



1—British engineers repairing a roadway over which heavy guns are moved. 2—Flotilla of Italian submarine chasers operating in the Adriatic. 3—Regiment of Cuban Infantry in training in an American camp. 4—Scene in Bethlehem, birthplace of Christ, now occupied by the British forces in Palestine.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Wilson's Assumption of Control of Railroads Is Long Step Toward Efficiency.

GREAT POWERS FOR M'ADOO

Secretary Baker Fraded by Senate Committee—Teutonic Peace Spies, actions Made by Count Czernin in Reply to the Russian Bolshevik Proposals.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

The great event of the week, for the United States and, indirectly, for the allied cause, was President Wilson's action in assuming control of the railways and steamship lines within the borders of this country. This step, Mr. Wilson said, had become imperative because this is a war of resources no less than of men, and in order that the resources of America be completely mobilized the transportation systems of the country must be organized and operated under a single authority.

This single authority is William G. McAdoo, secretary of the treasury, who was appointed director general because, as the president expressed it, "his practical experience peculiarly fits him for the service and his authority enables him to coordinate as no other man could the many financial interests which will be involved."

Not only rail and steamship lines are included in the president's proclamation, but also all terminals, sleeping and parlor cars, private cars and lines, railroad elevators and warehouses, railroad telegraph and telephone lines and interurban electric lines carrying freight only. Stockholders of railroads are guaranteed a profit equal at least to the average profit during the three fiscal years ending June 30, 1917, which will be about 5.21 per cent on the capital investment.

Step Is Generally Commended.

General and hearty approval was given President Wilson's action, alike by railway officials, financiers and the public. The first named gave assurance of their entire cooperation with Director General McAdoo, and in many instances declared their belief that the plan adopted would be more satisfactory. They had, however, for some time that some such thing must be done, for the committee of executives that has been in large measure directing the operation of railways, though doing excellent and disinterested work, had been unable to solve the problem of equitable distribution of earnings. Complete unity of operation will permit of this, and will result in more efficient conduct than has been possible heretofore.

It is probable that Mr. McAdoo's direction, competition for earnings being eliminated, many competing trains will be withdrawn and passenger traffic will be largely curtailed. There will be a general shifting of rolling stock and much freight equipment will be sent to eastern territory from the West. It is also likely that the congestion of transportation of war materials. Naturally, everything else will be subordinated to the war needs of the nation. It is not unlikely that passenger rates will be raised to three cents a mile.

The one element of the population that may not entirely approve of government control is the railway Brotherhoods. Their opportunity to enforce by strike their demands for higher wages has vanished, though it is only fair to assume that their loyalty and patriotism would not have permitted them to tie up the country's transportation.

Brotherhoods were called to the White House to confer with the president on requests for higher wages. The increase asked averaged about 40 per cent. What the government will grant of course is not yet known. In this

matter, as in all others, Director McAdoo has plenary powers. Indeed, next to the president, he is now the most powerful official in the nation, his authority being paramount to that of the interstate commerce commission and the state railway commission. He can revise rates, determine divisions and even discharge and appoint directors and other officials. To supply the Senate Committee Prods Baker. Bureaucratic methods and the red tape in which they are entangled were ruthlessly exposed in the inquiry conducted by the senate committee on military affairs, and as a result the committee did precisely what President Wilson successfully opposed last summer when he defeated the plan to create a congressional committee on the conduct of the war. After hearing the testimony of the army camps without overcautious and nearly 47,000 without winter blankets, the committee adopted a resolution directing Secretary McAdoo to supply these deficiencies at once and to permit camp commanders to cut the red tape and purchase the garments wherever they could be obtained, whether or not they were in the country. It also was requested to ascertain whether any other serious shortages existed and if so, to obtain the supplies at once. Mr. Baker said he would take the action requested.

The committee has been finding out a great many things that explain much of the extraordinary and serious deficit in equipping our troops with arms, munitions and other supplies and the good effects of the investigation are already apparent in the speeding up that is being shown.

Without betraying government plans, it may be said that a great part of being made to devote a great part of Chicago's manufacturing resources to the making of large caliber guns and other munitions has been a local director of munitions might be appointed to apportion the war contracts.

Another event of importance in Chicago—important to the whole country—was the definite settlement during the war, of all labor troubles at the stockyards. Through the efforts of government officials an agreement was reached that there shall be no strikes or lockouts and that all differences that cannot be adjusted by the company's general managers shall be referred to the United States labor administrator, whose decision shall be final. John E. Williams of Stratford, Conn., was appointed administrator by Secretary of Labor Wilson. It is understood that the agreement reached has been accepted by the policy the government intends to pursue in all pending labor disputes that affect the making or handling of war supplies. Unions in Chicago, as at Chicago in that the agreement provides that the men and women at the yards can belong to unions if they so desire.

Conscription of labor to build ships was suggested by Senators Sherman, Nelson and Bankhead when Vice Chairman Stevens of the shipping board told the senate commerce committee that between 200,000 and 300,000 men were needed to complete the board's program within the next year. Mr. Stevens, however, contended that conscription of labor would never be accepted by the American people.

Christmas Peace Offer.

Kaiser Wilhelm did not make his predicted Christmas peace offer. He did, however, deliver another of his bombastic proclamations to his subjects in which he gave the German soldiers high praise and added the statement that if his enemies, the belligerents, consent to such peace terms as he suggested in the past, Germany's iron fist and flaming sword would compel them to yield to his terms. The Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian foreign minister, was telling the peace conference at Brest-Litovsk that the central powers were resolved to sign terms immediately which will terminate the war on conditions that will be just to all belligerents, without forcible annexation of territory. He also approved, he said, of the basic principles uttered by the Russian delegates, but insisted these proposals could be accepted only if all the belligerents obligated themselves to adhere to the terms of such a peace. He said Germany would not allow the right of self-determination of central to be applied, in her colonial possessions.

General title tables for 1918 have been published by the United States coast and geodetic survey. The figures given cover the entire maritime world, and include predictions for all times at 31 ports, and tidal differences for several thousand stations.

An attachment for motion picture projectors has been invented that automatically displays captions or other instructions on screens at the right time without interfering with pictures themselves.

Much in Little.

A parliamentary committee has found that production of all London's electric power in a few central stations would save 6,000,000 tons of coal a year and greatly lessen the smoke problem.

A loss fund of \$10,000 for helping poor students was organized by the faculty of the Kentucky college in Oklahoma. No more than \$200 a year is lent to any student. The borrower must be a high school graduate.

Supreme Court Clears Docket

A large number of cases pending in the supreme court were decided last week and for the first time the court starts its January term practically with a clear docket.

Chief in importance was the affirmation by the court of the conviction and sentence to life imprisonment of Lawrence, 23 years in a case county roadway was settled. In a factious between William M. Matthews and Frank S. Lamborn, both Cass county farmers, the latter had been indicted and a criminal bill of \$337 and the jury gave him \$1,000 damages. A new trial resulted and the verdict was reduced to \$250. The supreme court says the second verdict stands.

A "handbook bet" was thrown out by the court. A Detroit handbook operator was the basis of a suit brought by Sheehan's widow against William McClure. A client of Sheehan paid McClure \$1,050 he owned him while Sheehan was on his way to be his death bed. Mrs. Sheehan had sued to get the money and the lower court ruled her out on the ground that Sheehan had made a bet and therefore an illegal contract. The supreme court decided that McClure was not a party to the original contract and is bound to return the money paid him by Sheehan.

Use of the title "Mercedes" on a motor car, claimed to have been used by the sole property of the well-known actor, Joseph H. Howard, was also decided by the court. In substance Justice Feltus, who wrote the concurring opinion, holds that the title belongs neither to Mr. Howard nor to Elizabeth M. Crane, whom Howard was trying to stop using it.

Hinted That Spies or Pacifists in Supply Department Purposely Sent Wrong Sizes.

Lansing.

The management of the food supply of this unit is unequalled. Last summer when the farmers in this vicinity were harvesting their fruits and perishable vegetables, special members of the constabulary organization to buy farm products were detailed to scour the country and bargain for the winter supply for the post. These men carried on their purchasing in a successful manner: both the farmers and the state treasury.

Thousands of dollars worth of perishable products were bought by the military authorities and canned for winter use.

Potatoes were bought by the "bundled" and stored in a pit and dug up as necessary demanded. Like other vegetables were put in rot cellars.

The military piggery is furnishing pork to the entire post. Garbage from 125 men takes care of the swine and the piggery is successful financially.

However, in spite of the fact that ordinary food, the constabulary observe meanness and wheatless diets the same as the folks at home.

The post has completed an efficient water aqueduct leading from the Michigan Agricultural college to the post, a distance of some 300 yards. This bit of engineering was supervised and planned by Capt. Koch, and the work was furnished by the men of his troop.

In addition to the above industries which the post runs on a co-operative basis, a laundry has recently been completed and placed under the supervision of men who formerly worked in laundries.

Custer Clothing Mixed By Spies.

Incompetence or something worse in some branches of the quartermaster's department, rather than the tag which is just now under congressional fire, would appear to be the chief contributing cause for a shortage of proper articles of clothing in the quartermaster's warehouses, according to reliable informants.

More than a sufficient number of articles of wearing apparel have been received, which is taken to mean a generous supply in the main warehouses. The trouble would therefore appear to lie with those who sorted and shipped the equipment for Custer.

It was at first believed the table of sizes was alone responsible, and there still is no reason to believe that it has not had some effect on the camp's clothing. But as further investigations are made more and more evidence accumulates to show that selecting the number of sizes per thousand men in each garment there was an amazing lack of judgment.

Reports show that practically 50 per cent of the men's clothing manufacturers of the country are now making uniforms. The mills are also working overtime to turn out the clothing. There are some who believe that German activities have extended to the quartermaster's department and that imposters were organized to handle the men and cause unrest, but there is no proof of this.

Whatever the cause, the fact remains that some men are in civilian clothes and in overalls and that they are "swapping" clothes for social functions and the drill field.

Guards Get Tryout for Commissions.

Several hundred Michigan men in the division at Camp MacArthur, Waco, Texas, who have proved their ability and have done hard and conscientious work in the ranks, are being given opportunity to win commissions. They have been recommended for officers' training school started at Waco.

The recommendations are based on efficiency, in accordance with a general test, and are the result of an elimination test in which rank did not count, merit alone being the governing factor.

The test night might be uniform throughout the division, a special representative was sent here from the war department to instruct officers' board on the subject.

Should the division move to France before the course is completed, it will be continued at the new station.

Ordance Barred to Conscripts.

No more enlistments in the ordinance department will be accepted by local draft board officials, according to a telegram received last week by John S. Berney, adjutant general, and chief of the post at Fort Ord.

Enlistments at the army recruiting stations are not affected by this order. Previous to this order, draft boards have been permitted to enlist drafted men in the ordinance department rather than the infantry if they expressed a preference.

Less Pork to Be Eaten.

Fortless Saturdays are to be added to the present Tuesdays and Thursdays, according to George A. Prescott, state food administrator.

Under the revised rules, no pork, fresh salted or smoked, or lard may be eaten on Saturday, no whole cuts may be eaten on Wednesday, and no red meat, preserved beef, bacon, ham or ham may be eaten on Tuesday. In addition, the menus for Saturday is asked, and sugar limited to three pounds a month per person.

The HOME BEAUTY

Flowers and Shrubs

Their Care and Cultivation

It is not sweet peas begin to deteriorate, with closely to see that no seeds mature; that the soil is stirred and a good mulch applied; that they get a good soaking at the roots once or twice a week during dry weather.

In a shady part of the garden prepare a bed of light rich, sandy soil, and put a frame about it. Cover it with a glass frame heavily white-washed. Water and firm the soil and then plant cuttings in it. Cuttings of geraniums, roses, etc., may vary from one to eight inches, but in all cases remove two-thirds of the leafage and bury the cutting allowing one or two eyes above the soil.

If you want to grow geraniums, snip out the tips of the branches and train the plant to throw out shoots near

A Hedge of Perennial Sweet Peas Which Hides the Barnyard from the Home Grounds.

GARDEN NOTES WORTH SAVING

By JOSEPHINE DE MARR.

If you want to grow geraniums, snip out the tips of the branches and train the plant to throw out shoots near

sweet peas screening the barn yard from the house yard, and it is most satisfactory. Although its flowers are not as light and graceful as the annual sweet pea, they have a charm all their own, and through heat and cold, frost and drought, need little care or coaxing to do their best.

If you want to grow a fence or border with a quick growth of vines, get stems of the Virginia creeper, about six to eight inches deep. At every joint will grow a shoot. Give a good soil and top-dressing of well-rotted manure in the spring and fall. This vine is largely as the oak and almost immune from the attack of insects and birds.

The gladiolus may be planted up to July 29 and, if given good soil, water and liquid manure, they will bloom before frost.

OLD FASHIONED FLOWERS

The good old-fashioned flowers prove the adage "the survival of the fittest." They are beautiful and easy to grow, which recommends them to busy house mothers.

Gloxinia and tuberous begonia are excellent summer bloomers. Prepare the tubers in April or May. Spread them out on pieces of old carpet, and keep quite warm and damp, to sprout. If this is not done before they are put into pots some of them, especially the begonias, may sprout in a wrong side up.

When sprouts appear, pot the tubers in a light, spongy soil, only six to eight inches deep. The begonias still need to be given support, as their stalks lack strength to stand uprightly when left to themselves. These come in a wide variety of rich and beautiful colors. Some are single, some are double, the latter are preferable.

The glloxinia comes in white, crimson and purple. Some varieties are bordered with a contrasting color. Others have a throat of light or dark color, or while still others have spots of dark color on a light or white ground.

Does Not Reduce the Price.

A pipe has been invented which fills itself as fast as the tobacco in the bowl is consumed. How Mark Twain would have appreciated this modern convenience? While Mr. Clemens was a young man, it is said, he contrived a pipe, consisting of a can of tobacco placed on the floor, to which a long rubber tube was attached. Then he would light the whole can and smoke in peace.—Exchange.

Gladioli Can Be Planted Up to July 20 and It Will Bloom Before Frost.

Prepare a good supply of liquid manure to offset the debilitating effect of summer upon the flowers. Have a spigot placed two or three inches above the bottom of the barrel, fitted with straw well above this spigot, and then a foot or two of fresh manure. Fill the barrel with water and in a few days the manure water will be ready to draw off and apply.

Turn the potted plants that have been plunged in the border to prevent the roots striking through into the soil. Cut off all the buds just as soon as they appear, and give the plants sufficient water so that they will not suffer. Turn the canilly pot on its side in a shady place and give it a good rest.

While most people preach the desirability of young lettuce and other early blooming, you will find that the geraniums and kindred plants will give more bloom and be more satisfactory as winter bloomers in their second year than in their first, if properly raised.

Cut the year-old plants back severely, pinch out all the shoots before they get three inches long, and give them a good soaking of water if necessary, but do not stimulate with liquid manure.

A neighbor has a hedge of perennial

Produce Finer Linen Yarn.

Using a chemical process, a Moscow engineer claims to have produced a finer linen yarn than the finest spun, at low cost.

Thinking of Planting Roses Next Summer? Here's How to Do It.

Thinking of planting roses next summer? Here's how to do it. First, choose a sunny, well-drained spot. Dig a hole about 18 inches deep and 12 inches wide. Fill the bottom with a layer of manure or compost. Then plant the rose bush, making sure the graft union is at least 4 inches above the ground. Water well and mulch the soil around the base of the plant.