

GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE RAILROADS

Secretary McAdoo Expected to Direct the Unification and Operation of Roads Through the Present Management

HE WILL RETAIN HIS PLACE IN CABINET AS SECRETARY TREAS.

President Announces That When Congress Reassembles He Will Ask That Definite Guarantees Be Given That Railroad Properties Will Be Maintained in As Good Repair and Complete Equipment As When Taken Over and That Net Operating Income in Each Case Shall Equal Average Net Operating Income Three Years Preceding June 30, 1917.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Government possession and operation of the nation's railroads for the war was proclaimed by President Wilson tonight to become effective at noon next Friday Dec. 28, Wm. G. McAdoo, retaining his place in the cabinet of the Treasury, is placed in charge as Director General of Railroads.

Every railroad engaged in general transportation with its appurtenances including steamship lines is taken over and all systems will be operated as one under the Director General.

In a statement accompanying his proclamation the President announced that as soon as Congress reassembled he will recommend legislation pre-war earnings and maintenance of railroad properties in good repair.

Government backing will be given to new issues of railroad securities that a ready market may be found.

The President's move although forecast for weeks came at this time as great surprise to nearly everybody in Washington including railroad officials. It has been generally believed he would await the re-assembling of Congress before taking any step. He acted through Secretary of War Baker, under authority conferred in the army appropriation act. Direct management of the roads will remain in the hands of railroad officials and the railroads' war board, comprised of five railroad heads will continue to direct actual operation under Secretary McAdoo's general supervision.

To Permit Unification

The chief practical effect of government operation which is to permit a complete unification of all rail systems impossible under private operation by reason of statutes prohibiting pooling of rail traffic and earnings. The roads themselves, had gone as far as they dared in this direction and it became known only today that they had been warned by Attorney-General Gregory that a violation of anti-pooling laws could not be permitted.

Although the proclamation applies to electric lines engaged in general transportation local interurban systems are specifically exempted.

Congress will be asked to guarantee earnings equivalent to the average net operating income of each railroad in the three year period ending June 30, 1917. Railroad experts estimate that this will cost the government next year in the neighborhood of \$100,000,000 which can be raised in part by increased freight rates, if the Interstate Commerce Commission grants the roads' application for the 15 per cent rate increase now pending. Otherwise it will be paid largely out of the general government funds.

Commissions to Continue

The Interstate Commerce Commission and other government agencies, which have to do with the railroads, will continue to perform their functions as heretofore, except that they will be subject to orders of the Director of Railroads.

The President makes it clear that his decision was not made because of any failure on the part of the railroads to perform their whole duty as they could, while hampered as they were by legal restrictions.

The plan of control as outlined in the proclamation and statements leaves much as to details, but the general scheme appears to follow closely

the British system. In England, however, the government freight is carried free, and guaranteed earnings require an enormous amount of money from government funds, while in the United States the government will pay for its freight as in the past, and will stand its part of increased freight tariffs if they are found to be necessary.

Aside from the President's statement there was no comment in the Capitol tonight on the government's move. Secretary McAdoo declined to be quoted and members of the railroads' war board said they would have no state-

LISTING INCOMES

It will take a small army of men to take the income tax returns of persons subject to the new law. Collector of Internal Revenue J. W. Bailey announced today that 21 officers will start from his headquarters in January 1st and January 2nd every one of them will be on the job in the county assigned to him, to meet the people and help them make out their income tax returns. The officer assigned to this county is due to arrive here on January 14 and to remain until Jan. 19 both dates inclusive. He will have his office in Louisburg in the Court House where he may be found every day of the dates stated. He will also be at Franklinton from January 21 to 26th.

"It will be well for every unmarried person whose net income for 1917 is \$1,000.00 or over, and every married person living with wife or husband whose net income for 1917 is \$2,000.00 or over, to call on the income tax man and learn whether or not they have any tax to pay." Collector Bailey said today. "The person subject to tax who doesn't make returns in the time prescribed is going to regret it. The Government will get after all income tax slackers.

"There's hardly a business man, who won't have to make return of income. Farmers, as a class, will have to pay their tax. The safe thing to do is for every person who had a total income of \$1000.00 or \$2,000.00 as the case may be, and who is not sure about what deductions the law allows him, to play it safe by calling on the income tax man.

"The men in the field will have forms for everybody and persons who expect to call on him need not trouble themselves to write to my office for forms."

NOTICE

The Legal Advisory Board Will Have an Office in the First National Bank Building Where Two Members Will be Always Present.

Messrs. W. H. Yarbrough, G. M. Beam and S. A. Newell have been appointed Legal Advisory Committee to give advice and assistance to the drafted men in Franklin county. If you will call at their offices they will assist you in filling out blanks in this Questionnaire free of charge. The following are the names of their associates, who will also render any assistance they can, without pay:

- Hon. W. M. PERSON, Hon. BEN. T. HOLDEN, Mr. EDWIN H. MALONE.

The members of the local board are directed by the war Department not to assist in answering questionnaires.

LIST of LETTERS

The following is a list of letters remaining in the Postoffice at Louisburg, N. C., not called for Dec. 28, 1917.

- Atam Store Co., J. T. Carpenter (2) A. C. Collins, Mrs. Maria Davis, Mrs. Lee Davis, Mrs. Annie Dickens, Miss Rosie Davis, Mr. Walter Dunston, Mrs. Edney Harris, Mrs. Pattie Harris, G. C. Lancaster, Miss Edith Lee, Miss Carmen McNight.

Persons calling for any of the above letters will please state that they saw them advertised.

R. H. DAVIS, P. M.

GERMANS INTERNED IN THE UNITED STATES ARE WELL TREATED



With the capture of the first United States soldiers by the Germans our government began to arrange through neutral nations for their decent treatment and that of future prisoners of war. At once steps were taken to let Germany know how well those of her subjects who are interned in this country are treated. The accompanying illustration goes to prove that alien enemies under restraint in America have no reason to complain. It shows interned Germans at the immigration station at Gloucester, N. J., the receiving station for immigrants for Philadelphia. They undergo no privations whatever, and amusements are provided for them, as well as good food and lodging. The men are seen playing ten pins. At the left is the one who is charged with the care of the poultry raised for their table.

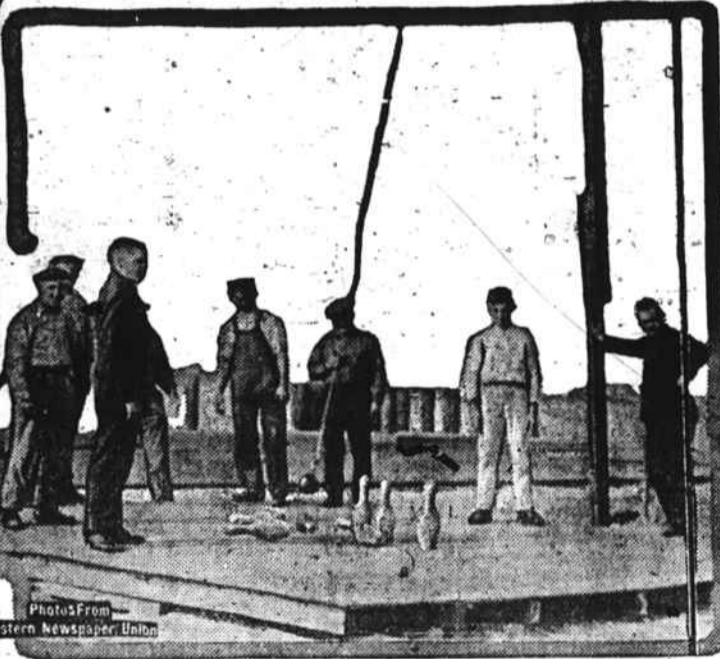


Photo from Western Newspaper Union

BIG LAND SALES

During the past week Louisburg has had two big land sales that have claimed the attention of many of its citizens and visitors.

The first was on Wednesday when on the P. N. Egerton Summer Home Farm was subdivided and sold by Burton Bros. Auction Co., and the other was on yesterday when the E. S. Green property on Main street was sold at auction by Allen Bros., and Forte of Raleigh. This last property was divided into residential lots and opened up a desirable section of town.

Quite a large crowd attended both sales and enjoyed the music by the hands and the auctioneers.

UNDERWOOD-LILES

Announcements as follows have been received here.

Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Pickett Liles announce the marriage of their daughter, Mrs. Mary

Sergeant Robert Earl Underwood on Saturday December fifteenth Nineteen hundred and seventeen. Wadesboro, N. C.

The bride is one of Wadeboro's most charming and accomplished young ladies, and the groom is one of Youngsville's popular young men.

Mr. and Mrs. Underwood have the congratulations of their hosts of friends in Franklin county.

FIFTEEN ARE KILLED IN PERSHING'S ARMY

War Department Makes Public More Casualties in American Forces

Washington, Dec. 25.—The war department today made public fifteen more deaths in the expeditionary forces abroad. Of these, two were killed in action, one from the result of wounds received in action and another in an airplane accident.

The casualties follow: First Lieutenant James D. Paull, aviation section, signal reserve corps, airplane accident; emergency address Joseph R. Paull, father, Pittsboro.

Private Earl E. Aurdand, infantry, November 15, wounds received in action; Mrs. Emma Aurdand, mother, Harrisburg, Pa.

Private Caney A. Meadors, infantry, killed in action November 13; J. L. Meadors, Krupp, Ky.

Private Harry Meyers, infantry, killed in action November 18; Eliza Miles, friend, Indianapolis.

Sergeant Charles E. Galavan, telegraph battalion, signal corps, lobar pneumonia; Mrs. Mary Galavan, mother, Chicago.

Private William M. Weatherford, engineers, bronchial pneumonia acute;

GOVERNOR THOMAS WALTER BICKETT WHO IS MAKING A NATION WIDE REPUTATION AS A WAR GOVERNOR WILL ADDRESS THE PEOPLE OF FRANKLIN COUNTY IN LOUISBURG ON THURSDAY JANUARY 3, 1918 ON THE "WAR, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES." HIS ADDRESS WILL BE PRIMARILY IN THE INTEREST OF THE WAR SAVINGS CAMPAIGN BUT OUGHT TO BE HEARD BY EVERY ONE WHO WANTS TO UNDERSTAND THE MIGHTY ISSUES INVOLVED FOR EVERY AMERICAN IN THIS WORLD WAR.

POYTHRESS-HARPER

At the residence of the brides mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Harper, in Franklinton, Mr. Rufus H. Poythress, of this city and Miss Eunice R. Harper were happily married at 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon, Rev. Walter M. Gifford, of this place performing the ceremony.

Mrs. M. Weatherford, mother, Scranton, Pa.

Private William M. Elsmie, engineer, bronchial pneumonia, complicated by acute dilation of heart; William L. Elsmie, father, Fort Gragg Cal.

Private St. Clair Wilcox, infantry, pulmonary tuberculosis; J. F. Wilcox father, Winterset, Iowa.

Private Edward C. Kostbade, infantry killed by explosion; William Kostbade, father, Hobart, Ind.

Private Michael Louis, infantry, killed by explosion; Antonio Louis, Pala Cousina, Naples, Italy.

Private, Walter L. Bennett, engineers, measles, complicated by pneumonia; W. L. Bennett, father, Kirkland, Ga.

Private Lawrence I. Anderson, engineers bronchial pneumonia; Mrs. H. Anderson, mother, Detroit.

Private E. E. Marsh, aero squadron, meningitis, John J. Marsh, father, Stoudsburg, Pa.

Private John J. Dublanc, supply train, pneumonia; Mrs. Josephine Dublanc, mother, Austin, Texas.

Private John E. White, ammunition train, gun shot wound; Cornelius White, father, Rosebank, Staten Island, N. Y.

No details are given in the airplane accident, except that two occurred December 20. No explanation is made of the delay in reporting the deaths of Aurdand Meadors and Meyers, who were killed, November 15 18 and 13 respectively.

Nothing is announced of the character of the explosion referred to.

THANKSGIVING BOX RECEIVED

We print the following letter received by one of the ladies from Captain S. P. Boddie, knowing how delighted our people will be, to learn that the Thanksgiving box to our Company D Boys reached its destination in safety and was so thoroughly enjoyed.

Camp Sevier, S. C., Dec. 14 1917.

In behalf of our Company, I wish to express to the people our most sincere thanks for the most excellent feast they sent us for Thanksgiving. It was a repast that we never could have expected from a people anywhere except from Franklin County. The eats themselves, gave us great pleasure but the beautiful thought touched our hearts. Men who had never heard of our town were saying so many nice things after they saw what people had done for us. We had some difficulty in getting the packages but found every thing in perfect condition.

I invited the Colonel, Lieutenant Colonel, the Major of our battalion and a few other particular friends to eat with us and they were of the unanimous opinion that it was the nicest treat we would get in the army.

Without apologizing for the delay in acknowledging receipt of these, I am quite sure you will understand how our every moment is occupied. For illustration, today, snow on ground about six inches deep, I took my company out on a thirteen mile hike, with marching equipment, carried sandwiches for lunch, returned at 3:30 p. m., looked over mail and orders, ate supper, took our examination on Field Fortification from 6 to 7:30 and went from there to sit on a General Court Martial that kept me until 10:30. This is just one day but all are similarly spent.

Please express to each person, contributing to our pleasure, our grateful appreciation for the box. We shall all ways be indebted. With best wishes,

Very Sincerely, SAM P. BODDIE.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Young People's Missionary Society met on Thursday evening December 20th at the home of Misses Sue and Hodge Alston on Church street in a "Social Service Meeting."

Those present were: Mesdames M. C. Pleasants, E. L. Best, O. J. Hale and Misses Lonie Meadows, Lydia Inscoc Hodgie Alston, Sue Alston, Elizabeth Massenburg, Louise Thomas. We were glad to have with us a new member Miss Laura Inscoc. After all business had been discussed the Society adjourned to meet at the home of Mrs. M. C. Pleasants on New Year's night.—"Sec'y."

TEUTON ATROCITIES AGAINST SAMMIES

American Soldier on French Front is Found With Throat Cut

With the American Army in France, Dec. 25.—By the Associated Press.)—German atrocities against American soldiers are officially reported. An American sentry has been found with his throat cut, and, it is officially declared, "he must have been so killed after capture."

Information concerning German savagery has reached the troops in one of a series of bulletins read to them by the unit commander and posted on the bulletin boards. Here is what they heard:

"After a raid by the Germans on Trenches held by American troops, a lone sentry of infantry was found with his throat cut from ear to ear. He had been surprised by an overwhelming force of Germans and must have been so killed after capture.

"Such brutality is familiar to old soldiers who served against savages in the Philippine campaign."

Another bulletin tells the men how the Germans in occupied sections of France and Belgium are turning women and children out of their homes into the snows, the buildings being then given over to soldiers, horses and material.

FOOD CONSERVATION

Mr. W. H. Ruffin Writes Mr. J. C. Jones on the Subject

There has been considerable criticism of the United States Food Administration because of the scarcity of sugar and some other articles of food, many people seeming to think that because the Government has assumed control of, or the direction of the distribution of food it has either limited the distribution of food supplies, or caused in some manner a great scarcity of it.

In reality had it not been for the Food Administration you would now be paying from 25 to 40 cents per pound for sugar and it would not be one whit more plentiful, rather the supply would have been bought up by the wealthy centers and the small towns and the country would be able to obtain it only in the smallest quantities, if at all.

Flour would be selling at from \$25 to \$40 per barrel and other articles of food would be high in proportion, flour was selling at \$18 per barrel when wheat was not nearly so scarce as it is now.

In spite of the activities of the Food Administration some firms have canceled large supplies of necessary food products.

Where only a few are hoarding now hundred thousands would be were they allowed.

Flour probably would be, as scarce almost as sugar now is, and the prices of corn meal and meats would be prohibitive.

The high prices would not be all, the supplies that are so absolutely necessary for our army and the armies and peoples of our allies could not be obtained and the very situation that Germany is trying so hard to bring about by her submarine would be brought about by our own people.

Instead of faultfinding let us give every encouragement we can to our Government in its fight against German autocracy and whatever it asks of us let us do it willingly and without question for men wiser than we are and who are intimately in touch with the situation and know it as it is ask it. And we can do no less than follow their direction.

As patriotic Americans fail to do their duty in the greatest crisis of our country has ever faced?

Wm. H. RUFFIN.

MR. J. W. BYRON DEAD

Mr. James W. Byron, 76 years of age, died Monday night at 10 o'clock at his residence 6 miles south of this city, after an illness of several months.

Mr. Byron was highly esteemed and respected citizen of the county. One son, Mr. John W. Byron and two daughters, Mrs. "Spark" Joyner and Miss Eula Byron, all of this county survive him.

The funeral services were held at Prospect Methodist church Wednesday afternoon, Rev. G. M. Duke officiating.