

Senator Cummins Would Force Rail Consolidation

Iowan Plans to Introduce Proposal When Congress Takes Up Revision of Transportation Act.

By International News Service. Washington, April 15.—Compulsory consolidation of all American railroads into a few great systems will be urged in the 68th congress by Senator Albert B. Cummins, republican of Iowa, chairman of the senate interstate commerce committee. It was learned tonight. An amendment to this effect will be introduced by Senator Cummins when congress tackles the revision of the Esch-Cummins transportation act of 1920. The consolidation would be patterned on the grouping now being considered by the Interstate Commerce commission under authority granted by the Esch-Cummins law, which provides for promulgation of plans for uniting various carriers into a limited number of systems. The plan being drawn by the commissioner, however, is not binding upon the railroads. Cummins' amendment would compel acceptance of the consolidation finally determined by the commission. Particular significance was attached to Cummins' announcement in administration circles here. It is believed his amendment will be the administration's reply and counter attack to the so-called "ultra progressives" in congress who have severely condemned the country's railroad policy, and the failure to adjust wage differences and effect a reduction of freight rates.

Irrigation Projects Total 5,088,000 Acres

Special Dispatch to The Omaha Bee. Washington, April 15.—Possible reclamation projects now being surveyed and investigated by the Department of the Interior number 26 and will irrigate 5,088,000 acres of arid lands, should they be undertaken, says a statement given out by the Interior department. The largest is the Columbia river basin in Washington, which will develop some 1,753,000 acres. The second is the Colorado river storage, known as Boulder canyon. It is expected to furnish water covering 710,000 acres. The next in size is the lower Rio Grande, irrigating 600,000 acres of Texas desert and the fourth list is the Mountain Home project in Idaho that will reclaim some 400,000 acres. The projects in Nebraska which will be examined are lower Platte, 200,000 acres, and tri-county, 140,000 acres. See Want Ads produce results.

ONE OF OURS

By WILLA CATHER. Famous Nebraska Author. (Continued From Saturday.) ought to be looked after: getting up and going to make sure that Claude's heavy underwear had been put into his trunk, against the chance of cold in the mountains; or creeping downstairs to see that the six roasted chickens which were to help out at the wedding supper were securely covered from the cats. As she went about these tasks, she prayed constantly. She had not prayed so long and fervently since the battle of the Marne. Early the next morning Ralph loaded the big car with the presents and baskets of food and ran down to the mill yard; they had brought a company of girls who came with all the June roses in Frankfort to trim the house for the wedding. When Ralph tooted his horn half-a-dozen of them ran out to greet him, reproaching him because he had not brought his brother along. Ralph was immediately pressed into service. He carried the step-ladder wherever he was told, drove nails, and wound thorny sprays of rambler roses around the pillars between the front and back parlors the arch under which the ceremony was to take place. Gladys Farmer had not been able to leave her classes at the High school to help in this friendly work, but at 11 o'clock a livery automobile drove up, laden with white and pink peonies from her front yard, and bringing a box of hot-house flowers she had ordered for Enid from Has-

tings. The girls admired them, but declared that Gladys was extravagant, as usual; the flowers from her own yard would really have been enough. The car was driven by a lank, ragged boy who worked about the town garage, and who was called "Silent Irv," because nobody could ever get a word out of him. He had almost no voice at all—a thin little squeak in the top of his throat, like the gasping whisper of a medium in her trance state. When he came to the front, both arms full of peonies, he managed to wheeze out: "These are from Miss Farmer. There are some more down there." The girls went back to his car with him, and he took out a square box, tied up with white ribbons and little silver bells, containing the bridal bouquet. "How did you happen to get these?" Ralph asked the thin boy. "I was to go to town for them." The messenger swallowed. "Miss Farmer told me if there were any other flowers at the station market for her, I should bring them along." "That was nice of her," Ralph thrust his hand into his trousers pocket. "How much? I'll settle with you before I forget." A pink flush swept over the boy's pale face. "I don't want to take a ragged hair, contracted by a kind of shyness, as if he did not want to see by it. He went about like somebody in a dream. "Miss Farmer," he whispered, "has paid me." "What was nice of her?" Ralph exclaimed one of the girls. "You used to go to school to Gladys, didn't you, Irv?" "Yes ma'am." He got into his car without using the door-swinging peonies from her front yard, and drove off. The girls followed Ralph up the

graveled walk toward the house. One whispering to the others: "Do you suppose Gladys will come out tonight with Enid and Wheeler? I always thought she had a pretty warm spot in her heart for Claude, myself." Some one changed the subject. "I can't get over hearing Irv talk so much. Gladys must have put a spell on him." "She was always kind to him in school," said the girl who had questioned the silent boy. "She said he was good in his studies, but he was so frightened he could never recite. She let him write out the answers at his desk." Ralph stayed for lunch, playing with the girls until his mother telephoned for him. "Now I'll have to go home and look after my brother, or he'll turn up tonight in a striped shirt." "Give him our love," the girls called after him, "and tell him not to be late." As he drove toward the farm, Ralph met Dan, taking Claude's trunk into town. He slowed his car. "Any message?" he called. Dan grinned. "Now, I left him doin' as well as could be expected." Mrs. Wheeler met Ralph on the stairs. "He's up in his room. He complains his new shoes are too tight. I think it's nervousness. Perhaps he'll let you shove him. I'm sure he'll cut himself. And I wish the barber hadn't cut his hair so short, Ralph. I hate this new fashion of shearing men behind the ears. The back of his neck is the ugliest part of a man." She spoke with such resentment that Ralph broke into a laugh. "Why, mother, I thought all men looked alike to you. Anyhow, Claude's like an 'em' round the steering wheel, and drove off. The girls followed Ralph up the

Churches Asked to Join Memorial for Titanic

By Associated Press. New York, April 15.—The coast guard cutter Modoc of the international ice patrol, tonight sent a radio message to the Associated Press asking that all churches be requested to join with it tomorrow morning in commemorating the sinking, 11 years ago today, of the giant liner Titanic, with a loss of 1,503 lives. The Modoc said it would take up its position over the spot where the Titanic sank at 10, eastern standard time, and would commemorate the tragedy with full military honors for the Titanic's victims. All ships at sea have been asked to hold memorial services and all radios will observe a five-minute silence.

To Survey Coal Stocks. New York, April 15.—Appointment of W. L. Abbott of Chicago as chairman of a committee to make a nationwide coal storage survey, in co-operation with the United States coal commission and the Department of Commerce, was announced by the Federated American Engineering societies. The wheelbarrow is the most commonly seen vehicle in China.

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