

PRIVATE CONTROL U. S. RAILWAYS TO BE RESUMED SOON

President Wilson's New Order Extends Time Until March 1st

Washington, Dec. 25. — President Wilson Thursday night issued proclamations returning the railroads and express companies to private control March 1st. Failure of Congress to enact remedial legislation was given as the reason for extending by two months the time originally agreed for relinquishing government control of the railroads. In his message to Congress last May, President Wilson said the roads would be turned back at the end of the calendar year.

"No agreement yet having been reached by Congress," Secretary Tamm said, in announcing the proclamations, "it becomes necessary in the public interest to allow a reasonable time to elapse between the issuing of the proclamation and the date of its actually taking effect. The President is advised that the railroad and express companies are not organized to make it possible for them to receive and manage their properties if actually turned over to them on December 31st."

It was considered hardly likely that an agreement would be reached quickly enough to put the roads back February 1st or one month earlier than ordered by the president.

DEAL FOR PARK SITE ADVANCED: FINE PROPERTY

For Real Playground With Boating and Bathing Facilities

AN EARLY START

To Be Made To Prepare An Ideal Resort For Brandon

The City's purchase of a piece of property from the Industrial School has been practically completed and it is learned that the papers are now being drawn up which will make the property part of the suburban park planned for the city. When the Rev. Thompson Ferrer returned from the East some time ago he brought the necessary authority with him to complete the deal and the City immediately carried out their part of the arrangements made through the Council two months ago.

By the purchase of this property the City acquires 63 acres of land near Lake Percy for \$6,000. This piece of land together with the acreage to be secured from the Dominion Government will give the new park approximately 150 acres of park property. That the City intends to make the suburban park one of the finest in the province is apparent from the enthusiasm shown by the City Fathers. Parties who have been over the proposed park property state that the situation is ideal, and what with the improvements to be made which will give the lake and Assiniboine River boating and bathing attractions, there can be little doubt about the park's popularity once it gets under way.

There has not been many preliminary plans discussed as yet by the aldermen, but it has been stated that one of the first problems to be taken up before the park is a reality, is the question of an entrance to the grounds. It is the intention of the Council to start work on the park as early in the Spring as is possible, so as to make the grounds popular for picnic parties next Summer. It is also expected that debentures will be issued shortly to cover the cost of the piece of property purchased from the Industrial School, and also to cover the first year's expenses in preparing the park.

FRENCH MILLS LOOTED OR RAZED NOW EMPLOY 40,000 OPERATORS

Lille, France, Dec. 26. — Forty thousand persons are at work in the French textile mills which only a few months ago were razed or looted by the Germans of their wonderfully delicate machinery. The correspondent of the Associated Press was given the facts with reference to the industry by French authorities who have arranged a trip to show him the strides made by the nation in reconstruction.

Within a year, government officials and manufacturers agree, production of textiles will reach half of their pre-war total, and within two years, these men forecast, the 1914 output will be surpassed.

The wool industry is said to have recovered most rapidly, with cotton in second place. Linnen weaving is reported to be slowest in getting back to normal because of the shortage of flax, formerly obtained from Russia.

GALLANT MAJOR M'KEEVER DEAD

Credited With Victories Over 45 German Machines In Late War

OPERATION ON LEG

Caused Death of One of Canada's Best Known Aviators

Toronto, Ont., Dec. 26. — Major A. McKeever, M.C., D.S.O., Listowel, Ont., credited with victories over forty-five German machines in the late war, and one of the best known Canadian aviators, died in Toronto General Hospital early this morning at the age of 25 years, as the result of an operation on one of his legs.

Injured in Auto Accident Toronto, Dec. 26. — Major E. McKeever, of Listowel, Ont., a prominent flier who was recently appointed to a responsible position at the flying field at Mineola, N.Y., was brought from Stratford to the General Hospital here last night, unconscious, with one leg broken and otherwise seriously injured, as the result of a motor accident near Stratford today.

STABLE GOVT. A GREAT NEED OF GERMANY

United States General Urges Allies To Assist Where Possible

SUGGESTS A POOL

Of Supplies and Arrangements For Proper System of Distribution

Washington, Dec. 26. — The fate of Europe is so closely interwoven with that of Germany that the other European nations should lend her every assistance in the organization and maintenance of a stable government, General Tasker H. Bliss, United States representative on the Supreme War Council, said in a talk with newspaper men.

Present unrest in Europe is due almost entirely to unfavorable economic conditions, General Bliss said but this could be rapidly and wholly corrected if all Europe combined resources in the effort.

General Bliss suggested that the pooling of necessities and raw materials under one man, who would be designated "director general of supplies," and who would have associated with him a "director general of distribution" to see that supplies were apportioned where most urgently needed. Declaring that food production in Europe this year would be from 80 to 83 per cent. of normal, General Bliss expressed the conviction that there would be enough of all if properly distributed, and that therefore there was no real reason for famine in any part of Europe.

Junker Denomination Gone General Bliss said the fear of a revival of German militarism had been greatly exaggerated; that no reports which had reached him indicated the return of junker domination, and, Peace Treaty, the German army and munition facilities were so reduced as to make her come-back as a combatant hopeless.

Discussing the operations of the War Council, General Bliss expressed the opinion that the successful outcome of the war was directly attributable to the adoption of a unified command. If this had been in 1914, he said, the war would have been materially shortened and the Russian revolution probably prevented and millions of lives saved in successful military operations undertaken by each of the Allies acting alone.

Meat Exports Less Hopes for decrease in living costs were strengthened when it was announced by the Department of Commerce that meat exports for November had fallen off \$10,000,000.

Figures for November show this country exported \$61,948,890 in meat against \$71,442,235 for November, 1918. For the eleven months ending November, however, there was an increase of more than a quarter of billion dollars in exports. A total of \$1,097,724,942 worth of meat was exported for the eleven months. Against the decrease in meat export, however, there was an increase of \$5,000,000 in the export of breadstuffs.

FLAVELLE'S GIFT TO HOSPITAL

Toronto, Dec. 26. — Sir Joseph Flavell has handed his cheque for \$250,000 to the trustees of the Toronto General Hospital as a contribution toward lifting the present debt of \$835,000 from that institution. Sir Joseph contributed \$100,000 some years ago.

IRISH RAIDERS SEIZE EXPLOSIVES

Lisduff, County Cavan, Ireland, Dec. 26. — A band of armed men raided the railway works here, taking the explosives by surprise. The stock of the explosive gelignite at the works was seized by the raiders.

PREMIER BORDEN IS TO ENJOY A PROLONGED REST

To Leave Ottawa Early in January—Foster May Be Acting Premier

ANY ARRANGEMENT

That May Be Made Is Subject To Approval of Ministerial Members

Ottawa, Ont., Dec. 26. — Sir Robert Borden will remain in Ottawa until after the holidays. He expects to leave for a prolonged rest early in January. Sir George Foster will in all probability, be the Acting Premier during his absence. Sir George is the senior member of the Privy Council and, as such acts as Premier in the absence of the Prime Minister unless special arrangements are made.

Any arrangements will, however, be subject to approval by the ministerial members during the coming session.

CUBANS RUSH SUGAR TO MARKET

Detroit, Dec. 26. — The Cubans are rushing their raw sugars to market as fast as they can. Sixty centrals are now in operation, as against 29 a week ago, 27 a year ago and 50 two years ago. With the expectation of competition from various countries and the prospects of high prices the planters are bending every energy to get the sugars in while the shortage in this country exists. Heavy rains are reported now in some sections of Cuba, which may delay grinding somewhat.

The receipts for one recent week were: 12,669 tons against 3,042 the week before and none a year ago. The exports amounted to 3,867 tons, all of which were shipped to United States Atlantic ports. There was no exports last week nor a year ago. The stock now on the island is 15,010 tons, compared with 6,208 last week and none last year.

Pending legislation in regard to sugar control has unsettled the local raw sugar market and buyers just at present are concerned over the future. There now appears to be a general disposition on the part of the refiners and operators to await developments. Prices are consequently more or less nominal.

WRECK ON C.P.R. AT FREDERICTON JCT. EARLY TODAY

Edward Barry, Baggage-master, Only Person Badly Injured

TRAIN BROKE APART

Express Car Thrown Across Tracks In Yards—Second Class Car Ditched

Fredricton, Dec. 26. — A Canadian Pacific Railway passenger train jumped the rails on entering the yards at Fredericton Junction this morning and ploughed into another train in the yards. No particulars are available yet, but it is known that one man was badly injured.

A broken switch rod is said to have been responsible for the train breaking apart and being wrecked. As it entered the yards at Fredericton Junction, an express car was thrown across the tracks, while the baggage car crashed into a string of freight cars standing on the siding and a second class car was thrown into the ditch on the other side of the track, where it rolled over. Edward Barry, aged 28 of Episkillen N.B. baggage-master, was the only person badly hurt.

GERMAN SECRET AGENTS POSED AS RUSSIANS

United States Senate Promises Starting Disclosures In Its Investigation

Washington, Dec. 26. — Disclosures at the Senate's investigation of Russian propaganda in the United States, which will begin soon after the New Year, are expected to show the presence of German secret agents here in the guise of Russians, senators said Wednesday. Information given members of the Foreign Relations Committee indicates that one of these agents, who during the war was active in the German spy system, had free entry to the State Department, where he had been well vouched for by a reputable man.

The investigation will go into the status of Badkmeteff, the "Russian ambassador" in Washington, Senators said, as well as into the reputed

BRITAIN TO HAVE SHIPS OF THE IMPERATOR GROUP

Vessels To Be Turned Over By Direction of President Wilson

Washington, Dec. 26. — By the direction of President Wilson, the former German passenger ships of the Emperor group, now in New York harbor are to be delivered to Great Britain, the Shipping Board announces.

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER FOR RETURNED MEN

Tendered By the K. of C. Hut At the Prince Edward Hotel

A notable soldier's gathering in Brandon took place Christmas Eve when the Knights of Columbus Hut entertained the returned men of the city to Christmas dinner at the Prince Edward Hotel. The spacious dining room was packed and it was necessary to provide extra accommodation in order to seat the large number of guests who responded to the Hut's invitation.

At the head table was seated a distinguished gathering of Brandon officers, Brigadier General James Kirkcaldy, Col. C. P. Templeton, Major Charles Whillier, Major Duffus, and Inspector Proby of the R.N.W.M.P., the executive of the Hut and several citizens who have and are still showing untiring energy in the re-establishment of the men into civil life. Mr. Robert Crawford, President of the Hut made a splendid chairman, and toastmaster, while scattered through the room were numerous officers who took the opportunity of renewing acquaintances.

The toast list was as follows: "The King"; "The Army and Navy," proposed by Brigadier-General Kirkcaldy and responded to by Col. C. P. Templeton and Major Whillier; "Our Fallen heroes," a silent toast, followed by prayer by Rev. S. R. Hammond, Chaplain of the Great War Veterans Association "Our Kindred Organizations," by J. T. Norquay, Soldiers Civil Re-Establishment, Mr. F. A. Wood, Y.M.C.A.; Mr. Haigh, G.W.V.A.; Mayor-elect Dinsdale, Salvation Army; Mr. H. Cater, R.S.A.; Mr. J. Hughes, K. of C.

Three cheers and a tiger were given as a token of appreciation by the boys at the close of the dinner.

Christmas at General Hospital Gay decorations, a delicious Christmas dinner, and music during the afternoon as well as many gifts for the patients and nurses, were just part of the program at the Brandon General Hospital on Christmas Day. The wards presented a most cheery appearance with their gayly colored decorations and the patients enjoyed as happy a day as possible.

The members of the local branch of the Knights of Columbus Hut made their usual Thursday visit to the soldiers ward of the Hospital Christmas afternoon and left special Christmas boxes for each patient. Through the courtesy of Mr. Higgins, the Higgins Orchestra played for a couple of hours in the Hospital during the afternoon. The patients very much appreciated this musical treat which made the day pass the more quickly for them.

GRAND TRUNK DEAL MAY BE DELAYED

Agreement Has Not Yet Been Completed by Justice Department At Ottawa

Ottawa, Dec. 26. — The ratification of the agreement between the Government and the Grand Trunk regarding the acquisition of the latter's system may be delayed for some time yet. It had been thought that Sir Alfred Smithers, Chairman of the Board of Directors, took with him the agreement when he returned to England. It now appears that it was but a draft and that the Justice Department is still busy working out the details of the contract.

When the agreement has been finally revised it must go before the Grand Trunk shareholders for ratification. It will be well on in January before the contract is agreed to.

SUPPRESSION FREEMANS JOURNAL IS JUSTIFIED

Dublin, Dec. 26. — Mr. Justice Powell, in the Chancery Court, delivered a judgment, in which he held the action of the authorities in suppressing the Freeman's Journal to be justified in law and fact.

propaganda carried on by Ludwig C. A. K. Martens, who claims to represent the Soviet Government.

RAIN FELL EARLY CHRISTMAS MORN

Mild Weather On Christmas Day Was Most Enjoyable

Rain on Christmas Day is unusual in Brandon but it did rain Christmas morning and housewives were rejoicing over a new supply of soft water in their cisterns. The highest temperature on Thursday was thirty-eight above and it was ideal weather for the holiday although there was a boisterous wind, very like the winds of March. This morning it was seventeen above zero. The mild weather seems to be prevalent all over the Middle West but very little rain is reported.

NEVER AGAIN IS CHRISTMAS CRY OF HUN PACIFIST

Berlin, Dec. 26. — "In the memory of all that has happened, let us raise our hands spiritually in the dark of Christmas night, in every land, toward the starry heavens and swear 'Never again!'"

Prof. Walter Shueeking, Germany's leading pacifist and former member of the German peace delegation, sent this Christmas message to the people of the United States Thursday.

"Christmas impends and the conclusion of peace," Shueeking said, "but Christmas joy is lacking in our hearts. Humanity has suffered too much. Many millions of our brothers have entered that dark land from which none return. When the Holy evening comes there will go through the world a great sob from the forlorn, aged mothers whose sons are dead. Grief-stricken women will lay beneath Christmas trees gifts for little one who never have seen their fathers. Lonesome girls will rail against a fate which took away their hope for happiness in marriage."

"There is no home in Germany in which the family circle is unbroken by death. Oh, could one this Christmas evening adorn the graves of the dead!" In the ages of history humanity erected pyramids over the vaults of its dead in honor of their memory. But where are the dead of this war? Unburied their bodies putrify over miles of war-torn wastes. No flower blooms over their graves. There are no linden trees near them where the lark in Spring may sing its song.

"Spectre stalks Europe there lurks the spectre of hunger, need and want, grinning at a grieving populace through door and window."

"Will we succeed after all these years of war in again making the world sound? Can we restore these dwarfed children, crippled through years of under-nourishment?"

"This is a Christmas after four years of war—and one year of the armistice. Individual men may not have had so much guilt therein as people. They did not overcome the power of hate. But now we must battle against world hatred. We must link up what is common in all the world. Doesn't the French, British, or American mother feel the same towards her children as the German mother? When good is common to all of us, why should we hate?"

"Let us unite to forget all we have done wrongfully to one another. Let us educate our children in the thought that right stands higher than might, and that right must rule between nations."

Says Wrong in Versailles Treaty "All wrong done Belgium and France must be rectified and the wrong that has been written into the Versailles treaty must be made right. Let us work together for a great league of nations which will be a refuge of peace in a community of labor. In the memory of all that has happened let us raise our hands spiritually in the dark of this Christmas night, in every land, toward the starry heavens and swear 'Never again!'"

NEAR WHISKEY CAUSES DEATH OF EIGHT MEN

Twelve Barrels of Liquid Sold For \$12,000 At Hartford

SIX MEN IN TROUBLE

Four Under Arrest, Two Others Charged With Grave Offences

Hartford, Conn., Dec. 26. — Eight men are dead here from drinking liquor which they thought to be whiskey. Four men are under arrest for the deaths, and a fifth has been charged with murder in connection with the deaths, and a sixth is charged with intent to transport liquor illegally. Twelve barrels of a mixture presumed to be palatable, but requiring water to lessen its strength, were bought from a new firm for \$12,000. Pending analysis of the liquid, the police opinion is that the liquid has a wood alcohol base.

EXPECTS RUSH BACK TO LAND NEXT SPRING

Secretary of Soldier Settlement Board Says Many Ex-service Men Apply For Farms

Ottawa, Dec. 26. — S. Maher, Secretary of the Soldier Settlement Board has returned from a tour of inspection of the board's organization in the West. He stated that the Qualification Committees are dealing with hundreds of applications from returned soldiers every week and that the prospects are that the board will settle as many on the land next year as during the past season when, over 33,000 ex-service men were passed and nearly twenty thousand were granted loans amounting to \$52,000,000.

The applicants were for the most part of a good type and likely to make good on the land, said Mr. Maher. He was greatly impressed with the character of the settlers already on the land. Many of them had already shown that they will make good; in fact in one province a considerable number had done so well during the past year that they had been able to pay off the whole of their indebtedness to the board. Of course, there had been a few partial failures, owing to the drought and other conditions over which the men had no control. But even the districts affected by the drought the spirit of the settlers was excellent and they are facing the future with high hopes.

Arrangements were made by Mr. Maher while in the West to take care of the expected increase in the applications and the organization was strengthened wherever necessary.

BRITISH GOVT. GOING INTO SUGAR BUSINESS

London, Dec. 26. — The British Government is going into the sugar producing business and has decided to invest 250,000 pounds in a million-pound company to be floated, called the Home Grown Sugar Co., Limited. The government will guarantee a dividend of five per cent. for ten years on the private capital invested and will ask for no interest on its own subscription until a five per cent. cumulative dividend on the public capital has been subscribed.

TWO ARMED BANDITS SECURED \$75,000 FROM CLEVELAND MESSENGER

Cleveland, Ohio, Dec. 26. — Two armed bandits escaped with \$10,000 in cash and \$65,000 in checks, in a daring holdup in the downtown section this morning of James Hodur, who was carrying money from the Savings and Loan Company to the bank.

IRELAND IS REAL PARADISE SAYS FAMOUS PUBLISHER

People Well Off, Country Prosperous and Lawabiding, According To McClure

New York, Dec. 26. — The Mauretania, which left Cherbourg on December 10th and docked here Thursday, and despite exceptionally rough weather made the run to this port in less than seven days. There were more than 1,500 passengers on board. Christmas Eve was celebrated on board.

Samuel S. McClure, publisher, arrived on the Mauretania after a three months' visit to Ireland, where he said he found a "paradise." "Ireland is the most prosperous, comfortable and law abiding country in the world," said Mr. McClure. "The people are well dressed and well housed. One has to read outside papers to learn of trouble and unsettled conditions there. I found that Irish banks have deposits of more than 100,000,000 pounds, and have been forced to form alliances with English banks in order to find an outlet for their money. There are 5,000,000 head of cattle in Ireland, or half as many as in Canada. Ireland has exported as much food to England since 1913 as either the United States or the Argentine."

Sir Ernest H. Williams, English publisher, also arrived on the Mauretania.

FORD PLANS TO PAY \$8 DAY AS A MINIMUM

For the Past Three Years Minimum Wage Has Been \$6 Per Day

Detroit, Mich., Dec. 26. — For the past three years, the 52,000 employees of the Ford Motor Company plant here have been paid a minimum wage of \$6 a day. Even men who did nothing more than sweep the floors, drew \$6 per day for eight hours, while some of the older employees were in receipt of \$7 for their day's work.

A plan is under consideration whereby the minimum wage is to be made eight dollars, with the maximum \$12, for all employees. The motive underlying the motor king's activities in the matter of obtaining absolute control of all the stock in this company, was in order that he might put into effect these ideas and ideals unhampered by the objections of minority stockholders.

Aims at Record The turning back of profits into production, wages, and reduced prices for the finished products is the main spring of the Ford idea and he now begins to see his way clear to do so. By next Summer he believes he will have paid off the sum he borrowed with which to buy out minority stockholders and that he will then be able to go ahead with his altruistic plan of paying his huge army of employees the highest uniform wages of any concern in the world.

FRENCH PRESIDENT TO BE ELECTED JANUARY 17TH

Paris, Dec. 26. — President Poincaré's successor will be elected January 17th, according to the inference generally drawn by the Parisian press from Premier Clemenceau's statement in the chamber, that his cabinet would definitely resign on that date. Also it is deduced from the Paris declaration, that he will be a candidate for the presidency, which means that he will be elected virtually without opposition.

Prince Edward Hotel Brandon - Man.

THE "HUB" OF BRANDON—

The Prince Edward Hotel is the "hub" of Brandon—the centre of all attractions and where men of business and men of the prairies congregate.

Next time you visit Brandon — come to the Prince Edward and enjoy your trip thoroughly in congenial surroundings.