



ALL TRAFFIC AND FACILITIES OF RAILROADS TO BE POOLED

TERMINALS, TRACKS AND EQUIPMENT TO BE IN COMMON USE

Haul Freight By Shortest Route Regardless of Billing or Routing. McADOO TO SEND OUT FIRST ORDER TODAY

All Present Officers and Employees of Railroads Are To Be Held in Service. Some of the Effects of Government Control.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Order No. 1, to be issued shortly by Director Gen. of Railroads McAdoo will provide for the pooling of all terminals, tracks and equipment, the handling of freight by the shortest route regardless of billing, and the retention of all present officers and employees of railroads.

The effect of this order will be to give a number of railroads terminal facilities which they do not now have in their cities. The Baltimore and Ohio probably will enter New York City at the Pennsylvania station.

Heads of the four railroad brotherhoods conferred with President Wilson for an hour and a half late yesterday discussing in detail the terms the employees will play under government operation. A. B. Garrison of the Conductors, said afterwards that wage increases were not mentioned.

Mr. Garrison added that the brotherhoods were behind the government operation plan and the President had known it for two weeks.

Soon after American railroads go under government operation at noon today Director General McAdoo will issue his first official order wiping out competitive conditions and providing for complete pooling of tracks, equipment, terminals and trackage facilities and for the retention of present officers and employees.

The immediate result will be a reorganization of traffic over shortest lines, regardless of the company which shipment originates, and the common use of terminals to effect maximum efficiency.

Without anticipating wonders under the new plan officials look forward to material improvement in the present traffic congestion within a few weeks.

Steady movement of freight will be the first aim of the directors, general, but problems whose solution must press close on the heels of actual transportation are the equitable reimbursement of roads for the use of their property on the basis of pre-war earnings increased wages for railroad employees, housing of necessary improvements, building of additional lines or facilities.

Before most of these questions can be settled, special legislation will be necessary and to urge this President Wilson is preparing a message to be delivered to Congress soon after it convenes the holiday recess next Thursday. Legislation already has been drafted.

PRESIDENT WORKS ON HIS BIRTHDAY

Is Sixty One Today But Pressure of Work Makes Deviation From the Routine Impossible.

BEGIN GRINDING OF FIRST "WAR FLOUR"

Washington, Dec. 28.—Coinciding with the taking over of the railroads, President Wilson is today celebrating his 61st birthday. No special ceremony is planned at the White House as the war time rush of work makes impossible any deviation in the President's daily routine.

COMPLETE REPORT AUSTRALIAN VOTE

The Balloting Was Heavy and the Australian Soldiers Ballot Was Very Much Against Idea.

Ottawa, Ontario, Dec. 28.—A Melbourne Australia dispatch to the Ottawa agency of Reuters Limited giving the latest figures on the recent conscription referendum shows that 880,000 votes were cast for the proposal and 1,972,000 against it. The Australian soldier vote shows 23,000 for and 32,000 against conscription.

BRITISH ANSWER TO THE BOLSHIEVIKI

London, Dec. 28.—"Achievement of the purpose for which the allies are fighting is essential to the future freedom and peace of mankind," said Premier Lloyd George in a letter which he sent today to the labor Congress. The Premier's statement is regarded as the British reply to the German peace offer.

BOLSHEVIKI HAS SEIZED THE BANKS

Military Acts Upon Order of Finance Commissioner and All Banks in The City Are Taken Over.

Petrograd, Dec. 18.—Soldiers acting under the orders of Finance Commissioner Menshinsky today surrounded and seized all private banks in Petrograd including the branch of the National City Bank of New York. The manager R. R. Stevens was arrested and detained for a short time.

COTTON MARKET

New York, Dec. 28.—Cotton recovered a good part of yesterday's reaction at the opening today. Liverpool was better than due and houses with English connections were buyers here while there was also a little trade buying of March and May. The opening was 9 to 26 points higher in consequence but demand was supplied around the initial figures by Southern and local selling with the tone rather unsettled.

PEACE WORKERS IN TEN DAY RECESS

The French Make It Plain That They Will Not Accept Bolsheviki Program.

NEW NOTE TO ALLIES

Report Has it That Bolsheviki Has Reached an Armistice With General Kaledines and That a Neutral Zone Has Been Established.

Petrograd, Dec. 28.—The delegates of the Central powers to the peace conference at Brest Litovsk have agreed to a ten-day recess in the peace negotiations which will be resumed January 9th at a place not yet determined. Leon Trotsky the Bolsheviki foreign minister is reported to be drafting a new note to the entente allies, embassies again asking them to participate in the peace conference. Trotsky is also said to be preparing a new message to the complex of the world. The Russian delegates to the peace conference will return to Petrograd tomorrow or Saturday. An armistice is reported to have been reached between the Bolsheviki forces and the troops of General Kaledines at Rostov with a neutral zone between the opposing lines.

FRANCE WILL NOT ACCEPT

Paris, Thursday, Dec. 27.—France will not accept a peace based on conditions before the war, Foreign Minister Poincaré declared in replying to the Chamber of Deputies today to the peace terms of the Central powers outlined to Russia. He asserted that Germany was endeavoring to involve Bolsheviki but that the war would go on whether or not Russia made a separate peace. The foreign minister said Germany was seeking to protect the negotiations with the Russians by establishing commercial relations in the meantime believing in this way that the Bolsheviki might be checkmated later.

J. PLUVIUS DID ALL KINDS OF THINGS

Last night Jupiter Pluvius did all kinds of things. First there was a slight fall of sleet about 7 o'clock. This was quickly followed by a sprinkling of snow and then it commenced raining. Others also state that during the early hours of the night the moon appeared for a few minutes. The drizzle continued until after midnight, and then the rain, sleet and snow all froze.

FORMAL CALLS OF DEFERRED DELAYED

Men From First Draft Not Yet Taken Will Be Given Until February 15th Says Provost Marshall.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Provost Marshal General Crowder has notified the State governors that there will be no more formal calls for deferred percentages of present quota of national draftees before February 15. All men have been called but whose order numbers are so low that they are not actually in camp will get the benefit of the new classification. Orders have been instructed however, to continue sending men to make up deficiencies in the quota caused by rejection of men already in the service until they have enough men finally placed in the first class. They were notified also to erect very shortly calls for men skilled in special lines of work.

THREE SAMMIES KILLED BY TEUTONS

A Corporal and Two Privates Are Killed By Germans On Christmas Eve.

IN THE TRENCHES

Three Deaths Were The Result of Two Attacks One Of Which Was Made at Night By an Aviator, Other In Trench Shelling.

With the American Army in France, Thursday, Dec. 27.—By the Associated Press.—A corporal of American engineers was killed and one private wounded Christmas Eve when a shell dropped near a party of American engineers working in trenches on the French front. The engineers had been working for weeks with veteran French engineers for the purpose of instruction.

TWO KILLED BY AN AVIATOR

Thursday, Dec. 28.—By the Associated Press.—During a recent moonlight night German aviators dropped bombs near a certain town and two American privates who were in a camp in a wood were killed. The German airplane flew low and dropped their bombs accurately.

APPOINTMENTS ON A. C. L. ANNOUNCED

Mr. E. L. Fonvielle has been appointed terminal trainmaster at Florence, South Carolina, the appointment to be effective the first of the year. Mr. Fonvielle succeeds Mr. R. C. King. This announcement was made from the office of General Superintendent W. H. Newell, of the Atlantic Coast Line this morning.

MISS EVELYN ORRELL WEDS MR. L. C. HALL

News has been received here of the marriage of Miss Evelyn Blanche Orrell to Mr. Leighton Caldwell Hall, on Monday, December 24, at Fayetteville. Miss Orrell is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David S. Orrell, who formerly resided in this city. The young couple will make their home at 304 Person street, at the Cumberland county capital after January first. Miss Orrell is well known in Rocky Mount and is a charming and attractive young lady. She has many friends here who will receive the news of the wedding with interest and will wish both a happy future.

RAILWAY BOARD OF DIRECTORS NAMED

Five Railroad Executives Are Designated By Secretary McAdoo For Work Ahead.

BEGINS NEW EPOCH

The Secretary of the Treasury and His Assistants Have Single Task of Making one Road Out of Vast Mileage of Nation.

Washington, Dec. 28.—As the first practical step in the government operation of railroads which began at noon today Director General McAdoo drafted the railroad's war board into the government service to work out plans of unified operation and submit them to him for approval.

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Washington, Dec. 28.—More first hand information regarding equipment, ordnance, clothing and other supplies of General Pershing's forces and also at national army cantonments was received today by the Senate military committee from Major General William Wright and Edwin St. John Greble, commanders at Camp Donaphan, Oklahoma and Bowie, Texas respectively. The officers who recently returned from a visit to the French battlefield were examined in executive session by the committee which recently heard similar confidential testimony from Major General O'Ryan, commander at Camp Wadsworth, S. C.

SENATE CONTINUES WORK ON SUPPLIES

Witnesses Just Back From France Today Testify as to Condition Equipment and Supplies.

OTHERS ON THE STAND

A Number of Commanders From Cantonment Camps Are Placed on the Stand To Testify as to the Equipment of Each.

AND THE KAISER HAD A NARROW ESCAPE

Geneva, Dec. 28.—The German emperor, returning with his staff from the Verdun front, had a narrow escape during the reprisal raid of a British air squadron on Mannheim Christmas eve, according to a dispatch from Basel. Only about an hour earlier the emperor's train left the station, which was partly destroyed by several bombs. A section of the tracks was torn up, cutting communications north.

HOOPER DID NOT TESTIFY TODAY

When the Senate Committee Investigating Sugar Shortage Meets Today Mr. Hoover Has Gone to New York.

NATIONAL COAL SHORTAGE A FACT

New York, Dec. 28.—A national coal shortage, due to the wiping out of the reserve supply and the increased consumption, is an "actual fact" and must be faced by the small consumer with the practice of the "utmost conservation," according to a report of the New York State Fuel Conservation Committee filed Wednesday with Alfred H. Wiggin, State Fuel Administrator. The committee to assure the needs of the small consumer in New York State, has devised a plan for the distribution of coal on the "card system" basis, and recommends its adoption as a conservation measure.

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Bulgaria, However, Seems To Have Kicked Out of Harness on Matter of Holding Territory. KING FERDINAND HAS A DIFFERENT VIEW

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