

SOUTHERN PACIFIC STANDS READY TO WORK WITH RIVAL

President Sproule Says His Road Would Merge With Santa Fe, if So Ordered by War Board.

ROLLING STOCK INCREASED

Federal Control of Roads Is Opposed on Ground Present Managers Know Requirements Best

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—William Sproule, president of the Southern Pacific, Thursday told the state railroad commission that his road stood ready to obey any orders of the war board, even including one to merge with the Santa Fe, the Southern Pacific's principal rival.

Sproule was a witness in the commission's investigation of wartime transportation problems of the state.

"If the railroad war board ordered you to coordinate and merge with the Santa Fe, what would you do?" Commissioner Edgerton asked.

"I would obey if I received such a positive order," was the reply.

Sproule explained that federal laws against pooling of interests prevented any closer coordination than at present maintained.

Head's Rolling Stock Increased
Sproule stated that the work of the priority board had increased the Southern Pacific's rolling stock from 81 per cent of the cars it owns, in April, to 106 per cent of its ownership at present, by sending cars to California from the east.

He further showed the work of the priority board by explaining that it had ordered 1000 box cars from eastern roads to enable the Southern Pacific to move an immense quantity of barley from California to New Orleans for shipment to the allies with no profit to the roads. The same thing was done to permit the shipment of airplane wood from Oregon, Sproule testified.

Opposes Government Ownership
Later in his testimony President Sproule took a firm stand against government seizure of the railroads.

"I am opposed to any interference with the individuality of the roads," he stated. "I believe there should be some central authority created by the government for the well being and service of the roads, but I think the roads can be best managed by those who know best their individual requirements."

He contended there was no war emergency at Pacific ports.

"The war is being conducted from the Atlantic ports," he said, "and the only war emergency that exists is there."

Forest Sales Double Those of Past Years

Annual reports of the forest service show that sales of National forest timber this year are more than double those of last year, the number of feet sold exceeding 2,000,000,000, valued at \$3,715,000. During the same period \$1,507,503 was paid into the federal treasury for 727,000,000 feet of timber which was cut and removed.

Much timber is used by the settlers living near the forests for fuel and building material, by the permission of the service, and it is estimated that an additional 113,000,000 board feet valued at \$150,000 was cut by them.

The largest timber sales were made in Oregon and approximately 688,000,000 feet was sold.

Many are taking advantage of the Player Piano Music SALE

Musical Floor—Seventh
Your choice of all classes of Player Music at Remarkably Low Prices.



Classical, Semi-Classical, Dance and Popular Music—hundreds and hundreds of Rolls to choose from.

BY THE DOZEN 1/2 DOZEN
\$2.75 \$1.40
Four Rolls 98¢

Marked Reductions in Pianos

Every instrument on the musical floor shows distinct price reductions during the "Xmas" sale of Pianos. Contract instruments alone excepted.

Sipman Wolfe & Co.
Musical Floor—Seventh

PROMOTION COMES TO PORTLAND BOY QUICKLY



Sergeant Carroll Wilson

Carroll Wilson of Portland, who enlisted in the United States cavalry when war was declared on Germany in April, has been transferred and promoted to regimental supply sergeant for the 14th regiment of field artillery, 6th brigade, 41st division. Sergeant Wilson was an office man with the Portland Flouring mills, but has readily adapted himself to army life and is in fine health and spirits. In a recent letter to his father, W. E. Wilson, he wrote that he was located at Camp Mills and said it was cold and snowing, but they had plenty of fuel, and the snow was welcomed, as it could be banked up against their tents and give them training for roughing it as they will have to do later on "over there."

Rochester Lifeboats Shelled by Germans

An Atlantic Port, Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—Lifeboats containing the crew of the American freighter Rochester, were shelled by a U-boat which had sunk their vessel on November 2, according to Chief Engineer W. J. Donnelly and Radio Operator H. F. Parsons, who arrived here Thursday from England. The Rochester was sunk 400 miles off the Irish coast. The crew reached land after four days and 18 hours of rowing and hardships. Several men died from exposure on the way. The captain, Eric Komertz, is now dying in an English hospital from the effects of the trip.

HUSBANDING OF FOOD NECESSARY TO MEET SHORTAGE OF ALLIES

Recent Statements That There Is No Shortage in France Are Declared Untrue.

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—Recent statements in American papers that there is no food shortage in France and other allied European countries are absolutely untrue, and militate against the vital success of America's food conservation program, the food administration declared Thursday.

Only the most careful husbanding of available supplies and conservation in every American household will insure sufficient food for allied armies and populations abroad, it is stated. Some of the stories published are explainable through misunderstandings between Americans recently returned from Europe and those to whom they talked. Other stories, generally printed, could not, the administration says, have been written more completely in the interest of Germany if the Kaiser had penned them himself.

A case in point in the first category is the interview with Lieutenant Robert E. Mackenzie of the French forces, a Canton, Ohio, man on his arrival in New York from France. He was quoted as saying that white bread was again in evidence in the Paris cafes.

Lieutenant Mackenzie later explained that he had "whiter" bread and not "white" bread. Where he was quoted as saying, "There appeared to be plenty of food," he explained that he said, "Plenty of food for the fighting forces."

Three Workers Hurt; Taken to Hospitals

Three workers in different occupations, were injured yesterday afternoon and taken to city hospitals for treatment. Martin Hawkins, 706 Roosevelt street, an employe at the North Bank docks, was taken to St. Vincent's hospital suffering from severe bruises sustained when a bundle of shingles fell on him. Oscar Peterson, 890 Thurman street, fell 25 feet from a scaffold at the Columbia River shipbuilding plant and was taken to Emanuel hospital with bad bruises about his hips and arms. At the Western Oregon Lumber company mill, H. Boyce, an 18-year-old employe, of Linnton, suffered a badly crushed hand when he caught it in a feed roller. He was taken to Good Samaritan hospital.

Trousers can be creased without removal from their wearer by means of a Wisconsin inventor has patented.

Klamath Land Is To Be Reclaimed

Reclamation Service Approves Installation of Gate at Railroad Crossing Over Klamath Strait; Marks End of Effort. Klamath Falls, Or., Dec. 21.—A wire was received here late Wednesday from Washington, D. C., to the effect that the directors of the United States reclamation service had officially approved of the reclamation of the marsh lands of the Lower Klamath lake by the installation of a gate at the railroad crossing over the Klamath strait. This is the windup of an attempt by local

men covering a period of over five years to reclaim a tract of land opened by the construction of the Southern Pacific railroad in 1909. By the installation of the gate which has already been completed, a tract of about 84,000 acres will be added to the agricultural area of this district. It is believed that about 40,000 acres will be available for pasturage next year.

An effort will now be started at Washington to reduce the area of the present bird reserve in that section and limit it to the districts not valuable for agriculture.

Germans Blamed for Fire

Whitesburg, Ky., Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—Germaman sympathizers are believed to have caused a fire which swept the town of Wayland, north of here, destroying mining and other property valued at \$100,000. Armed guards are now on duty.

Liege Commander Returns to Home

Zurich, Dec. 21.—(U. P.)—The Belgian general Leman, who was in command at Liege, August 21, 1914, when that fortress was taken by the Germans, arrived here Thursday, back from captivity. He had been in Magdeburg prison most of the time. General Leman is returned in exchange for German prisoners.

Pacific Coast, Unit For Better Defense

San Francisco, Dec. 21.—(I. N. S.)—The whole Pacific coast was enlisted Thursday in the fight for better defenses when a conference of the bay cities was held in the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce assembly room. By resolution it was voted that all cities on the coast and that Utah, Nevada, Montana and Arizona be asked to join with the plan to make a defensive scheme. This was the result of a "Bay Cities conference" on the report of the naval base commission headed by Rear Admiral W. M. Helm.

Dallas Red Cross In New Quarters

Dallas, Or., Dec. 21.—The Red Cross at Dallas has moved into its new quarters in the Uglow building, the use of the room being donated them by the owner, Abel Uglow. A few days ago the auxiliary was changed to a branch of the Willamette chapter at Salem, and has working under it 14 different auxiliaries in Dallas and Polk county. The Christmas Red Cross drive for Polk county is now well under way, with H. L. Crider acting as campaign manager for Dallas. Polk county has been asked to secure 5500 members.

Sipman Wolfe & Co.

"Merchandise of Merit Only"

THE CHRISTMAS STORE

That Spreads Yuletide Happiness to All

Saturday Shoppers Can Call on the Wonderful Resources of This Great Christmas Store

—Where the vast, unbroken stocks assure SATISFACTORY selection. Throughout the great Holiday Bazaar you will find WONDERFUL GIFTS—PRACTICAL, SERVICEABLE—in the SPIRIT of the times at MOST MOD-EST PRICES. NEVER has this store been so well equipped in merchandise and salespeople to serve the PUBLIC, as today. SATURDAY will be an EXTRAORDINARY day for Christmas shoppers.

In Addition to Our Already Augmented Xmas Sales Force—
On Saturday We Shall Have the Services of the Young Men From
Lincoln, Washington, Jefferson and Franklin High Schools—Benson Polytechnic, Pacific Dental College, Columbia University, Behnke Walker and Reed College

Store Will Remain Open Until 9 P. M.

—We can assure you courteous service ALL DAY, but in the interest of QUICK SERVICE, please SHOP EARLY in THE DAY—it will help us IMMENSELY.

Special Holiday Sale

MEN'S HOUSE SLIPPERS

—Tan and black leathers in Cavalier, Romeo, Everet and Opera styles.
\$2.10, \$2.65, \$2.95, \$3.45, \$3.95

—Santa Claus couldn't leave a more welcome gift.

FELT SLIPPERS FOR XMAS

WOMEN'S FELT SLIPPERS—
\$1.50, \$2.00, \$2.25.
MEN'S FELT SLIPPERS—\$1.75
CHILDREN'S RED FELT JULIETS—\$1, \$1.25, \$1.50.

—Second Floor, Lipman, Wolfe & Co.

Northwestern National Bank

Three Christmas Suggestions

- 1 Join the Red Cross.
- 2 Invest in Thrift and War Savings Stamps.
- 3 Open Savings Account for the wife and youngsters.

Portland Oregon

The Employment of
25 Extra Salesmen
in our
MEN'S STORE
makes this your logical shopping place for
GIFTS for MEN

—Main Floor, Just Inside Washington Street Entrance.

The GIFT STORE

SIXTH FLOOR

Offers Thousands of Gifts
at **QUARTER OFF**
Hundreds of Attractive Articles
50c to \$15.00

The Jewelry Store

FIRST FLOOR

is a sparkle with the most comprehensive stock of
Christmas JEWELRY
25c to \$5.00

Still Ample Time to Choose Your **CHRISTMAS** **VICTROLA**
And GET the **BENEFIT** of Our Special XMAS TERMS

—Seventh Floor.

SANTA CLAUS and TOY SHOP in the BASEMENT



COATS for Xmas

—A SALE.

of greatest importance
Wool Velour, Pom Pom, Plush

Winter COATS

—The newest, the most up-to-date coats shown this season. Taken from our own stocks, our best selling styles, in all colors, many models.

\$20

Many Half Price and Less

—Third Floor.

EXHIBITION AND SALE EXTRAORDINARY

On Saturday We Shall Exhibit Magnificent

Kimonos and Rugs

The private collection of a wealthy Japanese

—We doubt if the equal of this collection has ever been seen outside of the Orient.

Kimonos Are Priced \$100 to \$350 Each
Chinese Rugs Priced \$500 to \$1200 Each

—Fourth Floor.