

WAGE BOARD GIVES RAIL MEN INCREASE

Allowances, Based on Living Cost, Benefit 1,939,399.

UP TO M'ADOO FOR APPROVAL

Commissioner Submits Report to the Director General, Dealing With Various Phases of the Railroad Situation.

Washington, D. C., May 9.—An advance in wages to 1,939,399 railroad employees, and ranging from 1 per cent to the highest to 43 per cent to the lowest paid, aggregating \$300,000,000 is provided for in the report to Director General McAdoo by the railroad wage commission.

Mr. McAdoo is expected to adopt only part of the recommendations and probably will make a number of different alignments in deciding what wage increases shall be granted.

In general, the director general advocates higher pay for most classes of workmen to enable them to meet increased living costs, but he has been represented as favoring proportionately larger increases for some classes than for others now making the same pay.

The leaders of the four principal railway brotherhoods found on examining the report that they had been recommended for less than half the increases they had asked of the railroad managements before govern-

average workday, presumably eight hours, but decided that in the war emergency the nation could not afford to put into effect a reform that would slow down the war machinery and discriminate against other classes of workers being called upon for great sacrifices.

Rates of overtime pay are not disturbed and the increases are adjusted to the mileage basis of compensation of some employees, a road engineer, for example, receiving an increase of 11 1/4 per cent in his mileage rate. A scheme of applying the increases to piece work and overtime therefor is also provided.

An important feature of the report was the recommendation that where the same service is rendered the pay shall be the same, without discrimination as to sex or race.

Report of Commission. The report of the commission, consisting of Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the Interior; Charles C. McChord, J. Harry Covington, and William R. Willcox, is an exhaustive one. In part the report says:

"The requests which have come to us for wage increases, would, if fully granted, involve an additional outlay in wages of somewhat over \$1,000,000,000 per year in excess of the wage fund of last year, which exceeded \$2,000,000,000. Some asked for an increase of 100 per cent in their pay, and from this they graduated downward to 10 per cent. None were satisfied with their present wages.

"To classify the many hundreds of employments in which the 2,000,000 railroad workers engage would be a task calling for more time, skill, insight, and knowledge than we possess. At the outset, it was seen that there were grave inequalities in the rates of wages paid. But who could say what relationship each class of employees should bear to the other? Abstractly, why should an engineer receive \$170 per month and a telegraph operator \$90 per month?

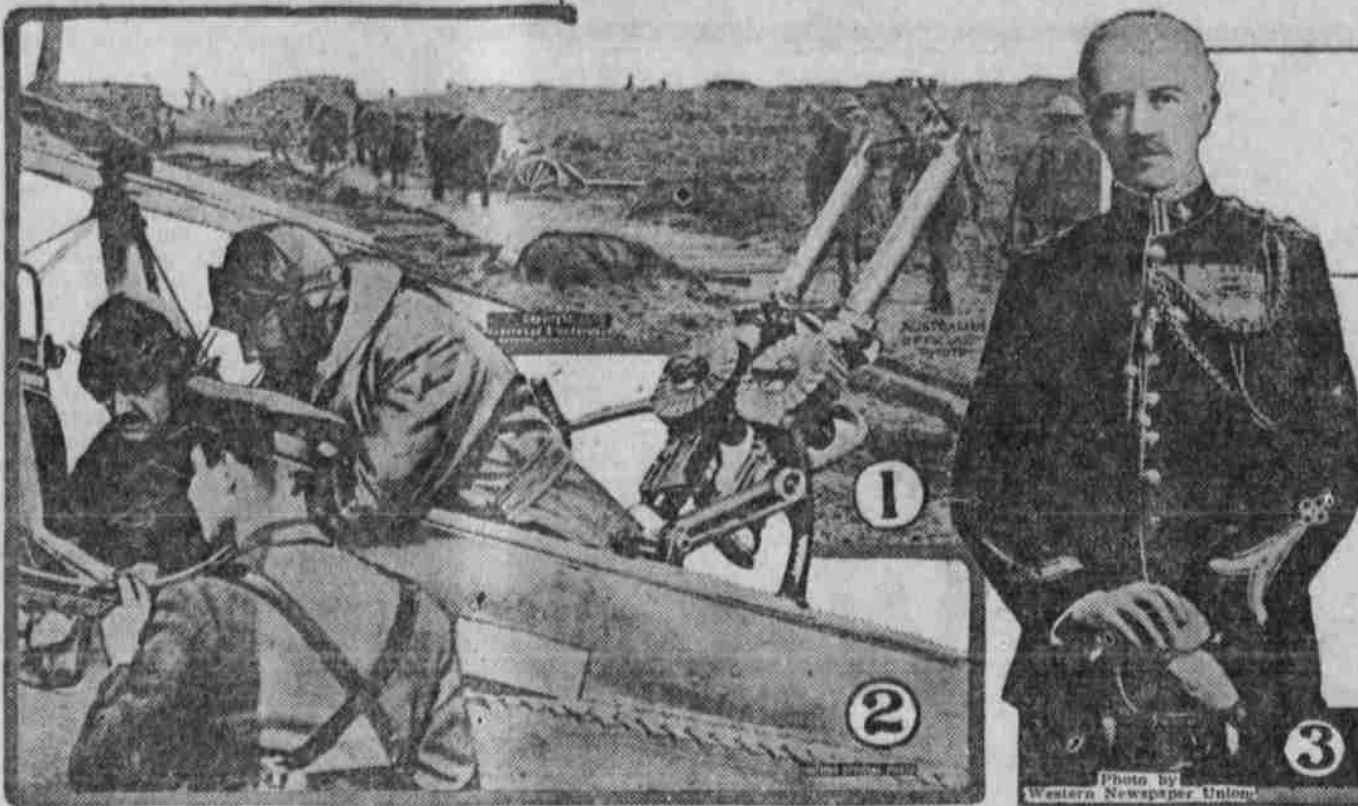
"In the world of economics this situation has been made by the simple application of supply and demand, which is in turn now varied, affected, and modified by those limitations arising out of the artificial but necessary and historic methods of collective bargaining.

"Nevertheless, there stands out one dominating fact, recognized by railroad workers as well as by railroad officials—that the lower grades of railroad employment, those in which the supply of labor has been less restricted, and where organization has been difficult, if not impossible, deserve wage increases out of proportion to the increases for those in superior grades.

"An unprecedented call had come for men of certain trades in connection with the new industries that had been created by the war in Europe, and this long before our entry into the conflict. Machinists and iron workers of all kinds found themselves to be essential to the great munition plants and day labor of the most unskilled character rose into high demand.

"The commission recommends that during the period of government conduct of the railroads no salaries paid to officials who are not essential to the operation of the roads shall be charged as part of the operating expenses.

"There should be constituted a tribunal or tribunals to continue the study of railroad labor problems, composed in part at least of men experienced in this kind of work, for conditions are ever changing."



1—Australian official photograph that shows strikingly the wastage of war; troops and horses moving to the front along a duckboard road that is lined with dead horses and broken wagons. 2—Twin Lewis guns mounted on a British airplane and used with deadly effect. 3—Major General Maurice whose accusations of misrepresentation and lack of sincerity against the Lloyd-George government brought on a cabinet crisis in England.

NEWS REVIEW OF THE PAST WEEK

Premier Lloyd George Again Is Winner in Crisis Brought on by General Maurice.

GIVEN VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

German Attack South of Ypres Smashed, While Allies Improve Their Positions at Many Points—Investigation of American Aircraft Production Collapse Started.

By EDWARD W. PICKARD.

Premier Lloyd George and his cabinet successfully weathered another storm last week when the house of commons, by a vote of 293 to 106, rejected Herbert Asquith's motion providing for the appointment of a special committee to investigate charges made against the premier by Maj. Gen. Frederick B. Maurice. Having declared that he would consider the action of the commons as a test of confidence, Mr. Lloyd George would have resigned and turned the conduct of the war over to Mr. Asquith had the latter been sustained. As it is he has won another great personal victory largely by means of the statement he made in the house—an ex parte statement, to be sure, but one that impressed his hearers with his evident honesty and frankness.

The charges made by General Maurice, formerly director of military operations, were that the premier and other officials had deceived the people by false statements concerning the army. The accusations were fully refuted by Lloyd George, who showed that his statements were made on information obtained from General Maurice's department. He protested vigorously against such distracting and paralyzing controversies and implored that there should be an end to "sniping." He called Maurice's action a flagrant breach of discipline, especially pernicious in its effect on a new army and not understandable to the allies of Great Britain.

There is no reason to question the patriotism of General Maurice's motives in precipitating the crisis, but it is evident that he was made the tool of the political opponents of the premier who hoped to ride into office on the resulting storm. Presumably the offending officer will be court-martialed.

Last week passed with only one important infantry action on the west front, but neither army has been idle. The heavy artillery of the allies has been continually hammering the German positions and especially devoting itself to smashing the enemy's lines of communications and munition depots and to hampering the bringing up of reinforcements and supplies. In this the aviators have given invaluable aid and the work has been so well done that the renewal of the offensive was performed delayed. Heavy and frequent rains also handicapped the Germans and they found great difficulty in moving their ponderous tanks and largest guns across the devastated country, the roads being consistently broken up by shell fire and their repair made almost impossible.

Meanwhile the allies took every opportunity to improve their positions and in many local operations advanced their lines and strengthened their hold on the commanding heights both in Picardy and in Flanders. In these fights the Australians and Canadians had a prominent part, the former between the Ancre and the Somme and the latter south of Arras, both contingents making considerable and very valuable gains. All along the line the British, French and Americans repulsed all the enemy raids until Wednesday night, when, after heavy artillery preparation, the Germans attacked in the sector of Ypres, between La Clytte and Voormezele. It was their apparent intention to outflank the important heights of Scherpenberg and Mont Rouge from the northeast and they succeeded in forcing the Brit-

ish and French there out of some of their first-line trenches. But later in the night the British counter-attacked and regained all that had been lost. Two Hun divisions carried out this attack and they suffered heavy casualties. On Thursday morning the enemy made a new attack on the Flanders front north of Kemmel and slightly bent the British line. At the same time troops from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick made a great raid on the German outpost line at Neuville-Vitasse, southeast of Arras, taking prisoners and guns and inflicting many casualties.

Most of the American troops that have been moved into the battle region appear to be placed along the line between Montdidier and Noyon, and they are giving a good account of themselves there, as are also those holding the Toul sector. There have been no heavy operations in either sector recently, but the artillery in both is always active and the American gunners have proved their excellence. They are now using their heavy artillery northwest of Toul after several weeks of preparation. The American casualty lists, still relatively small, are increasing daily.

There is no indication that the German high command will abandon its plan of smashing the British army and forcing a breach between it and the French. Ludendorff is increasing his resources in every way possible and Austria and Bulgaria have been called on to supply troops for garrison duty in order that the Germans may be sent to the front. Intimations such as have appeared in some German papers that the attempt to reach Paris will be abandoned mean nothing. No doubt there will be repeated great offensives throughout the summer, and the allies are preparing to resist them to the utmost, their intention being to maintain their lines unbroken until America's men are there in sufficient numbers to enable General Foch to do more than resist. It is admitted that without our army the allies could not gain a military decision over the Germans under existing conditions. How long the German people will stand for the slaughter of their men is another question. From captured mail and the more outspoken of their newspapers it is evident they are becoming sickened by the awful bloodshed, but they probably will continue submissive so long as they think there is a chance of a final victory.

The movement of Americans to France continues with increasing swiftness and it is the avowed intention of the war department to have not less than 1,000,000 men there by the end of May. The administration and the congressional leaders, excepting such men as Kitchin, now view the situation comprehensively and agree that no limit should be put on the size of our army, as it is likely as many as 8,000,000 men will have to be placed under arms within three years. A total of about four millions will be available immediately, and Provost Marshal Crowder and others believe it will be necessary to increase the draft age limit to forty years within a year. In fact, many details have been worked out with this increase in view. Classes 2, 3 and 4 of the draft are being carefully combed out to eliminate slackers and many names will thus be added to class 1.

Austrian reports tell of the presence of American troops on the Italian front, though this had not been announced by Washington. The expected offensive on that front has not yet materialized, but it is believed it will not be much longer delayed, because of the critical state of affairs in Emperor Carl's realm. Hunger and discontent are increasing so greatly that troops have been concentrated in the most disaffected parts of the empire. Also there have been serious disturbances in the Austro-Hungarian fleet, the crews of which are largely Slavs and men of Italian origin.

Roumania has submitted to what seemed the inevitable and signed a peace treaty with the central powers. Of course she loses much and gains nothing. The instrument provides that most of the Dobruja be ceded to Bulgaria and other Roumanian territory to Austria and Hungary; the central

powers are to control the navigation of the Danube, and the Roumanian army, except ten divisions, is to be demobilized, its equipment going to the central powers until the conclusion of a general peace.

The queen of Roumania and her children refuse to recognize the peace treaty and lose no opportunity to affront the Germans in their country.

The German vice chancellor announced the establishment of a special department to regulate Germany's eastern policy, and defended her policy of intervention in Finland, declaring it had insured the independence and freedom of that country and was undertaken at the request of the legitimate Finnish government. It is reported that Grand Duke Adolf Friedrich of Mecklenburg-Strelitz has been selected as king of Finland. Little news of moment came from Russia or the Ukraine last week. It is quite evident now that Germany will get little food from the latter country this year.

In Palestine the British forces apparently met with a reverse which compelled them to evacuate Es-Salt and retire to the west bank of the Jordan. Constantinople claimed the Turks administered a stinging defeat to General Allenby's troops.

Nicaragua lined herself up with most of the rest of the nations on Tuesday by formally declaring war on Germany and its allies. Its congress empowered the president to employ all the resources of the nation in prosecuting the war.

Gutzon Borglum's charges that graft, incompetence and pro-German influences were responsible for the collapse of America's aircraft program could not be ignored, so President Wilson ordered a thorough investigation made by the department of justice. The senate committee on military affairs also announced it would resume its inquiry into the fiasco. Both the administration and the committee assured the public there would be no "whitewashing" and that if anyone was guilty he would be duly punished. Secretary Baker protested against a public hearing of the matter by the senators on the ground that it would only aid and comfort the enemy, and he told the military committee of the house that results under the management of John D. Ryan would soon be gratifying and that criticism of the condition of airplane production was pro-German. There is reason to believe his confidence in Mr. Ryan and the reorganized bureau is not misplaced, but the public would like to know what became of the \$640,000,000 already spent and why there is so little to show for it.

Another revelation that has stirred congress and that Secretary Baker may be called on to explain is that quantity production of the heavy Browning gun and of heavy artillery is very far behind the hopes of the people that were inspired by the promises of the war department. In the case of the howitzers it would seem that valuable time has been wasted in the effort to devise gun carriages of a new and distinctively American model instead of going ahead with the models found satisfactory by the British and French. There is also a great shortage in pistols, though General Dickson, chief of the arms manufacturing division, says the outlook for improvement in this is encouraging. Mr. Baker says an inquiry into the entire question of ordnance production is being made by Lieut. Col. Bascom Little.

The railroad wage commission last week recommended increases for all employees whose wages were less than \$250 a month in December, 1915. The increases range from 4.6 to 43 per cent, the lower the wages, the greater the relative increase. The total annual increase in the pay roll of the railroads would be about \$300,000,000. Director General McAdoo can use his discretion in conforming to the recommendations of the commission, and is expected to render his decision very soon. Large as the increases are, they do not come up to the demands of the railway workers' unions and considerable dissatisfaction is expressed. However, Mr. McAdoo's decision doubtless will be accepted with good grace.

CAN HOLD THE HUNS

ALLIES CONFIDENT OF ABILITY TO WITHSTAND ONSLAUGHT

WON'T USE AMERICANS NOW

Decide to Give Yankee Host Chance to Grow in Power Before Striking—Offensive Near Collapse.

Ottawa, Ont., May 14.—So confident is the entente of its ability to withstand any drive the Germans can launch that it has been decided not to use the American army until it becomes a complete and powerful force, according to a cable summary of operations on the western front received here from the war committee of the British cabinet.

"The position now is," said the summary, "that the Germans, determined to concentrate every available unit on an enormous offensive, are draining their country dry to force a decision before it is too late, while the entente are so confident that, having been given the choice of a small immediate American army for defense or waiting till they are reinforced by a complete, powerful, self-supporting American army, they have chosen the latter.

In the present operations, the summary adds, "the British army has withstood many times its own weight of enemy masses. It has retired slowly, exacting the fullest price. Meanwhile, Foch holds the bulk of the French reserves, sending units only to points hard pressed. This strategy has justified itself in that in three weeks it has seen the enemy brought to a standstill without a single strategic objective fulfilled and with losses so immense that his reserve is in danger of proving inadequate to his policy."

"His countrymen," says the summary, "are dangerously dissatisfied at the immense price paid for his failure to terminate their sufferings. His allies are on the verge of quarrelling, and daily exhibit their growing dislike and distrust of the task-master who robs them of their lives and food. "His reserves have nearly reached complete exhaustion. The time draws closer when defeat is inevitable. Therefore, he must renew the offensive."

General Maurice Retired.

London, May 14.—General Maurice, former director of military operations, has been retired by the army council. The council considered Maurice's explanation of the breach of regulations he committed by writing and causing the publication of the letter questioning the veracity of Premier Lloyd-George and Chancellor of the Exchequer Bonar Law and decided that he should be placed at once on retired pay. Major General Frederick B. Maurice, as director of military operations, after the appointment of General Foch as commander in chief of the allied armies, criticized Foch for not rushing more reinforcements to the British army. His remarks were accepted as an insult to Foch and the Versailles war council.

Washington Delighted.

Washington, D. C., May 14.—News of the British statement that the entente is so confident of its ability to hold the Germans that the American army is not to be used until it becomes a complete and self-supporting force was received by army officers here with frank delight, not only because of the supreme confidence indicated by such a decision, but on account of the keen desire of American military men to take the field against the enemy as a distinctly American force.

To Limit War Profits.

Washington, May 14.—The war tax bill, when submitted to congress, will put a definite limit on war profits. Everything above this limit is to go to the government, according to well informed sources. It is hoped to make it the last tax bill of the war. Appeals to President Wilson will not save off the bill. The president is understood to have told congressional leaders that revenue legislation must be passed now.

May 30th Day of Prayer.

Washington, D. C., May 14.—National Memorial day, Thursday, May 30, is designated by President Wilson in a proclamation issued Saturday as a day of public humiliation, prayer and fasting. The people of the nation are asked to gather that day in their places of worship and pray for the victory of the American armies which will bring a peace founded upon mercy, justice and good will.

Substitutes Should Be Cheaper.

Washington, D. C., May 14.—Wheat flour substitutes should sell from 10 to 20 per cent less than wheat flour. Food Administrator Hoover notified state food administrators. The administrators were instructed to direct wholesalers to stop dealing with retailers who cannot justify their prices on the basis of the cost of their products. Cornmeal and oatmeal should sell 20 per cent below the price of wheat flour, and corn flour and barley should sell 10 per cent below wheat flour. The administrators were told.

ment control started and which they repeated before the commission. Their demands had been for an average of somewhat less than 40 per cent, and increases for them average less than 30 per cent.

Some union leaders who anticipated that the commission's recommendations would not be for as great amounts as they had asked already have appealed to Director General McAdoo to amend the proposed scale to give them higher pay. Others, however, virtually have agreed to accept the report.

The wage advances, which range all the way from \$1 to \$34 a month, are increases above the amount of pay each employee was receiving on December 31, 1915. Employees who have received advances since that date will benefit now to the extent of the difference between their present wage and that fixed by the wage commission.

The net cost of the additional pay to the railroads is estimated at \$200,000,000. This is exclusive of the estimated deficit of \$900,000,000 in government operation of the railroads this year, as a result of which Director General McAdoo contemplates advancing passenger rates at least 2 1/2 per cent and freight rates possibly as much as 4 1/2 per cent.

Based on Living Cost. The scheme of wage advances adopted is based on an inquiry into the cost of living, which the commission found has increased approximately 40 per cent to the average railroad employee receiving \$85 a month.

The commission favors a shorter