

## IRON ORE PROFITS

Report Says Steel Corporation's Earnings Too Great.

PRICES LONG KEPT TOO HIGH.

Integration of Industry to Permit Large Operations at Minimum Cost Brings No Benefit to Public—Advantages Wrongfully Used.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Unreasonable profits are made on iron ore of the lake region; excessive earnings flow into the treasury of the United States steel corporation from its ore transportation facilities, which suggest the necessity from the standpoint of public policy of segregating the ore railroads from the giant corporation, and large inter-company profits are made by large consolidated ore, iron and steel companies, according to a preliminary report on the cost of production in the steel interests by Herbert Knox Smith, commissioner of corporations.

The report was presented to President Taft and sent to the house committee on ways and means for consideration in connection with the proposed revision of the steel tariff schedule, upon which the Democrats will caucus today.

"The prices of lake ore," the report declares, "have been kept for many years at an unreasonably high level, compared with the cost of production and the cost of investment in the producing ore properties."

Holder Large Ore Reserves.

Insofar as the steel corporation "enjoys monopolistic power," the report states, "it lies chiefly in its holdings of ore and of railroad transportation facilities." This company, the report declares, has acquired unduly large ore reserves, holding at the close of 1910 at least fifty years' supply at the present rate of consumption, exclusive of the Great Northern ore properties, the lease of which has been cancelled, effective Jan. 1, 1915.

"It is safe to assume," the report says, "that the present reduced rate of \$9 cents per ton is still excessive."

The report adds:

"While integration of industry to permit of large scale operations at minimum costs is exceedingly desirable, these enormous profits of the steel corporation on the transportation of ore present a problem of very great importance. The situation is this: Integration of the steel industry with transportation thus far, instead of working to the advantage of the public in the form of lower costs to all shippers and lower prices, has injured to the benefit of a great corporation. On the other hand, to let the steel corporation maintain this advantage of low corporation cost and to let this work itself out in the form of lower prices might be undesirable, because it would tend to give the steel corporation an unreasonable and undesirable advantage over competitors in the sale of finished products.

Separation May Be Necessary.

"This situation clearly raises the question whether the interests of the public may not require the segregation of these railroad properties from the steel corporation. It would thus stop what is unquestionably an evil, that is the imposition of high rates upon competitors' shipments, which place them at a great disadvantage, while, at the same time, forcing them by reason of this very fact to contribute unduly to the profits of the steel corporation on transportation."

## REDUCTIONS IN STEEL DUTY

Iron, Ore, Sewing Machines, Cash Registers and Nails Free.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Reductions of from 30 to 50 per cent on all items in the iron and steel tariff and the placing on the tariff free list of iron ore, sewing machines, printing machinery, nails and many other articles, against which a tariff is now levied, are proposed in the Democratic steel revision tariff bill, just made public.

Democratic Leader Underwood estimated that the bill would reduce the average tariff on steel imports from 24.51 per cent to 22.42 ad valorem; would reduce the government tariff revenues from steel products by \$823,597 from 1911 and by \$4,000,000 from 1910. Imports of steel products, he said, would be increased by nearly \$20,000,000.

## WEBSTER GIVEN LIFE TERM

Judge Ferrand Makes Comment on Atrocity of Crime.

Oregon, Ill., Jan. 23.—Dr. Harry H. Webster of Chicago was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Richard S. Ferrand for the murder of Bessie Kent Webster, last October. In pronouncing sentence the court reviewed the atrocious crime and declared that "no greater, continuing punishment could be inflicted on a young, intelligent man than to imprison him for life."

Connaught Visits New York.

New York, Jan. 23.—The arrival here this morning of the Duke and Duchess of Connaught marks the first visit of royalty to New York since fifty-two years ago, when the Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward V, was here, and traveled from New York to the far west, where he hunted buffalo. The leaders of society here extended a welcome befitting the royal visitors.

## YUAN SHIH KAI

He Is to Be President of the Chinese Republic, Succeeding Sun Yat Sen.



## APPEAL FOR FAMINE VICTIMS

Millions Need Relief in China—Bishop Greer to Visit Taft.

Steps to send relief to starving millions in China, sufferers from the war and flood conditions, were taken at a meeting of well known New Yorkers with Bishop Greer of the Protestant Episcopal church. The bishop was authorized to appoint a committee, of which he will be the chairman, to visit Washington and consult with President Taft and officials of the American Red Cross society to decide on plans of co-operation by which relief can be brought about as quickly as possible. The committee is expected to visit Washington this week.

"Two million, five hundred thousand famine people. Relief urgently needed. Many rely upon America, owing to revolution. Committee appeals to America for at least one million gold."

That is the text of a cablegram from Shanghai received by the Presbyterian board of foreign missions.

Imperial Princes Discuss Abdication.

Peking, Jan. 23.—Another meeting of the princes of the imperial clan, at which the empress dowager was present, took place, but did not reach any definite result. One of the princes who participated in the conference said that the meeting was firm in its opinion the throne could not abdicate unless it was driven to do so by force.

## DR. WILEY IS NOT GUILTY

House Committee Makes Its Report on Dr. Rusby Charges.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Dr. Harvey W. Wiley is held "not guilty" of conspiracy to evade the law in a report filed with the house by the committee which conducted an investigation last August into the charges upon which President Taft was asked to dismiss the nation's chief chemist from the government service.

Not only does the committee absolve Dr. Wiley from criticism for the employment of Dr. H. H. Rusby of New York as a government expert at a technical rate of \$20 per day, but it attacks in measured terms the whole administration of the national pure food law and demands of congress action to change the method in the department of agriculture by which the law is now applied.

## TURKS LOSE FIERCE BATTLE

Large Party Attacks Column of Italians Near Tripoli.

A terrific attack was made by a large body of Turks on an Italian column, which was on the march, about ten miles from the town of Tripoli. The Italians immediately took up a position and threw up field intrenchments. The enemy continued its attacks through the day, but finally retired.

Italian destroyers seized the French steamer Manuoba, bound to Tunis from Marseilles.

## BEER IS COMMODITY

Shippers Cannot Be Affected by Regulation of State Law.

Washington, Jan. 23.—Beer is a commodity and railroads must carry it when offered for transportation from one state into "dry" counties of another state, regardless of the laws of the latter state. The supreme court of the United States made this ruling regarding a proposed shipment from Indiana into "dry" Kentucky counties.

## Kansas City Fugitive Arrested.

Kansas City, Jan. 23.—H. W. Richardson, formerly president of the defunct American Union Trust company, in under arrest in Memphis, according to a telegram received by the chief of police of this city. Richardson is charged with making false entries on the books of the trust company, which closed its doors here on Dec. 30 last.

## Meningitis Case in Atchison.

Atchison, Kan., Jan. 23.—Edmund Hastings, the sixteen-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Hastings, is dangerously ill with spinal meningitis. It is the first case of the disease which has appeared in Atchison.

## Woman Skater Drowned.

Saratoga, N. Y., Jan. 23.—While skating on Roughberry lake Mr. and Mrs. Roy Barringer broke through the ice and Mrs. Barringer was drowned.

## NEBRASKA NEWS

State to Introduce Evidence in Northwestern Hearing.

ROAD WANTS NEW EQUIPMENT

Seeks Permission to Expend Big Sum for This Purpose, Placing Mortgage Upon Entire System to Do It—Speed of Fast Trains.

Lincoln, Jan. 23.—The railroad commission resumed the hearing on the Northwestern road's physical condition. Up to the present, the state has not introduced any testimony except what it has been able to extract from witnesses summoned by the railroad, and will now take its inning. The railroad company has sought to show that Mr. Hurd, the state's engineer, has put too low a valuation on the production value of the company's property and also laid much stress on the point that no matter how much some of its property was worn, it was serving the purpose of new and therefore was worth as much as new. The state will try to controvert both of these positions.

The Union Pacific hearing is set for Feb. 5 and it is expected the Northwestern case will be concluded in time to take that up.

State Library Crowded.

The state library in the capitol building is now crowded to a point where there is not room on the shelves for all books at present in the library. Every expedient has been adopted to make more room and to utilize what space to the best advantage. Librarian Lindsey has figured out where he can utilize same space to better advantage and is having the carpenters rearrange and erect some additional shelves. At present the books are piled tier upon tier on the main floor and also in the gallery, with only space enough between the stacks for a person to walk comfortably. Additions to the library are being made at the rate of about 2,000 volumes annually, and this requires 500 feet of shelving. Since the burning of the big state libraries in the capitol at Albany, N. Y., and the one in the Equitable building in New York city, the Nebraska state library is one of the largest and most complete law libraries in America. It contains many volumes which, if destroyed, could not be replaced, and all who have examined the present quarters lament that some more commodious as well as safe place could not be found for it. At present it is impossible to get the best results from it on account of the crowded condition.

Woodmen Discontinue Risk Company.

The stockholders of the Woodman Fire Insurance company met and formally voted to discontinue business. The action was a mere formality, as the company was actually out of business some time ago by the reinsuring of all its risks in a Brooklyn company. The blocking of the plan to consolidate the company with the Union Fire is said to have hastened the action. Without the business which the consolidation was expected to bring the overhead expenses of the company were more than the business that was doing could carry, it is said, and the competition of larger companies was so strenuous that hope for the future was not bright.

Northwestern Buys Equipment.

The Chicago and Northwestern Railroad company has asked the state railway commission for authority to enter into a \$10,000,000 equipment agreement. The purpose of the agreement, as indicated by the name, is the purchase on time of rolling stock and other equipment for the line, giving a note and mortgage on the equipment itself to secure payment. The permission already has been granted by the state of Wisconsin and probably the same action will be taken by Nebraska.

Speed of Fast Trains.

Some papers in the state have criticized the railway commission and stated that but for a ruling of the commission accidents such as the one which cost Sheriff Dunkel of Grand Island his life would not have occurred. In reply to the charge that the fast trains were not compelled to stop at most of the stations the commissioners assert that an order to compel them to stop would not be upheld in the courts, but that on the other hand the statutes gave to the cities and villages ample power to compel the road to run their trains at a reasonable speed while passing through incorporated places.

No Seed Appropriation.

Food Commissioner Hanson, when asked whether his department would take action on the seed question in this state, said the bureau was charged under the law with such duty, but the failure of the legislature to make any appropriation for the work left the bureau helpless so far as doing anything regarding the low germinating power of the seed corn. He said that so far as the bureau could aid, incidental to its other work, it would do so, but with no money available for the specific purpose it could not do much.

Bids for State Bridges.

State Engineer Price has returned from Holt, Keya Paha and Boyd counties, where he went to confer with the county commissioners. The commissioners were inclined to favor reinforced concrete construction, but will advertise for bids on both concrete and steel construction.

## PHONE MERGER NOW A GO

State Dismisses Injunction Proceeding That Acted as Bar.

The supreme court made a formal order in the telephone case, formally dismissing the injunction proceedings, saying that action was taken by consent of all the parties to the litigation. This removes the last legal obstacle to the consummation of the so called telephone merger.

The action was originally brought in the name of the state by Attorney General Thompson to restrain the Bell company from purchasing and controlling the Plattsmouth plant, the allegation being made that such control would practically break up the independent system in the South Platte country. When the deal was made by which the Bell people were to retire from the South Platte country and the independents from the North Platte, the action stood in the way, consequently all parties asked to have the action dismissed.

The present attorney general informed the court that the state never was the real party to the litigation and that he had no objection to the proposed action.

## ASKS ABOUT GREEK RIOTS

Assistant Secretary of State Again Writes Governor Aldrich.

The assistant secretary of state of the United States, has written Governor Aldrich to ascertain what steps have been taken to punish the parties concerned in the anti-Greek riots in South Omaha in 1909. In his communication the federal official says that failure on the part of the state to prosecute would strengthen the claims for reparation against the federal government. These claims amount to \$24,000 and were originally filed with the state, but are now being pressed with the federal authorities. The governor will furnish the state department with all the information it has, but so far as ascertainable it has been impossible to fix the responsibility for the attacks on any particular persons in either criminal or civil actions. The attorney general has ruled that there was no liability on the part of the state.

## PETITION FOR TAFT FILED

Forty-three Omaha Men Sign Paper Filed at Lincoln.

A petition was filed by forty-three Omaha men with the secretary of state asking that the name of William Howard Taft be placed on the primary ballot as a preferential candidate for president. F. R. Shotwell of Omaha is said to have been the moving spirit in preparing the petition.

The men prominent in the Taft organization who are in Lincoln said they knew nothing of the filing further than so far as known there the signers were all supporters of the president and the petition had every indication of being in good faith, and if that was the case there could be no objection to the action.

## ALFALFA ON RIGHT-OF-WAY

Northwestern Railroad is to Be Made Beautiful in Nebraska.

Henceforth, on the right-of-way of the Northwestern road in the state of Nebraska there will be no rank growth of weeds. A space about thirty feet wide on either side of the track is being leased to farmers owning the adjoining land. They pay \$1 just for the purpose of making the lease legal. The lessor is required to plant the ground to alfalfa or some other kind of grass. The growing of grain is barred.

The growing of more than two thirds of the right-of-way has been leased.

Dairy Cattle Breeders.

The Dairy Cattle Breeders' association, which held its meetings in conjunction with the dairymen, re-elected all the old officers for the ensuing year. The list is as follows: President, H. C. Young of Lincoln; vice president, H. C. Gissman of Omaha; secretary-treasurer, E. W. Frost of Central City; directors, Professor A. L. Haecker of Lincoln, W. R. Wood of Omaha, Alex. Sneddon of Eagle and P. C. Hunter of Raymond. Resolutions were adopted asking that a cow testing association be formed under the supervision of the state university.

Bill to Aid State Fairs.

Secretary Mellor of the state board of agriculture has received word that the bill prepared by him and recommended by the American Association of Fairs has been introduced in congress. It provides an appropriation of \$100,000 to be divided among the states maintaining state fairs and to be used for erection of buildings for agricultural and horticultural purposes, the federal government reserving 20 per cent of the space in such buildings for its own displays.

State Poultry Men Elect Officers.

The state poultry men met at York last week and elected the following officers: V. E. Shirley of Central City, president; A. M. Hadley of Doniphan, vice president; A. H. Smith of Lincoln, secretary; I. L. Lyman of Minatare, treasurer. Following are the names of the board of managers: E. E. Bowers of Bradshaw, W. A. Irwin, C. G. Cottle of Edgar, J. C. Wolf of Tecumseh and Claude O. Hudson of York.

Dairy Train Over State.

Professor Pugsley of the state university announced that in March and April the university would run a beef cattle and dairy train over the various railroads of the state to carry the educational campaign home to the farmers.

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