

RAILROADS LOSE BOTH RATE CASES

Interstate Commerce Commission Disapproves Proposed Advances Aggregating \$27,000,000 Per Year.

INCLUDES WESTERN COMMODITIES

Tariffs of Southwestern Roads Are Reduced on Lower Classes.

MUST BE CANCELLED MARCH 10

Will Suspend Raises by Formal Order if Companies Disobey.

INCREASED REVENUES NEEDED

Commission Concedes Some Railroads Need Larger Income—Carriers Make Powerful Plea in West to No Avail.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The Interstate Commerce commission has decided against the railroads in both the "eastern" and the "western" cases. The decision was handed down late this afternoon.

Proposed advances in class freight rates in official classification territory, aggregating among all the railroads in the territory approximately \$27,000,000 a year, were disapproved by the commission.

In the case involving the increases by the railroads in western trunk line territory the commission also declined to approve the proposed advances in commodity rates.

The carriers in both cases are required to cancel on or before March 10 their advanced tariffs and restore their former rates, which are the rates now in effect. If this requirement is not complied with the commission will issue a formal order suspending the proposed advances and putting into effect the existing rates for at least two years.

Southwestern Rates Changed.

In the case of the railroad commission of Texas against the Atchafalaya, Topoka & Santa Fe railway and other carriers known popularly as the southwestern rate case, the commission declined to disturb the commodity rates of the first-class rates complained of. The defendants are ordered to reduce the second-class rates, which were increased from \$1.11 to \$1.25, to \$1.11. In the remaining classes the defendants are required to restore the rates in effect before the increased rates were published.

This is the disposition made by the Interstate Commerce commission of the most important cases ever brought to its attention. In a sense the decisions were in the nature of a surprise to railroad officials and other experts who had followed closely the proceedings, a majority of whom believed the commission would grant some increases to the western lines, if not to the eastern.

More Revenue Needed.

The commission concedes that in the case of some of the roads increased revenue is needed. In the eastern case, the commission was embarrassed by the admitted fact that several of the lines in the territory were paying good dividends upon existing rates, while other carriers in the same territory were barely able to make both ends meet—a few of them scarcely so.

In the western case the carriers entered a powerful plea for increased revenues in order that they might have additional money to put into improvements and betterments, which would enable them to handle with greater facility the constantly increasing traffic of the country.

The same argument was advanced in support of the proposed advances in official classification territory, but Commissioner Prouty, who wrote the opinion in the eastern case, says:

"This argument does not appeal to us. We doubt the practical difficulty suggested of obtaining by loan sufficient money to finance the roads and were it true, that it is not apparent that the general public should stand responsible for the mistakes which have been made in financing these railroad systems."

History of Cases.

Both the eastern and western cases were brought to public attention in the spring of 1910. Just prior to the enactment of the existing interstate commerce law, which, in part, became effective on June 15, 1910, the railway of official classification territory—forty-one in all—and those of Western Trunk Line association territory filed with the commission tariffs making increases in their freight rates. The tariffs filed by the eastern lines increased the first class rate between New York and Chicago points 35 cents a hundred pounds, from 75 cents to \$1.10, and made proportional advances on the other five classes. Some advances also were made on commodity rates, but the great bulk of the commodity tonnage of freight was not disturbed.

The proposed advances affected approximately 15 per cent of total freight tonnage. Approximately the same amount of tonnage was affected by the increases proposed by the western lines, but the class rates were not affected in any way. Commodities alone were increased, the average advance on about 15 different articles being substantially 10 per cent, the increase varying from about 4 per cent in some cases to 20 per cent in others.

Abbott Starts West for Contract Lettings

Assistant Commissioner Will Come to Omaha for Sale to Be Held April Eleventh.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Assistant Commissioner F. H. Abbott of the bureau of Indian affairs left for the west today. He will assume charge of the letting of contracts for supplies for Indian service, one of which will be held at Chicago in March and the other at Omaha on April 11. He will also look into conditions at a number of Indian reservations in Colorado, Utah and other states.

CHINESE VILLAGE IS DEPOPULATED BY PLAGUE

All Inhabitants of Small Town Near Harbin Are Dead from Dread Disease.

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 23.—A telegram from Harbin reports the gruesome discovery of a Chinese village near there, in which the entire population was dead from the plague. Many bodies lay in the open air and were covered with snow.

Derelict Warship Ashore on Rocks Off Scilly Islands

Condemned French Cruiser Which Broke Away from Tugs Two Weeks Ago Finds Port.

LONDON, Feb. 23.—The old French warship Richelieu, which for a fortnight had been drifting about, a derelict danger to navigation, found port today on the rocks off the Scilly Islands. The craft was sighted by the life saving crew, who first thought that a transatlantic liner had gone ashore, but when a lifeboat reached the scene the crew recognized the French fighter.

The Richelieu was being towed to Iceland, where it was to have been broken up, when, two weeks ago, in a gale it tore loose from the tugs. A few days ago it was reported as sighted in the track of transatlantic liners, 100 miles west of Queenstown. Some apprehension had been felt in marine circles and the news that the derelict was fast on the rocks off the Scilly Islands was welcomed by mariners here.

The vagrant craft struck on South Bishop Island. Yesterday the steamer La Provence, bound from New York for Havre, reported by wireless that it had sighted a derelict supposed to be the Richelieu in latitude 48.41, longitude 7.13, just west of the Scilly Islands.

Hale Will Withdraw Opposition to New Treaty with Japan

Secretary of State Knox Explains Provisions of the Agreement to Senator From Maine.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Secretary of State Knox today talked with Senator Hale concerning the tariff feature of the new Japanese treaty and as a result it was stated that the latter would withdraw his objection to ratification.

Anxious that the California legislature shall take no action inimical to the new Japanese treaty, President Taft today telegraphed to Governor Johnson asking him to explain the arrangement to the legislature. The president in his message says:

"The treaty and the assurance from Japan of 5 per cent bonds of which this agreement are exactly such as you approved when the secretary of state and I explained them to you."

Representative Hayes of California had read in the house the resolutions adopted by the California legislature protesting against the new treaty. Mr. Hayes says he could not understand why the government had dropped the provision regarding a restriction of immigration and declared the new treaty should be amended in that respect.

Joint Committee on Printing Sustained

Valley Paper Company's Suit for Injunction Relative to Contract with Government Dismissed.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—The congressional joint committee on printing is lawfully conducted, according to the opinion rendered today by Justice Gould of the district supreme court, in which he dismisses a proceeding for injunction brought by the Valley Paper company of Holyoke, Mass., to restrain the public printer from making any purchases under contract approved by the committee as at present constituted.

The case was an outgrowth of the proceeding for mandamus instituted by the Valley Paper company against the joint committee on printing to compel consideration of a bid to furnish paper for government use.

Delegate Wickersham Attacks Mr. Mondell

Alaskan Strikes Wyoming Man Several Blows and He Returns Them.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—Mr. Wickersham, delegate in congress from Alaska, late today attacked Representative Mondell of Wyoming on the floor of the house during the discussion of a bill for the leasing of coal land in Alaska.

After calling Mr. Mondell a liar Mr. Wickersham made a rush at him while he was seated and struck him several blows. The house was in an uproar in an instant. Representative Olmsted, who was in the speaker's chair, called loudly for the sergeant-at-arms, but before he arrived a score or more of members had hauled both of the two men who were by this time engaged in a tussle fight. It required six or seven men to separate the combatants.

MRS. SARAH ROOT IS DEAD

Sister of Mrs. William F. Sweeney of Omaha, Passes Away at Laramie.

LARAMIE, Wyo., Feb. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—Mrs. Sarah Root, sister of Mrs. William F. Sweeney of Omaha and mother of Mrs. Harriet Lacey and C. B. Root of this city, died here this afternoon. She was born in New Jersey in December, 1827, and went with her husband and two sons to Omaha in 1854, where her daughter was born. One son, the late William Root, was the man who is generally given the credit for bringing Bill Nye to the attention of the public through Bill Nye's newspaper, the Boomerang of this city. Mrs. William Root is now manager of Root's opera house and the only active woman billposter in the world. Interment will be in the Laramie cemetery.

Repays Four-Dollar Loan With One Thousand Dollars Interest

NORTH PLATTE, Neb., Feb. 23.—(Special.)—Last September a man who gave his name as D. J. Quillian, and who stated he was a theatrical actor, approached F. T. Redmond, the presiding officer of the Knights of Columbus of this city, and said that he was an financially embarrassed and that he would like to get a loan of \$4

from the order. In order that he might get to Grand Island to join a traveling company there. His request was honored and nothing further was heard from him until a few days ago when a draft was received by the order for \$1,000, with a letter stating that the borrower was the \$4 returned that with \$1,000 in addition, to be used for the good of the order here.

Canadian Pacific Grants Rate.

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, Feb. 23.—As a result of a series of negotiations the Canadian Pacific railway today announced a wage increase to employees amounting to \$1,000,000.

Professors appointed are as follows: Principally affected are the passenger and freight conductors and brakemen.

CALLS FOR PROBE OF COFFEE TRUST

Congressman Norris of Nebraska Startles Capital and New York by Two Resolutions.

KNOW WHAT GOVERNMENT DOES

Asks if President and Attorney General Ask to Have Investigated.

J. P. MORGAN & CO. IN THE DEAL

Said to Have Arranged with Brazil for Coffee Control.

AFFECTS STOCK MARKET QUICKLY

Representative From the Fifth District Says Looked into Matter and Convinced Scheme Financed Here.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)
WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—Congressman George W. Norris of the Fifth Nebraska district introduced two sweeping resolutions today in the house asking the State department and the attorney general to inform congress what can be done to relieve the people of the country from the so-called coffee trust, which, Mr. Norris alleges, is so powerful that no ordinary means will reach it, and that by reason of this "trust" the United States is the chief victim of its operations.

The resolutions assert the existence of monopolistic control of the coffee market by a financial producing interest, and Americans and Europeans interested with them, and call upon the president and the attorney general of the United States to report whether any investigation of the matter has been instituted by the government. The action was taken without remark and the resolutions went automatically to committee.

Affect Coffee Market.
The resolutions attracted no attention in the house, and Washington heard tonight with considerable surprise that rumors of their introduction had in some degree affected the New York coffee market.

It is hardly likely that either committee will report the resolutions at this late day in the session, but Mr. Norris, under the existing suspension of the rules, could seek to have them taken up in the house if, after a reasonable time, the committees fail to act upon them.

Mr. Norris said he had been looking into the subject for some time and that he had the names of those who he said had entered into the arrangement with Brazil for the coffee control, J. P. Morgan & Co. and the City National and the First National banks of New York City, he said, constituted the American end of "the great scheme that has financed the deal."

This interest, Mr. Norris said, involved \$100,000,000 of capital, of which \$25,000,000 was subscribed in London and France, \$50,000,000 each in America and Germany and \$1,000,000 in Holland.

The scheme, as Mr. Norris outlined it, was that the state of Sao Paulo issue \$5,000,000 of 5 per cent bonds of which this foreign syndicate took up. Brazil guaranteed these bonds and provided a surtax of 5 francs a bag, which the agreement provided was to be remitted to these interests in the bond syndicate, and provided for a committee of seven men, six of whom were to be selected by the Brazilian government and one by the syndicate.

The syndicate, he said, had the right to make any purchases under contract approved by the committee as at present constituted.

The case was an outgrowth of the proceeding for mandamus instituted by the Valley Paper company against the joint committee on printing to compel consideration of a bid to furnish paper for government use.

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At the Auto Show



"As long as father's willing for you to have one, momsey, why not get a good one?"
From The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

WAITING FOR THE NEXT MOVE

Postmaster is Concealing the Worried Look of Some Time Ago.

TILLOTSON IS HELD A HERO

Precedent in Case is at New Orleans, Where Postmaster Was Fired and Carriers Given Their Old Routes.

The postoffice still wears an air of expectancy as to what will be the next step growing out of the charges preferred by Letter Carrier Tillotson against Postmaster Thomas with the Civil Service commission. The postmaster is succeeding better in concealing the worried look which was in evidence before, and is trying hard to show the subordinates how much he thinks of them now.

There is naturally a division of opinion in postoffice circles as to what the outcome will be. One of the carriers who puts great faith in Thomas' ability to pull himself out of a hole, ventures these remarks:

"The postmaster will come out of this all right, just as he got away with the original protest against his appointment and with the complaints of his pernicious political activity last fall. He boasts that he is solid with all the postoffice inspectors and that when one comes to town he is the first to hold out the glad hand, and always sees them off at the station. This effort to stand in with the inspectors has perhaps, led in part to his present trouble so far as it arises from discrimination against the old employees here. Although he had led all of us to believe a promotion would be made when the Ames avenue station was opened, instead he went to Lincoln and brought the postoffice inspector located there over for this place, jump-cutting every one in the Omaha postoffice for an entire outsider. The postmaster is a great one to make promises and to cultivate those from whom he wants favors, and that is why I believe he will persuade those who put up the campaign not to protest him in expectation of standing in."

Injures the Service.
Another carrier, likewise willing to talk only on assurance of keeping his identity in confidence, describes the explanation of Postmaster Thomas that the transfer of Tillotson was for the good of the service, and asserts that the service is injured instead of helped by the arbitrary changing around of carriers for personal and political reasons irrespective of efficiency.

"Any one with brains," he declared, "should know full well that this means a 'shoot' service. The better the carrier becomes acquainted with his route, and its people, the better service he can give. If the people only knew the way the mail is delayed they would rise in their might against this way of doing business."

"In some cases, but not very often, carriers are taken off their routes, but it is many times only when there are complaints and reports of inefficiency, and it is then done for the good of the service. But as I understand in Tillotson's case, and in the other carrier, they were both taken off their routes, and the carrier who was forced to trade with Tillotson, is not only an old man in the service, but is 56 years old. His route, according to the policy of the department, was made to conform with his physical ability to handle it, and the act of just trading these two men from one route to

(Continued on Second Page.)

Are your rooms rented? Are they paying you?

You can make them do it.

The Bee can turn them into silver dollars for you.

Call Tyler 1000 and tell the ad taker all about it.

She will prepare a notice for you that will bring results. She will tell you how long to advertise and how to save money on your advertising.

Don't wait.

Don't hesitate.

Everybody reads Bee want ads.

Tyler 1000.

Wyoming Legislature Passes Bill to Permit Prize Fighting

Cheyenne Club Will Stage Several Big Bouts if Measure is Signed by Governor Carey.

WYOMING CALLS FOR FACTS

Move of Iowa Senator Foreshadows Fight Over Reciprocity.

WANTS AGREEMENT AMENDED

Purpose is to Put on Free List Things Which the Farmer Buys as Well as Things that He Produces.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23.—A resolution calling on the president to submit to the senate all the information he has bearing on the Canadian reciprocity agreement, together with the data and statistics gathered by the tariff board, was offered today in the senate by Mr. Cummins and adopted. An amendment making the request "if consistent with the public welfare" was adopted.

"That a determined effort will be made on the floor of the senate to amend the McCall bill and that the movement will receive the support of a considerable number of republicans, both regular and insurgent, became apparent after Mr. Cummins' resolution has been submitted.

The resolution revived the approval of several old guard senators and especially of Senator Hale, who said he was in sympathy with the idea in that it might lead to entirely new negotiations with Canada.

This statement was in response to a frank avowal by Mr. Cummins that he proposed to offer amendments to the McCall bill to the end that articles which farmers have to buy shall be reduced to the plane of products of the soil which are put on the free list by the Canadian agreement.

The Cummins resolution, specifically called for the tariff board's data on wool, wood and paper, wool, whether raw or manufactured; woolen thread, cloth and clothing; cotton thread, cloth and clothing; carpets, boots and shoes; pig iron, iron ore, manufactures of iron or steel, coal, wheat, flour and lumber.

Later agricultural implements were included at the suggestion of Senator Dixon. The resolution did not set forth that some of the articles specifically mentioned did not come within the terms of the reciprocity agreement and Senator Smoot called attention to that fact.

"The senator from Utah has accurately guessed my purpose," responded Mr. Cummins. Continuing he said he was aware of minor bills that have been introduced which the farmer has to buy on which reduction of duty is proposed. He said he intended to offer amendments covering the things mentioned, so that if there is to be a free list with Canada it shall include articles the farmer buys as well as articles he raises.

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HOUSE DECIDES UPON INITIATIVE

Direct Law Measure Recommended for Passage in Lower Body Without Dissenting Vote.

TEN PER CENT PETITION IN EACH

Five Per Cent Petition for Referring All Laws to People.

CLAUSE RELATES TO AMENDMENTS

House Bill Requires Larger Per Cent to Initiate Them.

STOCK YARDS DECISION PUT OFF

Long Wait for Two Senators Delays Discussion and Final Action on Bill Affecting Corporation Delayed in Senate.

(From a Staff Correspondent.)
LINCOLN, Feb. 23.—(Special.)—The initiative and referendum law went one step toward its final ratification in the house of representatives this morning, when the house version of it was recommended for passage. This action was accomplished without a dissenting vote and the house will pass it as it stands within a few days.

The senate bill is now in the hands of the Judiciary committee and must be disposed of. An effort will be made to send the house bill to the governor for signing.

When the bills started out they were alike, coming from the same source, Representative Hatfield and the Direct Legislation committee. It was the senate which decided to pass a bill that differs in essential particulars from the senate bill already passed. It becomes a question what form the measure will take as it finally passes.

How Bills Differ.
The house bill differs from the senate bill in two provisions. Both bills have a 10 per cent petition evenly distributed as a basis for initiating legislation and a 5 per cent petition for referring the laws to the people. Upon the measure, but must be also 25 per cent of more of the total number of votes cast at the election. The house has a similar provision in the bill which it will pass, but the restriction refers only to constitutional amendments.

The house has now the advantage in getting the state of the two bills, as it has its own bill for passage and the senate bill is in the hands of the house committee on Judiciary. This committee can kill the senate bill by indefinite postponement and then try to get its own bill through the upper house.

Committee for Stock Yards.
The house this morning interrupted the debate upon the initiative and referendum law long enough to appoint a committee of three to investigate and report on the stock yards. The live stock and grazing committee which has under consideration the Taylor bill, regulating the stock yards, recommended that a committee go for information and Messrs. Cass, Lindsey, of Webster and Nitzmann of Cass, were named. They expect to leave for Omaha tonight or tomorrow morning and be back to report Monday. Taylor of Hitchcock, author of the bill, tried to have the committee suggestion refused, asserting that it was intended to smother the bill, but he was voted down.

Mrs. Morton's Letter.
The secretary of the senate received a letter from Mrs. Paul Morton thanking the senate for the resolution adopted by that