

COAL FIRST, IS U. S. ORDER TO RAILROADS

Continued from Page One
only to coal for current use but not for storage, consigned direct and not subject to reconignment to hospitals, schools and other public institutions.

The priority order issued by Judge Lovett today was made known to employees of the Pennsylvania Railroad by C. M. Sheaffer, general superintendent of transportation, and J. B. Fisher, superintendent of freight transportation.

Francis A. Lewis, chairman of the Philadelphia County coal committee, announced today that certain sections of this city would also receive their coal soon. He said that it was a question of a little time when all arrangements will be completed.

The Pennsylvania Railroad, which will bring 6000 tons of the 15,000 tons allotted to this city daily, announced today that its present facilities are such that it anticipates no trouble in bringing that quota of coal here daily.

The plant of Thomas Potter, Sons & Company, Inc., Second street and Erie avenue, of which State Fuel Administrator Potter is president, will close at six o'clock this evening due to lack of coal. Announcement was made at the plant, which employs about 1500 men, that work will not be resumed until a sufficient supply of fuel is received.

EMBARGOES ON FOODSTUFFS MUST HAVE U. S. SANCTION

All embargoes on foodstuffs by the railroad companies, except by express permission of Judge Lovett, chief of the priority bureau, are illegal, according to an announcement made today by Howard Heinz, Federal food administrator for Pennsylvania, following a decision of the administration in Washington.

Complaints as made today by J. S. Crutchfield, assistant to Howard Heinz, that the embargoes recently placed on certain foodstuffs by the Pennsylvania Railroad and the Reading Railroad might be lifted in accordance with an agreement he had made with these roads about a week ago.

The supply of potatoes in this city is virtually exhausted, and unless a quick remedy is found, there will be a shortage of the food staple in a few days.

The complaint addressed to Washington follows: "Edward Chambers, Director of Transportation, Food Administration, Washington, D. C."

"I thank you for your letter of December 18, subject embargoes, advising that it is illegal for railroads to issue embargoes against the transportation of foodstuffs, including Order No. 2, without the express permission of Judge Lovett, which will not be given until your recommendations are received."

"For your information, the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad have last week put an embargo on potatoes and cabbage, whereas the stock supplies were actually short at the time. On our demand they revoked the order the next morning, but today, more than a week later, central New York shipping points were refusing to accept shipments of potatoes to Philadelphia, because they had yet no notice of the lifting of the embargo."

"A similar embargo was put into effect on the Pennsylvania Lines West on the 14th. This, we are advised today, has been modified but not lifted entirely on foodstuffs, in the conduct of the Federal Food Administration regulations in Philadelphia. It is our desire to cooperate with the transportation companies in handling their difficult situations; but my recent experience is that railroad officials apparently are issuing embargo notices on foodstuffs without due consideration of the effect."

"Our supplies of potatoes in Philadelphia have been virtually exhausted; the retailers have little or no surplus stocks; the farmers are not conscious of the serious situation, because of very bad roads, danger of freezing in transport and the approaching holiday season, so that they are apt to miss the good market and also allow, during the next sixty or ninety days, a large aggregate of underconsumption of potatoes, which will necessarily mean increased consumption of breadstuffs. A further result will be a disastrous oversupply and low prices for potatoes in the spring."

"Some drastic measures should be taken immediately, in my judgment, to insure a regular, systematic shipment of potatoes. I am already attempting to do this in Pennsylvania, with the assistance of our co-operation with State College or Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture and the newly organized branch of the Potato Growers' Association. J. S. CRUTCHFIELD

Department of Food Supply, Vice Director

The 218 railroads, 150 are loaded with domestic sizes and 98 with steam sizes. Mr. Lewis today spoke before an audience of manufacturers of heating apparatus at the Adelphia Hotel. He urged them to explain to purchasers of heating apparatus how fuel can be saved.

"The Federal Fuel Administration," said Mr. Lewis, "is not a government agency but a public utility. It is a well known fact that few people operate their heating plants correctly. Consequently, there is a big waste of fuel. It is desired, therefore, to teach the ordinary man efficient heating. The question arises first, who is able to do this work most capably and without individual burden? Second, how can it be done?"

"The manufacturers of heating apparatus through the local organizations are the logical teachers. They must know the principles of efficient heating in order to teach their product. The sum of their organizations, as a unit, represents a sufficient number to carry it out with but slight burden on the individual. This answers the question—who will do the work?"

Thomas C. Mahady, connected with the United States Fuel Administration, is in the city today and will be attached to a new department which has been organized in conjunction with the oil industry. His duties will be to prepare information for consumers of coal and to instruct them on the best way to save coal.

GERMANS REFUSE Bolshevik Demands

Continued from Page One
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Bolshevik representatives, it was stated, declared an agreement was acceptable, provided Ukraine declared her intention not to lend aid to General Kaledin and his Cossack revolt.

Troops on both sides are massing for an impending battle. The Ukrainian forces are composed of Cossacks under General Shkibinski, who has been in command of the Russian army on the Rumanian front.

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U. S. REMAINS FIRM IN STAND ON PEACE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—America's position toward peace in the Balkans, the State Department officially stated today. It remains an unqualified support of President Wilson in his message to Congress. There can be no peace negotiations which involve the interests of the United States.

The State Department answer was given in the light of German peace feelers extended in the effort to get a peace movement started by a peace conference at the Hague. The department added it had not received any of these feelers, either formally or informally, and was not advised of Russian peace feelers.

It was pointed out that Germany's latest offer of peace, which she had given the Allies two months in which to reject it, was a "mere rubber stamp" and had no real value.

The State Department said it had no objection to the peace conference at the Hague, but it would not attend. It would not attend because it would not be a "mere rubber stamp" and had no real value.

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TROOPS SENT TO WAR Without Overcoats

Approximately 1,500,000 men to equip and made men had been without coats." The bulk of these overcoat deliveries came late in November and December, sharpie replied. "Prior to shipment, there had been coming in that time we didn't have coats for all the men."

General Sharpie, however, refused to admit United States uniforms were inferior to French or English ones, or that they were unworkable, in the face of Mosley's bombardment of questions on that point.

General Pershing, Sharpie said, had lately been asked for his opinion on this point, but had not yet replied. "Personally I think the uniform ought to be heavier, but do not think it is inferior or unworkable," said Sharpie. "A heavier uniform would last longer."

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