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VENNER DEFENDS **NEBRASKA CENTRAL** RAIL TRANSACTION

New York Banker Makes Public Letter to Interstate Commission Giving His Side of Case.

REFERS TO SHAROOD TESTIMONY

Asserts Excerpts at the Rock Island Hearing Created a False Impression.

COMPANY SUFFERED NO LOSS

YORK, March 2 .- C. H Venner, a New York banker, made public today a letter he sent yesterday to the Interstate Commerce commission defending the purchase from him by the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railway company in 1904 of the stock of the Nebraska Central Railway company. In this he asserted that published excerpts from the testimony in the Rock Island investigation before the commission had created an impression contrary to that justified by the facts.

Paid Quarter Million.

Mr. Venner referred to testimony by Frederick C. Sharood, an examiner for the commission, that the stock was worthless and that the late Robert Muther, then vice president of the Rock Island company, paid Mr. Venner \$250,000 for it in settlement of a lawsuit then pending. Mr. Venner complained that he had not been given an opportunity to be heard concerning the value of the stock and asked that his letter be made a part of the record.

'As, the testimony now stands," he wrote, "the late Mr. Mather is impliedly charged with having acted improvidently for the company he represented. Among those who knew him, his high character and astuteness had been a sufficient an

Value of Charter. Mr. Venner incorporated in his letter correspondence between himself and Mr. Mather as proof of the value of the bridge charter and franchises owned by the Nebraska Central.

"It does not follow," his letter continued, "that because the Rock Island never utilized them the company auffered a loss, for it may well be that their ownership enabled the company to make terms with the Union Pacific, the advantages of which more than equalized the cost of the Nebraska Central stock

Austrians Execute 200 Civilians in City of Stanislau

LEMBERG. Galleis, March 2.-(Via. ters for the defense. London.)-When the Austrians recaptured lau, in Galicia, they condemned to death and executed somebrought to Lemberg.

Among the men executed were two Polish restaurant proprietors and a number of railroad laborers. All had been warned by the Austrian authorities to torneys for the defense in their arguleave prior to the coming of the Austrians, but the men refused, relying on their Austrian citizenship for protection. The Austrians are said to have come into Stanislau with prepared lists of citizens as no evidence of anything of this nature upon whom they had decided to inflict had been given. punishment for alleged offenses against

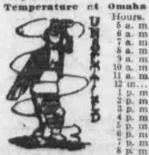
Hundreds of prisoners, including Bos nians and Turks, are arriving daily in Lemberg from the south, Many of them come in with their limbs partly frozen. All except the Germans are half clothed their feet tied up in rage.

Receiver Asked for the Wetern Pacific

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2.-The Equitable Trust company of New York filed have not missed a day nor an boura petition with Judge Van Fleet of the Who are they? Nobody seems to know. Upited States district court today asking that the Western Pacific railroad be placed in the hands of a receiver. The of a man fighting to keep out of prison. petition was joined in by the Western Pacific company and both asked that Warren Olney, jr., chief counsel of the railroad, be named receiver.

The Weather

Forecast till 7 p. m. Wednesday: For Omaha, Council Bluffs and Vicinity Rain or snow, no important change in



Comparative Locat Record. 1916, 1914, 1913, 1912

Reports from Stations at 7 P. M. Reports from Su Station and State of Weather. Cheyenne, cloudy, Davenport, rlear Denver, cloudy, Des Moines, cloudy, North Platte, snow, Omaha, cloudy Rapid City, cloudy, Sheridan, snow. heridan, snow, loux City, snow, snow, dicates trace of precipitation. ON WATCH AGAINST THE RUSS-German Landstrum on patrol duty ln wintry Poland.



MATTERS' CASE GIVEN TO JURY

Lawyers After Three Solid Weeks of Testimony-

DISREGARD CONSPIRACY CHARGE PRICES HERE ARE HIGHER, TOO

Arguments in the trial of Thomas H. Matters on a charge of aiding President Luebben of the First National bank of Sutton, now defunct, in operations con-

Assistant United States Attorney Lane opened for the government and was fol-

ent for the deter States Attorney Howell closed for the thing like 200 civilians, according to government. It was 3:30 o'clock when trustworthy information, which has been Judge Youmans began reading his instructions to the jury. This took an

hour. Judge Youmans instructed the jury to disregard entirely the statements of atnents that there existed a "conspiracy" on the part of the government and that President Luebben had been promised immunity in exchange for his testimony,

Jury Retires at Five-Ten. The jury took the case at 5:10, Judge Youmans giving permission to decide whether they wished to retire for the night to their hotel and start their deliberations in the morning or whether they wished to hold a night session. They decided to hold a night session and returned to the jury room in the postoffice after having dinner at their hotel, The court room was crowded for the

final day of the long drawn out trial. The two mysterious women who have knitted during every hour of the trial were there early and stayed late. They They knit, knit, knit as calmly as though they were not witnessing the spectacle The fishwomen who sat knitting in the shadow of the guillotine in the wild days of the French revolution and counted the heads as they fell into the basket Trustees Accept of the French revolution and counted were not more calm than these two myse

terious women And neither the making of a momentous decision by the judge nor the trembling voice of a fearful witness nor the sob of grief nor the flights of oratory have caused them to miss a stitch

Wooley Nominated Director of Mint

WASHINGTON, March 2.-Robert W. Wooley of Fairfax, Va., now auditor for today by President Wilson as director delivery autos. of the mint to succeed George W. Roberts, realgned.

BICKNELL AND JAMES SEE KING OF BULGARIA

SOFIA. Bulgaria, March 2.-(Via London.)-The king and queen of Bulgaria price is paid in full. today granted an audience to Ernest Bfcknell, national director of the American Red Cross society, and Henry James. jr., representative of the Rockefeller Foundation. These Americans have been traveling in southeastern Europe for further relief measures. They arrived here from Nish, Serbia.

CHAMPION CORN GROWERS

CALL ON THE PRESIDENT WASHINGTON, March 2 - President commended by the president.

OMAHA MARKET IS BIGGEST IN WORLD

Arguments Are Opened by Opposing Receipts in Sheep, Hogs and Cattle Larger Than at Any Other Market Today.

The South Omaha live stock market was the biggest in the world yestrary to national banking laws, opened sheep South Omaha surpassed other yesterday in federal court after three points, in sheep even registering kets. The run of cattle was 5,100 hogs 18,700, and sheep 17,500.

Description of Area Barred to Navigation Given to Washington

WASHINGTON, March 2.-Minute description of the area prohibited for navigation in the North channel and the Irish Sea has been forwarded to the State department by the consul general at London in the following telegram: "Mariners warned navigation entirely forbidden to all ships of area in Irish channel bounded on northwest by line joining latitude 55 degrees 221/2 minutes, longitude 6 degrees 17 minutes and latitude 55 degree 31 minutes, longituded degrees 2 minutes; bounded on southeast by line joining latitude 55 degrees 101/2 minutes, longitude 5 degrees 24% minutes and latitude 55 degrees 2 minutes, longitude 5 degrees 40% minutes; bounded on southwest by line from first described

northeast by line from second described to third descried point. "All traffic wishing to proceed through North channel must pass southward of Rathlin island between sunset and sun-

Offer of Brandeis To Buy Church Site

Trustees of the First Presbyterian burch have voted ununtmously to accept the \$50,000 offer by Arthur D. Brandels for the purchase of the old church property at the northwest corner of Seven teenth and Dodge streets. Mr. Brandets, who is the head of the extensive Brandels interests in this city, deaires posses sion June 1, and intends to use the propthe Interior department, was nominated erty for a garage for the Brandels stores

All that now remains for the closing of the deal is formal authority from the church congregation for the signing of the deed, which will undoubtealy be given at a meeting March is. The terms agreed upon are \$10,70° down with the signing of the deed and \$10,000 cash every sixty days thereafter until the purchase

WHEAT DOUBLES IN VALUE WHILE ON WAY

NEW YORK, March 2.-The first ship ment from this country with supplies. Other witnesses called today are for the Belgians has been the jast to S. Ward and James B. Arthur, officers wilson Abandons aion for relief in Reigium. The vessel is nounced that in addition to the public the Nordius which sailed from Portland, inquiry, he is making a wide search for Wilson today shook hands with thirty- Falmouth, England, today. More than have tried to intimidate or boycott renine boys and girls, champion corn grow- 100 cargoes, it was said, had been pur- tailers who refused to raise prices. value during the long voyage.

ANNEXATION BILL OUT OF COMMITTEE

Measure Comes Before House Without Recommendation and with No Amendments-

TWO MEMBERS WERE OPPOSED

(From a Staff Correspondate) LINCOLN, March 2. (Special Telegram.) - Senate file No 6, the How-Omaha, Dundee and other suburbs house committee on cities and towns this evening without recommenda-

all covering the subject of submitting th eproposition to a vote of the rett and Broome.

ments be tabled and this carried by a quarters that the arrests had balked dow, Burgess, Hutton and Smith vot- Andrew Carnegie, John D. Rockefel- abandonment of floating mines. ing to table, while Broome, Snyder, Ier, John D. Rockefeller, jr., and Barrett, LaBounty and Richmond other wealthy men. Thereafter the voted no.

mendation, Snyder and Smith voting days of the French revolution. no, the vote standing 9 for and 2

Americans Who Sail As Horse Tenders on British Ships Adrift

Correspondence of the Associated Press.) America, only to be turned adrift pen- had already started. niless in England or France. Such yessels run from American ports

will be paid from \$15 to \$36 for their work and then supplied with a return ticket or an opportunity to work their way back on another steamer.

Upon arriving they often fail to get the money promised and are frequently turned loose to shift for themselves. Sometimes they are given \$2.50 and an order for return passage on a ship sailing a month hence. Obviously the man cannot wait manufacture of the bomb with which the terday. In receipts of cattle, hogs and and often he offers to work his way home for nothing.

pealing for help to American officials in with him while he lighted the bomb and more than Chicago, Kansas City and London. Since November 1 more than hurled it at the alter. Awistant United States Attorney Lane pened for the government and was foi- bound by it. If. Wilson and "Tate" Mathematical in the defense of the defense.

St. Joseph put together. Prices at 100 have made known their distress. The large of the defense impoverished by the way it with detectives, whose presence had been computed from who have come averaged. the fighting began.

ping agents in America.

For years the mistreatment of Ameriemplaint, but since the opening of the war conditions have become much worse There are evidences of a general understanding between ship officers and shipping agents to fleece unsuspecting and in- and with helping to make the bomb.

Only Two Rescued From Mine Where

about 160 feet and there found an unito fourth described point; bounded on dentified miner still living, but uncontors said he would probably die. The mine where the explosion occurred

is a drift high up on Quinnimont moun-As the day were on additional volunteers entered mine No. 3 to clear away fallen coal and rock in the main

PITTSBURGH, Pa., March 2 .- George S. Rice, chief mining engineer of the Pittsburgh station of the bureau of mines, upon receipt of the news that an explosion had occurred near Thurmond, Va., ordered rescue car No. S. anarchist since last December. He had at Glenslium, W. Va., to ploceed at once obtained Abarno's complete confidence to the place.

Bakers Are Said to Have Attempted to Boycott Retailers

NEW YORK, March !- At the resump. bone when he was arrested. tion today of the state's inquiry into the | According to Baido, Aberno had planned representatives of large baking com- with Baldo, half a dozen detectives, some concerns and interests.

ouncement made today by the commis- The deputy attorney general has an-Ore., September 11, 1914, and reached evidence that some of the wholesalers

ANARCHIST PLOT TO LOOT NEW YORK CITY FRUSTRATED

Man Who Threw Bomb at Foot of Altar in St. Patrick's Cathedral Arrested by Detective at His Side.

ell annexation bill to join South DETAILS OF THE CONSPIRACY

to Omaha was reported out of the Bombs Were to Have Been Thrown Into Homes of Carnegie, Rockefellers and Vanderbilts.

Three amendments were offered INTENDED TO LOOT BIG BANKS

NEW YORK, March 2 .- An atpeople of the towns proposed to be tempt to blow up St. Patrick's catheannexed, but each prescribed a dif- dral with a bomb today and the artheir activities, was followed by an Reuter then moved tha tall amend- announcement made at police head-

> It was part of the plot, the police assert, for gangs of men armed with rifles and revolvers to appear simultaneously in various parts of the city to shoot and to pillage. The biggest banks of New York City were to be blown up, and many wealthy men were to be slain. The wrecking of the cathedral was to this manner.

be the signal for the opening of the elaborate campaign of murder and lootpolice, was to place bombs in the homes foodstuffs for the use of civilian popula-LONDON, Monday, Feb. 22. - Many of Andrew Carnegie, the Rockefellers and tions could be consigned. Americans have been induced to ship on Cornellus Vanderbilt. So far has the British steamers as horse tenders with plot progressed toward this end that the the American proposals. The reply also promises of good pay and a return ticket manufacture of bombs, the police say, suggests that these commissions should

Detective Helps Make Bomb.

For months a central office detective had worked in the inner circles of the anarchists, according to the police story, and had kept the detective bureau advised of all of their plans. This detective, Frank Baldo, assisted in the attempt was made today to blow up the cathedral. The detective accompanied These unfortunate men have been ap- the bomb thrower to the editice and sat

In the afternoon T. J. Burkett closed tion the differential, than other mar-American officials in England and rest, while others in the pews dashed the war zone, lured by promises of ship- realized what had happened when it was all over, and there was no panic.

At police headquarters the prisoner said an seamen coming to Europe on foreign he was Frank Abarno, a lithographer, 24 American proposals furnish an acceptable essels has been the subject of much years old. Soon after he was taken to basis for a practical solution of the presheadquarters detectives, acting on in- ent difficulties and problems of the mariformation given them by Baido, arrested Charles Carbone, an 18-year-old boy, and charged him with complicity in the plot

Church Guarded by Officers. When Abarno entered the cathedral door, his bomb in a package under his coat, and Baldo at his side, he walked onto a stage whose every setting had been placed there by detectives. bule, through which he passed, were in reality central office detectives. The HINTON, W. Va., March 2.-Attempts white-wigged priest, who met them at o reach 160 men reported entombed in the door and took them to a seat down two coal mines near here met with little near the front of the church and close to the altar, was a sergeant of police. After repeated efforts one rescue party Just behind Abarno there entered the enetrated the main drift at mine No. 3 church quite casually two more detectook seats at his bidding in the pews becious. His legs had been broken. Doc- hind. It was these men who saved the cathedral from damage by beating out

the fire in the fuse. Abarno realized the identity of his companion a moment after he had lighted, from the glowing end of a cigar, the fuse of the bomb which he carried under entry. Half mile from the opening they his cont. The missile had barely left his came across another miner, badly hurt hand to lie for a moment on the carpet and unable to talk or say anything about at the foot of the altar, when Baldo the explosion. Here they encountered a pinioned Arbano's arms behind him told mass of debris and it was said that two him that he was under arrest, and or three hours must clapse before it could started to leave the church. Abarno perthe removed and the working beyond mitted himself to be handcuffed to his captor without resistance and walked meekly down the isle with detectives surrounding him.

Anarchists Work in Groups, Baldo had lived with the alleged

and had discussed with him and with others, the police assert, the details of police learned that the anarchists plans by groups of two and three men workthe Central office were shadowing Car-

Becker, deputy attorney general, has an- the afternoon, but had postponed execunounced that from F. S. Taylor of this tion of the idea, partly at Baldo's sugcity and Louis J. Cobb of Philadelphia, gestion. Today, when he left his room panics, he would seek facts concerning of them disguised as laborers and carryan alleged combination of various baking ing dinner palls, trailed him to the

Extra Session Idea

WASHINGTON, March 2.-President ers from Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Penn- chased and many of them had been de- Amalysis of samples of dough and flour had abundoned plans for an extra session sylvania? New York and Massach loctts livered since this ship sailed, 169 days taken from certain bakeries are being of the senate immediately after March movement and twenty-four temperature Earle Veller of Cooper, In., who raised ago. The Nordhav has abound 4,026 tons made to determine what relation there is bushels on one acre, was especially of wheat, which has almost doubled in is not between present insession of congress in October.

SUBMARINES WILL ATTACK FOES ONLY

On Trains and at Motel News Stands, So.

Vessels Carrying Contraband or Owned by Hostiles Proceeded Against-

EVERY OTHER WILL BE SAFE

BERLIN, March 2 .- (Via London.)-In its reply to the American note concerning the German naval war zone, the German government WILL STAND BY ITS POSITION agrees that under certain conditions gate merchantmen and will proceed against only such vessels as are found to be carrying contraband or are owned in nations hostile to Ger- NO RIGHT TO ALTER WAR RULES

To Accept All But One.

The reply declares Germany's readiness to accept virtually all of the American ferent time for holding the election, rest of two men by detectives, who proposals except the one which would re-They were submitted by Snyder, Bar- had been informed for months of strict the use of anchored mines to purely defensive purposes. The German government expresses the belief that beiligerents cannot afferd to abandon entirely the use of anchored mines for offensive vote of 5 to 6, Reuter, Smith Druese- an anarchist plot to kill with bombs operations. It is willing to consider the

In case German submarines take action after investigation, against merchantmen carrying contraband or owed in hostile anarchists, according to the police, countries, it is greed that such action will On motion of Reuter the bill was were to inaugurate in New York City be in accordance with the general rules then reported out with no recom- a reign of terror comparable to the of international law. This proposes, how ever, the abandonment of the use of natural flags by merchantmen of whole na tions of the arming of such merchant-

Can't Restrict Operations.

If such tactics were employed, Germany contends, it would be impossible to restrict the operations of submarines

The reply suggests that there be constituted in the countries concerned Amering. The next move, according to the ican commissions to which supplied of

This plan, it is said, is contemplated in be allowed to import the distribution o With these and other capitalists dis- other articles, especially fodder, which posed of, the anarchists planned, accord- are on the conditional contraband list in England and France with remounts ing to the police, to invade the financial the declaration of London. Gormany for the allies. The men are assured they district and lay their bombs in the city's stated that inner defense with articles on biggest banks. General looting was to the absolute free list in the declaration of London should be abandoned.

Spirit of Pairness. "What most impressed us in the Ameri can note was the evident spirit of absolute fairness in which the American government approached the problem and its desire to propose a solution which could be accepted by both bodies," said a high official of the German government today. We endeavored in the reply to follow the same rule. The modifications we suggested are inspired by a desire to round

"We are sure, for instance, that the American government would have inserted the clause covering armed merchantmen if this subject had occurred to has the right to change the rules of warfensive use of anchored mines is justifie the Hague conventions, which ex-France today are making every effort to into the aisles and stampes out the sput- pressly acthorize such procedure, and discourage Americans from coming into tering fuse. The congregation hardly even therein it will be noticed that our note says only that we cannot renounce completely the use of such mines

"The government is convinced that the time situation.

Germany Repeats U. S. Ships Lost by Neglecting Warning

WASHINGTON, March 2-A statement 160 Are Entombed scrubwomen, on their knees in the vesti- issued by the German embassy heretoday announced that the American steamers Evelyn and Carib, recently mines in the North Sea, were lost because they failed to heed "advice contained in notices to mariners.

The statement follows "The American ships Evelyn and Carib were lost in the North Sea because, in opposition to the advice contained in the notice to mariners, they took their course along the East Friscian Isles, According to statements made by the captain of the Evelyn, this course was followed upon advice by a British man-of-war.

"The imperial government strongly adises all ships sailing from the Dutch coast to the Bay of Helgoland to take their course from Terschelling Ligstboat to about the 55th degree, then to intertief, where they arel, to await a German

Detective Denies Report McManigal is in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, Cal., March 1 .- Reports that Ortic E. McManigal, the dynamite conspirator, whose revelations built up the prosecution against the Mc the widespread plot. From Baldo the Namara brothers, was in Los Angeles today, ready to testify in the forthcom were to be devoloped in separate phases ing trials of Matthew Schmidt and David Caplan, alleged confederates in the plot ing together. Detectives were assigned which resulted in the destruction of the to watch these groups and two men from Los Angeles Times' building in 1910, met with prompt denial from Malcolm Me Laren, former chief of detectives. Other than John D. Fredericks, former district wheat and bread market, Alfred L to wreck the cathedral a week ago late in attorney, McLaren is said to be the only man who knows exactly where Mc Manigal is.

According to current reports, McManiga never left Los Angeles soon after his re lease from jail a few months ago. Mc Laren maintained today that the b former was not in the United States.

PLAN MADE TO OUST SALOONS FROM CHICAGO

CHICAGO, March 2-Plans for a cam paign to oust saloons from Chicago in 1916 were discussed today at the opening of Wilson stated definitely today that he temperance headquarters here. More than 200 churches have agreed to support the considered the suggestion of a special their aid in the effort to drive out 7.35 saloons now open in the city.

WILL ASK ALLIES TO EXPLAIN NOTE **CLOSING PORTS**

Uncle Sam Wants to Know What Means Will Be Used to Stop Noncontrabrand Traffic with Teutons.

its submarines will halt and investi- President Will Continue His Efforts to Get Belligerents to Respect American Shipping.

The Day's War News

WASHINGTON is considering now what steps shall be taken by this country following the announcement by the British and French governments that they would attempt to ent off trade to and from Germany.

ANGLO-FRENCH fleet's attack on the Dardanelles has been interrapted by unfavorable weather, but a dispatch from Athens states that before the operations were suspended the two Turkish forts at the narrowest part of the straits had been silenced.

LAND OPERATIONS are under way along the East Prussian frontier. in northern Poland, and in Champagne, on the western front. Concerning the latter engagement French and Berlin reports disagree shaply. Berlin states that the allies have been driven back, while Parts claims that the French have repulsed strong German counter attacks and gained more ground. In Poland the Russians are on the offensive along the entire front.

PRENCH AND GERMAN official communications both agree that violent fighting is under way in the Champagne region, where the allies began an attack several days ago, and that the losses have been unusually heavy,

WASHINGON, March 2 .- The United States will send a note to Great Britain and France in answer to the one received yesterday inquiring what means will be taken in carrying out the policy of holding up supplies being carried to and from Germany, President Wilson told callers today that the British-French note outlined in very general terms out and complete the American proposals, a policy, but did not define the means of carrying it into effect.

President Wilson refused to discuss the subject in detail, but said that no nation fare because the methods of war have changed. He indicated that the United States will not change its previously annot need position, but will continue to make efforte to have the belligerents respect American shipping of a noncon-

trabund character.

Note of Alties Not Clear. The president said it was not clear in his owr mind whether the new action of the British and French governments establishing a blockade of Germany, although that would be the general effect of the order. He medicated that even though a real blockade were established. no questions affecting the neutrality of the United States would be precipitated by the continued voyages of American ships to Germany. The president added he had not had opportunity to thoroughly digest the contents of the comunication from Great Britain and France, but that the question was under serious consideration. He reiterated that he was still uncertain whether he would be able to follow out his plan of going to the San

such importance as to keep the president in Washington. Senator Simmon's of North Carolina, a White House caller today, said that the British-French action would affect southern cotton growers, but would have more serious effects on cotton mills. That, he said, was due to the fact that most mills use German dyes and the supply on hand

Francisco exposition this month and that

was taken as another indication that the

European situation was considered of

in this country was very small. The president made it clear, however, that for American ships to sail for Germany would involve no violation of neutrality, but merely the usual risk of the Continued on Page Five, Column Three.)

Fair Warning

All signs point to a very active season in farm land this year, and prices are sure to make big increases.

The demand for farm products is greater than the supply, and it is safe to assume that it will continue so for several years.

In today's classified section you will find good land offered for sale at bargain prices.

Telephone Tyler 1000

THE OMAHA BEE

"Everybody Reads Bee Want Ada."