



## POOLING OF TRAFFIC TO BE FIRST ORDER

### Railroad Competition Will Vanish.

### SHORTEST ROUTE TO BE USED

### Increased Efficiency Expected to Relieve Congestion.

### ADVISORY BOARD TO STAY

**Equitable Distribution of Profits, Increased Wages for Employees and Financing of Improvements Demand Attention.**

### WHAT UNITED STATES RAIL MANAGEMENT MEANS.

The properties that will pass into the control of the Government are:

- All railroads, comprising 260,000 miles of lines, valued at \$17,000,000,000.
- All coastwise, lake and river steamship lines.
- All terminals, terminal companies and terminal associations.
- The Pullman Company's sleeping cars and parlor cars.
- The packers' and other concerns' private car lines.
- All railroad elevators and warehouses.
- All railroad telegraph and telephone lines.
- The Government guarantees to the stockholders of each of the railroads a profit equal at least to the average profits of the road during the fiscal years of 1915, 1916 and 1917.
- The railroads will continue to be operated by their respective corporations under the direction of Mr. McAdoo.

### WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—

Soon after American railroads go under Government operation at noon tomorrow, Director General McAdoo will issue his first official order wiping out competitive conditions and providing for complete pooling of traffic, equipment, terminals and trackage facilities, and for the retention of present officers and employees.

The immediate result will be a routing of traffic over shortest lines, regardless of the company with which shipments originate, and the common use of terminals to effect maximum efficiency. Without expecting wonders under the new plan, officials look forward to material improvement in the present traffic congestion within a few weeks.

**Freight to Move Speedily.**

Speedy movement of freight will be the first aim of the director-general. But problems the solution of which must press close on the heels of actual transportation questions are the equitable reimbursement of roads for the use of their property on the basis of pre-war earnings, increased wages for railroad employees, financing of necessary improvements, building of additional lines or facilities and the tangled priority situation.

Before most of these questions can be settled special legislation will be necessary and to urge this President Wilson is preparing a message to be delivered to Congress soon after it convenes after the holiday recess next Tuesday. Legislation already has been drafted.

### Advisory Board to Stay.

The legislation, however, and problems dependent on it can await the deliberation of Congress, while Director McAdoo must get into action tomorrow, with powers already conferred on him by President Wilson. First he will confer with the railroads' war board of presidents, who will receive and advise he said today would be retained under the new administration. Then he will organize a corps of assistants and advisers, largely of experts of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in whose building he will maintain headquarters for railroad supervision.

Mr. McAdoo said today he had given almost no thought to the personnel of his staff and was not prepared to outline the details of his administration. He is determined, however, to avoid disrupting any railroad organization or any agencies already developed which can lend efficiency to the new order.

### Order Meets With Approval.

Although the railroads' war board, after being in executive session all day, issued no statement commenting on government operation, railway executives indicated privately they were well pleased with the promised situation and optimism was reflected in the unusual rise in railroad securities on stock exchanges. Hundreds of telegrams of congratulation poured in on Mr. McAdoo.

A dubious note came from the Capitol, where several Republican members of Congress expressed fear that the task was too big for the Government to handle efficiently under war conditions, and others criticized the appointment of Secretary McAdoo as director-general.

The labor question under Government operation was discussed with

### CONCLUDED ON PAGE 4, COLUMN 1.

## Kaiser Rounds Up His Disloyal Ones

### MORE THAN 300 SOCIALISTS ARRESTED CHRISTMAS EVE.

### Men Forceably Suppressed Have Long Been Persistent Critics of War Party's Government.

LONDON, Dec. 27.—More than 300 members of the German minority Socialist party were arrested on Christmas eve by the German military authorities, according to a Zurich dispatch given out today by the Wireless Press.

The dispatch reads: "Following the arrest of minority Socialists at Cologne and Karlsruhe recently, the German military authorities made a large number of arrests on Christmas eve in Munich, Frankfurt, Leipzig, Nuremberg, Dusseldorf, Darmstadt, Nuremberg, Dortmund, Cassel, Mannheim, Mayence, Coburg, Duisburg and Gotha.

"More than 300 minority Socialists and local leaders in the towns mentioned were arrested."

No advice regarding the previous arrests of Socialists in Cologne and Karlsruhe had been received. The German minority Socialists comprise a strong faction in the party which refused to follow the lead of Philipp Scheidemann and others in their virtually unqualified support of the government.

## GUATEMALA BADLY SHAKEN

### Many Lives Lost and Property Destroyed by Earthquake.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—An earthquake, general throughout Guatemala, yesterday caused a loss of from 10 to 40 lives and extensive property damage in Guatemala City, the State Department was advised late today in a cable dispatch from the American charge there.

No mention was made as to damage in the interior.

Miss Mary Tillman, 315 East Sixteenth street, was much concerned yesterday over the report of the severe earthquake in Guatemala, where her sister, Mrs. Sumner Shaw, now lives. Mrs. Shaw has lived in Guatemala for almost 20 years and has frequently written of the earthquakes there. Mrs. Shaw was Caroline Tillman prior to her marriage to Mr. Shaw, who is a civil engineer stationed at Guatemala.

## VANCOUVER CAMP TO GROW

### Five Aero Squadrons to Be Sent and Buildings Will Be Erected.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Vancouver Barracks is to be greatly enlarged, it was reported here today. Five aero squadrons, in addition to those already stationed here, are to be sent here and five two-story buildings to accommodate them will be built at once. Seven or eight warehouses will be built for supplies for the engineer depot. These buildings will be of a permanent nature and will be south of the cantonment buildings.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Moore, formerly here with the Company F Engineers, will have personal charge of the organization of the 13th Engineers. A replacement camp of probably 2000 men will be established here permanently.

## DRAFTED MEN CAN ENLIST

### Spruce Division Still Open; Demand Great for Woodsmen.

Special orders have been dispatched to the draft boards in this territory by Provost Marshal-General Crowder to the effect that any drafted man may still be enlisted in the spruce production division of the Signal Corps if he indicates a wish so to do.

"It is hoped that men, especially those who have been working in the forests or who have experience in this work, will indicate their wish to join the spruce production division, as we are in need of men for this line of work," said Colonel Disque.

"Such men virtually will be retaining their positions in the logging camps and mills, as their services will be used in that manner if they wish to enlist in this section."

## MOON WHOLLY ECLIPSED

### Portland Watchers Catch Glimpse of Earth's Shadow.

A total eclipse of the moon was an astronomical event of the early morning hours today. It was visible throughout North America generally and it was observed by many in Portland as the clouds lifted.

The moon entered the shadow at 11:55 last night. Totally began at 1:29 this morning and the moon left the shadow at 3:18 A. M. This was the second total eclipse of the moon this year, the first having taken place January 7-8.

## DYNAMITE PLOT IS FEARED

### Discovery of Explosive in Coal Car Leads to Guarding of Camp Grant.

ROCKFORD, Ill., Dec. 27.—Discovery of a stick of dynamite in a car of coal billed from a Southern Indiana mine to the Rockford City Hospital, combined with a furnace explosion that wrecked the bungalow of William A. Ogden, resulted in an investigation being launched tonight by Federal officials and precautions taken to protect Camp Grant from any possible plot.

## PARIS IN WAR TIME SAD AND UNWASHED

### Women Labor in Garments 2 Years Old.

### SHOES LOW, HOSE OF COTTON

### Few Evidences of Immorality Found by Major Patton.

### CONGRESSMEN ARE FETED

### Houquiam Editor Tells of Being Entertained by General Pershing at Sumptuous Dinner and Start for War Front.

The Oregonian prints herewith the third of several articles from the pen of Major H. W. Patton, editor of the Houquiam Washingtonian, describing his observations on a recent trip to England and France. He was a member of a party sent to the front under Congressional auspices. He had exceptional opportunities for investigation of facts and conditions. They will be found an exceedingly valuable contribution to current wartime discussion.

By MAJOR H. W. PATTON.  
We visited Eton, the famous boys' school, where the sons of titled and blooded Englishmen are prepared for college. The smaller boys wear roundabout jackets and the older tall silk hats. There are a few things funnier than a 12-year-old boy wearing a plug hat.

I talked with several youngsters and found that all of them intended entering the army when through at Eton. They had no idea of going to college; no career of statesmanship, finance, law or commerce occupied their thoughts. The army and the army alone was the goal of their desire. If the war lasts long enough the desire will be gratified. I confess to a feeling of sadness when I thought of those hundreds of bright-faced youngsters in the front-line trenches.

## GUATEMALA BADLY SHAKEN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—An earthquake, general throughout Guatemala, yesterday caused a loss of from 10 to 40 lives and extensive property damage in Guatemala City, the State Department was advised late today in a cable dispatch from the American charge there.

No mention was made as to damage in the interior.

## VANCOUVER CAMP TO GROW

### Five Aero Squadrons to Be Sent and Buildings Will Be Erected.

VANCOUVER, Wash., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—Vancouver Barracks is to be greatly enlarged, it was reported here today. Five aero squadrons, in addition to those already stationed here, are to be sent here and five two-story buildings to accommodate them will be built at once. Seven or eight warehouses will be built for supplies for the engineer depot. These buildings will be of a permanent nature and will be south of the cantonment buildings.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. C. Moore, formerly here with the Company F Engineers, will have personal charge of the organization of the 13th Engineers. A replacement camp of probably 2000 men will be established here permanently.

## DRAFTED MEN CAN ENLIST

### Spruce Division Still Open; Demand Great for Woodsmen.

Special orders have been dispatched to the draft boards in this territory by Provost Marshal-General Crowder to the effect that any drafted man may still be enlisted in the spruce production division of the Signal Corps if he indicates a wish so to do.

"It is hoped that men, especially those who have been working in the forests or who have experience in this work, will indicate their wish to join the spruce production division, as we are in need of men for this line of work," said Colonel Disque.

"Such men virtually will be retaining their positions in the logging camps and mills, as their services will be used in that manner if they wish to enlist in this section."

## MOON WHOLLY ECLIPSED

### Portland Watchers Catch Glimpse of Earth's Shadow.

A total eclipse of the moon was an astronomical event of the early morning hours today. It was visible throughout North America generally and it was observed by many in Portland as the clouds lifted.

The moon entered the shadow at 11:55 last night. Totally began at 1:29 this morning and the moon left the shadow at 3:18 A. M. This was the second total eclipse of the moon this year, the first having taken place January 7-8.

## DYNAMITE PLOT IS FEARED

### Discovery of Explosive in Coal Car Leads to Guarding of Camp Grant.

ROCKFORD, Ill., Dec. 27.—Discovery of a stick of dynamite in a car of coal billed from a Southern Indiana mine to the Rockford City Hospital, combined with a furnace explosion that wrecked the bungalow of William A. Ogden, resulted in an investigation being launched tonight by Federal officials and precautions taken to protect Camp Grant from any possible plot.

## GERMANS BACK OF MEXICAN BANDITS

### TEUTONS SOUTH OF BORDER ARE REPORTED BUSY.

### Two Troops of U. S. Cavalry Now Somewhere in Southern Republic Chasing Outlaws.

EL PASO, Texas, Dec. 27.—A reliable report was received here tonight that the Mexican bandit raids into the Big Bend district of Texas were being inspired by Germans now operating south of the border in conjunction with American draft evaders. Federal officials are making a careful investigation of this report.

MARFA, Texas, Dec. 27.—Two troops of United States cavalry are "somewhere in Mexico" today, after pursuing the Mexican bandits who raided the Brito ranch, store and postoffice and killed the mail-stage driver and his passengers Christmas morning.

No information was received at military headquarters today from the commands of Captains Fiske and Anderson, who hit a "hot trail" late yesterday and followed it across the Rio Grande. Couriers are expected to reach the river Signal Corps station today with news from them.

## 3 U. S. SOLDIERS KILLED

### German Airmen Drop Bombs on Americans on Western Front.

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Thursday, Dec. 27.—(By the Associated Press.)—A corporal of American engineers was killed and one private was wounded Christmas eve when a German shell dropped near a party of American engineers working in trenches on a section of the French front. The engineers, for several weeks had been working along the front with veteran French engineers for purposes of instruction.

During a recent moonlight night German aviators dropped bombs near a certain point and two American privates, who were in a camp in a wood, were killed. The German airmen flew low and dropped their bombs accurately.

## EAST FACES ARCTIC WAVE

### Ten Below Predicted for Chicago by This Evening or Tomorrow.

CHICAGO, Dec. 27.—A drop of 40 degrees in temperature to 10 below zero by Friday night or Saturday morning is predicted for Chicago in a special forecast issued this afternoon.

BOSTON, Dec. 27.—Boston experienced the coldest weather of the winter early today with a minimum temperature of 3 degrees above zero at 7 o'clock. The cold extended throughout New England, Greenville, Me., reporting a minimum of 18 below.

## MUNITION TRAIN BLOWN UP

### Town in Belgium Almost Laid Waste by Explosion.

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 27.—The town of Rouseleers (Roulers), in Belgium, was almost laid waste recently by the explosion of an ammunition train, caused by bombs dropped by a British airplane, according to the frontier correspondent of the Telegraaf.

(Concluded on Page 3, Column 1.)

## ARSON PLOT BARED IN VALLEY TOWNS

### Gaston-Sheridan-Salem District Menaced.

### LETTERS REVEAL FOUL PLAN

### Fiends Mark Mills and Warehouses for Destruction.

### CARLTON FIRE INCENDIARY

### State Fire Marshal Wells' Deputies Discover Explosives and Evidence to Show Reign of Terror Has Been Planned.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 27.—(Special.)—State Fire Marshal Wells and his deputies, following the burning last Sunday morning of the Johnson grain elevator at Carlton, have obtained evidence which indicates a concerted plot to destroy mills and warehouses from Gaston to Sheridan and from there to Salem.

Federal and local authorities have been notified of the evidence at hand and Deputies Gilbert Allen, H. H. Pomerooy and George W. Stokes have been instructed by Fire Marshal Wells to continue their investigation, which may bring to light still further evidence of a plot to establish a Valley-wide reign of terror.

### Letters Bare Plot.

The three deputies have spent several days at Carlton and the vicinity.

In another warehouse at Carlton discovery was made of a man's coat, practically new, in which were 50 feet of fuse, and in the immediate vicinity discovery was made of dynamite and nitroglycerin. Two letters found in a wallet in the coat, which have been turned over to the authorities, disclose the skeletonized details of a plan for leaving a trail of smoke and ruin through the central section of the Willamette Valley. These letters are addressed to a man in Portland, for whom immediate search will be made. They mention the fact that numerous warehouses are located in the valley and intimate that they offer easy prey.

### Fast Auto Is Used.

In addition mention is made of a new automobile, which can "go like hell," in the language of the letter.

The investigating deputies found people at Carlton who declared that they heard an automobile leave the mill shortly before the fire was discovered and other parties vouch for the fact that the automobile passed farm houses shortly afterward, going at great speed.

In addition to the coat and explosives and fuse, a small sum of money and some stamps were found, as well as a new pair of shoes, all of which lead the deputies to believe that someone who was planning to set fire to, or blow up the other warehouse, was

### CONCLUDED ON PAGE 3, COLUMN 1.

## OLD ENGLISH TOWN IS "PASSING" CAMP

### ANCIENT PLACE NOW HAS MODERN MILITARY COLOR.

### Here American Soldiers Gather, Remain for While and Fraternize With British "Elizas."

SOMEWHERE IN ENGLAND, Dec. 14.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—Here, in one of the most ancient cities of England, is the principal camp in Great Britain of the United States Army.

The camp is what is known as a "passing" one. Men come here after landing on British soil and undergo a sort of quarantine for a week or so. Then, their whole unit having been assembled, they depart to be trained in France. The camp is policed by men of the United States Army.

The Colonel commanding the camp is an old West Pointer. His Adjutant, a captain of marines, is from Annapolis. There are a number of British officers and soldiers assigned to assist the Americans. The British officers are known technically as "lison officers," but Tommy Atkins long ago shortened this to "Elizas," a useful nickname which has been adopted also by the American soldiers.

## PIDD COURT-MARTIAL ENDS

### Young Wife of Soldier Assailant Testifies Against Him.

TACOMA, Wash., Dec. 27.—Hearing of the case of Private George Pidd, 44th Infantry, charged with assault to commit murder, was concluded by court-martial at Camp Lewis this afternoon.

Announcement of the findings is expected soon. Mrs. Pidd, the young wife of the prisoner, was one of the witnesses against him.

## MILK DEALERS INDICTED

### Minneapolis Men Charged With Fixing Prices and Controlling Supply.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 27.—Five members of the executive committee of the Twin City Milk Producers' Association were indicted by the Hennepin County grand jury today, charged with violation of the state anti-trust laws.

The grand jury charged the defendants with fixing the price and controlling the supply of milk in Minneapolis.

## 73 DEAD FROM PNEUMONIA

### Shortage of Coal Blamed for 24-Hour Death Record.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Shortage of coal was given by the Board of Health today as one of the reasons for 73 deaths here of pneumonia within the last 24 hours.

This is the highest record of deaths from this disease in one day in the last five years.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27.—Shortage of coal was given by the Board of Health today as one of the reasons for 73 deaths here of pneumonia within the last 24 hours.

This is the highest record of deaths from this disease in one day in the last five years.

## INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

**The Weather.**  
YESTERDAY'S—Maximum temperature, 61 degrees; minimum, 36 degrees.  
TODAY'S—Rain; fresh southeasterly winds.  
**Features.**  
Ancient English town now American Army camp. Page 1.  
300 German Socialists arrested Christmas eve. Page 1.  
**War.**  
Germans said to be inspiring Mexican bandits. Page 1.  
Germans twice repulsed by French on Verdun front. Page 3.  
Ten Austro-German airplanes brought down in Italy. Page 3.  
Central powers make general peace proposal. Page 2.  
Hugh Gibson tells of Germans looting and drinking in Belgium. Page 3.  
Major Patton, of Houquiam, finds Paris dirty after three years of war. Page 1.  
**National.**  
First railroad order will be for pooling traffic. Page 1.  
Deliveries of soldier clothing slow, says General Crowder. Page 1.  
South declared derelict in shipbuilding. Page 4.  
Coal inquiry narrowed by Government control of railroads. Page 1.  
**Sports.**  
Bowling tourney is postponed. Page 12.  
Portland won't get Willard match. Page 12.  
Hockey season to open here tonight. Page 12.  
Wreck expected to "strangle" Lewis' head lock. Page 12.  
**Pacific Northwest.**  
Plot bared to burn mills and warehouses in Willamette Valley. Page 1.  
Oregon Supreme Court holds Portland's anti-picketing ordinance unconstitutional. Page 14.  
Mayor Gill announces he will seek re-election. Page 6.  
Williamette rising at Oregon City, but flood stage deemed unlikely. Page 7.  
**Commercial and Marine.**  
Fair-sized wool transfers reported in local market. Page 17.  
Grain prices weaken in view of probable larger movement. Page 17.  
December rain exceeds normal by 6 inches. Page 14.  
Stocks of all classes rise sharply as result of Federal control of railroads. Page 17.  
**Portland and Vicinity.**  
Farmers and labor to confer as to forming non-partisan league. Page 18.  
County tax levy may drop to 4.5 mills. Page 11.  
Men between 31 and 40 can join U. S. Guard for service at home. Page 11.  
New traffic law in Portland proposed. Page 8.  
Erie office in Portland closed as result of truck strike. Page 10.  
Oregon pledges to build one-sixth of emergency fleet. Page 1.  
Cooper country prospering, says A. R. O'Brien. Page 7.  
Troops visiting Portland will be well cared for. Page 7.  
Shippers urged to co-operate with roads in reducing car shortage. Page 4.  
U. S. brings suit to confirm title to railroad grant lands. Page 10.  
Committee of Oregon teachers reports on sex instruction in schools. Page 6.  
Civil Service Board supports Heber in city incinerator controversy. Page 6.  
Draft advisory boards relieved of congestion. Page 15.  
Elks will assume charge of Red Cross membership drive, New Year's eve. Page 14.  
Weather report, data and forecast. Page 14.

## OREGON WILL BUILD ONE SIXTH OF FLEET

### State's Pledge Sent to Chairman Hurley.

### TONNAGE MAY BE INCREASED

### Wooden Ship Output Capable of Expansion.

### COAST DOING BIG SHARE

### Yards of West Shoulder Big Part of Burden of Providing Means of Moving Nation's Armies and Supplies During War.

Oregon will undertake to deliver 525,000 tons of wooden ships and 400,000 tons of steel ships in 1918 for the United States Shipping Board, the combined tonnage being almost one-sixth of the shipbuilding programme of the Board for the coming year.

The estimate of 525,000 tons of wooden ships for this state is asserted to be most conservative, and it is not improbable that it will reach 600,000 tons, say informed builders.

A telegram was sent last night to Edward K. Hurley, chairman of the Shipping Board, advising him of Oregon's pledge. The message was in reply to one sent by Chairman Hurley to the Chamber of Commerce last week, and was signed by H. L. Corbett, president of the Chamber. It was as follows:

"Answering your message of the 18th:

"Wood construction—Under present conditions of shipbuilding labor we will launch 525,000 tons, deadweight, in 1918. Installation of machinery will be predicated on priority accorded our builders by War Industry Board, which controls. However, with Government co-operation, we can arrange for increased engine and boiler construction over present orders for this equipment.

**Safety Margin Provided.**

"Steel construction—We will launch and equip 400,000 tons, deadweight, in 1918. We consider our estimates low and contain ample margin of safety if present efficient programme of your Board continues.

Before the message was dispatched the estimate was referred to Lloyd J. Wentworth, in charge of the Oregon District for the Emergency Fleet Corporation, and received his approval, which was regarded essential in view of the fact he is familiar with the yards, the amount of material that can be gotten out for wooden steamers and the labor situation.

Puget Sound and Grays Harbor shipbuilders have promised Chairman Hurley that they will deliver 600,000 tons of steel ships and 400,000 tons of wooden vessels during 1918.

With 1,500,000 tons of steel vessels and 1,025,000 tons of wooden vessels, or a total of 2,525,000 tons, pledged from the Pacific Coast, it is certain the West will play a considerable part in floating Uncle Sam's Army and its accoutrements and supplies during a part of next year and all of 1919.

**Failure Suggestion Discredited.**

Taking into consideration the wooden fleet alone, it would seem as if there

### CONCLUDED ON PAGE 18, COLUMN 4.

## THE EVOLUTION OF A STATE!

The Annual edition of The Oregonian, for years an epic of fact, figures and photographs, will this year show Oregon's part in the war preparedness programme, and its evolution as a state, in addition to telling a systematic and absorbing story of the vast resources that are behind the "Oregon First" spirit.

Designed to interest and attract, the Annual Oregonian this year will feature a photographic grasp of the state's growth, not only in the last 12 months, but during its history. Artists trained in the fine execution of an idea, and writers primed with facts and skilled in writing them into history and story, supplement the attractive survey of the camera lens. Statisticians have made romance out of truth in such a way that figures become interesting not alone for the story they tell and the work they represent, but because of the way they are presented.

The Annual Oregonian has always been a prized document in libraries and archives where records of the world are kept. It is recognized as a standard story of Oregon's evolution and progress.

