

U.S. GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE LARGE SALARIES PAID TO RAILWAY MEN

Washington, Dec. 28.—One of the first acts of the government in beginning operation of railways 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 four per cent, and the issues will be made under joint authority of the Director-General and the Interstate Commerce Commission.

President Wilson, when he outlines the government's plan in his forthcoming address to congress, will ask that the government be empowered to pay any quantity of new railway securities. All earnings over and above an amount to be agreed upon will go to the government.

Congress will be asked also to appropriate a large fund—probably \$200,000,000—for the immediate supply of rolling stock to handle the flood of traffic which has swamped the roads.

The Director-General will have authority to decide whether the government shall also assume operation and control of the express companies.

U. S. WOODEN SHIP BUILDING PROGRAM FAILS

Washington, Dec. 28.—The wooden shipbuilding program was pictured as an almost complete failure by Rear Admiral F. A. Bowles, assistant general manager of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, testifying at the Senate Commerce Commission investigation of shipbuilding.

BANDAGES FOR WOUNDED MEN WERE POISONED

Large Consignment Made in Toledo Were Poisoned in Transit

Cleveland, Dec. 28.—A plot to poison Red Cross bandages and spread wholesale death among the soldiers of America and her Allies has been exposed and frustrated here. Revelations of the conspiracy were made when it became known the Department of Justice agents were hunting the perpetrators of the deed.

Three thousand four hundred surgical dressings, rolled by patriotic women in Toledo, were infected with a mysterious poison as they passed in transit between the city and the coast.

Immediately every one of the 3,400 bandages was burned. They were destroyed secretly in the rear of the Red Cross warehouse here. Every effort was made to keep the matter secret. Officials of the Lake division of the Red Cross refused to discuss the information was obtained that the bandages had been destroyed and that Government agents, aided only by slender clues, were trying to solve the mystery.

The poisoned bandages were part of the Lake divisions from Red Cross headquarters in other cities in the division, which comprises Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky.

The box of bandages arrived here from the Toledo chapter last week and was taken to the warehouse. While women were examining the huge quantity of surgical dressings as to specifications, a dark greenish substance was noticed on one of them. Investigation showed that all the bandages in the box had been treated with poison.

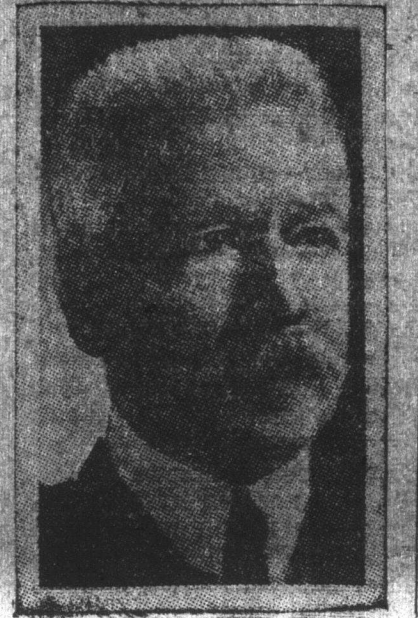
RETURNED SOLDIERS IN SASKATCHEWAN WANT 320 ACRES

When the Saskatchewan executive of the Great War Veterans' Association meets in Regina today, one of the most important matters to come under consideration will be land settlements for returned soldiers. It is proposed to send two members of each provincial executive as a delegation to Ottawa, immediately the house opens, to lay the matter before the Dominion Government. This delegation will, of course, take up other questions concerning returned men.

Difficult Bill to Frame

The framing of a bill to suit all parts of Canada will be most difficult, and it is recognized that in the event of a commission being appointed to handle the proposition the members of the commission will have to be granted very wide latitude. It is generally understood that the Saskatchewan delegates will ask for 320 acres of land, with a low interest rate on the investment. It is pointed out that such a grant of land in Ontario or Quebec would not be at all in proportion. Those interested in the issue in Saskatchewan also state that the land now at the disposal of the government is far from suitable for settlement by soldiers. The Hudson Bay Company and the C.P.R. have acquired large tracts of land and the

grazing leases have tied up hundreds of thousands of acres, while the land open to homesteaders has been well picked over. It will, then, devolve upon the government to secure suitable land before any step can be taken towards putting the soldiers upon it.



Premier Vittorio Orlando, of Italy, looked upon as the man to unite rival political groups now that foreign invaders tread Italy's soil.

BOMB THROWN INTO U. S. CONSULAR OFFICE

Washington, December 28.—Previous reports of a bomb being thrown into the American consular office at Odessa, December 18th, have been supplemented by a dispatch from Consul-General Ray, who said little damage was done and no one was hurt, as the building was empty.

GREATER CARE IN HANDLING EXPLOSIVES

London, Dec. 28.—The Halifax explosion has resulted in the adoption of much stricter regulations in connection with the manufacture and transportation of explosives throughout Great Britain. It is announced that the severest penalties will be enforced in case of violation of the regulations.

WILL CANADA ALSO TAKE OVER RAILWAYS?

There Are Not the Same Complications in Canada but Government May Act

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—The possibility of the Dominion Government having to take like action to that of the United States in taking over all the railways, is seriously discussed at the capital. In view of the action taken by President Wilson. At least one member of the Railway Commission is of the opinion that such action will be necessary in view of the labor situation, while others view it as problematical. As Sir Henry Drayton, Chief Railway Commissioner, is at present in Halifax, it was impossible to obtain from him any comment on the action of President Wilson in taking over the United States railways. Commissioner McLean, when asked as to the possible effect of the President's action on the Canadian situation said that he was as yet hardly in a position to make any comment. He had, he stated, seen only the brief newspaper report which gave practically no details as to the working out of the plan in the United States. Until a more detailed statement was received, he preferred not to make any statement.

Another official of the Railway Commission expressed the opinion that government control of railways in the United States was a very wise move. He drew attention to the fact that the situation there is different from that in Canada. In the United States the railways are subject to the laws of the various states through which they operated, prohibiting pooling of rail traffic and earnings. A complete unification of all the railway systems in operation is therefore an impossibility while the roads are controlled by private enterprise.

Action by the Federal Government, however, in taking over the roads must also cope with the labor situation and other problems which private enterprise has difficulty in handling. Whether it would be necessary for Canada to take similar action was problematical. The Dominion was not faced with the same statutory difficulties as the United States but the problem of supplying sufficient labor for operating the Canadian roads might necessitate government action.

Another official prominently connected with the administration of railways was inclined to the view that it would not be necessary to take like action in Canada and that the taking over the American railways by the government would have very little effect on the situation here. He thought that the American Government would be in a good position to control the cost of rolling stock which has been increasing very rapidly in recent months.

DRASTIC PROPOSALS TO SAVE BRITISH COAL

London, Dec. 28.—Proposals which would revolutionize the industry of Great Britain are contained in a report of the Coal Conservation sub-committee on the supply of electrical power. The main reforms advocated are as follows:

"Construction of sixteen super-power stations in different parts of the country."

"Suppression with adequate compensation of 500 small undertakings now in existence."

"National control of the whole undertaking by a National Board of Electricity Commissioners."

"Lord Haldane, chairman of the sub-committee, strongly recommends that these actions should be taken without delay. The primary object of the scheme is to economize the country's coal supplies."

"The amount of coal used in the United Kingdom for production of power is 80,000,000 tons. A national scheme, such as is proposed, would save 55,000,000 tons of this. It is calculated that with the saving of by-products not wasted by burning coal in open grates and boiler furnaces, a nation economy of \$500,000,000 a year would be effected."

TORONTO DOCTOR ARRESTED

Toronto, Dec. 28.—Dr. R. McP. Turner is under arrest on a charge of manslaughter in connection with the death of Marion Stone, who died Christmas Day at the General Hospital following an alleged operation. The doctor is confined to St. Michael's hospital under police surveillance suffering from blood poisoning, and his condition is said to be serious. The doctor's arrest has caused a sensation in medical circles. Norman Joliffe, a chauffeur, is also under arrest.

U-S. RAILWAYS TAKEN OVER FOR DURATION OF THE WAR

Washington, D.C., Dec. 27.—Government possession and operation of the nation's railroads for the war has been proclaimed by President Wilson to become effective at noon Friday, December 28th. William G. McAdoo, retaining his place in the Cabinet as Secretary of the Treasury, is placed in charge as Director-General of railroads. Every railroad engaged in general transportation with its appurtenances including ship lines, is taken over and all systems will be operated under the Director-General.

Direct management of the roads will remain in the hands of railroad officials, and the railroad war board, comprised of five railroad heads, will continue to direct actual operation under Secretary McAdoo's general supervision.

The chief practical effect of Government operation will be to permit a complete unification of all rail systems; impossible under private operation by reason of statutes prohibiting pooling of rail traffic and earnings. The roads themselves had gone as far as they dared in this direction, and it became known that they had been warned by Attorney-General Gregory that a violation of anti-pooling laws could not be permitted.

Germans Boast What They Will Do West Front

Toronto, Dec. 28.—A special cable to the Mail and Empire under date of Rotterdam, Dec. 26, says:

"If Germany's Government directed press at all reflected the mood of the people there was nothing of good will or reconciliation in their Christmas reflections. The contrast with last year is striking. The German Government had then just stretched out a friendly hand toward its enemies and was filling the world with shouts of its desire for 'an honorable peace.' Now there is not even a whisper of the sort. Major Morant writes in the Tagblatt: 'Later on in the West, as we have done in the South and East, we shall attack a vulnerable spot. Clinched fists and hard blows will be our answer to the speeches of the English statesmen.'"

"The Hamburger Fremdenblatt says: 'We understand what Ludendorff means when he says to not talk about peace. We understand it still more clearly when we turn our eyes to the West. It is there that they should be turned, for it is there that the stupendous decision in this world war will be made. It is there that the heavy tasks lie before us. England knows what is awaiting her, but in foolish pride she challenges fate.'"

"In unweakened will for victory, notwithstanding our deprivations, we can look forward to coming events in the West and only then will English and French foolhardiness be broken."

"One or two Socialist newspapers raise their voices in protest against the revived jingo spirit."

Bradshaw Was Power For Good

Notable Figure in Saskatchewan Legislature—Drove Crooks From Public Life

Moos Jaw, Sask., Dec. 28.—The unexpected death through heart disease of Lieut. Col. J. E. Bradshaw, of Prince Albert, was a stunning blow to his host of friends through Saskatchewan and beyond. He was almost the last man in the world that one would have expected to pass off so quickly, for he was a big man physically, with apparently a superabundance of energy and strong vitality. For thirty years he had resided at Prince Albert, having arrived there from Toronto in his 21st year.

From the time of his entrance into the provincial legislature in 1908 until he left it on the dissolution during last June he was a notable figure in that body. While he was not the Opposition leader during the last legislature still he was the Opposition's chief fighting man having many charges that so started public opinion, landed several people in the penitentiary, and drove so many others out of public life.

During the last election the government made a dead set on him and he was defeated. It was only, however, a matter of time until he would have come back, the tide having turned in favor of those proposals generally which he had advocated. He was a man of very advanced ideas and was really the father in the legislation of woman suffrage which, introduced first in Saskatchewan, has been adopted by all the provinces from the Pacific coast to Quebec.

He was one of the big members of the Opposition old guard in Saskatchewan, fought a strenuous battle under both Hamilton and Willoughby, and, during the last ten years, no provincial Conservative gathering was complete without him.

CIGAR-MAKERS STRIKE HAS BEEN SETTLED.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Settlement of a strike of 15,000 cigar-makers in Porto Rico, which had cost the government \$700,000 in revenue during the four months' cessation of work, has been announced by the Department of Labor. A mediator effected a settlement of wage questions which caused the strike.

TOBACCO NECESSITY SAYS FOOD CONTROLLER

London, Dec. 27.—Tobacco is a necessity, not a luxury, declared Lord Rhonda, the Food Controller, in a statement published here. "We must have tobacco," he said. "I believe that its loss would be a national misfortune. It means much both to the manual laborer and to him who works with his brains. Men would eat a great deal more if they did not have tobacco. I hold that the deprivation of it would work great discomfort."

Some system of "rationing" tobacco, however, is forecast by the newspapers.

THE KAISER ESCAPED.

Geneva, Dec. 27.—The German Emperor, returning with his staff from the Verdun front, had a narrow escape during the reprisal raid of a British air squadron on Mannheim, Christmas Eve, according to a dispatch from Basil. Only about an hour earlier the Emperor's special train left the station which was partly destroyed by several bombs. A section of the track was torn up, cutting communications North.

BALL PLAYERS WANTED TO THROW GRENADES

Chicago, Dec. 28.—The British-Canadian recruiting mission has issued an official appeal to baseball players to enlist because of their natural adaptability to grenade-throwing.



William Pearson Gundy, Toronto publisher and stationer, the new member of Canada's War Purchasing Commission.

SNOWFALL VERY LIGHT SO FAR THIS WINTER

The snowfall this winter has not been nearly as great as for the same period the last two years. The fall of snow from the first storm in October up to the present date is only twelve and a half inches, while in 1916 it totaled twenty inches, and in 1915, thirty-one inches, at a similar time in the year. The coldest day this winter was December 14th, when the thermometer registered thirty-six below zero. Beginning Thursday morning at twenty-two below zero, the cold weather, experienced in the last few days throughout Canada and many parts of the United States, struck Brandon and the mercury kept going farther down and pedestrians' cellars kept going up, as the cold became more intense. This morning the thermometer at the Experimental Farm registered thirty-five below zero, and as Thursday's wind had not abated, it seemed very cold indeed.

GIRL BURNED TO DEATH WHEN LAMP EXPLODES

Sherbrooke, Que., Dec. 28.—Elizabeth Hawkins, nineteen years of age, is dead as a result of burns received when her clothing was set on fire by a lamp explosion. Her father, William Hawkins, was badly burned when attempting to save his daughter.

NO RELIEF SUGAR SHORTAGE

New York, Dec. 28.—The shortage in sugar, which has been a feature of the closing weeks of the present year, will continue in 1918.

UNITED STATES STRICTLY NEUTRAL IN RUSSIA

Washington, Dec. 28.—Great forbearance and patience will be exercised by the American Government in dealing with the chaotic Russian situation because it is realized that German intrigue, working through thinly disguised agents within the ranks of the Bolsheviks, is doing its utmost to bring about a breach between the United States and Russia.

It is authoritatively stated that American representatives, in Russia, diplomatic, economic and others, will certainly avoid any interference with the international policies of the country and will be guided in their conduct by the strictest rules of neutrality as between the Russian factions. It is the policy of the United States to permit the Russian people themselves to work out their own salvation free from any American interference.

RIP 12 INCH WALL TO ROB BANK OF \$30,000

Yeggmen Cut Phones Before Looking Vault—Overlooked \$25,000 in Cash

Chicago, Dec. 28.—The following is a summary of the bank robberies within the last thirty days:

Nov. 27, Windsor Park Bank, \$3,000
Dec. 5, Stockman's Trust & Savings Bank, 10,500
Dec. 13, LaGrange State Bank, 46,730
Dec. 13, Pinkert State Bank, 800
Dec. 20, Summit State Bank, 35,000

Total, \$96,030
Twentieth century methods, against which even a twelve inch concrete wall reinforced with steel bars proved futile protection, were employed by yeggmen in robbing the Summit State Bank at Summit, Ill., of the pay roll of the Argo plant of the Corn Products Refining Company at Chicago, amounting to \$30,000 or \$35,000. The pay roll cash had been stored in the bank overnight. Between \$10,000 and \$15,000 of the pay roll and \$15,000 in deposit boxes in the vault which was looted was overlooked.

Several electric clocks, including one in the office of the bank, stopped at 12:05 a.m. and the police believe the yeggmen cut the telephone wires at that time and began working their way into the bank. The exact amount of the loss was not established at once but C. E. Board, auditor of the bank, and S. M. Sayre, superintendent of the Argo plant, were soon busy trying to determine it.

Banks Scored By Judge Myers

Declares They are Not Showing the Right Spirit in Making Appeals

Winnipeg, Dec. 28.—Banks which are asking for the exemption of their clerks came in for a severe scoring at the hands of Judge Myers, in the Exemption Appeal Tribunal Thursday. When counsel for the Banque d'Hochelaga appeared to reinforce the appeal of Joseph Ducheneau, a ledger keeper, the Judge said:

"I don't suppose this case is any different from all the other bank

or in the right spirit. There are too many branches in little towns throughout the Western Provinces, most of them asking exemption for some of their clerks. They claim they have organized an association of all these branches in order to ascertain how many men they can spare for the war. It appears to me they have organized to see how many men they can keep out of the war. The banks must wake up and realize that we have a fight on our hands." Decision in Ducheneau's case was reversed.

John Moody, sales manager of the Great West Saddlery Company, was granted temporary exemption until March 1st by Judge Haggart, in the exemption appeal tribunals today.

J. B. Hugg, appearing for the company, called E. R. Dowdall, general manager to the witness stand. Mr. Dowdall told the court that Moody had been with the company for several years and was an expert in his line. It would be hard to replace him, he stated.

Judge Haggart, in giving his decision, said he would have to treat the case in the same manner as he had dealt with other appeals in a like nature, namely, give Moody a short time in which to educate a substitute in his work. Moody's case lasted only five minutes.

Eight Mexican Bandits Killed

Following Murders Attack on United States Mail Stage in Texas

Marfa, Texas, Dec. 28.—Eight bandits were killed Christmas Day when ranchers and American cavalrymen fired on a band of Mexican raiders after the Mexicans had killed Michael Welch, driver of a United States stage and his two Mexican passengers and had looted the I. O. Erie store at Candelaria, Texas. This was the official report received here.

Additional reports of fighting between the scattered bands of bandits and American cavalrymen and Texas rangers have been brought here from the river front.

Last night troops guided by Texas Rangers searched the Rio Rock district for scattered bands of the raiders. Reinforcements were sent from here in commandeered civilian automobiles and trucks.

It was believed the bandits were a part of Francisco Villa's force which has been operating in the Ojinaga district. Federal troops in the Ojinaga district are alerted.

OBITUARY.

Mr. R. O'Brien.
The death took place at Mather, Man., on Wednesday, of Mr. R. O'Brien aged seventy-five years, after an illness of over a year. The deceased was a much respected resident of the Mather district, where he has lived during the past eleven years during which time he took a prominent part in the interests of the Methodist church there. Mr. O'Brien spent most of his life in Huron County, Ontario, coming West about fourteen years ago to Holmfeld, where he lived for about three years and later made his home at Mather. Besides his wife he leaves to mourn his loss four sons, Frank of Stratford, Ont., Will of Zurich, Jack and Roswell of this city, and three daughters, Mrs. D. McPhail, of Brandon, Mrs. A. Millett, of Rapid City, and Miss Bertha O'Brien, at home. Another son, Pte. Rodger O'Brien, was killed in action in October.

CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF DUTIES OF VARIOUS OFFICIALS IS SOUGHT

The charges by Sanitary Inspector E. C. Davies concerning the laxity of the School Attendance Officer and School Nurses in reporting cases of infectious diseases to the Health Department, formed the chief topic of discussion at the meeting of the School Board Thursday night. Mr. Davies had been invited by the School Board to attend the meeting. In a letter to that body, the Inspector stated that he was unable to attend, but replied to the statements made at the last meeting of the Board. After a long discussion the matter was disposed of by the appointment of a committee to meet Mr. Davies in regard to obtaining a clear understanding of the duties of the Attendance Officer, the School Nurses and the Sanitary Inspector as related to the public schools.

Co-operation Necessary

In his letter Mr. Davies said that he hoped to be able to present sufficient facts to the School Board to induce it to establish and maintain a better system of co-operation with the Department of Public Health. This co-operation is necessary to the end that infectious diseases be prevented among school children, and that the health of the entire city be thus assured.

of greater protection. Regular attendance at the public schools will also be secured by such action. Mrs. Davies added that the jeopardy of closing the schools because of an epidemic was not realized, and that only through avoiding such a state of affairs can the city escape the disgrace of the publicity that would come to it because of an epidemic. In the event of an epidemic the Health Department would in all probability be made the scapegoat, and officials of that department have no desire for such an occurrence.

The Sanitary Inspector explained why he was unable to give Miss Leybourne the names of children who had been absent from school for over three weeks, when the Attendance Officer requested them. In one instance a reported case of an infectious disease proved to be false, but according to Mr. Davies the visiting school nurse never went to the house to ascertain the true condition there. In another case the wrong address was given. However, the names of three others are given in the letter. Mr. Davies further requested that children from infected homes should not be allowed to return to the public schools without bearing a certificate from the Health Department. He furnished the names of ten children who have been on the sick list for some time, a number of whom should be well by now, but who have not yet been accounted for.

The original charge by Mr. Davies was that the epidemic of chicken-pox in the East end had originated in dirty homes of that section, a number of children living in these homes were attendants of the King George school at the time of the epidemic, and many of them remained away from school for as long as three weeks without having their cases investigated. He advocated a more rigid instant inspection. At the last meeting of the Board any responsibility for conditions existing in the East end was disclaimed by Chairman Creighton, who stated that the Attendance Officer was carrying out her duties in a most satisfactory manner.

Make School Board Scapegoat

At the meeting Thursday night Chairman Creighton said that Mr. Davies was evidently trying to make the School Board the scapegoat, in this matter as evidenced by the manner in which he had resorted to the use of the public press. Mr. Creighton felt that Mr. Davies should have presented himself at the meeting, and failing to do so suggested that the Sanitary Inspector watch his own department carefully while the School Board looks after its work.

Mr. Con. spoke of Mr. Davies being an energetic and good public servant, and felt that whatever is now being done by the Inspector is owing to the efforts of the City Council to make up for its shortcomings a year ago when they allowed an epidemic to sweep the city. Trustee McGee urged that another attempt be made to bring Mr. Davies before the board, as he felt that a mutual understanding could be arrived at if the matter was openly discussed.

A resolution was passed by the Board, that a committee be appointed to adjust the situation with Mr. Davies. It was stated that it was unnecessary to give the matter any further publicity and in this manner the entire affair could be quietly adjusted. The members of the committee appointed by Chairman Creighton are Mrs. Irwin, Dr. Condonell, Mr. Maxwell and Mr. Walter. They are to reach a specific understanding with Mr. Davies in regard to the work of the Attendance Officer, the School Nurses, and the Sanitary Inspector as related to the public schools.

Other Business.
The Board voted the appointment of Miss Helen McDonald to act as substitute for Miss Marjorie Bush during the latter's absence because of an accident.

Six months' leave of absence was granted Miss Armstrong, a teacher who had recently been bereaved of her mother, and whose sister is in ill-health.

An application for what was termed a long overdue increase in salary from Miss Orompton was referred to the new Board which takes office on January 1st. The inaugural meeting of the Board will be held January 2nd.

REWARDS OFFERED FOR APPREHENSION OF ALL DESERTERS

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—With the calling up of the first draft next week, strong measures will be taken against men who failed to register under the Military Service Act. Announcement of "reward to any civil police or peace officer for the apprehension and delivery into military custody of deserters or absentees without leave" is the forerunner of further steps to ensure all members of Class One complying with the law.

Instructions for dealing with deserters and absentees without leave, have been issued and the general policy determined. Generally speaking, there are five different groups of men who, from the military point of view, may be dealt with as absentees without leave.