROADS REACH PROSPERITY'S PEAK IN OPERATIONS

Net Income for Year More Than One-Third Higher Than in Former Banner Year of 1913.

I. C. C. PRESENTS STATISTICS

Eastern Roads Lead in Revenue Per Mile, With Southern Roads Following Second.

ANALYSIS OF THE RETURNS

Americans Travelling More and Farther Than Ever Before.

Washington, Dec. 25.—More than one billion dollars net income from operations was made by the railroads of the country during the year now closing. The huge total is the peak of prosperity in railroad operations, and stands more than one-third higher than the total of 1913, hitherto the banner year. Eastern roads led in revenue per mile, with Southern roads next.

Statistics gathered by the Interstate Commerce Commission, complete for nine months, and made the basis for the entire year, indicate that the total income from operations will be approximately \$1,098,000,000. For the first nine months of the year, complete returns show \$785,558,266. Even this does not reach the full amount as roads whose income is less than \$1,000,000 are not included.

Analysis of the Returns. The estimate of \$1,098,000,000 makes no allowance for normal increase in business during the last three months of the year.

Analysis of the returns for the first nine months shows a startling increase from January 1 to September, amounting to more than 67 per cent. Thus net income in January, \$64,915,286, had amounted to \$107,910,814 in September.

For the first nine months of the year the commission's figures show that the railroads collected \$2,654,829,647 from all sources of operation, the chief items of which were as follows:

Freight, \$1,875,019,990; passenger traffic, \$522,108,907; mails, \$45,346,609; from express companies, \$65,089,474; incidentals, \$60,414,597; and all other transportation charges, \$76,087,511. This total will reach \$3,600,640,802 when the year closes, officials estimate, and without doubt will exceed it. Never before in the history of railroad operations have the roads had so great a gross income.

Expenses have not kept pace with the rapid rise in receipts. From a total of \$182,881,269 in January, expenses had increased to \$203,235,304 in September, approximately 11 per cent. During that period receipts had increased from \$260,054,306 to \$324,954,501, approximately 25 per cent. All operating expenses totaled \$1,744,160,022.

Net Revenue From Operation. On the same basis, the year's expenses will approximate \$2,346,066,990, leaving net revenue from operation, \$1,254,573,512. From the last figure, however, must be deducted the railroads' annual tax bill, approximately \$25,255,546, and bad debts approximately \$20,325,325, a total of \$45,580,871.

About 230,500 miles of Eastern roads were in operation during the year, and returns show that for every mile of road operated in the country the railroads will receive this year approximately \$18,655 in gross receipts and a net income of 24.74.

Compared with previous earnings, net income for 1916 shows an increase of more than 52 per cent over the fiscal year of 1915; 59 per cent over 1914, and 24 per cent over 1913.

Divergence in Sections. Wide divergence in receipts among the roads of various sections is disclosed. The over-burdened railroads of the East have skimmed the cream of the traffic. The congestion at eastern seaports and on almost every eastern road has spelled, in glutted sidings and slow moving traffic, a flood of stranded goods, the like of which was undreamed of even a year ago. For every mile of the 29,200 in the Eastern group more than \$20,000 has been received in revenue; and every mile has earned a net income of nearly \$5,900.

Western roads have received almost as much in passenger fares as all the rest of the 29,200 in the country put together, with a total of 170,800 miles.

Roads in South Prosperous. The railroads of the South, with 42,000 miles, come next to those of the East in revenue per mile, with \$11,922, about 53 per cent of what the Eastern roads received. Net income in the Southern group was approximately \$2,500 per mile. On Western roads, the revenue per mile was approximately \$11,237, with net income of \$3,614. The Western roads, however, show a greater income, in proportion to receipts. Percentage of net income to gross receipts was 24.74 for the entire country, approximately. (Continue on Page Eight).

WILSON HAS "ALL AMERICAN" DINNER

Concludes Christmas Celebration by Entertaining Many Relatives and Friends.

DELUGED WITH MESSAGES

Telegrams and Letters Come From All Over America and Abroad, Many Wishing for Peace—Government Departments Closed.

Washington, Dec. 25.—President Wilson concluded his Christmas celebration at the White House tonight with a dinner at which he entertained a large group of relatives and friends. It was an "all American" dinner with delicacies from many parts of the country, sent to the President as Christmas presents.

After spending the morning with Josephine Cothran, his small grand niece, and other relatives about a huge Christmas tree in the White House library, the President took a walk through the residential section of the city with Mrs. Wilson and directed the distribution of candy and toys to small children in Virginia who wave to him daily when he goes to golf.

The White House was deluged with telegrams and letters from all over the United States and from abroad, wishing Mr. Wilson a merry Christmas. Many of the messages spoke of hope for peace in Europe. Because Congress is in recess, the President will have few engagements during the remainder of the week.

The government departments remained closed, and members of the cabinet, diplomats and other officials spent Christmas quietly with relatives and friends. Most of the members of the Senate and House were at their homes for the day.

NEW YORK BOUNTIFULLY FED REMEMBERS THE WAR-RACKED

New York, Dec. 25.—Although New York enjoyed its most bountiful Christmas in its history, thousands of persons who crowded the churches today were not forgetful of those in the war-racked countries of Europe. Beginning with a solemn high mass in St. Patrick's cathedral, celebrated by Cardinal Farley, special services not only were held in all Roman Catholic churches, but in the churches of other denominations in which prayers were said for a speedy termination of the world war.

The city authorities, working in conjunction with many charitable and religious organizations, provided on a scale hitherto unknown for the comforts and welfare of the poor, and it was asserted tonight that all homeless and forsaken persons had been supplied at least with shelter for the day and a real Christmas dinner.

The Salvation Army, volunteers of (Continue on Page Eight).

JEWISH CONGRESS TO MEET AT WASHINGTON

Heated Meeting of Executive Committee in New York.

Nathan Straus Elected Permanent Chairman as a Compromise Candidate—Adolph Kraus, Louis Marshall Candidates

New York, Dec. 25.—After a heated meeting here tonight of the executive committee of 140 for an American Jewish congress Nathan Straus was elected permanent chairman as a compromise candidate. Washington was chosen as the place for the holding of the forthcoming Jewish congress. The date probably will be not later than May 1 next, this being left to an administrative committee.

At the meeting tonight, the first of the executive committee thus far held, two factions, representing opposite views as to the purpose of the forthcoming congress, called for a vote on their strength. Several lively tiffs occurred between the members when the nominating committee recommended Adolph Kraus, grand master of the Independent Order B'Nai B'Rith, to be permanent chairman.

A minority report submitted by Cyrus L. Sulzberger, of New York, "deplored the fact that the committee had decided to nominate as permanent chairman a man who is at the head of an international secret order." The reading of this report caused an uproar in the hall. In the confusion Henry Morgenthau, former ambassador to Turkey, took the chair and implored the members to forget "petty differences."

CHRISTMAS CAROLS UNABLE TO MUFFLE ANGRY GUNS' ROAR

But Day Sent a Throb of Cheer to All the British Armies in Battle Lines of France.

JUBILANT DINNER FOR ALL

However, Grim and Determined War Went Forward as Relentlessly as on Other Days.

(From a staff correspondent of the Associated Press)

With the British Armies in France, Dec. 25, via London, 6:45 p. m.—Christmas has sent a throb of good cheer to all the British armies in the battle lines of France and wherever a British soldier ate his Christmas dinner today, whether in the front fire trenches or in the secluded security of the reserve camps, enthusiastic toasts were offered to king and empire and the coming new year, which Britons confidently believe will bring victory to the Entente allied cause.

The soldiers from overseas, the Canadians, Australians, New Zealanders and South African, drank somewhat wistfully to the folks at home, but soon shook away any tendency to home sickness in the sturdy work of war, for war, grim and determined, went forward today as relentlessly as yesterday and as it will tomorrow.

The Christmas carols which rose up from all parts of the world were not far-reaching enough this year to muffle the roar of angry guns or shut out the unceasing song of flying shells.

Bounteous Spread for All. It was a Christmas of bounteous plenty along the British front and the soldiers in the field were joyously immune from the three-course dinners prescribed for the British Isles. Each individual company of the front organizations had a bountiful Christmas spread and there was much rivalry in the elaborateness of the camp menus.

The members of the various companies pooled the assets, both edible and monetary, and the canteens and small French shops which persist and prosper in the war zone were called on for all the sweets and delicacies. Mess halls were splendidly decorated, and many instances of holly and mistletoe and paper flowers made by the soldiers themselves, many of the flowers being worked into Christmas motifs.

Countless Entertainments. At various places along the lines bands visited the mess halls, giving concerts for the soldiers. The Young Men's Christian Association and other organizations arranged countless entertainments and special programmes prevailed in the movie halls and soldiers' theatres, most of the latter being battered French barns, with the shell holes barricaded against the wintry blasts and the noises of battle raging not far away.

Every British soldier had his individual plum pudding, this particularly (Continued on Page Two).

FAMILY OF SEVEN IN LOUISIANA BUTCHERED

Husband, Wife and Young Child Killed; Others Carved.

Three Heavily Manacled Negroes Imprisoned in Guarded Jail After All-Day Search by posse in Isolated Section.

Minden, La., Dec. 25.—After an all-day search through isolated sections of Webster parish, members of a posse, formed this morning to search for the murderers of John N. Reeves, his wife and young child, tonight arrived here with three heavily manacled negroes. The prisoners were placed in separate cells in the parish jail here, and a special armed guard of deputies was stationed about the building to prevent threatened mob violence.

First reports of the tragedy were received early today at a farm house near the Reeves home. A seven-year-old boy partly dressed rushed into the farm house at dawn and said: "All of the Reeves family are killed." Other neighbors were summoned. When the party entered the Reeves home they found Reeves dead in bed, deep wounds, apparently inflicted with an axe, covering his body. Before the fireplace in another room was the 11-year-old boy, unconscious. Still clutched in the arms of the older boy was his 15-months-old brother, badly cut and bruised.

In a third room was the five-year-old boy. He also was cut and bruised. Neatly arranged on a pine board table were the simple Christmas presents which before retiring the parents evidently had placed there to surprise the children in the morning.

After searching the rooms of the house the party went to the rear yard (Continued on Page Two).

WOMAN MAYOR OF CITY OF UMATILLA, OREGON



The unique honor and distinction of being the only woman mayor of a city in the United States belongs to Mrs. E. E. Starcher, who has just been elected to that high office at Umatilla, Ore., and what is more, she defeated her husband, who also was running. The feminine have it in Umatilla. They have been elected to all other offices in the city government, including four seats in the council, recorder, and treasurer, in response to a query asking her views, Mrs. Starcher replied that she "favored no particular features more than a rigid enforcement of the law and a general curtailment of expenditures. These are the sentiments of the new government and it is expected that the ladies will make a successful go of it and receive the support and help the 'mere men' whom they defeated at the election." (Copyright Underwood & Underwood.)

PORTUGUESE STEAMER FARO MYSTIFIES AMERICAN CREW.

Steamer Acts Peculiarly When Encountered Off Diamond Shoals.

New York, Dec. 25.—The officers and crew of the American steamer Sucrosa, which arrived today from Tuxpam, Mexico, were mystified by the peculiar actions of a vessel encountered on the voyage, which they identified as the Portuguese steamer Faro, of Lisbon, last reported leaving New Orleans December 18 for Newport News and Gibraltar. The Faro was formerly the German steamer Galata, one of the German vessels interned in Portuguese ports at the outbreak of the war and later seized by the Portuguese.

The Sucrosa, her officers said today, encountered the Faro just at dusk, December 23, about 60 miles south of Cape Hatteras. She steamed across the Sucrosa's bow, then circling, crossed astern and disappeared in the darkness. Her name was indiscernible then, but the next day, yesterday, at noon, the same steamer appeared and repeated the performance. This time the name "Faro, Lisbon," was distinguished on her stern. She steamed away southeast without signaling any message to explain her action, the Sucrosa's officers said.

The Faro is registered as a ship of 2,530 gross tons, commanded by Captain Azinedo.

Newport News, Va., Dec. 25.—The Portuguese steamer Faro arrived here this morning from New Orleans. She is anchored in Hampton Roads and her master cannot be located. Immigration authorities who boarded the steamer noticed nothing amiss with her. The customs officers have not boarded the Faro. Marine men here are unable to account for the reported action of the Faro, which steamed in here for bunker coal. Captain Ozardo, master of the Faro, speaks no English.

FIRST MEMORIAL SERVICE TO WOMAN SUFFRAGIST IN CAPITOL

Tribute Paid to Inez Milholland—Throongs Had to be Banned.

Washington, Dec. 25.—Memorial services for a woman suffragist were held in the capitol today for the first time. Members of the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage gathered in the capitol hall, by permission of Speaker Clark, to pay tribute to the late Inez Milholland-Bolshevik, and such a crowd tried to join them that the police had to bar the entrances. The hall and its galleries were packed before the programme began.

Forming in the House office building, the suffrage leaders, with girls carrying banners of suffrage colors, and choir boys, led by Miss Alice Paul, national chairman of the Congressional Union, marched across to the capitol. Miss Paul bore a banner that Miss Milholland carried as a girl, in 1910, in the first suffrage parade held in this country. Close behind Miss Paul came Miss Lucy Burns, of Brooklyn, with a banner inscribed: "As He Died to Make Men Holy, Let Us Die to Make Men Free."

Five speakers: Senator Southernland, of Utah; Miss Ann Martin, of Nevada; Rowland B. Mahany, of New York, and Miss Maud Younger and Mrs. William Kent, of California, delivered addresses. In a resolution unanimously adopted, President Wilson was urged to act for universal suffrage, "so that by her death Inez Milholland shall have delivered from the sacrifice of life her countrywomen."

As the audience was filing from the hall to the strains of the Marseillaise, a spectator began singing the song loudly in French. His booming voice reverberated through the deserted capitol corridors until the last note had been sounded by the orchestra.

Philadelphia, Dec. 25.—With 466 marines of the Haitian expeditionary force aboard, including 29 officers and privates, wounded or ill, the United States transport Hancock reached here today from San Domingo and Haiti. Among the injured, although not seriously hurt, was Major J. A. Hughes, U. S. M. C., who was hit by a sniper's bullet. The Hancock will return to Haiti within a week.

EVERY MAN IN PERSHING'S PUNITIVE EXPEDITION IS REMEMBERED ON CHRISTMAS

Day Celebrated in Fashion Never to be Forgotten by the U. S. Soldiers in Mexico—More Than 10,000 Packages Received, Their Value Said to Average Between \$2 and \$3—Choir of 7,500 Voices Sing Christmas Carols.

Field Headquarters, American Punitive Expedition in Mexico, by wireless to Columbus, N. M., Dec. 25.—Every man in the punitive expedition, from mule driver to major general, received a present today, the 25th day of the troops have spent in Mexico. The folks "at home" forgot nobody and Christmas was celebrated in a fashion that carried out General Pershing's wish that the day might never be forgotten by those held through unimaginable hardships in pursuit of the Columbus raiders.

At every lonely water hole and pass where troops are stationed, gifts were presented and the day observed in true holiday style. More than 10,000 packages were distributed, their value averaging, according to the Christmas committee, between \$2 and \$3 each. At field headquarters, where the greatest number of troops are camped, an elaborate celebration was held, beginning in the morning, when the bands played carols instead of the bugles sounding reveille, and lasting until taps when the throng about the Christmas tree began to break up. The daylight programme was given over to athletic events, including polo and football games, pony express, slow male and female races and a scramble for a greased pig. Dinner, which the cooks had been preparing for days, was a feast not to be regarded lightly.

Climax of Celebration. Around the 60-foot Christmas tree in the center of the camp, the climax of the celebration took place shortly before 7 P. M. As the various organizations marched to assigned places some 200 yards from the tree, there was scarcely a sound and no gleam of light, except for the stars that seemed fairly to snap in a clear sky. Suddenly there was a dull boom, a stream of sparks and the camp was illuminated by a huge ball of fire which seemed to fall from the sky, while the trench flare blazed its way toward earth. The regiments marched to points around "the Star of Bethlehem" that surrounded the tree. When all had reached their posts, the forest faded and the tree itself sprang into the light, its branches dotted with hundreds of incandescent lamps and the American flag, waving 20 feet above the topmost branch, illuminated by rays from the headlights of a score of motor trucks.

American Ingenuity. The tree itself, standing in the center of a six pointed star, outlined by a hedge of fir branches, was an example of American ingenuity. There are no big trees anywhere near camp, but one 64-foot fir in the center of six smaller ones, makes an impressive tree with cone-like proportions. These trees were hauled in from the woods from canons west of camp in 18 motor trucks.

At each corner of the star, there stood a small tree. When the troops had assembled, the chorus of 400 sang "Joy to the World," the accompaniment of the massed bands. Chaplain J. C. Moore, of the Seventh cavalry, then delivered a brief prayer, the concourse, led by the band and chorus, chanted the Lord's prayer, the 7,500 (Continued on Page Two).

FIGHTING IS HEAVY ON RUMANIA FRONT

Virtually Only Artillery Active on British and French Fronts on Christmas Day.

RUSSIANS LOSE A HEIGHT

Mackensen Begins Attack on Bridgehead of Matchin After Capturing Isakische—British Rout the Turks—Macedonia Quiet.

The third Christmas of the European war passed without much fighting on the British and French fronts, where virtually only the artillery was active and the men were feasted and entertained as far as compatible with the sterner business of war.

Rumania's first Christmas as a participant in the war witnessed heavy fighting on the Rumania front. Ground was yielded by the Rumanians at some points under the pressure of the Germans, and north of Buzau the statement from London, show that the evacuation of Isakische, the Russians in the northwest corner of Dobruja province, the sector to which the Russo-Rumanians retreat has taken them, the army of Field Marshal von Mackensen has begun to attack the bridgehead of Matchin after Isakische, on the eastern bank of the Danube, was captured. In addition to announcing the evacuation of Isakische, the Russians in British mounted troops, with the cooperation of aircraft, carried a strong position at Maghdaba, 20 miles distant from El Arish, which was captured on Thursday. Incomplete reports, say the statement from London, show that 1,130 prisoners were captured and a large quantity of arms and war material taken. Heavy casualties were suffered by the Turks.

The Russians claim to have inflicted heavy losses on the Austro-Germans when the latter attempted to recapture heights occupied by the Russians on Sunday in the wooded Carpathians. Macedonia, except for an artillery struggle, is void of momentous activity. The same is true generally of the Austro-Italian theatre, except for the Julian front, where even such operations have been prevented by mist.

Two British destroyers have been sunk in a collision in the North Sea. Fifty-five officers and men were lost.

AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN MINISTER TO BE REPLACED IS REPORT

Berlin, via wireless to Sayville, Dec. 25.—The Austro-Hungarian minister of war, General Ritter von Krobath, is to be replaced by Field Marshal von Schleyer, according to a Vienna report published in the Vossische Zeitung and given out by the Overseas News Agency.

MACKENSEN'S DOBRUJA ARMY HAS BEGUN A NEW ATTACK.

Berlin, Dec. 25. (via wireless to Sayville)—Field Marshal von Mackensen's Dobruja army, after capturing Isakische on the Danube, has begun an attack on the bridgehead of Matchin on the northwestern corner of Dobruja province to which the Russo-Rumanian forces have retreated, army (Continued on Page Two).

CENTRAL POWERS MAY RESPOND TO WILSON'S APPEAL

His Recommendation is Meeting With Sympathetic Reception in Teutonic Official Circles.

CONFERENCE WITH KAISER

Officials Do Not Believe Note was Inspired by the Entente and Its Interests.

Berlin, Dec. 23, via London, Dec. 25.—President Wilson's note with its recommendations that the belligerents enter in some way into an exchange of views on peace terms has been the subject of continuous discussions and conferences by German diplomats and statesmen, since its delivery. Foreign Secretary Zimmermann last night dined with Emperor William, at Potsdam, and had an opportunity to learn the Kaiser's ideas on the subject.

In the discussion, a lively interchange of views is proceeding between the capitals of the Central Powers. The note will be answered only in agreement with the Teutonic allies, but it is already evident that the recommendation is meeting with a sympathetic reception in official circles and that there is a good possibility of showing the proposal is blocked from the other side it may lead to the bringing out of a statement in some form of the Central Powers' ideas on future peace.

It has been noted from the beginning that a demand from the Entente for the publication of the Central Powers' terms as a reply to the German overtures, might lead to the placing of Germany and her allies in the unfavorable tactical position of showing their cards to an opponent whose hand was still concealed, and a disposition is manifesting itself here to regard President Wilson's proposals as offering a chance, otherwise presented only by a conference, of bringing out a simultaneous statement of conditions from both sides, without placing either at the disadvantage of making the first move.

The decision, however, apparently has not yet been reached. The opinion that Germany may be willing to place a statement of her terms in the hands of a third party, if her opponents are willing to do the same, can only be given that of individuals, although of fairly influential individuals. It can be stated with all positiveness, however, that the view taken by certain newspaper organs usually enrolled among pan-German advocates of "ruthlessness" is for "swiping annexations and war to the knife."

That President Wilson's is a message inspired by the Entente and in its interests is a view not held in official circles. On the contrary, it is felt that President Wilson's move was marked by real neutrality and inspired solely by a consideration of the United States, of neutrals in general and the peace of the world, and will be answered in that spirit.

BRITISH PREACHER IN SERMON RESENTS WILSON'S SUGGESTION

London, Dec. 25.—The dean of Westminster, the Right Rev. Herbert Edward Ryle, preaching in the Abbey today, said: "It is our resolve, God helping us, to overthrow military brigandage in Europe, to rescue the liberties and homes of the desolated countries, to obtain for these people reparation for their wrongs, and for humanity lasting security against a recurrence of aggressive violence and crime."

"It is true that the President of the United States, after two years of study of the question, and innumerable notes, seems to believe that the object of the groups of belligerents is the same. He knows that Germany refused arbitration, declined a conference and rejected every overture to prevent war. He knows that his own countrymen have poured money like water to assist a destitute and outraged, remnants of the little Belgian people whose treaty rights were violated and whose frontiers were invaded before war was declared. He knows that the infraction of the Hague conventions which the American people have studiously promoted."

"He knows of the sinking of unarmed passenger ships, like the Lusitania and Arabic, without notice or warning. He knows of the murder of Captain Fryatt, of the nocturnal deportations of Belgians and French into slavery. He knows of German connivance at Armenian massacres."

"And yet he is of the opinion that the nations who are leagued to disarm this evil dominion of national militarism have the same aim in view as the perpetrators of these historic crimes."

"President Wilson has either in a fit of mental aberration sent the wrong note or he has entirely misapprehended the European situation."

"These things are black and vile. The very thought of them on Christmas Day makes one shudder. Does any one suppose that peace would be honorable which regarded the assaults and the defenders of humanity as having in view the same ends? What kind of officials admit, it is difficult to forecast. The effect of the relationship will be studied carefully before similar authorizations are made in the case of other government-controlled banks abroad."

ADD CENTRAL POWERS TO SEE EMPEROR WILLIAM TO SEE

London, Dec. 26.—Emperor William will give special audiences on Tuesday to James W. Gerard, the American ambassador, and to the Swiss minister, Dr. A. De Claparedo, says an Amsterdam. (Continued on Page Two).