

GOVERNMENT TO OPERATE RAILROADS

Central Powers Accept Russia's Peace Terms

DIRECTOR GENERAL McADOO IN CHARGE AFTER FRIDAY NOON

Secretary of Treasury is Named as Director General of Railroads.

MACHINERY STARTS FOR TAKING OVER

Secretary McAdoo Is Ready to Take Over Railroads Tomorrow—Believed Only a Step to Other Controls

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 27.—Preliminary to actual taking over of the railroads by the government at noon tomorrow...

Although approved by the great majority of railroad men, there was some opposition toward criticism in Congress...

Members of both Houses predicted that the step was only the beginning of a government operation and control...

Secretary McAdoo spent the day in a study of problems which will be solved at the outset...

The Interstate Commerce Commission began a survey of the railroads which will prepare to carry out the government plan...

The legislation which will recommend to Congress would specify that the railroads should remain subject to all existing laws and regulations of the Interstate Commerce Commission...

The Association of State Railroad Commissioners will give full support to the new plan so long as their functions are not reduced materially...

The first acts of the government in taking over operation of railroads will be to reduce large salaries of the railway executives and to reduce the wages of the railway workers...

Secretary Wilson, when he outlined the government's plans in his fourth message to Congress, will ask that the government be empowered to take the ownership of new railroad securities...

authority to decide whether the government shall also assume operation and control of the express companies...

The President's action, taken through Secretary Baker, under authority of the Army Appropriations Act of August, 1916, came as a surprise at this time...

The President's statement made clear that the reason for the plan of government operation was to permit complete unification of all rail systems...

The Interstate Commerce Commission and other government and State agencies which have to do with railroads will continue to perform their function under the new plan...

Although the plan of control is not outlined in detail, it was the opinion that the British system would be followed closely except in the matter of paying for government freight...

Railroad experts estimate that the government plan to guarantee earnings equivalent to average net operating income of the last three years will cost the government about \$190,000,000 next year...

In his dual position of secretary of the treasury and director-general of railroads, Mr. McAdoo will be in the best position to pass on questions of securities interest rates...

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First, that the railroad properties will be maintained during the period of Federal control in as good repair and with complete equipment as when taken over by the government...

Government backing also will be given new issues of railroad securities so that a market may be readily found...

Railroad officials will retain direct management of the roads and the railroad board, composed of five railroad heads, will continue actual operation under Director McAdoo's supervision...

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One condition regarded as impossible, for the present at least, is that the adherence of all the belligerents must be secured to the peace...

It can be stated authoritatively that the position of the American government has not changed in any respect with regard to its determination to enter into no agreement with a government which does not represent the free will of the governed people...

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In the light of the extraordinary efforts Germany has been making to rid those provinces of French inhabitants, it is believable here that Germany may propose a plebiscite of inhabitants, relying upon the vote of German soldiers and imported German population...

The German insistence that the pledge to restore the political independence of countries occupied by the Central powers shall not apply to nationalities which did not previously enjoy independence, is regarded as aimed directly at the projected Polish state...

In this taking advantage of the common law the railroads have been seizing coal consigned for commercial coal distribution in Eastern North Carolina and Virginia and causing a shortage to the public...

The Fuel Administration expressed that the order will give the three railroads mentioned and adequate supply, making it unnecessary for them to have to take the coal intended for the public and give the public sufficient fuel for their needs...

WASHINGTON HAS LITTLE FAITH IN TEUTONIC PEACE

Officials Are Apprehensive of Count Czernin's Sincerity in Peace Offer

UNITED STATES HAS NOT CHANGED VIEWS

Proposal As Submitted is Surrounded With Conditions Which Seem to Make Acceptance Impossible

Washington, Dec. 27.—The conditions surrounding Count Czernin's proposals for a basis of peace cause officials here to feed some apprehension for their sincerity...

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Scrupleless care was taken by the State Department not to commit itself in any comment on the peace proposal. No official intimation of the terms had reached the department and how much suggestions might be conveyed to the United States or Entente governments was unknown...

NO INDEMNITIES OR ANNEXATIONS ARE ASKED BY TEUTONS

DELAY IN MAKING ARMY OVERCOATS

Quartermaster's Department Criticized for Failure to Provide for Soldiers

(By Associated Press.) Washington, Dec. 27.—Examination of Quartermaster General Sharpe was resumed today by the Senate Military committee investigating war preparations...

Practically every contract for overcoats was delayed, General Sharpe said, by trouble in getting cloth and strikes in the clothing factories...

Senator Weeks brought out that the supplies committee of the Council recommended a contract for sorting scraps from army cloth at six cents a pound and that it was found excessive and amended...

The government intends establishing a scrap cloth sorting plant of its own, General Sharpe said. At the six cent rate, the private contractors' profits were estimated by General Sharpe at \$400,000 a year...

Little to Report. (By Associated Press.) London, Dec. 27.—"Except for some hostile artillery activity north and east of Ypres," Field Marshal Haig reported today, to the British war office, "there was nothing to report last night."

FUEL RELIEF FOR EASTERN CAROLINA

Fuel Administration Orders Coal Mines to Provide for this Section

(By George H. Manning.) Washington, D. C., Dec. 27.—As a means of securing a better coal supply for the territory in Eastern North Carolina and Virginia lying generally between Norfolk and New Bern and including Wilmington, the Fuel Administration issued orders today to the coal producers to provide an adequate supply of coal to the Atlantic Coast Line, Seaboard Air Line and Norfolk Southern railroads...

Under the present contract system, the coal operators have failed to supply the roads with sufficient coal, and these railroads in order to continue operation have taken advantage of the provision of common law which permits them to seize coal wherever they can find it when necessary...

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TEUTONIC ALLIES REPLY TO RUSSIAN PEACE PROPOSAL

Count Czernin, Austrian Foreign Minister Makes Known the Answer

(By Associated Press.) Petrograd, Wednesday, Dec. 26.—The Central Powers, Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister, told the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk yesterday, solemnly declare their resolve to immediately sign terms which will terminate the war on conditions equally just to all belligerents...

Virtual acceptance of the peace terms offered by Russia was made by the Central Powers in a statement issued to the peace conference Tuesday by Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Minister...

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Count Czernin, of Austria, Announces Terms to Russian Delegates

WANTS THE ENTENTE TO RECOGNIZE TERMS

Willing to Conclude Peace on Similar Conditions With All Belligerents—Right of Self-Definition Advocated

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