

RAILROADS SAVED 26 MILLION DOLLARS THRU ECONOMICS

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 15.—Close to 26 millions of dollars were saved in the central western region by economies effected under federal control, according to the annual report of Regional Director Hale Holden made public today at the headquarters of the United States railroad administration in San Francisco.

Of this saving, the unification of terminals and stations is said to have contributed approximately six and one-half millions; the elimination of passenger train service, over eleven millions; and the balance in reduction of organization and miscellaneous economies.

Steps in the direction of cooperative action and greater efficiency not expressible in economies are cited in the case of the Salling Day plan, which now results in the saving of 4672 cars a week in handling less than carload freight; the reduction of over thirty-eight million passenger car miles in Pullman service; joint use of locomotive shops and car repair facilities; cooperative action in loading power, and the re-routing of traffic by the shortest and most economical routes.

"Special attention," says Director Holden, "has been given to the most economical and direct routes in the handling of traffic between San Francisco territory, southern California points on the one hand and northwestern territory on the other, and middle west terminals and junctions. In consequence, as an important illustration, the movement of California deciduous and citrus fruits has been handled with better satisfaction than ever before. During six months 581 solid trains of California fruit moved to the Missouri river and Chicago, with a total of 22,561 cars, an average of 38 cars per train. The growers and distributors have expressed general satisfaction with the service rendered.

"In the ten month period (results for November and December not yet available) operating revenues for railroads in the central western region increased 17.3 per cent. Operating expense increased 34.1, resulting in a decrease of 12.7 per cent in net operating revenues. It is well understood, however, that operating expenses for the 10-month period included substantially all wage increases effective January 1, 1918, and increased cost of materials and supplies, whereas operating revenues only reflect the increased freight and passenger rates for substantially the last four months of the period indicated."

In freight traffic movement and car performances, the report describes the increase of operating efficiency as gratifying, the gain in net ton miles being set at 4.2 per cent. Car tonnage has increased 5 per cent. Net ton-miles per loaded car mile increased 19.6 per cent.

The consolidation of ticket offices has resulted in a saving of over half a million dollars annually.

YANKS IN SIBERIA RECEIVE CROSSES

ARCHANGEL, Feb. 15.—(By the Associated Press.)—Four American officers and 10 enlisted men have been given decorations for gallantry and efficiency in action. The awards included:

Captain Otto A. Odjard, 339th Infantry, 645 Twelfth street, Portland, Ore., who was given the military cross for gallantry and determination while in command of a small force along the Vega river, which without support took Ust Padensk, on October 8. Captain Odjard, who is now slightly wounded, and in a hospital here, was also given honorable mention for his conduct in withdrawing his force under heavy fire when the Bolsheviks in the Shenskursk region took Ust Padensk on January 19.

PRESIDENT APPROVES PRICE REGULATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Approval of the proposal to establish a government price adjustment board to stabilize conditions during the post war period was enabled by President Wilson today to Secretary Redfield.

Cut This Out—It Is Worth Money DON'T MISS THIS. Cut out this slip, enclose with 5c and mail it to Foley & Co., 2835 Sheffield Ave., Chicago, Ill., writing your name and address clearly. You will receive in return a trial package containing Foley's Honey and Tar Compound, for coughs, colds and croup; Foley Kidney Pills, for pain in sides and back; rheumatism, backache, kidney and bladder ailments; and Foley Cathartic Tablets, a wholesome and thoroughly cleansing cathartic, for constipation, biliousness, headache, and sluggish bowels. For sale by Medford Pharmacy.

EBERT'S FAMILY PROUD OF BEING COMMON PEOPLE

BERLIN, Feb. 13.—(By Associated Press.) The mistress of the German presidential residence is a comely "hausfrau" of medium height and slender, who up to the present time has always attended to her own household duties, done the family cooking and has even been her own dressmaker. Frau Luise Ebert, wife of the president of the new German republic was born 45 years ago in a workman's home in Bremen. She views her new social environment with resignation. "I know we must be prepared for attacks from the Right and Left," she said today in discussing the new position in which the Ebert family finds itself.

"Those coming from the Left probably will be the worst. They will charge us with attempting to extricate ourselves from the caste in which we have been reared but that will never occur. Whatever may come we are going to remain true to our traditions as a plain workman's family."

The eldest son of the family, Friedrich Ebert, Jr., has entered newspaper work. The second son, aged 29, was only recently discharged from the army. The only daughter, Amalie, 19, until a short time ago was employed as a clerk by a downtown firm. She now records herself on occasion the privilege of riding in the presidential motor car.

President Ebert lost a son in the fighting in Macedonia and another in the Chemin des Dames operations.

The family up to two weeks ago had been living in a suburb of Berlin, but now is installed in official apartments of the department of the Interior in the Wilhelmstrasse which formerly were occupied by high officials. The permanent official residence of the new president has not been determined upon, and President Ebert has expressed aversion to the Bellevue Palace as such residence on the ground that it is "too imposing."

The new position to which Frau Ebert has attained has already caused her to be beset with offers from Berlin modistes and tradespeople.

CITY DESTROYED BY ARMISTICE

CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 15.—When the United States entered the war a monster munition plant was projected at Nitro, 14 miles from here on the Kanawha river, and a city sprang into existence almost in a week. Twenty thousand men were working there, and long rows of houses were built by the government to shelter its employes and their families.

Activity at Nitro practically ceased at the signing of the armistice and thousands of men left Nitro and Charleston. The latest developments are an inventory of the plant and its equipment, just begun, and the changing of the plant into an ordnance supply station. There are now only 1,600 men engaged in taking inventory and guarding the buildings. The war department has recommended the razing of every other row of the bungalows so hastily constructed. This step has been ordered as a matter of fire prevention.

The wheels of the plant have been silent ever since the Hercules Powder company turned back the industry to the government two months ago and no official announcement has been received from Washington as to what disposition will be made of the expensive proposition.

RENTAL RATE FOR RAILROADS AGREED ON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The Union Pacific system will receive \$38,552,928 as government compensation for rental in 1918, and the Central New England \$1,468,123, under contracts signed today by Director General Hines. The Union Pacific compensation also covers the subsidiary companies, Oregon Short Line, Oregon-Washington Railroad and Navigation company, Deschutes railroad, Green River Water Works company, Rattle Snake Creek Water company and the Union Pacific Water company.

RAINY WEATHER FOR COMING WEEK

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Weather predictions for the week beginning February 17: Northern Rocky Mountain and plateau regions—Local snow Monday and again after the middle of the week, temperatures somewhat above normal second half of the week. Pacific States—Frequent rains in central and north portions; generally fair south portion, nearly normal temperatures.

NEW "MITTEL-EUROPA"



Here is the new "Middle Europa," a grouping of nations old and new which will not only check German expansion but prove a great factor in European politics, stand antagonistic to Italian as well as German expansion and perhaps give best assurance that the work of the peace congress shall stand. All of the countries mapped, says Hungary and Bulgaria, have been lined up by Premier Venizelos of Greece, most astute politician and statesman in central Europe, in a close federation. Roughly, they represent a population of 70,000,000 and an area of more than 435,000 square miles, extending from the Mediterranean to the Baltic. As a power for peace the alliance will be a strong one. As a power for war—it would be formidable.

SERBIA SLOWLY RECUPERATING FROM WAR DEVASTATION

NISH, Serbia, Feb. 15.—(Correspondence of Associated Press.) Three months of unremitting industry, unhampered by Bulgarian and Austrian depredations or interference, have enabled the Serbian people to secure a new hold on life. With the country entirely free of invaders, the large peasant population has succeeded in setting things in order in surprising fashion, and conditions should be almost normal soon.

Large quantities of wheat and other staples, which the shrewd Serbian farmers hid from the enemy, have reappeared. At the moment the most pressing needs seem to be clothing, shoes, fuel and agricultural implements.

Apparently there is plenty of money in the country, some of it having come from Austrian and German soldiers, who, it may be said to their credit, paid for most of the articles they took from the Serbians during their occupation. However, the Bulgarians, who requisitioned almost everything they required from the already straitened population, often paid nothing for what they took. In the cities most of the stores have no stocks because they sold almost everything to the Austrians and Germans.

Fortunately the harvest last fall was exceptionally good and there probably will be nothing approaching starvation among the poor this winter. The enemy troops carried off almost every article of value they

FRENCH PAPERS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ON NATION'S LEAGUE

PARIS, Feb. 15.—Comment in representative French newspapers on the constitution of the League of Nations as presented at yesterday's plenary session of the peace conference reveals little enthusiasm over the shape the project has taken. The Figaro says:

"The commission wisely decided not to ravish tomorrow from the eternal and confused itself to making safe the present. The mystic society of nations has, then, become a league of the five great powers which beat Germany and which mean to consolidate both victory and peace."

The socialist newspaper Humanite is even less pleased than the "Bourgeois" papers. Deputy Marcel Cachon writes in this publication: "It is impossible to conceal the impression of disillusionment. The project cannot in any way command the support of democratic and people's parties, which placed such hopes in the idea of which Mr. Wilson constituted himself an eloquent defender."

FRANCE DEMANDS RIGHT TO GUIDE SYRIAN DOCTRINES

PARIS—(Correspondence of the Associated Press.)—The "rights" of France to guide the destinies of Syria, Lebanon and Armenia-Minor were expounded to the Associated Press today by M. Gout, director for Asia in the French foreign office. M. Gout asserted that it had long been the role of France to protect the helpless peoples of the Orient and recalled interventions by France in Syria and Lebanon to defend the Christians and that France had played a great part in the defense of the Armenians in 1895 and 1896.

"France," he said, "worked not only to protect the Christians but she also sent missionaries into all parts of Turkey, not for the purpose of proselytizing but for teaching and charitable work. Before the war there were French schools in all sections of Turkey, and in the great towns there were French hospitals for the care of the poor. In Syria especially the number of French schools was considerable. In Beirut we had a large university, and I must add that the Americans also had one working for the civilization of the Syrian people. A great number of physicians were bred in the French universities."

M. Gout called attention to the fact that French capital and industry had created three of the four ports of Asia Minor, and pointed to the great railways built and controlled by the French. The first road opened between Damascus and Beirut, the coast, the Damascus-Beirut line, was French, he said. It was also a French society which before the war undertook the repair of roads in many parts of the Ottoman empire, and a French company had a concession for a big railway in Armenia. The important silk industry of Syria, he added, had been fostered and developed by France.

"We may point out also the great share of France in the public debt of Turkey, which is nearly 60 per cent," he continued. "The share of England before the war was 10 or 12 per cent, that of Italy nearly 5 per cent, and Germany had all the rest."

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