



WILSON TAKES OVER ALL U. S. RAILROADS; McADOO TO BE HEAD

Government Will Assume Control of All Transportation Facilities of the United States at Noon Tomorrow; Will Operate Them as Unit Under Direction of Secretary of Treasury McAdoo, as Director General of Railroads; President to Ask Legislation Guaranteeing Proper Return to Holders of Railway Securities

Washington, Dec. 27.—The government will assume control of all transportation facilities of the United States at noon Friday, and will operate them as a unit under the direction of Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, as dictator general of railroads.

Will Seek Guarantee For Investors

The President will go to Congress next Thursday and ask for legislation guaranteeing to investors in railway securities a proper return on their investments and the maintenance by the government of the railroad properties. He will submit two express recommendations.

First—That railway properties shall be maintained, during Federal control, in as good repair and as complete equipment as when taken over by the government.

Second—That the roads shall receive a net operating income equal to the average individual net income of the three years preceding June 30, 1917.

Actual government operation of the roads will be gradual. Secretary McAdoo will continue his duties as Secretary of the Treasury, and he will direct the transportation system through the present directors, receivers and other operating forces. There will be no immediate change in the status of the employees of the roads nor of the handling of freight or the traveling public.

No steps to curtail passenger traffic nor to eliminate the transportation of nonessentials are to be taken until Secretary McAdoo believes they are necessary for more efficient handling of troops and supplies and traffic related intimately to a prosecution of the war.

DIVIDENDS ARE ASSURED UNDER WILSON'S ACTION

No Immediate or Startling Changes Contemplated in Conduct of Properties

Washington, Dec. 27.—Regular dividends of the roads are assured "in due course," and maturing obligations of the carriers may be renewed with the directors' approval in taking over the railroads by the government. The President makes this plain.

President Wilson is the first to take over the railroads since Abraham Lincoln found it necessary to act in the Civil War, and the United States is the last great nation to take such action in the present conflict.

Driven by National Necessity The President declared, in announcing his decision, that a "great national necessity" dictated the action.

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Bread Cards Unnecessary in Paris; Public Assists

Paris, Dec. 27.—The issuance of bread cards, which was to have been made on January 1, will not be carried out. The minister of provisions, Victor Borel, made this announcement today. Appreciable results have been obtained by voluntary rationing, he added, and if a further effort were made it would be unnecessary to issue bread cards.

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THE WEATHER

For Harrisburg and vicinity: Fair, continued cold to-night, with lowest temperature about 18 degrees; Friday partly cloudy and not so cold.

General Conditions An anticyclone from the North-west, now over the St. Lawrence Valley, has caused a general fall of 2 to 14 degrees in temperature in the Atlantic and East Gulf States. A disturbance over the Upper Mississippi Valley has caused a rise in Minnesota, the Dakotas, and rain and snow have fallen over the northern plateau region and in Western Canada. In the Lake Region, the Ohio, Mississippi and Lower Missouri valleys and in the Southern Rocky Mountains and the Southwest a general rise of 2 to 20 degrees in temperature.

Temperature: 8 a. m., 14. Sun: Rises, 7:33 a. m.; sets, 4:41 p. m. River Stage: 4.2 feet above low-water mark.

Yesterday's Weather Highest temperature, 20. Lowest temperature, 22. Normal temperature, 38.

Stocks Soar When President's Action Is Made Public

New York, Dec. 27.—Stocks soared at the opening of the stock market today, denoting the satisfaction of the financial community with the President's decision to take over the railroads. All the standard shares being bid up furiously. New York Central advanced 7 1/2 points to 71; Erie 2 3/8 to 82; Reading 1 7/8 to 70 1/2; Southern Pacific 6 1/4 to 84; Union Pacific 8 1/4 to 112. St. Paul jumped 11 5/8 points to 134; Atchafalpa 2 1/2 to 87 1/2; Delaware and Hudson 14 points to 100; Canadian Pacific 4 points to 134; Norfolk and Western 7 3/8 points to 194.

LOCAL OFFICIALS WILLING TO GIVE LOYAL SUPPORT

Philadelphia division officials are ready to obey any and all orders when the United States government takes charge of the railroad business in the United States. Little is known here as to what change in the present order of things, if any, will be made. J. K. Johnston, superintendent of the Philadelphia division said:

"We have little to tell you just now. Secretary McAdoo is a good man, and I believe he will make [Continued on Page 14.]

Two Troops of Cavalry Pursue Mexican Bandits

Marfa, Tex., Dec. 27.—Two troops of American cavalry are pursuing fifty Mexican bandits toward the interior of Mexico to-day, making the second time within a month that Mexican raiders have been followed across the border. Movements of the American troops were unknown by Colonel George T. Langhorne, commanding officer of the Big Bend patrol district until late last night, as it was impossible for the pursuing forces to get in connection with headquarters until they had chased the bandits out of the rocky country where they sought refuge Tuesday night after raiding the Brito ranch and killing three men, one American and two Mexicans.

Ambassador Francis Issues Firm Denial

London, Dec. 27.—David R. Francis, the American ambassador to Russia, issued on Tuesday a firm rebuttal of the charges made against the American embassy by the Bolsheviks. He declared, according to a Petrograd dispatch to the Times, that he and his staff never interfered with internal affairs of the Russia, nor sided General Kaledines or any other faction.

TO HEAR EMPLOYEES

Officers of the Red Cross Chapter announced to-day that the headquarters would be closed to-morrow evening on account of the Empey lecture. The rooms will be open on New Year's Day.

GOVERNMENT TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR EQUIPMENT

Large Sum Will Be Available For Rolling Stock to Relieve Congestion in Roads

Washington, Dec. 27.—One of the first acts of the government in beginning operation of railroads will be to reduce large salaries now paid to the railway executives and increase in some measure the wages of the railway workers. Securities to be issued while the government is in control will be at interest rates not less than 4 per cent, and the issues will be under joint authority of the director general and the Interstate Commerce Commission. President Wilson, when he outlined the government's plans in his forthcoming address to Congress, will ask that the government be empowered to buy any quantity of new railroad securities. All earnings over and above an amount to be agreed upon will go to the government. Congress will ask also to appropriate a large fund—probably two hundred million dollars—for the immediate supply of rolling stock to handle the flood of traffic which has swamped the roads.

Railroads to Give War Priority Now

The West Side Belt Railroad Company operating in Pittsburgh, has filed a notice with the Public Service Commission of intention to discontinue passenger trains for six months in order to devote all facilities to handling of freight, especially government business. A statement issued by Chairman Ainey, of the commission, says that he had called to their attention "necessity of relieving railroads as far as possible, from the burden of building new stations, increasing their passenger train facilities and from grade crossing separations and eliminations during the war to conserve men, money and material."

11 Enemy Airplanes Brought Down by British

Rome, Dec. 27.—Eleven Austro-German airplanes have been brought down by the British and Italian forces in a big aerial battle which developed when the Teutons made an unsuccessful attempt to bomb Treviso, 16 miles north of Venice. Announcement to this effect was made officially today by the Italian war office.

FEW PLEAS OF GUILTY

Only a few pleas of guilty have been listed for Monday. Defendants who will be brought into court are: Albert Robinson, larceny; Harvey Rodkey, larceny; T. G. Garver and Al-About sixty continued cases and 100 new cases are on the list already for the January sessions of Criminal Court. It was reported to-day. Two murder cases are included in the list.

STEAMER NAGPUR WRECKED

London, Dec. 27.—The British steamer City of Nagpur has been wrecked in Delagoa Bay, Portuguese East Africa, according to a dispatch to the Times from Lisbon. The passengers, numbering 259, were saved, as was the cargo.

The Widow's Might—The True Spirit of America



CHRISTLEY IS SENTENCED TO ELECTRIC CHAIR

Wife Murderer Loses Fight For Life in County Courts; Says He Was Crazy

John O. Christley, convicted of first degree murder on a charge of shooting his wife to death before his children, was refused a new trial today by the Dauphin county court, and the death sentence was imposed by Judge S. J. M. McCarrell. The motion for a retrial was based on the contention that the court erred in ruling out evidence to show insanity among cousins. This was argued several weeks ago, and today Judge McCarrell read the opinion of the court from the bench, in which this contention was overruled. Before giving the sentence Christley was asked if he had anything to say. He was standing at the time and was staring at the floor. He leaned forward slightly and the court repeated the question. Christley then made his only statement in public since he was arrested a year ago in July. While he had spoken to counsel during court trial he had not been put on the stand. "Well, I don't think that I was in a responsible condition of mind at the time the crime was committed," Christley began, speaking in a low tone. "I do not remember anything about the crime at all. I have no cognizance of this crime at all, and I don't know anything about it, and I am fully persuaded in my own mind that I must have been irresponsible legally at the time the crime was committed—by the attending circumstances and my taint—hereditary taint—of insanity and by all the other evidence of worry and the troubles and one thing and another that I have been laboring under. I believe that I was in an irresponsible condition of mind legally at the time."

Masons Plan Service Badges For Men in Army

The Grand Masonic Lodge of Pennsylvania is planning to give each member of the lodge who is called into government service a gold recognition badge to be worn on a conspicuous part of the uniform. The badge will be a special emblem, with his name and the familiar compass and square inscribed on it. The local lodges of Masons will probably present their members with these badges. Should he be found by another Mason lying on a field of battle and need care or medical attention the badge would be a sufficient demand for that fraternal help which all members are pledged to give.

Harrisburg Nurses Arrive Safely in French Port

Word was received here to-day of the safe arrival in France of Miss Margaret C. Lehman, former head nurse at the county almshouse and Miss Graybill, of the State Dispensary, who sailed from the United States with hospital unit No. 34.

ADVOCATES CASH AND CARRY PLAN FOR GROCERIES

Food Administrator McCormick Takes Up Matter With Dealers

"Cash and Carry" signs soon will be posted all over Harrisburg. If Donald McCormick, food administrator for Dauphin county, succeeds in making arrangements with the Harrisburg Grocers' Association, they will be required to take their goods on credit. Mr. McCormick is seeking to have all grocers reduce their deliveries to the minimum. Co-operation with the dealers by the consumers will, it is believed, so far reduce the overhead expenses that great savings may be effected. Probably half a dozen stores have already taken up the cash and carry plan, but it now probably will involve every establishment, big and small. Many grocers have volunteered their favor of the plan. They say it will save motor car service, salary of a driver, telephone expenses, wrapping paper and sundry other items which now total up to a surprisingly big amount. Furthermore, it will eliminate the charge system and save the firms on bookkeeping. Mr. McCormick said this morning that Harrisburg should not look upon this system as a hardship. It falls on all alike, and there is no disgrace in going home even with your arms full of purchases because the nation demands it.

Last of Christmas Mail Cleared From Postoffice

More than 300,000 pieces of first-class mail passed through the Harrisburg postoffice in the four days prior to Christmas. The volume of mail was unprecedented. 125 loads of parcels post being delivered in the four days. One wagon continuously collected from the stations at several of the big stores, working from 9 o'clock in the morning to 9 in the evening. Another wagon was collecting continuously for twelve hours each day. About 8,500 parcels and 1,900 insured parcels were sent through the main post office during the four-day Christmas rush. In addition to this, the mail at the Hill and Maclay street stations was very heavy. The number of special delivery letters during the four days, received and delivered was 1,993. Other parcels were sent to the mailing room of the new post office building was used during the rush. The newly remodeled post office building will be open for occupancy February 1, the contractor, Augustus Wildman, announced. The Federal Court is scheduled to meet here January 14, and the contractors are endeavoring to get the rooms in good shape by that time.

WASHINGTON DOUBTS SINCERITY OF PROPOSALS

Washington, Dec. 27.—The conditions surrounding Count Czernin's proposals for a basis of peace are such that the adherence of all belligerents must be secured to the terms of the German lines in the west. One condition regarded as impossible for the present at least is that the adherence of all belligerents must be secured to the terms of the German lines in the west. The German minority Socialist party were arrested on Christmas eve by the German military authorities, according to a Zurich dispatch given out to-day by the Wireless Press.

CITY TO BOOST TAXES AND LET ASH CONTRACT

Water Rate to Go Up to Avoid Deficiency in the Treasury

Council at an open meeting of the budget committee last night gave assurance that ashes will be collected next year through a contractor employed by the city; four new patrolmen and one sergeant will be added to the police force, and to meet the increased cost in the various municipal departments the tax rate will be increased from nine to ten mills and the domestic water rates from a minimum of \$4 to \$6, with proportionate increases for manufacturers. This statement was given during the session at which representative businessmen of the city were present to learn the financial problems confronting the commissioners. Bids for ash collections will probably be advertised for within the next week or two it was said and provision for the expense will be made in the budget ordinance which may be presented at a special meeting to-morrow night. An executive session will be held this evening and it is hoped that all the department estimates can be gone over for the last time. To Carry \$850,316 The 1918 budget will carry total appropriations of about \$5,346, not including the provision for ash collections, it was said. With a ten mill, tax rate and other taxable sources for the further strengthening of the German lines in the west.

GERMAN ATTACK REPULSED

Paris, Dec. 27.—Three attacks were made by the Germans last night on the Verdun front east of the Meuse, it is announced officially. At their third attempt the Germans succeeded in reaching the French lines but were driven out immediately, with heavy losses, leaving prisoners.

MEXICAN GOVERNMENT BROADENS ORDER

Mexico City, Dec. 27.—The government yesterday re-issued a circular issued recently providing that customs brokers at ports of entry be native-born Mexicans. A new order provides that naturalized citizens also may be customs brokers.

BOMB THROWN AT CONSULATE

Washington, Dec. 27.—Previous reports of a bomb being thrown into the American consulate at Odessa on December 18 were supplemented to-day by a dispatch from Consul General Ray, who said little damage was done and no one was hurt as the building was empty.

PETROGRAD INDUSTRIES BEGIN PAYMENT

London, Dec. 27.—The Putiloff works, employing 30,000 men, and the Petrograd metallurgical works, employing 8,000 have begun to pay off their men, according to a Reuter's dispatch from Petrograd.

EARTHQUAKE NEAR GUATEMALA

Panama, Dec. 27.—An earthquake is reported to have occurred near Amatitlan, fifteen miles south of Guatemala. Telegraphic communication has been interrupted and no detail has been received.

CITIZENS MUST SAVE WATER TO AVOID FAMINE

Mayor Calls on Householder to Conserve Supply During Emergency

THE SITUATION IS GRAVE

Munitions and Manufacturing Plants Face Shutdown Till New Equipment Arrives

Harrisburg is in such grave danger of a serious water famine that Mayor Keister today requested all residents to use as little water as possible until the pumping equipment can be increased by an electrically driven emergency pump. This may require several weeks, it is said. "It developed at last evening's conference," said Mayor Keister today, "that at one time during the [Continued on Page 9.]

Careless Enlisted Men Classed as Delinquents

Enlistment of registered men and their failure to officially notify local draft boards means that a number of men now in the service will be marked as delinquents and placed in the first draft division for failure to return their questionnaires. Members of the three city boards said to-day. It was said that a large number of men have thus enlisted. Parents who wish to avoid the odium of having enlisted sons classed as delinquents, may take the matter up with the boards by submitting proof of enlistment, it was said. Unless this is done within the seven-day time limit, exemption board members must, it was said, class the men as slackers.

CENTRAL POWERS ACCEPT RUSSIAN TERMS OF PEACE

Germany Cannot Bind Herself to Terms Without Approval of Russia's Allies

GENERAL PEACE DESIRED

Pact Eliminating Annexations and Indemnities Would Suit Central Powers

Washington, Dec. 27.—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. The Teutonic allies, however, cannot find themselves to the Russian terms unless Russia's allies also recognize them and carry them out honestly toward the central powers. Peace without forcible annex- [Continued on Page 5]

Total Eclipse of Moon Scheduled For Morning

The most important astronomical event of the month, and the closing feature of the year, takes place early to-morrow morning. It will be a total eclipse of the moon. This is the seventh eclipse of the year and the third of the moon. The shadow of the earth at about 5:08 a. m. For only twenty-seven minutes, from 4:31 to 4:58, the eclipse will be total. From that time until the eclipse ends at 6:59, the eclipse will be partial. Those who arise early may see the moon low in the west partially eclipsed. The sun does not rise until 7:24.

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300 GERMAN SOCIALISTS ARRESTED

London, Dec. 27.—More than 300 members of the German minority Socialist party were arrested on Christmas eve by the German military authorities, according to a Zurich dispatch given out to-day by the Wireless Press.

HAS GIVEN UP PRIVATE CAR

Philadelphia, Dec. 27.—E. T. Stotesbury president of the Reading Company, has discontinued the use of his private car for the period of the war.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

George Frost and Ada N. Miller, Harrisburg; Golden S. Jackson, Oberlin, and Mary Day, Steelton; Adreon Futterer, Washington, D. C., and Lulu M. Lewis, Hagerstown; Mervin B. Kaufman and Mary S. Ulrich, Harrisburg; John J. J. Long and Bessie F. Bricker, Middletown.