

# THE SATURDAY RECORD

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## FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ASSUMES CONTROL OF ALL THE RAILROADS

President Wilson's Order Became Effective Friday at Noon--Pre-War Earnings Are Guaranteed and Properties to Be Maintained in Good Repair--Present Officials to Be Retained.

### COMPLETE UNIFICATION OF ALL RAILROAD SYSTEMS IS ASSURED

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 28.

The proclamation of President Wilson of the possession and operation of the railroads of the country became effective today at 12 o'clock, and Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo is appointed as director-general of railroads, retaining his position in the Treasury Department.

Every railroad engaged in general transportation, with its appurtenances, which includes steamship lines, is taken over and all railroad systems will be operated as a unit by the director-general.

The President announces that when Congress meets he will recommend legislation that will guarantee pre-war earnings and maintenance of railroad properties in normal condition.

The government will secure all new issues of stock, which will assure a demand on the stock market.

The action of the President in taking over the railroads was through the Secretary of War, by authority given in the Army Appropriation Act.

The present officials will retain their positions and will continue actual operation under the supervision of Secretary McAdoo and the Railroads War Board. The effect of the government operation will be a complete unification of all railroad systems, which was impossible under private operation by reason of statutes prohibiting pooling of rail traffic and earnings.

Congress will be asked by the President to guarantee earnings on a basis of the average net operating income of each railroad in the three years ending June 30, 1917. Railroad experts estimate it will cost the government about \$100,000,000 next year.

## Labor Shortage a Pipe Dream.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—In a public statement, Henry D. Sayer, State Industrial Commissioner, makes flat denial that there is labor shortage in this State, and says that "the question is not so much one of labor shortage as it is one of poor distribution."

"There is plenty of labor," he continues, but the labor does not happen to be in the places it is most needed. The fundamental difficulty at present is one of method of awarding contracts. It should be the effort to distribute contracts according to the labor market rather than to redistribute labor according to the ability of contractors to get fat contracts.

"The practice of advertising for more workmen than are needed is vicious in the extreme and in times like these should not be tolerated. The time and the productive labor lost through hundreds of men applying daily for jobs in response to such advertising is a source of great waste."

On the subject of the employment of women in industry, Mr. Sayer says:

"Neither the needy working woman, nor the working men, should be compelled to compete in the labor market with women who work for low pay because of the novelty of the job or because they have been led to believe that they are performing a patriotic service."

"The time may come, and we must be prepared for it when it does come, when the labor of women in industry must be used on a much larger scale than it is at present, but I venture the assertion that no women should be substituted for a man in an industrial process so long as there is available male help to be procured."

"We will be very short-sighted if we permit our women to be exploited by factory owners, who, under the camouflage of an alleged labor shortage, seek to replace well paid men with underpaid women. There is no patriotism in that kind of shop management, and it contains the seeds of industrial unrest and disturbances."

Austin, Tex., Dec. 22.—By amending the Texas compensation law the State legislature has given less protection to workers than formerly, according to State Labor Commissioner Jennings.

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## A Happy New Year to All.



### Employers on Trial

Jersey City, N. J., Dec. 27.—Officers of the Detwiler and Street Manufacturing Company are on trial for manslaughter in connection with the death of Ruth Rogers, one of the 16 girls who died as a result of a fire-up of priming powder on April 4 last. The prosecution told the jury that the firm was manufacturing bomb primers for the Russian government. The defendants are charged with criminal carelessness in not guarding against friction, which caused the fire-up. This is said to be the first time in this State where employers have been charged with manslaughter in the death of an employe.

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Coal Company has declared a dividend of 40 per cent. Six months ago this corporation made an extra distribution of 50 per cent on its \$6,500,700 capital stock, upon which the regular dividend is 10 per cent.

Olympia, Wash., Dec. 28.—The State Industrial Commission has assessed a fine of \$962.50 against F. C. Porter, a saw mill man, near Thorp. The fine was levied because of an award of \$1,925 to an 11-year-old boy whose arm was cut off by a saw in Porter's plant.

### OUR ADVERTISERS.

Please mention this paper when patronizing advertisers.

Read the attractive ad. of Folks & Kendrick on the 2d page.

Sellers' New Cash Grocery has an attractive ad. on the 6th page.

See the attractive ad. of C. D. Gilbert on the 6th page. Turkeys, eggs, chickens and everything good to eat.

Platt's, 108 Market street, is closing out a few coats and suits left from their Christmas stock. See ad. on the 6th page.

J. W. H. Fuch's Cash Department Store specializes in Remnants and Left-over bargains this week. See ad. on 6th page.

Beery's Department Store extends expression of appreciation to their friends and the public for past favors and wishes for all a happy new year.

Send your clothes to Wilmington Laundry—they wash everything but the baby and return everything promptly but the dirt. Phone 29.

William Otersen advertises his entire stock of Ladies', Men's and Children's Shoes at reduced prices as specials for Saturday and Monday. See ad. on 6th page.

H. M. Tiencken, the progressive grocer, suggests that you start the new year right and trade with him. He has special prices for next Saturday, with plenty of sugar.

An order of those Norfolk oysters, as served at the Coast Line Cafe, will please the most exacting. They are bred in Norfolk style and are fit for a king—the finest served in the city.

Our pennies are mobilized to wage war without quarter.

Whale on toast has made its appearance. Some toast it must be!

Suffer no longer with Asthma, Catarrh, Rheumatism, Paralysis, Kidney and Bladder trouble, Venereal and Female diseases. Use Nielsen's Eel Oil for all pain. For sure cure, consult Dr. A. C. Nielsen, 109 1-3 Dock St.

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## THE WEEK'S EVENTS

IMPORTANT NEWS OF STATE, NATION AND THE WORLD BRIEFLY TOLD

### ROUND ABOUT THE WORLD

A Condensed Record Of Happenings Of Interest From All Points Of The World

#### Domestic.

An increase of 1,500 in the number of marriages performed in the Protestant Episcopal church, which was said to be due mainly to the rush of enlistment men to get married before going to war, is shown in the annual report of the church, made public in New York City.

The presiding bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church is sending out a hurry call for candidates for the ministry. The number has fallen considerably below normal since the war began.

It is estimated that the war marriages already exceed fifty thousand. The patriotism of the girls is certainly not on the wane.

All sorts of crime excepting murder and assault have shown marked increase in New York City since the United States entered the war, according to a statement given out by the police commissioner.

At Malden, Mo., Marshal R. S. St. Clair is dead, and his slayer, L. H. Wissman of Havana, Ill., is said to be dying, as the result of a demonstration which followed alleged disloyal remarks by Wissman.

Speaking before the convention of county chairmen and members of the state committee of Georgia, who had gathered to discuss the campaign recently inaugurated all over the country for the sale of two million dollars' worth of war saving stamps, Frank A. Vanderlip, New York banker, told his hearers some exceedingly cold facts about the war in Atlanta, Georgia.

Albert C. Kalschmidt was convicted on three counts of an indictment charging conspiracy against the United States in the United States district court at Detroit, Mich.

Four of the five men indicted with Albert C. Kalschmidt on charge of conspiracy against the United States were found guilty in the U. S. district court at Detroit, Mich.

Three cadets of the Royal Flying corps were killed at Fort Worth, Texas, when two airplanes collided and fell at Benbrook aviation field at this place.

Work on the new aviation camp at Arcadia, Fla., is progressing fast, according to the government officials of the signal corps, who are pleased with what has been done.

Since work on the new aviation camp has started Arcadia, Fla., has been taxed to the utmost in taking care of the workmen and Punta Gorda, 15 miles away, has been thrown open.

That the Tampa, Fla., companies at Macon, Ga., are not equipped with helmets, wristlets, mittens and sweaters, and will appreciate efforts of the Red Cross Society along that line is related in a letter from Capt. S. L. Lowry to Mrs. D. B. Givens, which has been forwarded to the Tampa Red Cross chapter.

How an organization formed to profit from gambling tricked Chicago ministers into helping to accomplish its ends was told Tom Costello, under cross-examination in the trial of former Chief of Police Healey and others charged with exacting money from vicious characters on the west and south sides of Chicago. The organization was formed to control gambling and to exact profits from high rents.

The strike in the gulf coast oil fields, has been adjusted, it was announced by the president's mediation commission. The gulf coast oil field is in Texas.

With the axe which her son, J. O. Bush—used to kill his 11-year-old son, Mrs. J. H. Bush, 72 years old, slew the father while he slept. Mrs. Bush, confessing to the coroner, said she was compelled to witness the murder of the body and then forced to assist in disposing of the dismembered body. She became so enraged at her son, that she entered his room and killed him with the ax, and then disposed of his body as he had disposed of his son's.

#### Washington.

In response to a senate resolution asking whether there are war department rules and regulations to prevent

#### Enforcing the Burnett Law.

Washington, Dec. 27.—When organized labor was planning with Congress to pass the Burnett immigration restriction law, opponents of this legislation insisted that the literacy test could not be enforced.

In his annual report Secretary of Labor Wilson makes this answer to the prediction:

"The provision in the new law excluding aliens who cannot read was the subject of much discussion, and the opposition to the measure was centered largely upon this feature.

"There had been a somewhat general impression that the test to determine literacy within the purview of the act would be difficult of application. It has been an agreeable surprise, however, in drafting the regulations, to find that methods of applying the test to concrete cases could be devised which are comparatively simple, expeditious in practice, and calculated surely to ascertain what the law intends shall be revealed concerning each alien applicant."

#### Telephone Girls Strike.

Jacksonville, Fla., Dec. 27.—Phone girls employed by the Southern Bell Telephone Company suspended work to enforce a higher wage scale. The girls were unorganized, but have since formed a union affiliated with the Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. Local trade unionists are assisting the girls and arranging a successful auto parade to advertise their movement.

#### Be a Label Booster.

social intercourse between officers and men of the army, Secretary Baker wrote Vice President Marshall that distinctions of rank in the army imply no social distinction and are solely in the interest of military discipline. Extraordinary measures are being taken to insure sobriety and a high moral standard in the army.

Through a long series of telegrams exchanged between the notorious Count Luxburg, former German charge in Argentina, and the Berlin foreign office, the state department disclosed further facts about German diplomatic trickery and at the same time shed light upon some hitherto unexplained activities of certain Latin-American statesmen.

Unless the soldiers vote on the various fronts, which has not yet been counted, offsets the vote in Australia the government's conscription scheme has been defeated in a referendum by a majority of about 150,000.

The bulk of the American expeditionary force will not get its expected Christmas dinner. A submarine attack forced the ship which was carrying cranberry to turn back, and through some unknown circumstance two ships, which were carrying the supplies of turkey left the United States so late that it was impossible for them to arrive in France in time. The turkeys already in the army zone were left over from Thanksgiving, as was the mince meat, which had been delayed. This supply will go an extremely short way.

#### European.

Leon Trotsky, the Russian Bolshevik foreign minister, at a meeting of the revolutionary organizations assembled in congress, read documents and telegrams which he declared contained evidence that Americans were helping General Kaledines, the leader of the Don Cossacks.

Trotsky said that the Russian revolutionary government is not lacking in dignity and pride, and the allied powers must take notice.

The Teutons are reported to be massing for another drive against the Italians.

The activity on all fronts is way below normal.

The fighting in France and Belgium is entirely in the nature of outpost encounters and bombardments.

The initiative on the Italian front is entirely on the Italian side.

Reinforced by British and French troops and newly equipped in every department, the Italians now are prepared to sell, and at a dear price, every inch of ground that Austro-Germans may take.

A dispatch to Amsterdam from the German frontier of The Telegraph says it is learned from Dutch workmen that an explosion occurred in the electric power station at the Krupp plant in Essen, owing to a short circuit. The building is reported to have been seriously damaged.

Emperor William has informed his government that he contemplates going

(Continued on Page Five.)