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RAILWAY RATE FIGHT OPENED BY CUMMINS

Iowa Senator Introduces Bill at Washington for Radical Changes in Law.

POWER TO THE COMMISSION.

Uniform Classification, Interstate Body to Act on Own Motion and No Court Interference.

A controversy over railroad legislation which for interest and importance promises to surpass the legislative conflict over railroad rates four years ago will be precipitated in Congress this winter. The first gun was fired by Senator Cummins of Iowa when he introduced a bill proposing radical changes in the interstate commerce act.

In brief, the Cummins bill requires the Interstate Commerce Commission to promulgate a uniform classification of freight and to prepare a plan for the statement of rates, which thereafter would be made in a uniform way. The carriers are required to adopt this classification. The commission is to be authorized to consider rates on its own motion, with a view to determining their reasonableness, and is empowered to fix maximum and minimum rates. In an action in court to set aside an order of the commission respecting rates, the courts would be prevented from inquiring into the reasonableness or sufficiency of any rate fixed by the commission.

The bill also provides that changes shall not become effective before they are approved by the commission. It prohibits acquisition of control of parallel and competing lines by any common carrier, or acquiring of capital stock or bonds of any other carrier that is a competitor.

A carrier is prohibited from issuing capital stock without payment at par either in money or in property, and in effect, the commission shall have supervision of issues of stocks and bonds by any carrier. Specific directions are set forth for the disposition of the proceeds of any sale of bonds. After Jan. 1, 1911, no railway doing interstate business shall be permitted to engage in other business than that of a common carrier.

A resolution authorizing the President to take the necessary steps for the apprehension of President Zelaya of Nicaragua and for his punishment on the charge of murder, if the facts in the possession of the State Department warrant such action, has been introduced in the Senate by Senator Rayner. The resolution recites the circumstances connected with the execution of two Americans, Grace and Cannon, by order of President Zelaya, as generally understood through published reports from Nicaragua.

TWO DIE IN FLYER WRECK.

Northwestern Train Jumps Track at Northern Limits of Chicago.

The Chicago and Northwestern flyer No. 5—the 11:30 a. m. limited between Chicago and Milwaukee—while running forty miles an hour jumped the tracks at noon the other day at Howard avenue, the boundary line between Chicago and Evanston. The train was jammed into smithereens, two immigrants were killed, and at least eighteen passengers injured. The wreck took place in Chicago. The victims were killed in Evanston. The train jumped the track within the city limits, but had passed the boundary line before death visited the passengers. Just beyond the limits the locomotive, which had left the tracks, dislodged a rail. The rail curled up beneath the locomotive, punctured the floor of the baggage car like a great knife, and slit this car and the one behind it into distinct halves.

GROCERS CHARGE CONSPIRACY.

Government Begins Investigation of High Prices of Foodstuffs.

High prices of foodstuffs are being investigated by the United States District Attorney's office in New York, because of complaints by the largest wholesale grocers that there seems to exist a conspiracy among some manufacturers to maintain prices to the consumer. It is learned that several leading manufacturers of food products have been called before District Attorney Wise and informed that the contracts they have been using to force wholesalers to keep up prices are in restraint of trade and a violation of the anti-trust law.

U. S. WANTS YOUNG FIGHTERS.

Oslerization Campaign Inaugurated in the Army and Navy.
An "Oslerization" campaign in the army and navy has been inaugurated. Secretary Dickinson and Secretary Meyer announced in their annual reports that the time has arrived to put younger men at the top of the armed organizations of the country. The reform in the navy is made easier because of the general reorganization now in progress there. At present officers of sea fighters are promoted according to seniority alone. Selection for promotion and more retirements annually are changes urged.

OHIO TOWN FIRE SWEEP.

One Hotel Guest Burned to Death at Utica.

The village of Utica, O., containing 900 people, was practically wiped out by fire and one man, Edward Daxm, of Lancaster, a guest of the Hotel Vance, was burned to a crisp. Thirty-five other guests of the hotel had a narrow escape and were forced to rush to the sidewalk in their nightclothes. The entire business section of the town was destroyed and the loss is placed at \$100,000.

SPECIAL DELIVERY.



BIG FIRE AT KALAMAZOO.

One Life Probably Sacrificed and Much Property Destroyed.

One life probably was lost, many firemen were overcome by smoke, 300 hotel guests were driven into the icy streets and property valued at \$1,000,000 was destroyed by a fire which started in Kalamazoo at 10 o'clock the other night and was extinguished after an all-night struggle by the combined fire-fighting forces at Kalamazoo, Battle Creek and Grand Rapids.

Originating in the basement of the Star Bargain house, a 5 and 10-cent store on West Main street, the flames, fanned by a strong southwest wind, spread east along the north side of Main street, destroying the Burdick House, a four-story hotel and store building covering more than half a block. Along an arcade running north through the Burdick building to Water street were half a dozen small establishments, and these were burned. Sweeping east on Main street the flames made their way through the Postal Telegraph and American Express offices, Chase's shoe store, Cowbeck's furnishing store, Kennedy's drug store and smaller business places.

To low pressure in the mains is attributed the spread of the fire. The city depends for its supply on artesian wells and the water from this source was inadequate. A large standpipe at the asylum was connected with the mains, but gave only a temporary advantage.

35 HURT IN CAR ACCIDENT.

Hit by Pennsylvania Train at Indianapolis and Hurled 30 Feet.

Thirty-five passengers on a street car were injured, none fatally, and few seriously, when the car was struck by an inbound Pennsylvania passenger train at the South street crossing in Indianapolis and hurled thirty feet. The car fell on a cement sidewalk and lay across the track, but the engineer stopped his train before hitting it a second time. Most of those hurt were injured in the panic which followed the crash.



FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

It is reported from Rome that the Duke of Abruzzi has been promoted and is now a rear admiral.

Twenty sailing vessels went to the bottom and an unknown number of sailors were drowned in a storm which recently swept the Mediterranean sea from Port Said to Gibraltar.

An effort to draw the United States into the revolution in Nicaragua is being made by many who are circulating a petition asking this country to restore peace. The United States, the petition says, is the only country to which the Nicaraguans can look for assistance.

Canada's naval plans have been laid before Parliament. They provide for the construction of three cruisers of the "improved Bristol" class, and four destroyers of an unknown river class. The cost of the cruisers is estimated at \$75,000,000, and that of the destroyers at \$1,500,000. The annual cost of maintenance of the vessels is estimated at \$2,000,000.

The Finnish diet, the last legislative body of Finland preserved from the domination of Russia, has been dissolved. The dissolution is looked upon as the beginning of the end of Finnish independence.

During the past few months remarkable excavations have been in operation and two deep shafts have been sunk. In spite of the secrecy maintained, it is understood that the quest is for the tombs of David and the kings of Judah and the treasure thought to be buried with them.

TO DIE FOR MUTINY.

Members of Native Constabulary Will Be Executed in Davao Plaza.

Fourteen men of the Second company of native constabulary, stationed at Davao, Mindanao, which mutinied on the night of June 6, were sentenced to death after being convicted of murder. The murder charge was based on the killing of Roy Libby, a planter, when the mutineers attacked the town. The executions will take place on Davao plaza, the scene of the uprising, providing the Supreme Court upholds the decision. The trials were held at Davao, Judge Gate presiding. Twenty-three men mutinied, eight of whom were killed resisting arrest, while one turned state's evidence.

CHILD'S MURDERERS GET LIFE.

Hattie Zinda's Slaying Sentenced at Milwaukee After Confession.

Carl Wojciechowski and Adam Pietrzyk, the confessed murderers of 14-year-old Hattie Zinda, were taken into the Municipal Court in Milwaukee unexpectedly the other night and pleaded guilty. The men were about to be sentenced for life when Pietrzyk, who confessed that Wojciechowski committed the murder while he himself stood guard outside, asked for an attorney to make a plea for clemency. This request was granted. After a hearing, lasting three hours, both men were sentenced to life imprisonment and arrangements were made to start them to the state prison before daylight.

BOYS SEIZED AS MURDERERS.

Two of Trio Arrested for Robberies Are Identified as Slayers.

In the arrest of three youths, aged 17, 19 and 21, the Kansas City police believe they have found the perpetrators of numerous holdups. Two of the boys, Ralph Clyde and Louis Dye, were identified by a witness as the men who shot and killed M. A. Spangler Nov. 24. Spangler was killed in his saloon during an attempted holdup. His son, Samuel Spangler, was shot in both arms. The third prisoner, Harry Shay, was identified as the youth who accompanied Dye and Clyde on several expeditions.

RUINOUS STORM BRINGS JOY.

Drought Is Believed and Thousands of Miners Can Get Work.

Wind and rain has done thousands of dollars damage in the coal regions of eastern Pennsylvania, but in relieving a long drought the storm brought untold benefit. During the last sixty days thousands of miners had been idle or working on less than half time because of the lack of water at the collieries. The mines can be put in full operation now. The wind in some places stopped the running of the electric lines and unroofed many buildings.

Injured in Train Wreck.

The Denver-Chicago east-bound express on the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad was derailed at Exeter, Neb. Eight passengers were injured, only one severely.

Officials of New Mexico Named.

President Taft sent to the Senate the names of William J. Mills and William H. Pope, both of New Mexico, to be Governor and chief justice of that territory.

Couple Die in Suicide Pact.

Dr. and Mrs. A. C. Smith, an aged and wealthy couple of Tulsa, Okla., were found dead in their residence, apparently the victims of a suicide pact. The couple was last seen by neighbors the other morning, when they appeared in jolly mood.

Puddlers Get Wage Increase.

The Lebanon Valley Iron Company at Lebanon, Pa., has posted notices increasing the wages of puddlers from \$4 to \$4.50. Four hundred men are affected.

DATA ON POSTAL BANKS.

Comptroller Shows Growth of Such Depositories in Foreign Countries.

In the annual report of Comptroller of the Currency, Lawrence O. Murray, there is a comprehensive table of the growth of postal savings banks the world over which serves to emphasize the need for such banks in the United States. The table shows that thirty-four countries or colonies have such banks and that, during the last decade, the number of depositories in these banks have increased from 20,132,887 to 40,320,303, or nearly 100 per cent, while during the same period the deposits have increased from \$1,138,411,944 to \$1,989,299,815, or approximately 75 per cent. During the decade the average deposit of each depositor has fallen from \$56.41 to \$49.83. While the number of depositories in postal savings banks is 42 per cent of the number of depositories in all foreign savings banks, the deposits are only about 20 per cent of the total deposits in such banks.

In the thirty-four countries and dependencies having postal savings banks, the united kingdom leads in the number of depositories and amount of deposits—that is, 11,018,251 and \$781,794,532, respectively. In Japan there are 8,013,193 depositories; in Italy, 5,108,802; France, 5,034,895; Belgium, 2,106,237; Austria, 2,054,403; Russia, 1,758,990; Netherlands, 1,401,870, and British India, 1,262,763. Canadian postal savings banks have 155,895 depositories, but their deposits amount to \$45,190,454, making the average deposit account \$289.88, by far the largest average account in postal savings banks in any country. The report shows 25,000 banks with an excess of 25,000,000 deposit accounts, capital aggregating \$1,855,987,368 and individual deposits of more than \$14,000,000,000.

NEGRO SOLDIERS HIT.

New Evidence Said to Fix Guilt Conclusively in Brownsville Case.

That the "shooting up" of Brownsville, Texas, was done by members of the Twenty-fifth Infantry, colored, who were in the fort at the time their companions were running through the streets of the town, firing right and left, is said to be proved conclusively by evidence now in possession of the military court of inquiry into that famous case. None of the members of the court would discuss the matter, but it is intimated that a demand for the abolition of the negro troops will be made by the Southern delegations in Congress. Thus the bitter debate that marked the final days of the Roosevelt administration threatens to be renewed. The evidence discovered by the officers who compose the court is said to be susceptible of complete proof. Certain members, it is reported, made personal examination of buildings across the road from the fort in Brownsville. They discovered bullet holes in the sides of three houses. Continuing their investigations, they discovered the bullets, which were of the regulation army design. Following back the line of fire, as shown by the track of the bullets, the marksmen could have been nowhere else than within the barracks.

COLD KILLS MEN ON YAWL.

Refugees of Foundered Ferry Found Frozen in Boat.

With her flag at half-mast, the state fisheries boat Commodore Perry, Captain Gerry Driscoll commanding, brought to Erie, Pa., the dead and frozen bodies of nine of the crew of the Bessemer and Marquette ferry No. 2, which left Conneaut, Ohio, Tuesday morning carrying thirty-two men and which has probably foundered in the middle of Lake Erie. As the lookout on the Perry sighted a tiny half-sunken yawl orders were given to steam down upon the object. The use of glasses discovered the boat to be loaded with nine men. As the Perry came abreast of the drifting and half-water-logged yawl the men gathered at the side of the fish boat saw that they had arrived too late. The nine occupants of the boat, which was marked "Bessemer and Marquette No. 2," were frozen stiff in death.

THREE DIE IN MINE SMOKE.

Flames Fanned Down an Air Shaft Suffocate Workers Below Depths.

Three men died of suffocation and twenty-one others were overcome and rescued with difficulty as a result of a peculiar accident at a mine of the Shoemaker Mining Company, fifteen miles northeast of Johnstown, Pa. Fire broke out in the fanhouse at the mouth of the shaft. The place was deserted and the flames gained much headway before being discovered. Meanwhile the fans were in operation pumping air to twenty-four men inside the mine. The smoke caused by the fire was caught by the fans and forced into the mine with such volume that three of the men were suffocated. The others were rescued in a serious state of exhaustion.

BURNING TAR LAKE INGULFS.

Pittsburghers, Entrapped, Forced to See Flames Creep to Them.

Entrapped in a lake of flowing tar, four men were held fast at the McClintock & Irvine Company's roofing plant in Pittsburgh and were compelled to watch the gradually approaching flames. Three of them were burned to death, but the fourth managed to extricate himself and escape the horrible fate of his fellow companions.

Leprosy Kills Army Officer.

Death removed probably the only case of leprosy in the United States army the other day when First Sergeant C. O. Mix of the Seventy-second Company Coast Artillery died on the Fort Stevens Reservation.

Killed by an Automobile.

Theodore R. Ballard, who in 1903 was president of the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange and police commissioner, was run down and killed by an automobile while he was crossing the street in St. Louis.