

RAILROAD CONTROL FOR 5 YEARS URGED

Secretary McAdoo Recommends to Congress Extension.

WILSON SHARES IDEA

Director-General Declares Present Economic Problem Grave and People Entitled to Test.

Washington, D. C.—Extension of the period of government control of railroads for five years, until January 1, 1924, is recommended to congress by Director-General McAdoo.

The advantages of this, he said, are that it would take the railroads out of politics for the present; give time for carrying out of an extensive programme of improvements and provide opportunity for a fair test of unified control and to indicate the permanent solution of the railroad problem.

"The president has given me permission to say that this conclusion accords with his own view of the matter," Mr. McAdoo said, concluding a letter to Senator Smith, of South Carolina, and Representative Sims, chairman respectively of the senate and house interstate commerce committees.

Mr. McAdoo explained that to continue government operation for 21 months after formal declaration of peace under present conditions would mean disruption of morale among employees and officers, and could not enable the government to go ahead with improvements and purchases of equipment.

The other alternative, prompt return of the roads to private control, without legislation to permit elimination of the old wasteful competition would be "hurtful alike to the public interest and the railroads themselves," he said, adding that difficulty of obtaining immediate legislation providing a permanent solution is apparent.

"There is one, and to my mind only one, practicable and wise alternative, Mr. McAdoo continued, "and that is to extend the period of federal control from the one year and nine months provided by the present law to five years, or until the first day of January, 1924. This extension would take the railroad question out of politics for a reasonable period."

GREAT TELEPHONE INVENTION OUT

Washington, D. C.—Postmaster-General Burleson Saturday made public a letter from Theodore N. Vall, president of the American Telephone & Telegraph company, announcing the invention and development by the technical staff of the Bell system of "a practical system of multiplex telephony and telegraphy by the use of which it is now possible to increase many fold the message-carrying capacity of long telephone and telegraph wires."

"With this new system," said Mr. Vall's letter, "four telephone conversations over one pair of wires are simultaneously carried on, in addition to the telephone conversation provided by the ordinary methods. Thus, over a single pair of wires a total of five telephone conversations are simultaneously operated, each giving service as good as that provided by the circuit working in the ordinary way."

Petrograd Faces Hunger.

Stockholm.—Fugitives from Russia say living conditions in Petrograd are terrible. The famine there defies the imagination. Flour is selling for 50 rubles, and butter and sugar for 150 rubles per kilogram (2.2 pounds). Herring are the only food obtainable, and sell for five rubles each.

All middle class elements are excluded from public eating houses and are dying of starvation by thousands. Hundreds are buried each day between 6 and 9 in the morning, no funerals being permitted later during the day. Of a normal population of two millions, only a half million persons are left in Petrograd. The city looks deserted.

STATE NEWS IN BRIEF.

GOOD ROADS PLANS LARGE

State Highway Commission Gives Out \$3,525,000 Program.

The largest annual programme of road construction ever presented by the State Highway commission was drafted last Thursday at the concluding session of the commissioners, covering practically every district in Oregon and calling for an estimated expenditure of \$3,525,000.

The commission ordered State Engineer Herbert Nunn to prepare the projects for bids, which will be opened at subsequent sessions. Several bids are expected to be ready for consideration at the next meeting of the commission, which is set for January 7, 1919.

The proposed expenditures are estimated by the state engineers from the \$6,000,000 bond fund and also from the one-quarter mill and auto license fee fund, the bond fund expenditure being estimated at \$2,790,200 and the latter at \$735,000.

It is said the good roads programme now in prospect will furnish employment for at least 3000 men, and should prove an important adjunct to the reconstruction labor problem. The Hood River-Mosier project, for example, will consume at least one year and will employ several hundred men.

In the cases of Douglas, Polk and a few other counties, details have not been worked out, but the commission contemplates taking care of these districts at a later date. The programme under the federal fund of post and forest aid is not included in the items of construction proposed.

The Hood River-Mosier section of the Columbia river highway and the Gilliam county section of the Columbia river highway will be advertised at once, and bids are to be opened at the meeting of January 7.

In addition to the programme prepared, there is the 18-mile pavement construction on the Aurora-Salem highway, a post road project in cooperation with the government, which is to be commenced just as soon as weather conditions permit. To provide for immediate action on this project the commission ordered the delivery of 50,000 yards of crushed rock, to be distributed along the highway.

A suitcase of good whisky, said by the officers to have been changing hands between E. G. Bolter, brakeman on the main line of the Southern Pacific, and F. B. Cowles, conductor on the branch line from Salem to Dallas, resulted in their arrest by Deputy Sheriff Bert Smith.

An eight-day open season for Chinese pheasants in Umatilla county will be sought by representatives of the Umatilla County Fish and Game club at the meeting in Portland next week. Shooters want at least two Sundays open on this game. The delegates are instructed to oppose any other changes in the game laws.

Ladislav Horeny, an 18-year-old boy, was arraigned before United States Commissioner Carney Friday on an information sworn to by Dan J. McGill, of the Internal Revenue department, charging him with operating a still illegally. The young man admitted his guilt, waived examination and was held to await the action of the federal grand jury with bond fixed at \$1000.

Prospective peace is not reflected by declines in prices for state supplies, as indicated by a survey of the bids just made for the next six months for state institutions. Almost innumerable bids make nothing but a desultory examination possible at the present time, but indications are that the first quarter of the coming biennium will see current expenses of state government higher than ever before.

The Polk county court's budget for the coming year is completed and the total is \$256,020. Probable receipts will be about \$5000 and there is in the general fund a cash balance of \$19,000. The total amount to be raised by direct taxation is placed at \$232,020, including general road fund, \$60,000. Special city levies are: Falls City, \$3800; West Salem, \$2913.31; Independence, \$9506.40, and Monmouth, \$3083.

SIX BILLION TAX PROPOSED

Senate Begins Debate on Measure for 1919 Requirements.

Washington, D. C.—Effects of the nation's transition from a war to a peace basis and of prohibition legislation on the present and future problems of taxation are outlined in the senate finance committee's report on the revised war revenue bill filed Monday by Chairman Simmons.

The report explains the steps taken to revise the house bill so as to raise by taxation next year \$5,978,466,000 instead of \$7,500,000,000, as planned by the house before the signing of the armistice and the enactment of prohibition legislation.

Proposed taxes in 1920 of \$4,000,000,000, the reason for fixing them at this time and the manner in which they will be raised, also are explained.

The most distinct changes made by the senate in the house draft of the bill are noted by the committee's report as follows:

Elimination of the 6 per cent corporation tax on undistributed corporate earnings, fixing a 20 per cent maximum on bona fide sales of mines and oil and gas wells; elimination of the tax on new state and municipal bonds, substitution of a single war excess profits tax for the alternative plan; exclusion of individuals and partnerships from war excess profits taxation and reduction of the taxes on beverages and tobacco.

Senate debate on the measure will begin with a statement by Senator Simmons. A dissenting report on the plan to fix 1920 taxes in the pending bill will be filed by Senator Penrose, of Pennsylvania, for the republicans of the finance committee. Separate views also will be presented by Senators Smoot, of Utah, and La Follette, of Wisconsin, republicans.

A considerable part of Senator Simmons' report is devoted to the plan for reducing taxes in 1920 to \$4,000,000,000.

"The country has a right to know how soon and in what degree the burden of war taxes can prudently be reduced," the report says. "During this period of reconstruction business, particularly new business, is entitled to go forward without the burden of an 80 per cent tax on war profits. In time of peace the existence of an 80 per cent profit would be an absolute evil, for the perpetuation or continuance of which no sufficient reason has or could be given."

BURLESON'S SEIZURE OF CABLE PROTESTED

New York.—The Commercial Pacific Cable company, allied with the Commercial Cable company, asked for an injunction in the federal court Monday restraining Postmaster-General Burleson from further control of its 10,000 miles of cable between San Francisco and China, Japan and the Philippine islands.

Violation of international law by Burleson is charged in the complaint, which asserts that the United States had not obtained consent to the seizure from the nations upon whose territory the cables land. It is further alleged such consent would be unconstitutional without a formal treaty approved by the senate.

This contention is upheld, the company declared, by information from its London office that a department of the British government has instructed the Commercial Cable company representatives there to make no changes at the direction of the American postmaster-general without first submitting them to that department for approval.

Big Tank Gun Perfected.

Washington, D. C.—An eight-inch gun, self-propelling on its caterpillar track, and prototype of a fleet of similar monsters that was being constructed for the American army when hostilities ceased, was demonstrated here Monday before a large group of American officers and engineers.

Gun and machine alike had successfully passed the firing tests at the ordnance proving ground before Monday's test, which was under direction of Pliny E. Holt and Colonel J. B. Dillard, the designers.

The tractor-gun drove its 55,000 pounds of bulk up a 45-degree ravine wall, developed a speed of four miles an hour on a level surface and demolished large trees with the same ruthlessness that its war brother, the tank, showed in action in France.



OH looket here! My, wasn't Santa good!
He gave me all the presents that he could.
That's 'cause I always kept so neat and clean—
On Sundays dresst just like a fairy Queen.

I minded darling Muzzer ev'ry day;
Was careful of my dresses when at play,
And held my Gran'ma's yarn when she did knit,
For that's the way I did my little bit.

And when my Dad came home from work each night
I tried to please him with my tiny might;
Always brought his pipe and paper, too,
So he could smoke and read it thru and thru.

Dear Santa Claus, in Toyland, heard 'bout me,
'Cause my Muzzer said he said, said he,
'I'll just give that sweet and 'bedient chile
The very things she's wanted all the while."

So see this pretty, sparkling Christmas Tree
And the toys and things he gave to me;
When you're good like me and try to please
Santa Claus will give you toys like these.

As fits the holy Christmas birth,
Be this, good friends, our carol still,
Be peace on earth, be peace on earth
To men of gentle will.
—Thackeray.

HOLIDAY SEASON IN ITALY

Dr. Grenfell of Labrador Fame Explains Christmas Observances in the Sunny Land.

Travelers visiting Rome while it was still the center of a land of peace, found Christmas there a day of joyousness; and the merry bells of many churches, ushering in the day, spoke the familiar language of home.

Just before the war, Dr. Grenfell, of Labrador fame, indulged in the unusual luxury of a brief holiday in Europe, after years of tireless service among the fishermen. His journey brought him and Mrs. Grenfell to Rome just as the many religious and civil observances of the Christmas season were about to take place.

The decorations, the greetings, and the crowds flocking in and out of churches, emphasized the spirit of the season. "All the places of worship into which we peeped," he says, "were ablaze with lights, while processions of priests in glittering robes, with sonorous choruses and ascending incense, appealed to the various senses."

At one church they viewed the five boards believed to have formed a part of the cradle of our Lord.

The American Episcopal Church of St. Paul, where they worshiped on Christmas morning, was crowded with the Protestant population of the Holy City. A feature of the service was the

dedicating of a beautiful new mosaic, covering one entire wall of the church.

Of the Coliseum, says Dr. Grenfell, "we could think of no place better to suggest to our minds the communion of the saints; and as we walked round the tiers of seats we could see again the 'men of like passions with ourselves,' giving their lives for the same Master we claim to serve."

When darkness had fallen the travellers were attracted by numbers of bright lights over by the Porta San Giovanni. These proved to announce "all the fun of a fair"—there in Italy just as one finds them in this country at a "county fair."



Christmas Gifts.

Have you the one glad hope
Within your heart this morn?
It is a precious gift from Him
Who on this day was born.

Have you the wondrous peace
Which Jesus gives His own?
O, priceless gift to know we trust
His finished work alone!

Have you a strong, deep love
For lost sheep wandering wide?
It is the tender shepherd gift
Of Him who for them died.

Have you access by faith
To all the gifts of grace?
Your glory-gift will be to see
The risen Saviour's face.

—Mrs. Merrill E. Gates.

