

FAMINE IS SERIOUS

Interstate Commerce Commission Started by Replies to Telegrams.

BOTH COAL AND CARS ARE SCARCE

Farmers in North Dakota Burnine Buildings to Keep from Freezing.

RAILROAD CARRIES SMALL SUPPLY

Hill Officials Say Road Never Has More Than Enough Fuel for few Days.

PRESIDENT INTERESTED IN SITUATION

Chief Executive Consults Senator Hansbrough and Will Give the Question His Personal Attention.

MINNEAPOLIS, Dec. 18.—The Interstate Commerce commission, which is investigating the car and coal shortage in the northwest, has been started by the replies received to the telegrams of inquiry sent out to the country which is suffering from lack of fuel, as well as lack of cars to transport grain to market.

A scarcity of fuel, widespread, far-reaching in effect and serious in the extreme, is indicated by the commission's reports, which also show that there has been no general overstatement of the situation. This statement today regarding car shortage, delays in transit and the effect has brought out matter indicating a condition of affairs in the general sense even more worthy of attention than the commission had at first supposed when they decided to take up the inquiry.

James J. Hill, president of the Great Northern railroad, arrived late today to attend the hearing and appear as a witness, but, owing to the lateness of the hour, it was decided that Mr. Hill would be called tomorrow morning.

The commission had at first supposed when they decided to take up the inquiry that the situation in the northwest was not so serious as it appeared to be. The telegrams which poured in today made it clear that the commission had acted none too quickly in securing the promise of co-operation by coal companies and railroads, for in some localities there have been burning fences and outbuildings and valuable lumber had been cut into fuel to keep people from freezing.

President Roosevelt interested. WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—That President Roosevelt has taken a determined interest with a view to finding a legitimate remedy for the car shortage in the northwest, which now threatens the people with freezing and starvation, was made known today by a report from the Interstate Commerce commission.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 18.—The Interstate Commerce commission convened in the federal building today and began an investigation into the shortage of freight cars. The hearing is expected to conclude tomorrow afternoon, when the members of the commission will go to Kansas City and resume the investigation.

Commissioner C. A. Prouty presided and witnesses were examined by P. J. Farrell, attorney for the commission. Prior to the opening of the session Commissioner Prouty read a report from the Interstate Commerce commission.

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WYOMING MAN KILLS WIFE

Oscar Carlson Shoots Woman Who Had Sent for Sheriff—Admits Guilt.

CHYENNE, Wyo., Dec. 18.—(Special Telegram.) Oscar Carlson, proprietor of a boarding house at Pine Bluffs, Wyo., thirty miles east of here, yesterday afternoon shot his wife to death and then attempted to beat out his brains with a hammer. Carlson was brought to the county jail here early this morning. Enroute he admitted that he had killed his wife, saying: "It was cold-blooded murder, all right and I am willing to stretch for it."

The Carlsons came to Pine Bluffs five years ago from Iowa. They had a boarding house and Mrs. Carlson did the work and supported her husband. He is a large, powerful man, a native of Iowa. He had a violent temper and was arrested and fined for beating his wife.

Yesterday he told his wife he was going out into the country with the horse and carriage. Mrs. Carlson remonstrated, saying Sunday was the only day she had to use the horse, and she thought he might leave it for her. He paid no attention to his wife's request. He returned about 5 o'clock, when his wife told him she had sent for the sheriff.

"What for?" he inquired. "Because you have been cruel to me and want you prosecuted," she replied. "Well, you will never send for another sheriff," and going into another room he secured his son's 22-caliber rifle and, returning to the kitchen, took careful aim and shot his wife, who was seated in a rocking chair and was unable to offer resistance.

Mrs. Carlson died in about two hours without regaining consciousness. The children informed the neighbors of what had occurred and they rushed into the house to find Carlson stabbing himself with a hammer. He was taken to the hospital, but he died before the sheriff arrived.

For a time there was talk of lynching, but as Carlson admitted the crime, and believing that the courts will deal out summary punishment, the people decided to let the law take its course.

HAFF TO FIGHT EXTRADITION

Governor Refuses to Rescind Action and He Appeals to the Courts.

PERI, S. D., Dec. 18.—(Special Telegram.) Governor E. W. Benson today granted an extradition warrant for John A. Haff, wanted in New York on a charge of child desertion. Haff, who was located at Ipswich, demanded a right to be heard before he should be taken out of the state and Charles Farley, the state agent before the governor to present his case. He was arrested at Ipswich on the day his divorce action was to be heard and before the hearing, and brought to this city, accompanied by the sheriff of Edmunds county, Charles Farley.

On a hearing and examination of the papers in the case Governor Eirod decided his action should stand. Haff immediately employed attorneys and served notice of an application of habeas corpus and, this afternoon, the party started for Eureka for a hearing before Judge Boucher. Both Haff and Farley are members of the Tammany organization in New York, and W. T. Jerome appears to be taking an active interest in the case.

GREAT SHOW OF DAKOTA CORN

Hundred and Seventy-Five Exhibitors at the First Annual Competition.

MITCHELL, S. D., Dec. 18.—(Special Telegram.)—The first corn show ever held in this state, of state wide scope, began here yesterday afternoon with the attendance of several hundred farmers and town land owners who are interested in the development of the corn industry. Mayor Bronson gave the address of welcome and he was responded to by Secretary Warner in the afternoon and Charles Farley, the state agent on a late train.

There are about 175 exhibitors at the corn exhibition, which has brought the highest price for corn in the history of the state. The Illinois State Agricultural college, who did not anticipate such a display, the corn is on display in the city hall building, where the corn show was conducted this afternoon by Prof. Hull. The premiums will be awarded tomorrow and the show will come to a close Thursday evening.

BUILDING BIG FOR NEW YEAR

Gigantic Strides in Development Anticipated, Despite Some Increase in Cost.

Interior fixtures go up in price. Lumber and structural iron remain steady and dealers look for enormous residence and business house erection.

As contractors are looking forward to another big year of building operations in 1907, it will be a year of swelling house erection, they say, though there will still be great activity in the business district. The large Pacific headquarters and several large wholesale buildings are planned and numerous business structures of moderate size will be erected, but the home building movement is expected to be much greater than in 1906.

This belief is based on the fact that building operations are not abated by the cold weather and on the inquiry regarding material at the offices of the local lumber firms.

Advances in Many Prices. This bright prospect obtains in spite of the advance made in the year 1906 in many lines of building material. Lumber itself has not increased in price at all this year, according to the statements of the dealers and contractors, but many other materials have gone up by leaps and bounds.

Lumber scored its big advance in 1906. This year some articles in the line are a trifle lower than last year, but some a trifle higher, but on the whole the price is about the same as last year. Such advances have been made are on redwood millwork lumber and will not affect the majority of home builders.

SHAH OF PERSIA IS BETTER Ruler Passes Fairly Good Night and Day and Discusses Public Affairs.

TEHERAN, Persia, Dec. 18.—The health of the shah today shows some improvement. He passed a fairly good day today, in the course of which he frequently discussed public affairs.

KING OSCAR IS IMPROVING Physicians Will Issue but One Bulletin a Day on Sweden's Ruler.

STOCKHOLM, Sweden, Dec. 18.—King Oscar is so much improved in his health that his attending physicians announce that after today they will issue only one bulletin daily. This morning's bulletin was as follows: "The king slept seven hours during the night. His temperature this morning was 37.2 and his pulse 72. He is somewhat irregular. There is still a slight discharge of mucus from the trachea."

FLEET TO AVOID 'FRISCO

Japanese "Remember the Maine" and Will Not Send Warships to Golden Gate.

HONOLULU, Dec. 18.—The Japanese consul here says that the Japanese fleet will not proceed to San Francisco, as originally intended, because repetition of the Maine disaster is feared, owing to the alleged overweight condition of American fishing fleet in ice.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., Dec. 18.—The American cruiser Potomac and forty-six fishing boats and Newfoundland fishing boats were caught in ice forces near Bayou Islands yesterday. A steamer, with the aid of the crews of the fishing vessels, succeeded in getting out the Potomac. The ice was then broken by the cruiser and the whole fleet was liberated.

WOMAN KILLED BY MOTOR

Miss Frieda Spreen Attempts to Alight as Car Starts, and is Thrown Under Wheels.

Miss Frieda Spreen, aged 35 years, Thirtieth and Spring streets, was crushed under the wheels of the trailer of a northbound South Omaha car at Twenty-fourth and Union streets a few minutes before 8 o'clock Tuesday evening, dying a short time afterward. Her head was crushed. She had fallen in alighting from the back platform of the forward car and was drawn inward between the cars, directly under the wheels of the trailer.

Miss Spreen was returning home from work at the Cudahy Packing company plant in South Omaha, where she was forewoman in the glue manufacturing department, in company with two girl friends, Katie Turner and Marie Secretary, also employed at the packing house. Her uncle, William Wispeler, to whom she had been riding, was aboard the train, standing on the front platform of the trailer. Miss Turner lives near the Spreen home and Miss Secretary near Twenty-ninth and Castellar streets. For years the members of the party, except the last named, have been in the habit of riding from their work to the car, leaving the cars at Twenty-fourth and Union streets.

As the motor and trailer approached the corner Motormen Z. A. Hetfield saw a car coming from the north, and as two cars could not round a curve at the same time, he turned the car to the right, and the trailer track was clear, when he again started up. While the cars had been standing still Miss Turner alighted safely and Miss Spreen, already standing on the platform, was following her example when the car started forward and she was thrown backward, her feet passing over the edge of the platform, and she was drawn under the wheels of the trailer.

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KANSAS-COLORADO CASE UP

Supreme Court Hears Argument in Suit Between States for Arkansas River Water.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—The supreme court of the United States today commenced its hearing in the case of the Arkansas river water. The case growing out of the use of the waters of the Arkansas river. Attorney Ashbaugh, arguing for Kansas, addressed his remarks principally to the question of the underflow of water of the river. He contended that Kansas had been deprived of its fair share of the water of the river, which would not be less than 700 cubic feet a second.

DEFECTS IN ARID LAND LAWS Senators Talk of Measure to Cure Some Defects in Present Act.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—What are considered defects in the act of the reclamation of arid lands were pointed out in a general discussion in the senate today during the consideration of a bill to amend that act. No action was taken on the measure, as senators desired to indulge in further debate than was permitted during the morning hour.

PRESIDENT TALKS OF SALARIES

Opposed to General Increase, but Favors Higher Pay for Some Employees.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Representative Littauer of New York, a member of the committee on appropriations, talked with President Roosevelt today on the question of increasing the salaries of government employees. The president is not understood to favor a blanket increase of 20 per cent, as has been proposed, although he is said to feel that there are many members in the government service who deserve more than they are receiving.

COLD WEATHER IN DAKOTA

Three Degrees Below Zero and Fuel Scarce on Old Reservoir.

NORFOLK, Neb., Dec. 18.—A cold wave prevails with temperature 3 degrees below zero. Fuel is short on the old Reservoir, where consumers are paying \$15 for soft coal and \$20 for anthracite.

JUDICIAL BILL TROUBLES

Nebraska Delegation Bothers Over Details of the Measure.

ALL AGREED ON PRINCIPLE INVOLVED

Strike Between Members of South Dakota Delegation Over Appointments Keeps the Path Warm to the White House.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—(Special Telegram.)—The federal judicial bill, which is held up in committee on judiciary, continues to give a great deal of trouble to the members representing the western portion of the state. Judge Norris, who, with Representative Kinkaid, is endeavoring to amend the bill so as to include provisions satisfactory to their constituents, said today: "At the beginning of the agitation for the division of Nebraska into two judicial districts I was anxious that provision should be made not only for the holding of court in the western part of the state, but that provision should also be made that suits arising in the western part of the state should be tried there."

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INDIAN OFFICIAL IS SHORT

Disbursing Officer Ill and Says Money Was Loaned During Previous Administration.

MUSKOGEE, I. T., Dec. 18.—There is an apparent shortage of \$6,000 in the funds of the office of the disbursing agent of the Indian agency here. The fact was reported to the Department of the Interior at Washington, D. C. Lane, the disbursing officer, has been ill at his home here for two weeks. Mr. Lane said today that the missing money had been paid out on vouchers as loans to different persons during a previous administration. Indian Agent Kelsey declined to discuss the matter.

COUNTIES FOR NEW STATE

Convention Agrees to Form Forty from Indian Territory and Thirty-Six from Oklahoma.

GUTHRIE, Okl., Dec. 18.—The report of the committee on boundaries, which will be presented to the constitutional convention tomorrow, will provide for seventy-six counties in the new state, forty to be formed from what now is Indian territory, and twenty-six from Oklahoma. The other provision of the report is that no county may be organized without having property valued at \$2,000,000, and the county seats are not to be located, even temporarily, by the convention. Tomorrow the preamble and the initiative and referendum plank will be voted on. President Moore of the National Good Roads association addressed the convention this afternoon.

M'CABE'S CONDITION CRITICAL

Methodist Bishop May Live Through the Day at New York Hospital.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—Bishop C. C. McCabe, who is suffering from a recent attack of apoplexy, continued this forenoon in the same precarious condition as last night. At the hospital it was said he was very low, but that he might live through the day. Shortly after noon this afternoon Bishop McCabe was gradually sinking. He has not regained consciousness and it was believed he might pass away at any time. O. D. CLARK I.

MRS. BLAIR WILL GET MONEY

Provident Life Society Dismisses Appeal Against Suit of Widow of St. Louis Banker.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Dec. 18.—The Provident Life Assurance society of New York today dismissed its appeal in the supreme court from the judgment of the St. Louis circuit court in the suit of Mrs. Appoline M. Blair to recover the value of an insurance policy held by her deceased husband, James L. Blair. But was not regarded as conclusive and it was believed he might pass away at any time. O. D. CLARK I.

NEBRASKA WEATHER FORECAST

Fair and Warmer Wednesday; Thursday Fair.

Table with 4 columns: Day, Hour, Temperature, and Wind. Rows for Wednesday and Thursday.

ROBBER KILLS HIMSELF

Man Who Held Up Jeweler Committed Suicide in Crowded New York Street.

NEW YORK, Dec. 18.—William Madison, also known as McPherson, whose photograph is in the rogues' gallery, shot and killed himself today to avoid capture for the robbery of a jewelry store at Mount Vernon last night. Madison might have killed an officer or two had he been so inclined, but after holding up his pursuers he turned the weapon on himself.

Madison fled, and followed by half a dozen policemen, threaded his way among hundreds of Christmas shoppers. Twice he stopped in an open space and fired into the pavement. He had run several blocks when two policemen overtook him. Turning quickly, revolver in hand, he shot both at his mercy when one of the policemen implored him not to shoot. For a moment the fugitive hesitated, and then stepping back a pace fired upon himself.

THAW CASE COMES IN JANUARY

Date Set by Justice Newberger When Attorney for Defense Raises Motion.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Harry K. Thaw will be tried on January 21 on the charge of killing Stanford White, according to an order issued by Judge Newberger today. The trial will be before Justice Fitzgerald in the criminal branch of the state supreme court. The date was set by Justice Newberger when a motion was made by Thaw's counsel for the dismissal of the indictment against Thaw or for the fixing of a date for the trial to take place in New York. Clifford W. Hartbridge and John B. Gleason appeared for Thaw.

It was developed as soon as the motion was reached that Thaw's counsel, having withdrawn their application for a continuance to take evidence in the far west, the district attorney had no objection to taking up the trial at an early date. Thaw's counsel and Assistant District Attorney Smith then fixed the date and the order was signed by Judge Newberger.

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FIGHT FOR ST. PAUL

Harriman Interests Secure Control of Another Big System.

HILL CROWD IS OUTGENERATED

Trick is Turned by Manipulation of New Stock to Be Issued.

PREFERRED STOCK HAS THE FIRST CALL

Owners May Subscribe for New Issue 50 Per Cent of Holdings.

HILL INTERESTS CONTROL COMMON STOCK

Subscriptions to This Issue Limited to 25 Per Cent of Holdings and Preferred Stock Must Be Made Today.

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—The Chronicle today says that Edwin H. Harriman has repaid James J. Hill in his own coin by wresting victory from him in the shadow of defeat through one of the most effective coups ever executed in financial battles. The control of the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road, which Morgan and Hill confidently believed to be theirs yesterday morning, is still lodged with the Harriman Standard Oil interests and will be strengthened.

As Hill threw Harriman out of the ownership of the Northern Pacific in the Chicago market, the Harriman people ousted Hill from an ownership in St. Paul. Mr. Hill executed his flank movement by retiring the preferred stock of Northern Pacific, in which opponent's control centered; Mr. Harriman and friends maintained their control by buying two-thirds of the \$100,000,000 stock. While Hill's control of Northern Pacific common stock was a golden apple, his control of St. Paul common is but a peach.

End of Titanic Struggle

For a month there has been a Titanic struggle for the ownership of St. Paul in the open market. Quietly and almost unsuspected, the Morgan-Hill people have been buying St. Paul in the hope of getting control and turning the Pacific coast extension southward into the Harriman territory. In the last week this battle for the ownership of St. Paul was a feature of the financial news.

How Trick Was Turned. The official announcement betrayed the cunning of the Harriman people to make safe their agreement; to make sure the extension of St. Paul into Hill territory. Of the \$100,000,000 new stock, the preferred issue of \$25,000,000 was to be sold at \$100.00, the high rates and the calling of loans forcing out large blocks of this security and keeping down the price and to some extent deceiving the trained speculators as to the real purpose.

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