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**GOVERNMENT OPERATION OF RAILROADS**

Government operation of railroads is a big step and no doubt, the President pondered over it carefully before he took over the burden of operating the biggest business in the United States.

Burdened as he already is with the conduct of the most gigantic task of any president in history, the winning of the war, the President might well hesitate before he added on to his present load. Commander in chief of the armies and navies, executive head of the government as well, adviser and director of Congress, president of the Red Cross, what is there going on about which the President is not consulted? Gifted and talented as a writer, Mr. Wilson has also been given the post of honor as the writer of diplomatic correspondence of the war and in his state papers he is confuting and confounding the immoral philosophy that rules and confounds the German empire.

There are two sides, of course, to the question of government operation of railroads. The advantages are these: The government guarantees the dividends on the stocks and the interest on the bonds as paid for three years prior to June, 1917. No railroad may go into the hands of a receiver. The government agrees to maintain the rolling stock and roadbeds in first class condition. Labor troubles will be avoided during the war.

The other side, of course, relates to the question of whether the government can handle any business as economically or efficiently as under private ownership, whether politics and patronage can be kept out of the management. Now that Mr. McAdoo is dictator of the railroads, we can picture how his mail will be filled with applications for positions from men whose chief qualification for railroad positions has been the grace with which they occupied seats in Pullman cars. We can picture Senators and Congressmen applying to Mr. McAdoo for jobs for poor relations and for henchmen.

True it is announced that the present boards of directors and officers of railroads will be kept for the present. We hope so. If politics get into the railroads, it will be a sad day for the country.

That "Financial America" is pleased is shown by the effect on the stock market. There is no doubt that the government guarantee of dividends on stocks and interest on bonds for the period of the war will help the financial interests of the country. Railroad stocks and bonds should immediately become first class investments.

The main advantage of government operation is this: The railroads have been unable in the past few years, since they have been burdened down with government regulation, to borrow money, to market their securities. The result has been that many railroads have not been maintained up to standard, terminals have not been bought, rolling stock has not been ordered. The result is a congestion of freight and car shortage. Under government operation the government itself will have to expand and keep up the facilities of the railroads. It will cost money, but it will be worth it if the railroads are really put in first class shape to handle the business of the country and also the war business of the government.

The first thing Mr. McAdoo ought to do is to call off the government agents, both state and national, who have been tying up the railroads with a mass of red tape.

No one ever doubted for a minute that Union County would finish strong in the Red Cross Drive.

**The Woman That Pays**



by check instead of in currency escapes a lot of worry about money matters. She has an accurate record of where her money goes and a receipt for every penny she has paid out. Besides it's so much safer to have the cash in the bank than in the home. Our special department for women will be glad to give information.

**La Grande National Bank**

**RIPPLING RHYMES**  
 By Watt Mason

**The Day of Wrath**

For years one lesson I have taught, for years one sermon I have praught, which is that men should put away some money for the rainy day. Before the world had war disease, and coin was growing on the trees, I cried and cried, in thunder tones, "Oh, mortals, salt away some bones! Begin this system ere you sleep! Put down a parcel where 'twill keep! The rainy day will soon arrive, and prudent men will then survive." And now has come the day of care; with taxes here and taxes there, and rising cost of this and that, and many passing round the hat, the man who has no wad in hime has cause to murmur and repine. I'm oft addressed by grateful guys, who say, "Your counsel was most wise; we're glad we hearkened to your rede, and pickled pails of kopeck seed, for in these crucial times we stand with our resources well in hand, and we can always raise a plunk when Uncle Sam demands such junk." It surely soothes my savage breast that people saved at my behest; and often, when I lack the price, I wish I'd taken my advice.

**Thanksgiving Dinner of Hospital Boys Had All the Trimmings**

Turkey, Dressing, Potatoes, Gravy, Peas, Asparagus, Cranberries, Cake, Canned Peaches and Coffee on the Menu in France—Food Is Good and Abundant—Boys Are Well Except for a Few Colds.

IN FRANCE, Dec. 1.—(Special Correspondence.)—Things have been rather busy the last few days and we had to make preparations for Thanksgiving which we duly celebrated in the good old way with a football game and afterwards turkey and cranberry sauce. Following is the menu of our first, and I hope our last, Thanksgiving dinner in Europe: Turkey, dressing potatoes, gravy, peas, asparagus, cranberries, cake, canned peaches and coffee. It sure tasted good and our men bits were loaded down. We were mighty lucky as the turkey didn't get here until the night before and it would have been a poor Thanksgiving with out turkey and cranberries.

By this menu you cannot judge of how we are fed though our unit is fed as well as any and lots of times I think better than the average. The food is good and plenty of it which is all a man can expect under the circumstances.

Our ambulance goes after the mail every day but that is no sign that anybody receives any as mail comes in bunches; sometimes a few letters will come of a date that is a number of days later than the dates on the batch before it, then later on a batch will show up with the dates that have been skipped.

The fellows are all in good health, except for a few colds which are very easy to catch in this damp country where the ground never seems to have a chance to dry up between showers.

Yours truly,  
 SIDNEY C. HAPPERTT,  
 167 Field Hospital, 117 Sanitary Train, A. E. F., France via N.Y.

**NORTHWEST NEWS**

One Delivery a Day.  
 SPOKANE, Wash., Dec. 23—Hooverizing of resources will be carried a step further by Spokane merchants Monday when they inaugurate a one-

delivery-a-day system. In compliance with suggestions from state and national defense councils to aid in saving manpower as well as horses and gasoline, all merchants have agreed that the woman wishing a dime's worth of pickles delivered at once must send for them.

**NURSING CIVILIANS AS WELL AS SOLDIERS "OVER THERE"**



NURSING PERSONNEL JOHNS HOPKINS BASE HOSPITAL UNIT, ARMY HOSPITAL NO. 2, EXPEDITIONARY FORCE, FRANCE.

**Red Cross Nurses Doing Social Service Work in Regions Devastated by the Huns.**

So quietly and effectively has the Red Cross done its work that few Americans know that 2,000 nurses trained in our hospitals are now serving in war stricken countries.

Not all these nurses are caring for wounded soldiers. Many are doing the same thing they did in this country—visiting the poor and distressed, caring for mothers and children, nursing tuberculous patients, carrying the gospel of health and hope into homes bereft of both.

"Over there" does not mean merely France to the Red Cross nurse as it does to the soldier. It may mean Roumania, Serbia, Italy, Greece, Russia or Belgium. It may mean any part of the world inhabited by our allies where war conditions have created the need for nursing care.

Only a short time ago a little band of faithful women wearing the dark blue uniforms of the Red Cross left an Atlantic port for Greece. They sailed just as the soldiers sail, knowing little or nothing of their actual destination or of the nature of the work that awaited them. All they knew was that they would find suffering to alleviate, and, true to the spirit of nursing, they answered its call.

Refugees from Roumania and Serbia have sought shelter in Greece, where they are living in detention camps and in towns and villages along the border in a state of destitution and suffering. The nurses will find broken down, despairing men and women, sick in mind and body, and they will have to nurse them back to health

with the few supplies they find at hand.

The thought of the deprivations they must face themselves and of the hardships in dealing with people whose modes of life are strange to them never occurred to these nurses when they volunteered for service. Their only thought was that these forsaken people needed their help, and they went forth gladly to give it.

It is estimated that there are more than a million destitute orphans in France. These children must be saved if the nation is to be preserved, and the task of helping to save thousands of them is falling to our public health nurses, who are experienced in infant welfare work.

Amid strange surroundings, with none of the facilities for work that they are accustomed to, these nurses are doing their best to save the little ones of the gallant defenders of France. They are giving the mothers instruction in the feeding and hygienic care of their babies and striving to help them meet the appalling conditions which the war has caused.

In France there are said to be approximately 500,000 persons stricken with tuberculosis, which has become as great a menace to the country as German bombs and bullets. These people must be cared for and taught the necessity of preventative measures or else the national life will be undermined by the disease. Again, American public health nurses are finding their opportunity here. Numbers of them are already engaged in tuberculous work, visiting the sick in their homes and instructing them, to care for themselves and prevent infection.

The departure of groups of blue clad nurses from this country is quiet, but frequent. None but the Red Cross au-

**STETSON**

**An Invitation to See the New Fall Hats**

You young men—you well dressed men of any age—come and make yourselves at home among the smart new Stetsons at our store.

Ever since the new Stetsons arrived, we have been trying them on, studying the effects on different faces of each modification of crown, brim and trimming. If you wish, we can quickly show you several which will look as though they had been designed for you personally.

**Characterful, masculine, the American Spirit through and through—that's the Stetson feeling for Fall.**

Gordons and Stetsons  
 \$3.50 and \$4.50

**Over 2000 to Select From**

**McCoy & Co**  
 127-129 N. 3rd St. Portland, Ore.

**Elks Lodge Holds Special Election**

The Elks lodge held an election last night at which Don Scott was elected secretary; R. J. Green, esteemed lecturing knight (the office vacated by the death of Frank Bay); and Colon R. Eberhard, esteemed loyal knight, the office made vacant by the promotion of Mr. Colon R. Eberhard.

Society news for the Observer should be sent in Friday.

**STROLLER**

Sam Harris returned today after spending Christmas in Portland with his (?) mother.

Milton Miller can send all the income tax collectors he wants to here. I am a bachelor and my income is steadily decreasing. If I believed in that myth of two living on the price of one, I might be induced to help some lady reduce her annual surplus. Have slight preference for widows, grans or nod.

I am sorry Rev. Mr. Ford's lecture on "The Manometer" was postponed. I was going to hear it and find out how it was done and who did it. Eating is too good for some men.

To remind you the first of the year is the time to renew your bookkeeping outfits and files. Our stock was never so complete. Newlin Book & Stationery Co. 12-28-17.

Fresh Eggs.  
 For strictly fresh eggs call C. C. Coolidge, Phone Red 3702. 12-28-17

Give the kiddies a treat. Let them see the Modern Mother Goose at the Star, Saturday only. 12-27-24.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.  
 This is not only one of the best and most efficient medicines for coughs, colds and croup, but is also pleasant and safe to take, which is important when medicine must be given to children. Many mothers have given it their unqualified endorsement.—adv.

**Cash Talks! Restaurant for Sale**

On account of my daughter being sick, I am compelled to sell, or will trade for anything so that I can leave.

**THIS IS A BARGAIN.**  
 The restaurant and 8 furnished rooms above the restaurant.

**Your Price Is Mine.**  
 I must leave in a few days. Don't be afraid to see what I have for sale.

I have to sell at once. Will give easy terms or will take a car that can make a long trip.  
**Empire Cafe**  
 E. A. Crawford.

**New Year's Morning**

It's a holiday; you got up slowly, dress leisurely, sit down at the breakfast table and slowly sip a cup of

You enjoy the rich creaminess of it, and smile as you hesitatingly say:

"May I have just one more cup, please."

This is surely great coffee, and there is a saving of almost one-third, compared with the ordinary kind, as Barrington Hall Coffee will make about sixty cups to the pound, where ordinary coffee will only make about forty.

Price: 45c for 1-lb. Cans; 85c for 2-lb. Cans

For sale by:

**PATTISON BROTHERS GROCERY**