

THE MONROE JOURNAL

PUBLISHED TUESDAYS AND FRIDAYS

VOL. 23. No 92.

MONROE, N. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1917.

\$1.50 PER YEAR CASH.

UNITED STATES TAKES OVER ALL RAILROADS

NEW ORDER WENT INTO EFFECT AT NOON FRIDAY

Secretary McAdoo Became Director General And All Railroad Officials Will Continue Under Him—President Wilson Makes Proclamation.

At noon today, Friday, all the railroads of the country were taken over by the United States government. William G. McAdoo, retaining his place in the cabinet as secretary 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 re-assembles he will recommend legislation guaranteeing pre-war earnings and maintenance of railroad property in good repair.

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

GREAT SURPRISE

The President's move, although forecast for weeks, came at this time as a great surprise to nearly everybody in Washington, including railroad officials. It had been generally believed that he would await the reassembling of congress before taking any step. He acted through Secretary of War Baker, under authority conferred in the army appropriation act.

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.

The chief practical effect of government operation will be 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.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT AND PROCLAMATION

The President's statement follows: "I have exercised the powers over the transportation systems of the country which were granted me by the act of congress of August, 1916, because it has become imperatively necessary for me to do so. This is a war of resources no less than of men, perhaps even more than of men, and it is necessary for the complete mobilization of our resources that the transportation systems of the country should be organized and employed under a single authority and a simplified method of co-ordination which have not proved possible under private management and control. The committee of railway executives who have been co-operating with the government in this all-important matter have done the utmost that it was possible for them to do; they have done it with patriotic zeal and with great ability; but there were difficulties that they could neither escape nor neutralize. Complete unity of administration in the present circumstances involves upon occasion and at many points a serious dislocation of earnings, and the committee was, of course, without power or authority to re-arrange charges or effect proper compensations and adjustments of earnings. Several roads which were willingly and with admirable public spirit accepting the orders of the committee have already suffered from these circumstances and should not be required to suffer further. In mere fairness to them the full authority of the government must be substituted. The government itself will thereby gain an immense increase of efficiency in the conduct of the war and of the innumerable activities upon which its successful conduct depends.

PUBLIC INTEREST FIRST

"The public interest must be first served and, in addition, the financial interests of the government and the financial interest of the railroads must be brought under a common direction. The financial operations of the railroads need not then interfere with the borrowings of the government, and they themselves can be conducted at a greater advantage. Investors in railway securities may rest assured that their rights and interests will be as scrupulously looked after by the directors of the several railway systems. Immediately upon the reassembling of congress I shall recommend that these definite guarantees be given: First, of course, that the railway properties will be maintained during the period of federal control in as good repair and as complete equipment as when taken over by the government, and, second, that the roads shall receive a net operating income equal in each case to the average net income of the three years preceding June 30, 1917, and I am entirely confident that the congress will be disposed in this case, as in others, to see that justice is done and full security assured to the owners and creditors of the great systems which the government must now

use under its own direction or else suffer serious embarrassment.

McADOO NAMED

"The secretary of war and I are agreed that, all the circumstances being taken into consideration, the best results can be obtained under the immediate executive direction of the Honorable William G. McAdoo, whose practical experience peculiarly fit him for the service and whose authority as secretary of the treasury will enable him to co-ordinate as no other man could the many financial interests which will be involved and which might, unless systematically directed, suffer very embarrassing entanglements.

"The government of the United States is the only great government now engaged in the war which has not already assumed control of this sort. It was thought to be in the spirit of American institutions to attempt to do everything that was necessary through private management, and if zeal and ability and patriotic motive could have accomplished the necessary unification of administration, it would certainly have been accomplished; but no zeal or ability could overcome insuperable obstacles, and I have deemed it my duty to recognize that fact in all candor, now that it is demonstrated, and to use without reserve the great authority reposed in me. A great national necessity dictated the action and I was therefore not at liberty to abstain from it.

"WOODROW WILSON."

Red Cross Notes.

Red Cross work was suspended for the Christmas holidays, notwithstanding deeds of mercy and love have continued with many of our good women. Through the untiring and voluntary services of many of these good women of the town and county, the Red Cross chapter of Monroe has been able to send, during the past two weeks, almost a thousand articles to headquarters for supplies to be sent over the seas. One box shipped Dec. 1st contained 456 pieces, 20 helmets and 6 sweaters. Our last box, shipped Dec. 22nd, contained 392 pieces—25 sweaters and 3 helmets.

Headquarters having made alterations in hospital bed shirts, all auxiliaries making these garments for former sample are asked to discontinue same until further instructions are furnished, which will be mailed out as soon as possible.

The work room will be open Monday, Dec. 1st. Special work for that day will be making ready the comfort kits for the fifty-three Union county boys who leave for Camp Jackson Tuesday, Jan. 1st. These kits can be made at home and any who wish to assist in this work, call at Mrs. Lane's and sample and material will be furnished for same.

Chairman of Red Cross Supplies reports the following donations for December: One bolt of cloth donated by Mesdames Shannon and D. A. Houston, two bolts of sheeting donated by Jackson Mills, through president, Mr. B. D. Heath. Membership fees: Mesdames Jno. Fairley, Jr., G. H. Meares, McDonald, Walton, Wray, Eugene Ashcraft and Messrs. W. A. Lane and R. Redfearn, \$1.00 each. Contributions to supplies: Mrs. Nisbet \$1.00, Mrs. W. S. Lee \$10.00, Mrs. Clarence Laney 75c., Miss Bernice Shannon 40c., Mrs. Middleton \$5.00, Mrs. Christenbury \$5.00. The W. J. Rudge Co. have contributed \$9.21 to Red Cross, amount realized from the melting pot. The following donations were handed to Mrs. Kochtitzky for postage on boxes to France: Mrs. Morrow \$1.50, Mrs. Iceman \$1.00, Caroline and Wilbur Kochtitzky 20c., Mrs. S. O. Blair \$1.00, Mrs. Roscoe Phifer 75c.—Mrs. Lane, Chm., Supplies.

\$50,000 IN GREENBACKS DISAPPEAR IN TRANSIT

Registered Pouch Disappeared Between Hamlet and Columbia — Postoffice Inspectors Are Working On Case.

Columbia, S. C., Dec. 27.—Greenbacks of small denomination, totaling \$50,000, the major portion of which were for \$5 and \$10, in transit Richmond, Va., to the National Loan and Exchange bank of Columbia, are missing, postoffice authorities admitted here this afternoon. Whether they were misplaced or were stolen was not stated.

The currency, which is alleged to have been shipped from Richmond December 17 in a registered package or pouch, was checked at Hamlet, N. C., it was stated, by W. H. Coleman, Columbia postmaster, and disappeared between that point and Columbia. The postoffice authorities admitted this afternoon that they could not say whether the pouch disappeared at the Seaboard station here or in the Columbia postoffice.

Postoffice inspectors are working on the disappearance of the pouch, which, it is understood, contained nothing of value except the \$50,000 in currency.

The First Clerk Didn't Know.

A lady of uncertain age went to the Bureau of Information at the Grand Central Depot and asked when the next train left for Albany, and the answer she received was, "Twenty minutes to eleven." She looked doubtfully at the man and went to one of the seats. In a few minutes there was an exchange of clerks. She promptly went to the window and repeated her question. This time she was told that the train left at "ten forty." "There," said she in triumph, "I was sure that other man didn't know."

FORGET IT AT ONCE

That is If You Have Done a Kindness, But Never Forget It If You Have Received One.

Correspondence of The Journal. Indian Trail, Dec. 26.—After having been on the slacker list for the last two weeks, I will try to succeed myself with a short letter in order that The Journal readers may know what is going on at the little village of Indian Trail.

Being freed of the two weeks' snow, some of which is still with us, we had about come to the conclusion that the bad weather was about over up to Christmas evening when he had to change our minds on account of the rain which fell and the light snow which fell during the morning. We felt at the time that we had a nice chance for more rough weather, but it seems at the present that we are going to have a fairly nice week-end.

A nice party, known as a "Sack Social", was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Z. A. Pressley on Saturday night for the purpose of raising funds for the purchase of a new musical instrument for the Methodist church, this being the second effort for this worthy cause. Many of the young people were present and all seemed to enjoy themselves to the highest extent. We wish to thank those who lent their means so liberally to the cause to which this social gathering was aimed. Each person was sent an invitation in an envelope which also contained a small blue cloth bag which was to be returned at the social with as many pennies as years they were old. The proceeds amounted to \$7.17 which was a goodly amount as there were no extreme "old" ones present.

Mr. Sanford Forbis, who is in training at Camp Jackson in Columbia, returned home on last Monday night to spend a few days with his parents and friends. It is reported that he was married last night, Christmas, but the writer is not certain that the "ordeal" was performed.

Hunting is not so prevalent this year as usual, or not in this part of the county at least, I suppose from the fact that ammunition is so high in price. Col. Quail should be thankful that the war is going on as possibly it has saved his life many times. Of course he need not be afraid if all marksmen are not unlike the writer as he surely was tried out for his skill not long since, shooting fourteen times and getting one.

For the coming New Year it will be well for every person who may read this to make this his or her resolution for 1918, which is as follows in a poem taken from an almanac:

Forget each kindness that you do
As soon as you have done it;
Forget the praise that falls to you
The moment you have won it;
Forget the slander that you hear
Before you can repeat it;
Forget each slight, each spite, each sneer,
Wherever you may meet it.

Remember every kindness done
To you, whatever its measure;
Remember praise by others won
And pass it on with pleasure;
Remember every promise made
And keep it to the letter;
Remember those who lend you aid,
And be a grateful debtor.

Misses Wilma Harkey and Mamie Ross left Saturday night for Wingate where they were to spend a part of the Christmas holidays with the latter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Ross, a short distance from that place.

Misses Nannie and Lizzie Boyd left Monday to make their destination somewhere near the Catawba river to spend a few weeks with relatives and friends.

Mr. Samuel Lemmond, who stood a Civil Service examination a few months ago, was called to Charlotte to fill a position as clerk during the rush of the holidays. He reports that the work was very pressing while he worked during last week.

Mr. Burdett Crowell of Matthews spent Christmas day in the Trail. We were glad to welcome our grandfather and grandmother, and Mr. Hoffman King, and Misses Maggie and Maude Lee Boyd in our home for Christmas dinner with us. "Possum and taters were on the table, also a few other things that taste good to a fellow about this time of the year.—Sir John.

"When traveling in Ireland I heard a capital story," said a clubman, recently returned from Europe. "It may be old as the hills, but I had never heard it before and it struck me as a good sample of an Irish bull. We were driving around the lakes on one of the jaunting cars and got to talking with the driver. You can't help it in Ireland for they will talk to you if you don't to them, you know. And among the varied information he gave us was the fact that the clergy exacted a tenth of every person's property for the use of the church. "That's a big slice out of your income, Pat," said I. "Arrah!" he exclaimed, 'that's nothing. Bless your soul they'd be after takin' a twentieth if they could."

Recently, when there were some talk of imposing a tax on the unmarried men in this state, one young fellow who was particularly loud in his denunciation of the measure and declared roundly that it was an outrage, and was effectually silenced by an older bachelor,—and perhaps one better able to stand the expense, by the remark, that, in his opinion "luxuries were just the things that ought to be taxed."

VERY BAD FOOD SITUATION IN GERMANY.

There is a Total Deficiency of Human and Animal Labor and Manures for the Crop—Leipzig Paper Quotes as Saying Situation Becomes Criticau Every Hard Winter Day. (Special in Greensboro News.)

Amsterdam, Dec. 26.—Christmas finds Germany confronted with many difficulties which despite all attempts at concealment become daily manifest. There are signs of trouble such as arrest of independent socialist leaders at Cologne, which is said to be for purely military reasons, but the details are suppressed. It is not surprising if this is connected with food difficulties, which appear to be reaching very serious stages. Universal demand exists for the increase of the potato ration from seven to ten pounds per head weekly. Workers say that responsible authorities agree that seven pounds is inadequate. The quality of the potatoes is so bad that often of the seven pounds given only six that are usable. The Leipziger Volks Zeitung describes the Leipzig Christmas market. It says that notwithstanding everything, if a man has money he can live well this Christmas as in peace time, thanks to illicit trading. "But if you have nothing at all the situation becomes more critical every hard winter day. Coal and light are lacking; potatoes must be used in order that cabbage, turnips and kohlrabe may not predominate too soon again as the principal dishes on the dinner table." The affect of the war food is discussed frequently lately in the German medical press. An increase in strabular hernia is attributed to the present diet. The Deutsche Medizinische Wechenschrift contains observations of a Lubsch surgeon who agrees with this view and thinks that other serious intestinal disorders are caused by the unsuitable food now universally consumed.

I have received a letter from a Dutch correspondent in good position to know the German situation. He writes: "The economic situation is growing critical. The population are passing through times more difficult than any yet experienced. Workers of my acquaintance in various industrial establishments complain bitterly of bad food. They belong among the privileged classes who work in munition production, to whom until a few weeks ago food was regularly supplied, including some fat, and sometimes meat. This belongs to the past. Dozens of workmen employed in German munition works have told me in the last few days that the food there is no longer edible, and that more appropriate is used as pigs' food in normal times. The quantity of bread given workers at hard manual labor, munition workers, is about four or five pounds weekly, but the quality is very bad, and of little nutritive value. What additionally is supplied consists of a mixture of potatoes, cabbage leaves, mangoes and wurzels, all cooked in water without additional fat. No wonder these workers generally suffer from under-feeding and are obliged to stay many days, sometimes a week in Holland in order not to become total nervous wrecks even if they survive. These belong to the privileged class of workers. Outside the circle of munition workers or workers employed in government work, the position of the working classes is much worse. Even a German foreman employed at the works of one of the greatest German firms assures me the condition of their families is becoming intolerable. They are in much worse position than their subordinates because it is thought extra rationing of the latter might keep them from opposition and discontent. Those who suffer the most hunger, however, are the military class, since their ration is still too small. The mortality of children, old and delicate persons rises daily in alarming degree. There is hardly a place where one or several do not fall down weekly, never to rise again. The number of cases of tuberculosis increases at a great rate while children suffer all kinds of diseases, the little bodies bearing evidence of bad and totally inadequate feeding. Medical aid where obtainable is of little avail, in these cases, since the entire medical means of restoration, namely decent food, is lacking.

The total absence of fat is the greatest evil and is permanent. Fattening pigs is now practically a thing of the past, while the best cattle have been requisitioned for the army and navy, and milk, butter and cheese production are declining enormously. Owing to the need of cattle food, cattle stocks are in pitiful condition, while what cattle food can be got is requisitioned by the government, mainly for the troops. Germans of the town and country alike say the situation cannot longer continue as hunger will master Germany. Whole families are thus suffering famine and slowly going under. This is true especially in the town population, who, compared to the higher circles with great purchasing power, and workers in indispensable labor, are much prejudiced. What will happen next year at harvest is a conundrum.

THE TIME IS SHORT
On Jan. 1 the name of every Journal subscriber, who has not paid ahead of that date, will be dropped from the list. The paper positively goes on a cash-in-advance system the first of the year, and there will be no extension of time. Everybody who wishes the Journal visits to continue is urged to send his renewal at once.

there being a total deficiency of human and animal labor and manures. It is asserted the situation is leading to German agricultural collapse unless agricultural laborers, especially foremen are released from army service. It is said account must be taken of the fact that not over 20 per cent of the agriculturists in military service return. With the present food supply matters are becoming steadily worse, let people attempt as they will to represent otherwise. The near future will show Germany's economic position untenable although Germans may a thousand times assure the contrary.

PRICE FIXED BY ADMINSTRATOR

To Govern Sale of Wood Shipped In to City or Town—State Fuel Administrators Fix Wood Prices at Once. (From the Charlotte Observer.)

The North Carolina fuel administration has made a regulation, applicable anywhere in the state, that when the maximum price of wood in four and eight foot lengths has been fixed for any given city or town, the maximum price of wood shipped by rail to such town or city shall be the price fixed for that city or town, less the freight per cord from place of shipment and less 25 cents per cord for cost of unloading, according to a communication received from the state administrator yesterday.

The effect of this regulation will be to relieve local committees from the necessity of fixing the price on cars f. o. b., at place of shipment. This will leave to be fixed by the local administrator the price of wood in four or eight foot lengths from farmers' wagons and the price to be charged by retailers of wood sawed, split and delivered.

This regulation is expected to make a territory nearest a city or town the source of supply; it is expected to stabilize the prices paid by dealers for the wood they buy for sawing, splitting and resale, and it is expected to give the producer or shipper an abundantly fair and just price if the basic price fixed for that city or town is fair and just.

In fixing the price to be charged in Charlotte for wood in four and eight foot lengths, the state administrator, in the communication, refers to the following schedule of price adopted by one of the cities of the state: Prevailing price of four and eight foot wood per cord from farmers' wagons in 1916, \$3. Add for increased cost, labor, etc., \$1.25. The maximum basis is then \$4.25. The sawing and splitting of the wood and the delivery would cost \$2.25. The wood, then, would cost \$6 in cord lots.

In the communication the state administrator urges the city administrator to see to it that the basic price fixed is amply fair and just to the producer, or to the man who brings it to the market, and also amply fair and just to the retailer, for prices can be fixed, the administrator, advises, with due regard to right of the producer and the dealer and at the same time conserve the interest of the consumer. The communication that prices of wood be fixed for Charlotte before the first of the year. By fixing the price at once any further advance in price will be prevented, and if any exorbitant prices exist these will be corrected. It will also bring on the market wood that is being held back for advance in price. The price fixed is to be in operation until the end of the war, according to the communication.

HUNS MUTILATE BODIES OF AMERICAN SOLDIERS

American Sentry in France Found With His Throat Cut After He Was Shot—Drive Children in Snow.

With American Army in France, Dec. 26.—(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 commanders 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.

Thirty Jewish Men and Women Executed by Turks.

New York, Dec. 27.—Thirty Jewish men and women were executed by the Turkish army that surrendered Jerusalem to General Allenby December 10, according to an announcement made here today by the provisional executive committee for general Zionist affairs. Included in the number massacred were some of the most prominent residents of the Holy City and its suburbs, it was stated. The retreat of the Turks through Gallilee drove 12,000 Jewish survivors northward where they are in dire need. The committee has undertaken to furnish a minimum of \$30,000 monthly for their relief, it was stated.

NO ANNEXATIONS AND NO INDEMNITIES ACCEPTABLE

But Russia's Allies Must Guarantee To Fulfill Terms—Wilson Demands Ignored—Nothing Said of Rebuilding of Belgium or Serbia, of Alsace-Lorraine, Nor End Militarism.

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 pourparleys 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 annexation 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.

Pending the placing of Count Czernin's proposals before Russia's allies, the Russian delegates to the peace conference have asked for a 10 days' recess in the negotiations at Brest-Litovsk.

INCOME TAX MAN WILL BE HERE

Collector Watts Will Have Agent in Monroe, Marshville and Waxhaw—Better Look Them Up.

Collector of Internal Revenue Watts has announced that 19 officers will start from his headquarters on January 1st and on January 2 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 will be at the following places and dates, as follows:

Marshville, Jan. 2 and 3; Waxhaw, Jan. 4 and 5; Monroe, Jan. 7 to 12, inclusive and Feb. 18 to 21, inclusive.

"It will be well for every unmarried person whose net income for 1917 is \$1,000 or over, and every married person living with wife or husband whose net income for 1917 is \$2,000 or over, to call on the income tax man and learn whether or not they have any tax to pay," Collector Watts said. "The person subject to tax who doesn't make return in the time prescribed is going to regret it. The government will get after all income tax slackers."

"A multitude of business and professional men, traders and farmers, who did not have to pay heretofore, will have to pay this year. The safe thing to do is for every person who had a total income of \$1,000 or \$2,000, 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."

Emperor William Has Close Call at Front.

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 special train left the station, which was partly destroyed by several bombs. A section of the tracks was torn up, cutting communication north.

In fact, the emperor's train was the last to leave Mannheim, and no trains arrived at Basel yesterday from that city. Two bombs fell on the palace and on the suspension bridge across the Neckar river, both structures being badly damaged. An ammunition factory in the northern suburb was blown up. Few persons were killed, however, as the employees were having a holiday. A considerable number of persons were killed or injured within the town, and several were blown into the Rhine.

Heavy Christmas Mail Still Reaching France.

Paris, Dec. 27.—Four carloads of Christmas mail which arrived at a French port from the United States were forwarded today for delivery at the headquarters of the regimental units of the American expeditionary forces. The bulk of the Christmas mail, which consisted of thirty thousand sacks and required ninety freight cars to move, was delivered at the headquarters of the various units on or before Christmas day, but a storm at sea delayed for three days the arrival of the mail sent forward today.

Besides the mail delivered by the army postoffice, there were several carloads of argal packages, each weighing more than seven pounds, which were handled by the quartermaster's Capt. Luceat.