

CROZIER SAYS WAR SECRETARY IS RESPONSIBLE

Declares Baker Took Up New Designs for Guns and That He "Had to Be Satisfied."

Washington, Dec. 13.—Responsibility for delays in securing machine guns was laid directly upon Secretary Baker by General Crozier, after giving a detailed explanation of long consideration of various types.

When Chairman Chamberlain said he was not satisfied with the explanation, General Crozier replied: "Neither am I satisfied, but I am not responsible for the delay."

"Well, who is?" demanded Senator Chamberlain.

"The secretary of war," General Crozier replied. "He has to be. He had direct charge of the tests of types. He took a personal interest in it. The ordnance department is not responsible for the delay."

General Crozier replied to questions that work to secure ordnance was begun before war was declared, in anticipation of hostilities. He said the first step was to prepare estimates of appropriations and that the delay was a necessary accompaniment of our methods of government, which require much checking and joint responsibility.

Turning to the president's emergency fund, Senator Hitchcock asked:

"Congress hastily appropriated \$100,000,000 without any restrictions; that was more than 10 months ago, and now why do we find it was not used?"

"I can't tell you that," General Crozier answered. "Part was reserved for certain particular purposes."

Crozier Placed Orders.

General Crozier said that his bureau had been making estimates, cataloging possible manufacturers and placing orders in anticipation of appropriations.

"The committee wants to know," said Senator Hitchcock, "just what was done in March, April and May; what start was made?"

"There was a tremendous start made," General Crozier replied. "A great many things were done."

General Crozier repeated his statement regarding advance orders to manufacturers, census work and increases in designing and drafting forces. He said orders were placed against \$90,000,000 to \$100,000,000 appropriations previously authorized, in the summer of 1916.

When Senator Weeks inquired when deliveries were made upon those orders, General Crozier said some materials had not yet been delivered.

"It takes a long time to make artillery," he explained.

"Does it take foreign countries that long?" asked Senator Hitchcock.

General Crozier replied in the affirmative, saying that from the time of a new ordnance design in Germany until its issuance to troops there is a lapse of seven years.

Standardize Rifles.

"Didn't you change the type of rifle used?" asked Senator Chamberlain. "Wasn't that a cause of delay?"

"Yes, we did," was the answer.

He added that it was extremely undesirable to have ammunition of two kinds for an army, and to modify the guns of different makes, so that they can use the same kind of ammunition, required some delay.

"I will say that none of the American troops will be delayed five minutes in reaching the theater of war because of lack of modern rifles," General Crozier added.

General Crozier admitted there was some delay in shipping guns to cantonments for training purposes early, but said the cantonments were not then completed.

"No troops are being sent to France who have not been carrying a gun for some time," he continued, but added that because of ammunition shortage all have not had sufficient target practice. All the National Guard regiments have not been equipped with the modern rifles, he said, but over 75 per cent are.

The ordnance department had ready to ship to each cantonment when the national army was called, 5,000 Krag rifles for training purposes, and these were followed by 2,500 more and the same number the following week, so these are now about 11,000 Krag rifles at each cantonment, he said. There are also about 11,000 Enfield rifles now at cantonments or on their way there, he declared.

Captors of Holy City
Establish Public Relief

New York, Dec. 12.—With Jerusalem restored to Christian control, relief work among the 50,000 persons destitute in the Holy City and surroundings is being advanced as rapidly as finances will permit, according to word received here today by the American committee for Armenian and Syrian relief from its agents at Cairo, Egypt.

Refugee hospital already has been established at Gaza, south of Jerusalem, but its overcrowded condition indicates three more will be required to meet immediate needs, the cablegram stated.

The American committee was asked

to forward \$16,000 monthly to support this work and \$25,000 was dispatched upon receipt of the request. Further advances will be made as receipts warrant, it was said. Transmission of these funds through Constantinople will not be hindered by the Turkish government, according to assurances from the American legation at Bern. Word also was received stating that Americans in Constantinople are "well and undisturbed."

NATIONAL TRAFFIC BOARD IS DEMANDED

Railroads, Seek Some Method for Doing Away With Freight Congestion at Atlantic Ports.

Freight traffic officials of Omaha are beginning to demand the creation of a national traffic board that will have to do with the regulation of freight shipments to the Atlantic seaboard.

This demand results from the fact that cars loaded for Atlantic coast destination stand little chance of being returned and getting back into service for months and perhaps for years.

All this trouble is brought about by reason of the freight congestion that exists in and around the terminals of the eastern roads. According to the local freight officials of the railroads, the situation is many times worse than one year ago.

Embargo a Back Number.

One year ago whenever the congestion reached the stage where warehouse and terminal facilities were inadequate for the storage of freight, the railroads placed an embargo on such terminals and held back the shipments until the blockades could be cleared up. Now the situation has taken on an altogether different aspect. The railroads are out of the embargo business and the shipments into the congested zone are regulated by the Priority board of the Railroad War board.

This Priority board, of course, is giving preference to the shipment of munitions, equipment for the soldiers in Europe and going there, and also to the provisions and government freight that has to go along for the use of the allies. Notwithstanding this, and notwithstanding the activity of the members of the Priority board, vast quantities of export freight are getting through and are being piled up on the docks and in the warehouses of the Atlantic ports. Local railroad men assert that these shipments have reached such proportions that the transportation lines are unable to offer a solution of the problem.

It is said that in innumerable instances consignors of freight for export have taken advantage of the Priority board and have in some manner gotten possession of the little pink and other colored slips used by the Priority board to designate priority shipments and attached them to the consignments. These have rendered the shipments immune against delays and have put them into the class with the government freight.

Local railroad men agree that members of the Priority board are doing their best to keep freight moving, but assert that the proposition has reached such gigantic proportions that they are helpless. To solve the problem, they are strongly in favor of a national traffic board that would take charge of the ocean going shipments at points of origin and follow them through to seaboard, preventing congestion at any point along the lines of transportation.

Gulf Ports for Grain.

There are a considerable number of the local freight traffic men who are decidedly in favor of sending the export grain and large quantities of the export freight through the Gulf ports, retaining the Atlantic ports for the handling of the soldiers, their equipment and the munitions. They assert that even now the government has the power to do this. Most of them are free in predicting that this will be the outcome of the export business in the event the roads are forced to go into a pool on earnings, as they have been forced to on supplying equipment for the movement of government freight.

Local railroad men contend that with freight shipments handled through a national traffic board, regardless of whether the consignment was to go through an Atlantic, or a Gulf port, such shipments would not leave points of destination unless the shippers had assurances that there would be ocean going bottoms to take them upon arrival at the ports to which they were billed. This plan, it is asserted, would automatically solve the whole problem and would do away with any further congestion along the coasts.

RUSSIAN REDS USE FORCE AND CRIME TO HOLD POWER

Naked and Mutilated Corpses Taken From Waters Around Petrograd Show Inhuman Brutality of Their Rule.

(By Associated Press.)

London, Dec. 13.—In a long review of the Russian situation the Petrograd correspondent of the Post says there is no prospect of a peaceful settlement and that henceforth force must decide everything.

The secret of the successes throughout the country of the Bolsheviks, he writes, is that they represent the iron hand.

What is behind them is as yet undisclosed, but among the influential members of their organization are men who were prominent in the secret political police of the empire which once ruled Russia. These men, according to the correspondent, are introducing dissension everywhere. He continues:

"Although floods of indignation are being poured out daily upon the Bolsheviks, it is beyond question that they are gaining ground in Russia, simply because they use a strong hand, which is the only thing the Russians in general appreciate. Their methods might horrify the west, but would be

understood perfectly east of the Suez.

"For example, in the last three weeks there have been taken out of the rivers and canals of Petrograd 7,000 naked corpses of persons whose deaths were not caused by drowning. The injuries which caused death tell their own story. A suit of clothes nowadays in Russia is worth more than handfuls of paper money. The corpses of women even had the hair cut off because it represented marketable value."

Siberians Favor Monarchy.

Referring to Siberia's declaration of independence, the correspondent says the Siberian troops are being reorganized under General Pleskoff, one of the best known officers. It is reported that the Siberians have declared in favor of a monarchy.

The correspondent asserts that although the stories of the activities of the Cossacks in the southeast vary, it is certain they are standing for law and order. He predicts that eventually the Russians will again present a front against the Germans, adding that nothing whatsoever within the range of human thought that happens in Russia need now occasion any surprise.

"Among the highly important facts," he continues, "is the recovery of the Russian church of its full independence and self-government. It has again established the patriarchate and is preparing to take an important part in the present struggle."

The Jews of Russia, he predicts, will have an important influence. The capture of Jerusalem by the British, he says, will be a weighty factor in the situation. He also reports that former Emperor Nicholas and his family are enjoying much greater freedom of movement at Tobolsk and

Three Wheatless and Two Meatless Days in N. Y.

New York, Dec. 13.—A recommendation that three wheatless and two meatless days be observed each week in New York restaurants was adopted unanimously by the New York Society of Restaurateurs today. This is one more wheatless day than the government is advocating.

Patrons of cabaret shows and not the proprietors must pay the war tax, the restaurateurs decided. For every dollar spent for refreshments at such places an additional charge of 2 per cent will be levied to cover the tax.

that there is talk of bringing them back to European Russia.

Washington, Dec. 13.—Consular dispatches from Vladivostok to the State department today reported a state of unrest, making the presence of more troops advisable.

The American consul, under date of December 11, said there were there then only a few Russian troops, making it clear that no Japanese troops had been landed on that date. On December 12 another dispatch from him referring to the arrival there of a transport carrying American engineers for use in operation of the railroad, made no mention of any Japanese force.

Few Christmas Furloughs In National Army This Year

Washington, Dec. 13.—Men of the national army will not be given Christmas furloughs unless they live within trolley distance of their cantonments, the War department has decided.

MURDOCK GOES AFTER CANNERS WHO 'SOAK' TRADE

Food Commissioner Says They Are Turning Into "a Lot of Unadulterated Bloodsuckers On the Public."

Washington, Dec. 13.—In his hunt for food speculators responsible to a large extent for the alleged shortage and high prices, the federal trade commission today received evidence pointing to certain canners.

"In the course of the commission's hunt for these food huns," said Commissioner Murdock, in charge of the investigation, "we are discovering that certain canners of this country are turning into a lot of unadulterated bloodsuckers on the public. These canners are not now living up to their contracts with the wholesalers and jobbers and they are seizing upon the present situation to soak the trade."

"Where they have contracted to furnish a wholesaler or jobber a certain amount of canned goods, they are furnishing only a percentage of the amount and telling the trade that the remainder has had to be turned over to government use. However, have bungled in overlooking or

forgetting the fact that the federal trade commission has on file copies of all contracts they made with the wholesalers last spring.

"Evidence has come to me that canned goods are being stored by some of the meat packers who are not in the canned goods business, and that these goods are being hoarded. The practice on the part of some of the canners are absolutely unjustifiable. I am going into this situation to the finish, and every canner caught with the goods will have to deal with me. The country does not want professions of patriotism, but actions of patriotism."

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The Lesson of France

France—once a most sober country, when its alcoholic consumption was largely in the form of light wines and beer—has, in later days, been confronted with the Problem of Alcoholism. The growth of the absinthe and brandy habit in the northern provinces raised a question that was met at the outbreak of the war by an agitation for Prohibition.

A decision has now been reached which, according to the correspondent of the New York Sun, has "PROFOUNDLY MODIFIED PUBLIC OPINION ON THE LIQUOR QUESTION."

This is the unanimous decision of the army medical authorities to adopt the recommendations of the Academy of Medicine that a liter of wine should be introduced into the daily rations of the soldiers.

A letter left by the late Prof. Landouzy—himself an ardent Prohibitionist—and recently published in the *Journal de Medecine* of Bordeaux, strongly influenced the decision, for he wrote: "Abstention from pure wine is everywhere under the sky of France a scientific, economic and historical heresy."

Beer is to the American to-day what wine is to the Frenchman—except that the alcoholic content of American beer is about one-third that of French wine.

Our Government has learned through British experience that it is a necessity in this time of war that munitions makers, shipbuilders, miners, and all who perform heavy physical labor, should have some beverage which will stimulate and refresh without intoxicating.

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