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UNDER GOVERNMENT CONTROL

VOL. XXXVII.—No. 13,560 TWO CENTS

FATE OPERATION OF U.S. RAILWAYS IS ANNOUNCED BY WILSON

RIVATE ANAGEMENT SUPERSEDED FOR DURATION OF WAR ANADIAN RAILE AD RATES TO ADVANCE AMERICAN RAILWAYS PLACED

CREAT UNANIMITY IS SHOWN BY CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS

ly Mayor Church and Controller Cameron Differ, and Point is on Duration and Frequency of Meetings of oard of Control.

over three hours last night an e which comfortably filled the um of Central Y.M.C.A. listened dozen or more of the candidates municipal honors expound their s on the problems which will have a settled by the city council during next few years. The meeting was mext few years. The meeting was ide under the auspices of the Central puncil of Ratepayers' Associations, ide was presided over by Richard eneyford, president of that body, no is himself an aldermanic canditate in Ward One. Those who advessed the meeting were Mayor surch, Controller Cameron, Ald. Macresor, Sergt.-Major Lowery of the W.V.A., Controller O'Neill, Ald chibald, Miles Vokes, Edward Meek, C., ex-Ald. Sam McBride, Ald. Maic., ex-Ald. Sam McBride, Ald. Ma-ulre, Ald. Robbins, Clifford Black-orn, Ald. Ramsden, Ald. McBrien, C. W. Mogridge, Ald. Nesbitt and W. H.

control \$2560 a year to look after our uterests," he said. "Can they do it is one hour a week? When I am lected mayor—and mind, I don't say I am elected mayor-I will have he board of control meet every day and sit until it has weighed each prob-

There was but little heckling during meeting, but any candidate who pted to take his seat without ssing a view on the Metropolin Railway purchase was forced to et up again and express his opinion nequivocally. The Morley avenue swage disposal plant also proved a

ular question All the speakers spent a portion of eir time pointing out the necessity voting for the Toronto Street Rail-

No Candidates Endorsed. as to be held by the central counuss issues affecting the people as

POINTS FROM ADDRESSES OF VARIOUS CANDIDATES

"I do not want to be mayor for the money in it. I give two-thirds of my salary every year to the city's interests. I can't go to war. so I want to do my bit at home. Thousands of men overseas have asked me to stay in the race."—Mayor T. L. Church.

"I invite anybody to look into my record in the city council."-Aid: "It is foolish to promise to reduce taxes. Ten million dollars a year of the city's money goes to carrying our debt."—Controller R. H.

"Keep your debentures off the market for three or four years and you will put the city's credit on a sound basis." — Controller John

"If we can retrench in bread, butter and meat in our homes, we can retrench at the city hall."-Miles Vokes. "Our first consideration should be to look after the city's credit."-

"We need business men with municipal experience on the board of control."-Ex-Ald, Sam McBride. "Make the T. S. R. purchase tote unanimous."-Ald. Alf. Maguire. "North Yonge street is a disgrace in its present condition."-Ald.

"The board of control should have authority over the board of education."—Edward Meek, K.C.

of the views expressed by the general simiof the views expressed by the general strong by the lers. All expressed themselves as FOR WEEK SHOW DECREASE

FOR WEEK SHOW DECREASE
purchase scheme, the abatement of the smell nuisance at the Morley avanue sewage disposal plant, the placing of the civic abattoir on a business basis, retrenchment in civic expenditure, keeping the city's bonds off the market, and a half dozen other similar policies.

In fact there seemed to be only one point on which any two of the speakers had different views. Mayor Church stated that he had placed the for the past week. According to the admiralty report tonight 11 British control routine on such a admiralty report tonight 11 British merchantmen unsuccessfully attacked, 12; including two previously. of control routine on such a admiralty report tonight 11 British British merchantmen unsuccessfully can be no question, in view of accounts like basis that its meetings merchantmen of 1600 tons or over attacked, 12; including two previously.

and but twice a week. Controller were sunk during this period by mine ameron objected to such a policy, or submarine, as well as one merone pay the members of the board of chantman under that tornage and one fishing vessel. Arrivals, 2316; sailings, 2460.

previous week, the losses were 21, British merchantmen sunk by mine 14 of them of more than 1600 tons.

KAISER BARELY ESCAPED DEATH IN MANNHEIM RAID British Bombs Destroyed Station and Tracks Just

After Emperor's Special Train Pulled Out.

opening Mr. Honeyford pointed the Verdun front, had a narrow estable vesterday from that this was the first open meet to be held by the central countratepayers' association. "We do fratepayers' association." We do fratepayers' association. "We do fratepayers' association." bring out or endorse candidates," British air squadron on Mannheim, across the Neka river, both structures being badly damaged. An am spatch from Basie. Only about an munition factory in a northern suburb was blown up; few persons were Mayor Church was the first candi-te to te heard. He briefly reviewed train left the station, which was part-were having a holiday. A consider-

Geneva, Dec. 26 .- The German em- In fact, the emperor's train was the is work during his three terms in ly destroyed by several bombs. A sec- able number of persons were killed ayor's office. "I inherited the mis- ion of the tracks was torn up, cut- of injured within the town, and several were blown into the Rhine. eral were blown into the Rhine.

By W. A. Willison.
Canadian Headquatters in France, via London, Dec. 26.—Christmas has come and gone. The front line was quiet Christmas Day, which was wet and stormy. There was rain in the morning, turning to a snowstorm in the evening, and it was clear and cold at night. Behind the firing line the officers and men celebrated the day and Glad New Year from the bottom of our hearts. At Old Chateau.

Stricken fighting men at the rest station in the green hills imidst the quiet surroundings of a quet old chatean, celebrated the season at a happy banquet in a great but which was cool with evergreen, brightened with innumerable red, white and blue and green streamers, lightened by many Red ross lamps and Chinese lanterns, and warmed by two big stoves. Men of all

that was Passchendaele, and move on

nany fights, new men who had only

Board of Commissioners Is sues Order Increasing Passenger Rates.

FREIGHT AFFECTED

Raise in Haulage Charges of Fifteen Per Cent, Goes Into Effect.

Ottawa, Dec. 26. - An important judgment handed down today by the board of railway commissioners provides for a 15 per cent, increase in passenger rates in all parts of Canada with the exception of British Columbla, where the maximum rate is now three cents per mile. The judgment also permits, subject to the limitations of the Crow's Nest agreement and cer-tain specific limitations, an increase in freight rates of approximately 10 per

freight rates of approximately 10 per cent. in the west and 15 per cent. in the east.

No mention is made in the judgment of the date on which the increased rates will come into effect. This is because the railways will have to file new tariffs based upon the judgment, and these must receive the approval of the board. It is quite probable that several weeks will elapse before the higher scale of freight and passenger rates comes into force.

The Crow's Nest agreement was made by the Canadian Parison Contraction.

made by the Canadian Pacific Railway with the government, and by its provisions rates on a large number of commodities are reduced.

The judgment points out that "there can be no question, in view of actual considerable of the constant of For the week ended December 19, 17 British merchantmen were sunk, 14 of them of more than 1600 tons. In the previous week, the losses were 21, 14 of them of more than 1600 tons. result that the expenses of the Cana-dian roads are mounting at a much

(Concluded on Page 4, Column 5.)

Rain, Snow and Frost Made Front Lines Inactive—Celebrations in Rear.

WOUNDED BANQUETED

Concerts and Moving Pictures With Gifts From Home Entertained Soldiers.

Needed for Relief. in wooden Armstrong huts or fron Nissen dwellings, or in the basements of shattered French houses or deep dugouts won back from the enemy. They paused in the midst of action to drink old toasts, to celebrate old customs and remember old associations. toms and remember eld associations. The spirit of the day was the old Christmas spirit, with the message of all messages, which found expression the Christmas number of the fam. all messages, which is and expression in the Christmas number of the famous Listening Post: "To our own folks, whose dearest wish was that we should be with them at the festive will be required to provide accommodation and suitable training for those board this Christmas time, just the old, old message, a Merry Christmas who have so suddenly become blind.

MEN'S COON COATS.

President Wilson Announces U. S. Administration Will Assume Possession and Operation of Railways, December 28.

Washington, Dec. 26.—Government possession and operation of the nation's railroads for the war was proclaimed by President Wilson tonight, to become effective at noon next Priday, December 28. William G. McAdoo, retaining his place in the cabinet as secretary of the treasury, is placed in charge as director-general placed in charge as director-general of railroads.

Every rairoad 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 reassembles,

he will recommend legislation guaranteeing war earnings and maintenance of railroad properties in good repair.

Government backing will be given to new issues of railroad secunities,

that a ready market may be found,

Surprised Rairoads.

The president's move, altho forecast,
for weeks came at this time as a great surprise to nearly everybody in Washington, including railroad offi-cials. It had been generally believed he would await the reassembling of congress before taking any step. He congress before taking any step. He acted thru Secretary of War Baker, under authority conferred in the army appropriation bill.

emain in the hands of railroad offirials, and the railroad war board, comrosed of five railroad heads, will continue to direct actual operation unde Secretary McAdoo's general supervi-

colonial Troops on THE FRENCH FRONT—These nicturesque colonial troops, who are fighting in France at the side of the French forces, are Algerian Spahis, who are only happy when they can fight. The chief practical effect of government operation will be to permit a complete unification of all rail systems, impossible under private operation owing to statutes being entirely equalized as to correlate IN MOUNTAINS OF ITALY

equalized as to earnings.

The situation was fully realized by President Wilson, who in his statement, declared the roads had gone as far as they could and that already some systems were and magazing their

some systems were endangering their carnings in attempting unification.

Interurbans Exempted. Altho the proclamation applies to all London, Dec. 26—Except on the extreme right between Col Del Rosso northern ian front, the military and Val Frenzela Maise. Held frontal-

electric lines engaged in general transportation, local interurban sysms are specifically exempted.

Congress will be asked to guarantee earnings equivalent to the average net operations continue far below normal. In France, where snow has fallen along the entire front, only bombardments and small raiding operations are taking place.

West of the Bretan River, in the Italian highlands, the Italians Christmas Day continued their attacks on the Austro-German forces which previously had succeeded in melitic previously in the left hash. operating income of each railroad in the three-year period ending June 30 1917. Railroad experts estimate that this will cost the government next year in the neighborhood of \$100,000,-000, which can be raised in large part by increased freights if the LC.C. grants the roads' application for the 16

grants the roads' application for the 16 per cent. rate increase now pending. Otherwise it will be paid largely out of the general government funds.

The I.C.C. and other government agencies which have to do with the railroads will continue to perform their functions as heretofore, except that they will be subject to orders of the director of railroads. director of railroads.

mas Day continued their attacks on the Austro-German forces which previously had succeeded in making gains on Col del Rosso and Monte de Val Bella. The battle waged thruout with great violence and the Italians wrested several of their former positions from the enemy rut owing to renewed onslaughts by the Teutonic allied forces they were again compelled to give ground.

The Berlin war office admits that the Italians threw heavy attacks against the invaders on the Col del Rosso and neighboring sectors, but asserts that all of them broke down under heavy losses.

In the afternoon the fighting diminished in intensity.

"On the left bank of the Brenta an attempted attack to the west of Ostell and of Osteria il Lepre was promptly checked by our barrage."

AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

Australian Soldiers Piling Up Anti-Conscription Majority.

Melbourne, Australia, Dec. 26—(Via Reuter's Ottawa Agency).—The latest figures in the referendum are: 870,000 No Reflection on Railways. The president makes it clear that his decision was not made because of. any failure on the part of any railroads to perform their whole duty insofar as they could while hampered as they ment reads:

"The struggle on the Asiago plateau Australian military forces, which, it is
Australian military forces, which, it is were by legal restrictions "The committee of railroad executives," said his statement, ". . . have

(Concluded on Page 4, Column 6.)

FIVE HUNDRED BLINDED PARLIAMENT IS FIRST IN HALIFAX EXPLOSION

The text of the Italian official state-

was resumed at dawn yesterday. The officially announced, are 17,000 for and enemy concentrated his efforts on our 23,000 against.

ITALIANS LOSE SIX VESSELS.

Rome, Dec. 26.—The losses to Italian shipping during the past week altho the public attendance was small from submarines were three steamers there is every indication that the of more than 1500 tons, two sailing vessels of more than 100 tons and one sailing vessel of less than 100 tons.

An exceptionally well-graded variety of coon skin coats for men at Din-een's-all full furred, well matched urrived in time to help in the glory skins-wide skirts-large lapels and Ten provisional boys' work conferenat was Passchendaele, and move on high storm collars. The prices, like ces were held in Ontario during the the assortment cannot be duplicated in summer at each of which three (Concluded on Page 7, Column 6.) I Toronto. Dineen's, 140 Yonge street. "members" were elected. They re-

OF KIND IN THE WORLD

sight—Half Million Dollars Boys in Their 'Teens Open Four Days' Session in Toronto and Discuss Questions of National Interest.

> At 10 o'clock last night the first ses- | present various cities, towns and sion of the first boys parliament in sitting two hours, the elegislative chamber being the board room of the rying the golden mace, and following board of education administration this Allan F. Annis, Oshawa Country, building, College street.

figures in the referendum are: 870,000 for and 1,050,000 against conscription,

Questions that are national in character were discussed, touching the lives of the boys of Canada in the teen age. There was a seriousness about the entire proceedings which showed that every boy meant business: l'arliamentary procedure was adhered to in true statesmanlike mariner, and movement will grow as parents are seized with the real importance of the scheme which is now under way.

Parliament will sit again today and this evening and will not prorogue until Saturday at 12 o'clock noon. It is a union government brought about by the boys' work department of the national council of the Y.M.C.A.

country ridings of the province. Promptly at eight o'clock the sergeant-at-arms entered the house carwas elected speaker. The sergeantat-arms left the chamber to return followed by Lieut.-Gov. W. S. Kirkand, who read the speech from the throne, and thus the first session of the first boys' parliament was opened. Premier Moves Reply.

In moving the address and reply to the speech from the throne, Premier Joe McCully, St. Thomas City, referred to the increase in crime in countries other than Canada and said that even the Canadian record was nothing to be very proud of: He quoted figures showing increase in cigaret smoking among boys in their teens, and said that a curb should be put upon it by the active co-operation of the members. The parliament had it. he said.

Hon. A. Max Herity, Belleville City,

(Concluded on Page 7, Column 3.) ting communication north. JELLICOE, MADE A PEER, IS OUT OF ADMIRALTY

Noted British Admiral is Succeeded as First ers Dilutes Membership-At-Sea Lord by Vice-Admiral Sir Rossiyn Wemyss.

London, Dec. 26 .- Vice-Admiral Sfr, the old aristocratic element in the wesslyn Wemyss has been appointed navy.

the peerage in recognition of his er, distinguished services. The hope expressed that his experience may uthized later in another post. Admira: Je.licoe, who had performed ctable service in the British navy as mander of the Atlantic and home sets and also as second sea lord, was

de supreme commander of the home est at the outbreak of the war. in ummer following the Jutland he was appointed first sea lord, son desired to resign his appointment.

The announcement proceeds: tle he was appointed first sea lord, to Vice-Admiral Sir David

trat sea lord in succession to Admiral Sy John R. Jeilicoe, according to an official announcement issued this tion of the second sea lord to his tion of the second sea lord to Admiral Jellicoe has been elevated thace, priefly announced in an official communication tonight, will convey but one interpretation to the mind of the general public in view of the strong criticisms for a long time passed up-

deep disappointment and dissatisfac-

tion at the impunity with which the

German raiders again recently sank British convoys. The announcement says nothing of Admiral Jelilcoe's having for any rea-

"During the war Admired Jellico who had commanded the was for two years and four months in warships in their fight against command of the grand fleet before he mans. Jellicoe os 58 years old. came to the admiralty to take up the be - Admiral Wemyss became position of first sea lord, which he has last 13 became held with distinction for the last 13 became held with distinction for th

SOCIAL REVOLUTIONISTS REPLACING BOLSHEVIKI

Council of National Commissiontempted Compromise Fails.

Petrograd, Dec. 26. — The peasant delegation which went to Klev to effect a compromise between the Bol-sheviki authorities and the Ukraine Rada report that they had no success .The central executive committee of the workmen's and soldiers' delegates yesterday approved the appointment of even social revolutionists as members of the council of the national commissioners to replace Bolsheviki members. Four of the new appointees will have portfolios, among them those of justice and agriculture. Three of them will be without portfolios. The number of Bolshevik members of the counon the admiralty which culminated in cil is ten, including one woman, Alexandra Kollantay, minister of public welfare. Efforts made by social democrats members of the central executive to point out the significance of the changes failed. Their request that the president of the council explain the reason for the changes was voted down

by the Bolshevik members. Cost of Living in Britain Doubled Since War Began