

WILL ADJUST RAIL CLAIM

WASHINGTON, (AP) — Director General of Railroads James C. Davis expects, soon after January 1 next, to make a complete report regarding adjustments with railroads as a result of Federal wartime control. Railroad claims are practically closed out, but there remain to be disposed of some 10,000 cases which individuals have brought against the government.

A substantial reduction in the force of Mr. Davis' office already has taken place, but the wind-up of the United States Railroad Administration awaits termination of the individual claims.

This settling of millions of dollars in claims between the railroads and the Federal government, Mr. Davis calls "the largest liquidation of a single commercial interest ever undertaken."

The adjustment of claims filed by railroads, the director general declares, was accomplished by the payment to the railroad of \$242,647,196.91, and a refunding from the Federal roads \$193,445,205.34, making the net cost of this adjustment, exclusive of overhead, \$50,200,952.57, or less than seven per cent of the face of the claims as finally presented. After Federal control the roads filed claims against the government for use of their property and undermaintenance of way and equipment totaling \$1,014,446.75.

The total cost of Federal control of the country's railroads is placed at \$1,096,000,000 by Mr. Davis. July 1 this year the railroad administration had unexpected appropriations and obligations of carriers aggregating \$655,622,920.77. Of this amount \$253,257,000 was represented by six per cent obligations of the carriers.

The period of Federal railroad control continued from December 31, 1917, to February 29, 1920. All but four railroad concerns, and these in the hands of receivers, have been settled with. Growing out of the Minnesota forest fire of November, 1918, 12,000 suits were recorded against the railroad administration. This fire is responsible for a great many of the 10,000 personal actions now pending, which will have to be settled before the administration can finally close its books.

Lloyd's Register Says Shipping Is Depressed

LONDON, (AP) — Lloyd's Register of Shipping, for the third year in succession, has reported a persistent depression in the ship building industry.

Having its reports on the year ended June 30, the society declares that the tonnage of new vessels ordered by it constituted the lowest recorded during the last 15 years, with the exception of the second year of the war, and was 55 per cent of the total for 1922-23; 25 per cent of that for 1921-22, and 27 per cent of 1920-21.

A total of 454 vessels of 600,555 tons gross was lost, and some 500 vessels of 1,250,000 tons were dismantled or broken up during the year. Notwithstanding this removal of more than 1,750,000 tons of shipping, the mercantile fleet of the world is even now greater by about 15,000,000 of tons than it

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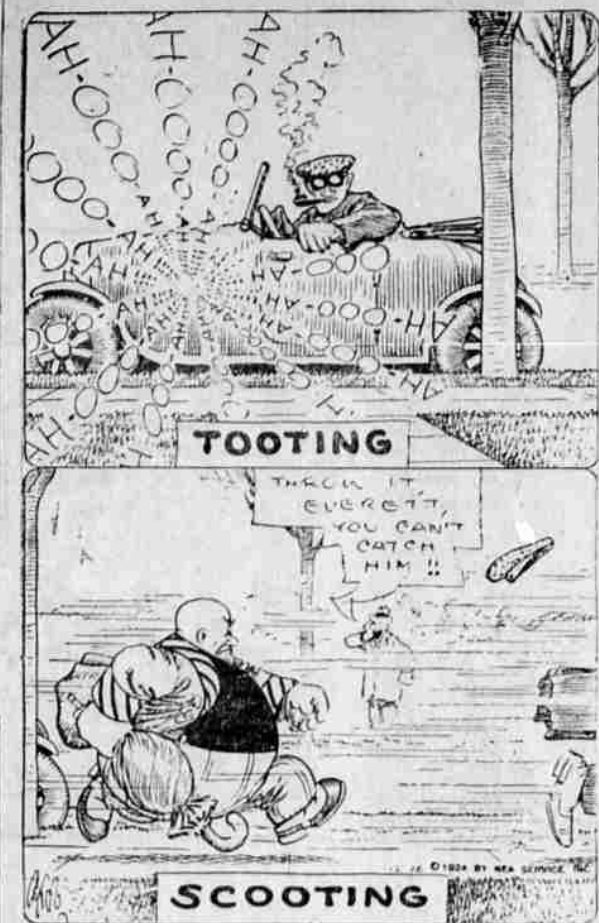
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was in 1914, but on the other hand there is a large proportion of laid up tonnage which will probably not again successfully seek employment. Any serious revival in overseas traffic will probably lead to further elimination of uneconomical tonnage, some of which is still in service.

Shippers appear to be fully alive, the report says, to the necessity of providing themselves with up-to-date fleets, and during the year plans for 489 vessels of 1,308,845 tons were passed by the society. These figures, it is pointed out, are appreciably in excess of those for 1922-23, but they are again far below the average for several years previous to the war.

Germans Tip Street Car Men

BERLIN, (AP) — With the stabilizing of Germany's finances the practice of tipping street and bus conductors has returned. It is customary among many passengers paying fare of 15 or 20 pfennings to give the conductor a tip

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Fatalism Controls Exiles From Russia

PARIS (AP) — More than 500,000 Russians in France have ceased to be refugees and become exiles, without a recognized country and without a protector, according to M. Maklakoff, the Russian Socialist leader, who explains that this condition is one of the principal consequences of the recognition of the Soviet government at Moscow by France. Maklakoff added that the action of the French government will make more uncertain the perspective of a political change in Russia. He is confident, however, that unless the Bolsheviks change their policies radically, they will ultimately succumb through a counter revolution.

"The world is abandoning us by degrees," is how Madame Maklakoff put it. "We have no longer any other protector than God; He in His wisdom, is making our trial a long and weary one, but He will see that justice is done in the end." These expressions from the Maklakoffs give a fair idea of the spirit in which the anti-Bolshevik Russians take the new situation.

There are three proposals for the immediate solution of the Russian refugee problem. The first is repatriation, but only a small minority are supposed to have enough courage to go back to their country. The second is French naturalization; it is thought in the Russian colony that perhaps 100,000 Russians now in France will take advantage of the invitation of the government to become French citizens. As to the great majority who want to remain Russians and are not ready to espouse Bolshevism, it is proposed that the countries where they reside be requested to issue passports to them which all European governments will be asked to respect. Two countries, however, Poland and Italy, have already announced that on account of their understandings with the Soviets they can recognize no pas-

ports to Russians other than those issued by the Moscow government. Conferences have been going on daily between refugees and the French authorities with reference to a solution of the problem, but the Russians remain at the same time skeptical and fatalist. They have little faith in anything that is tried outside of Russia, yet are absolutely confident that the interior evolution will sooner or later solve the Russian problem and make it possible for those who happen to be still living to return to their fatherland.

JOBLESS IN CANADA FIND MANY CHANCES TO WORK

WINNIPEG (AP) — Trend of employment in Canada is upward. More people are working today than at any time during the year and the outlook for the best winter of employment in the history of the Dominion is bright, according to a report on the labor situation issued by the federal bureau

of statistics. Returns tabulated from 5855 companies throughout Canada showed an increase on their payrolls from 765,432 workers in September to 771,932 in October.

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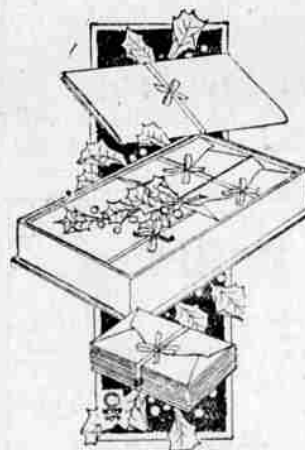
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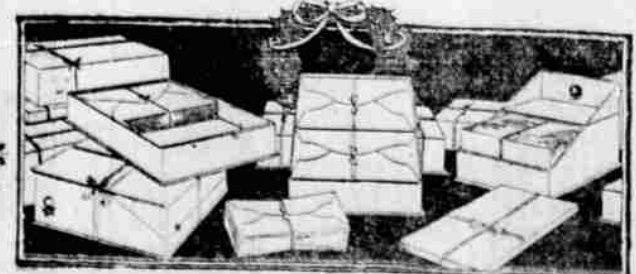


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