

"SMILEAGE" BOOKS FOR THE SOLDIERS

PRESENTS THAT WILL ENABLE MEN IN CAMPS TO SEE HIGH GRADE PRODUCTIONS.

PLANS OF THEATRICAL MEN

Secretary Lane Reviews the Development of the Science of War—Public Lands to Be Opened for Cultivation in 1918.

Washington.—The sale of "smileage" books, to be presented to men at army camps and cantonments, is being arranged by a subcommittee of the war department commission on training camp activities.

At National Guard camps large chautauqua tents, with seating capacity of from 1,500 to 2,000, have been put up, and first-class vaudeville is being presented.

The expense of operating this circuit of 64 theaters is met by admission charges which run from 10 to 25 cents.

"Smileage" books contain 20 or 100 5-cent coupons, which may be purchased by anyone for \$1 or \$5, respectively, and sent to a soldier friend at the camp.

Included in the recent annual report of Secretary Franklin K. Lane is the following:

"When the bureau of mines was created by congress five years ago it was hardly to have been imagined that the methods used for the saving of life in the coal mines of the United States would become of vital use in the problem of saving lives and destroying lives in a world war; yet this is just what has happened.

"The soldier's kit, which was so simple a thing in other wars, has had to be increased by a gas mask not unlike the helmet of a deep-sea diver, with a box of chemicals adapted for offsetting the effects of the various kinds of gas the enemy is known to use.

"When we came into the war we found ourselves prepared with the knowledge, the machinery, and the men to promptly meet the need of gas masks in great quantity and of a superior type. Thus the men who had been on this work of meeting the gases compounded in nature's laboratory were found to have a reserve of knowledge as to what gases will kill and what will choke and what will burn and what will hasten disease, which in a war of cumulative frightfulness would make the United States modestly distinguished if it wished to so slide. As one of the group said: 'We chemists in America have never turned our minds to the destruction of human life. Our work has been constructive—the chemistry of the soil, of cement, of printer's ink, of the by-products from petroleum and tar, of 10,000 things which will make for a longer, a happier life for man. But if the world is to be turned upside down and instead of staying death and disease and making new things that man can use for his own enlightenment we are wanted to push forward the work of the destruction of man and all his works we can become rivals of the worst in such enterprises.

"This is not the time to present the things done and the things done by these men of the neocomantic science, but when the day comes for casting up accounts and giving credit their work will not go unrecognized."

Hundreds of thousands of acres of lands in the United States, hitherto unused, may be placed under cultivation during 1918.

An inquiry by the department of the interior shows that approximately 600,000 acres on various reclamation projects and an area of Indian lands almost as large are susceptible of cultivation.

Dancing is one form of amusement being provided on a large scale for the men of the army and navy. It is one of the ways the war camps community service, under direction of the war and navy departments, provides wholesome pleasure for the troops.

EARTHQUAKE WIPES AWAY GUATEMALA

125,000 PERSONS ARE REPORTED IN THE STREETS WITHOUT SHELTER.

DEEP FISSURES ARE OPENED

Many Killed by Violent Shocks That Completed Work of Destruction Begun Christmas Day.

Washington.—Guatemala City, capital of the little Central American republic of Guatemala, has been laid in ruins by a series of earthquakes beginning Christmas day and culminating in violent shocks which completed the work of destruction. A cablegram to the navy department said 125,000 people were in the streets without shelter and that a number were killed by falling walls.

Naval vessels in Central American waters have been ordered to the stricken city to render all possible assistance.

Following is the brief dispatch which brought the news of the catastrophe:

"Bad earthquake finish the work of others. Everything in ruins and beyond description as a result of the shock. One hundred and twenty-five thousand people are in the streets. Parts of the country are very cold and wind. Tents are needed badly. Quite a number killed by falling walls."

The shocks probably occurred between 5:57 and 7 o'clock. Violent quakes were recorded at that time by the seismographs of the Georgetown University observatory and the distance was estimated at 1,900 miles from Washington.

INHABITANTS IN PANIC HAVE FLED FROM CAPITAL

San Salvador.—Guatemala City, capital of the republic of Guatemala, has been completely destroyed by an earthquake. Many persons were killed in the disaster, some in their homes and others in the streets.

The Colon theater, which was filled with people, collapsed. There were many casualties among the audience.

Various hospitals and asylums and the prisons were badly damaged and many patients and prisoners were killed.

The railroad depot, sugar mills, postoffice, the American and British legations, United States consulate and all the churches in the city have been leveled.

The inhabitants in panic have fled from the capital. More than 80,000 persons are homeless. The stock of provisions in the city is scant and aid is required promptly.

M'ADOO INSTRUCTS NEW R.R. WAR BOARD

AS TO TASK OF OPERATING FOR THE PRESENT TIME AT LEAST.

INSTRUCTIONS ARE WIRED

Traffic to Be Moved by The Most Direct Route Now—Open Way for Traffic Pooling That Was Heretofore Impossible.

Washington.—The railroads of the United States passed into government possession at noon Friday as Secretary McAdoo, designated by President Wilson as director general of railroads, was delegating to the railroads' war board the task of operating them for the present.

The war board, comprising five of the country's foremost railroad executives who have been in supreme charge of the roads for the last nine months, were called into conference at 11 o'clock to discuss plans for world-wide all transportation lines into a single government-operated system.

Mr. McAdoo issued his first formal order designed to speed up freight movements, telegraphing all railroad presidents and directors instructions to move traffic by the most convenient and direct routes.

There was no indication whether Mr. McAdoo intended eventually to displace the war board with an organization of his own or to continue its organization for the duration of the war. It was made clear, however, that it will continue the function until the director general decides that a better system can be devised.

The order that freight move by the most expeditious route opens the way for a pooling of traffic impossible heretofore by reason of statutes designed to prevent the practice by carriers operated under private direction.

TEUTONIC TERMS FOR PEACE NOT SUFFICIENT

Great Britain and France, respectively, through their prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, have made known to the world that the terms under which the Teutonic allies seek a general peace are not sufficient.

UNNATURALIZED, GERMANS ARE TO BE REGISTERED

Washington.—The week of February 4 was set aside by the department of justice for registration of the half-million unnaturalized Germans in continental United States by police and postmasters in pursuance of President Wilson's alien enemy proclamation directing this action as a means of minimizing the danger from enemy sympathizers in the United States.

PROHIBITION FOR TROOPS IN FRANCE BEING CONSIDERED

Washington.—Prohibition of the sale of intoxicants of any description to members of the American expeditionary force is under discussion between General Pershing and the French authorities. The war department announced it had been so advised by General Pershing, who in order to clear up misunderstanding published the text of his order forbidding American soldiers to buy any intoxicants other than light wines or beer.

CENTRAL POWERS OFFER PEACE TERMS

TERMS FOR AN IMMEDIATE AND GENERAL PEACE MADE KNOWN BY CZERNIN.

THE CONDITIONS INSUPERABLE

From Entente Standpoint—No Annexations and No Indemnities Acceptable But Russia's Allies Must Guarantee to Fulfill Terms.

Terms under which the Teutonic allies will be willing to make "an immediate and general peace" have been made known to the Russian delegates engaged in the peace parleys at Brest-Litovsk. The terms have been set forth in an address by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister.

As in previous Teutonic allied intimations of what will be required from the Germanic viewpoint to bring about a cessation of hostilities and eventual peace, the latest terms are hedged about by conditions which seemingly are insuperable from the standpoint of the United States and the entente allies.

The basic principles of the peace terms of the Russian revolutionary masses—no annexations and no indemnities—Count Czernin said he believed could be made the basis of a general peace, but that the Teutonic allies could not bind themselves to these conditions unless a guarantee were given that Russia's allies would recognize and fulfill them.

Notable omissions in the statement of Count Czernin connected with the concrete demands of the United States, Great Britain and France, as already made known, are the questions particularly of the rebuilding of Belgium and Serbia, the return of Alsace and Lorraine to France and the overthrow of the militarist government in Germany and the formation in its place of a government that can be believed—the latter demand as set forth by President Wilson in his address to Congress calling for war with Austria-Hungary.

WALL STREET APPROVES GOVERNMENT'S PLAN

Sweeping Advance in Securities Market Follows Announcement.

New York.—Wall Street expressed unqualified approval of President Wilson's plan for the government to run the railroads by a sweeping advance in the securities market.

RAILROADS NOT BLAMED

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 in so far as they could while hampered as they were by legal restrictions.

VICE-ADMIRAL WEMYSS BECOMES FIRST SEA LORD

London.—Vice-Admiral Sir Rosalyn Wemyss has been appointed first sea lord in succession to Admiral Sir John R. Jellicoe, according to an official announcement just issued.

GOVERNMENT TAKES PRISONERS HAVE CHRISTMAS TREE

GOVERNOR BICKETT MAKES A SHORT TALK IN PRISON CHAPEL.

GOOD MUSICAL PROGRAMME

Mrs. T. W. Bickett Reads Superintendent Collier's Proclamation to the Prisoners.

Raleigh.—Standing in the chapel of the State prison, before a Christmas tree, around which were grouped gifts for each prisoner in the institution, Governor Bickett expressed his whole-hearted Christmas sentiments, wishing for them the pleasures that come from without, the happiness that comes from within, and the blessedness that comes from above.

Governor Bickett went to the prison just after having pardoned John Wagstaff, of Guilford, who has served five years of a ten-year sentence imposed upon his conviction of highway robbery in which, it was alleged, he secured \$250 from a negro.

By Superintendent J. R. Collier's orders, Christmas tree celebrations were held at the Halifax farms and at the various prison camps. Word received by him from Halifax was to the effect that everyone was busy in the preparation for the event.

Superintendent Collier has, likewise, just mailed out \$3,000 in earnings of the prisoners to their families or dependents, few of the checks amounting to more than \$15. The money represents the earnings of the prisoners since April, set apart for use of their dependents.

The exercises were presided over by Mr. R. L. Gray, editor of the Raleigh Times, who paid high tribute to Governor Bickett and his administration for the work done in behalf of the men and women the world has forgotten.

"I came," he said, "to engage with you and with those gathered here in the celebration of the birth of Him who came into this world and gave up His life that all the world might be free."

"When I wish for you everyone a merry Christmas, I am sure I interpret the heart of the State when I say that the State takes no pleasure in the imprisonment of any human being. The State is anxious for you to be free as you can possibly be yourselves. It brings to me as the representative of the State a very real joy whenever in the exercise of the grave responsibilities which have been imposed upon me, I can open the prison gates for anyone."

"But let us for the moment forget our surroundings if we may. For after all, stone walls do not a prison make nor iron bars a cage. All of you will if you may and may if you will see around you the marvelous light, and feel within your souls the joy of the children of God. And I hope that everyone of you, during the Christmas season, may have the pleasures that come from within, and the blessedness that comes from above."

The master of ceremonies, in a humorous vein, then presented Col. Fred A. Olds, as "The Cheerful Liar." Col. Olds bowed acknowledgment of the tribute, paid his compliments to the good judgment of the presiding officer, and then, telling a tale in which Governor Bickett, squirrels, the Capitol Square, and Christmas were all involved, brought rounds and rounds of applause from the assembly and an affirmation from Governor Bickett on Mr. Gray's introductory verdict. Then came the gifts, distributed to each one of the prisoners as his or her name was called.

Fatal Auto Accident.

Bladenboro.—An automobile ran into the Seaboard cotton platform at Richardson, a small station four miles west of here, the aftermath of Christmas day, wedging itself beneath the platform. None of the nine occupants escaped injury with the exception of two babies. Colonel Hester, a prosperous lumberman, is dead from having his spinal column driven upwards into the brain and the deaths of others in the party are expected momentarily. Colonel Hester, owner of the car, which was a Chevrolet, was driving.

GENERAL POWERS OFFER PEACE TERMS

TERMS FOR AN IMMEDIATE AND GENERAL PEACE MADE KNOWN BY CZERNIN.

THE CONDITIONS INSUPERABLE

From Entente Standpoint—No Annexations and No Indemnities Acceptable But Russia's Allies Must Guarantee to Fulfill Terms.

Terms under which the Teutonic allies will be willing to make "an immediate and general peace" have been made known to the Russian delegates engaged in the peace parleys at Brest-Litovsk. The terms have been set forth in an address by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister.

As in previous Teutonic allied intimations of what will be required from the Germanic viewpoint to bring about a cessation of hostilities and eventual peace, the latest terms are hedged about by conditions which seemingly are insuperable from the standpoint of the United States and the entente allies.

The basic principles of the peace terms of the Russian revolutionary masses—no annexations and no indemnities—Count Czernin said he believed could be made the basis of a general peace, but that the Teutonic allies could not bind themselves to these conditions unless a guarantee were given that Russia's allies would recognize and fulfill them.

Notable omissions in the statement of Count Czernin connected with the concrete demands of the United States, Great Britain and France, as already made known, are the questions particularly of the rebuilding of Belgium and Serbia, the return of Alsace and Lorraine to France and the overthrow of the militarist government in Germany and the formation in its place of a government that can be believed—the latter demand as set forth by President Wilson in his address to Congress calling for war with Austria-Hungary.

WALL STREET APPROVES GOVERNMENT'S PLAN

Sweeping Advance in Securities Market Follows Announcement.

RAILROADS NOT BLAMED

VICE-ADMIRAL WEMYSS BECOMES FIRST SEA LORD

GENERAL BLISS WILL BE RETAINED ON ACTIVE LIST

BROTHERHOOD'S BEHIND GOVERNMENT'S PLANS

Washington.—Heads of the four railroad brotherhoods conferred with President Wilson, discussing in detail the part the employees will play under government regulations. A. B. Garretson, of the conductors, said afterward that wage increases were not mentioned. Mr. Garretson added that the brotherhoods were behind the government operation plan, and the president had known it for two weeks.