

## PERE MARQUETTE IS LOOTED FROM INSIDE

Commerce Commission Cen-  
sures Officials of System and  
Bankers Who Aided Them.

### MINORITY TOO CARELESS

Washington, April 20.—The financial downfall of the Pere Marquette railroad and the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton railway is attributed in a long report made public today by the Interstate Commerce commission primarily to "breach of trust by corporate officials, often for personal gain."

"That downfall with its deplorable consequences," the report reads, "can be traced only to betrayal within and not to compulsion without. Neither rivalry, nor low rates, nor regulation, nor all combined, can be found on this record to have contributed in any appreciable degree to the disaster."

"Nothing disclosed in the record before us is more to be regretted than the readiness of great banking institutions to loan enormous sums of money upon exceedingly precarious security in aid of such schemes as have been devised in the wrecking of these railroads."

"Not only this, but the high officers of such institutions while acting ostensibly as directors of the railroads, have in fact been little more than

## 'Most Beautiful Woman in Colorado' Dies in Paupers' Hospital in Gotham

Denver, Colo., April 20.—Mrs. John W. Springer, divorced wife of the Denver banker and capitalist, once a society leader and called the "most beautiful woman in Colorado," died last night in a paupers' hospital on Blackwell's Island, New York City, alone, save for one friend, who remained true to her, according to advices received here.

Because of Mrs. Springer, two men are dead and one is serving a life sentence in the state penitentiary at Canon City, Colo.

Mrs. Springer had been married two years when, in 1911, Sylvester Von Puhl and George E. Copeland were killed by Harold F. Henwood in a local hotel in a discussion of Mrs. Springer.

Following this Mr. Springer sued for divorce and Mrs. Springer was granted \$5,000 and went to New York. Little was heard of Mrs. Springer until recently. Then she began posing occasionally for motion picture concerns in the east. Her funds exhausted, and when she became ill a short time ago she was forced to go to the hospital on Blackwell's Island.

tools and dummies for the promoters.

The commission asks if the fate of these two railroads cannot serve to avert similar happenings to other roads in the future.

"Perhaps not entirely," the report continues, "but it will help if minority stockholders are more watchful and if bond holders assert their rights before their security fades away for lack of upkeep, purposely neglected in order to pay interests and dividends unearned."

"It would, in our opinion, render exploitation more difficult if the issuance and marketing of all securities of common carriers were subject to federal regulations. As to that we renew the recommendation repeatedly made to congress in our annual reports."

Washington, April 20.—Discharges from the National Guard will not be granted enlisted men solely because they are married, according to instructions sent out by the militia bureau. Where a soldier has independent means which will prevent his family from becoming a charge upon the government he will not be mustered out.

The War department has been flooded since the original order was issued with inquiries and protests from national guardsmen, many of whom have been discharged under the dependent family rule and against their wishes, because they were married men.

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## Nine Seized German Ships Nearly Ready for Sea

Washington, April 20.—Vigorous steps are being taken by the government to repair the seized German ships and it is believed nine of them will be ready for sea in the next thirty days.

A bill to empower the shipping board to take foreign built craft on the ways and pay for them probably will be introduced in congress next week. Nearly 1,200,000 tons now is building for foreign interests.

The scarcity of officers for the great fleet the shipping board plans may require legislation to relax some of the restrictions of the present law.

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## Chairman Hoover Asks Boys to Raise Beans

New York, April 20.—On the ground that beans are the best of foods for war emergencies, Herbert C. Hoover, chairman of the National Food commission, urges the Boy Scouts of America to devote their energies to the cultivation of this crop.

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## German Papers Express Hope of Speedy Victory

Amsterdam, April 20.—(Via London.)—German newspapers express the opinion that the record figure of the sixth German war loan will prove to the extent that the attempt to exhaust Germany's financial strength is a failure and that this, coupled with the American crop shortage and the German submarine exploits, must bring a speedy victory.

The Vossische Zeitung attributes the success of the loan to the "fires that flamed up in German breasts at President Wilson's repulsive treatment of us."

The Deutsche Tages Zeitung says that "this 'U-boat' loan showed that even a world power like the United States is unable to shake the confidence of the German people" and that it is made plain that Germany wants "no business peace, no renunciation of peace, but victory full and complete."

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