

Railroads Begin Final Defense of Freight Rates

Attorneys Declare Testimony Has Not Shown Grounds for General Reduction in Charges.

Washington, March 8.—Railroads began today their final defense of existing levels of freight and passenger rates before the Interstate Commerce commission when attorneys gave oral arguments which will conclude the hearings that have continued for several months.

Henry Wolf Biele of the Pennsylvania system, Fred H. Wood, general counsel of the Southern Pacific, and Frank Gwathmey, for the Southern railroad, insisted that on neither legal nor economic grounds had the mass of testimony taken disclosed ground for the commission to make general reductions of rates.

The railroads gave way to their opponents just before the day's sessions concluded and Fred W. Putnam of the Missouri railroad commission, speaking for all state regulatory bodies associated in the hearings, entered upon the preliminaries of an argument which will be continued tomorrow.

Earnings Below 6 Per Cent. State commissions are asking first, he said, for passenger rate reductions on the ground that they are too high for the traffic to bear and that no portion of railroad charges, if reduced, would be more quickly reflected in the actual cost to the ultimate consumer.

Mr. Biele tried railroad earnings statistics, exhaustively placed in the record, to formulate his conclusion that no reductions can be granted. Railroads are entitled to a 6 per cent return on the value of property used in transportation, he contended, whether this figure is fixed in the future by law or set up by the commission as a standard, and the latest earnings reports indicate they are now making but 4.49 per cent.

Mr. Wood took the same position, asserting that "no greater load could be dealt the credit of carriers" that that involved in a general rate reduction. Mr. Gwathmey added that "no grounds exist for the assumption that there can be any immediate stimulation of business by rate reductions."

Lewis Interrupts. Commissioner Lewis interrupted Mr. Wood's argument to ask how railroads intended to proceed under "the promise of lower rates which they make to the country by the resolution of their executives in instituting complaints before the railway labor board asking for further general reductions in wages."

"We propose to bring the reductions given with estimates of the amount of money they mean in railroads before the commission," Mr. Wood replied, and "with the information you have gathered in this long proceeding we are now engaged in you can determine how the rate decrease should be apportioned."

"We want to get that correct," Mr. Lewis resumed. "Is it the intention of the railroads to make all those wage reductions translatable in reduced freight rates?"

Mr. Wood replied that was the intention, but after a momentary conference with Alfred Thom, counsel for the railroad executives, he added that the roads would ask to be given "credit for reductions already made" in applying the amounts which they expected to receive.

Bootleggers to Aid U. S. in War on Dope Peddlers. Seattle, March 8.—An agreement to aid federal agents in their efforts to suppress the narcotic trade is said to have been reached by 100 representatives of the various branches of the illicit liquor traffic in the northwest at a convention they are reported to have just held in this city.

Closer co-operation between United States and British Columbia smugglers and dealers and new price schedules for liquor are also said to have been decided on at the convention. Among the more specific accomplishments of the "delegates" was the reported increase of \$10 a case for Scotch and Irish whiskeys; sales to Seattle bootleggers; formation of a liquor runners and wholesale deliverers' amalgamation, whereby the set price will be maintained and an agreement to give Victoria a proportionate share in the Vancouver, B. C., in the liquor trade with Seattle.

Liquor runners' convention, which the police reported was held last week in Spokane, was said here last night to have been directed from Seattle.

Alliance Methodist Church Will Be Used for Last Time. Alliance, Neb., March 8.—(Special.)—After 35 years of service, the First Methodist church of Alliance will be used for the last time for religious services next Sunday, after which services will be held in the new \$75,000 building which is nearing completion. Rev. Mearl C. Smith, pastor, has invited all persons now living, who were converted, baptized or married in the old church building to be present at the final service. County Judge Ira E. Tash, Box Butte county pioneer and one of the early members of the church, will speak on "Reminiscences of Early Days in the Methodist church," and several other old-time members will give short talks, including one by a woman who was present at the dedication services 35 years ago. The new church edifice is one of the most up-to-date church buildings in this part of the state, containing a large auditorium, gymnasium and other modern features.

Eight Suspects Held in Wild West Holdup



Left to right are "Lone Star" Fred Hans, who says he stuck up his hands Tuesday night at the point of a gun for the first time in his life; George (Shorty) Evans, night watchman at Ak-Sar-Ben race track, and C. (Dad) Hendricks, proprietor of Dad's Place. Inset below is Alex L. Pearson, only recently returned from Canada, where he was exonerated on charges of committing liquor swindles.

In the early days of the new west "Lone Star" Fred Hans, government field marshal, won the title of a quick shot in escapades with bandits. He met his Waterloo Tuesday night when a trio of "two-gun" bandits shot up Dad's Place, a little frame inn, located east of Ak-Sar-Ben field; slugged G. (Dad) Hendricks, the proprietor, "Lone Star" and another customer, George (Shorty) Evans, and escaped with \$250 and a gold watch.

Yesterday the victims, with heads bandaged, identified Axel L. Pearson at Central police station as leader of the bandit trio. Pearson has been linked with Bart Williams, alias "Red the Rough," Wiley Compton and the late Jimmie Cosgrove in highjacking escapades, according to police reports. He returned three months ago from Canada, where he was freed after a hearing, at which he was accused of complicity in liquor swindles.

Seated about a rickety stove in Dad's Place at 11:30 last night, "Lone Star" was relating stories of his gun play of years ago. The door opened suddenly. "Up with 'em," commanded a voice from behind two gunmen.

Two other gunmen followed, one firing twice through the ceiling. Two lights burned dimly. A shot extinguished one of them. "Where's that jack you keep around here?" the leader asked Hendricks. "Haven't much," Dad replied. "You're a dirty liar," as the bandit hit him with his pistol. Hendricks fell.

While one gunman kept a revolver trained on the victims, his confederates ransacked the place. They took \$15 from the cash register. Hendricks slipped a wallet containing \$240 from his pocket to the floor and kicked it under an ice box. One of the gunmen saw him and pocketed the wallet.

Noticing a watchman's badge on Evans' coat, a bandit struck him over the head. Evans fell. "So you're a dick, eh?" remarked the assailant. "You deserve the same," said the third, as he hit "Lone Star" on the head.

Nine Suspects Jailed. From "Lone Star" the bandits took \$10.80. Evans lost 80 cents. A shot extinguished one of them. Rushing from the place, the trio fired several shots in the air, one of the gunmen yelling, "Give my regards to Mike Dempsey."

They escaped south in the darkness. Detectives Robert Munch and Fritz Franks are on the case. Seven suspects, other than Axel Pearson, are in jail awaiting identification by the bandit victims.

Bananas contain a large amount of starch and make a very much better food cooked than uncooked.

Tributes Paid by Jurists to Walter I. Smith

Many Prominent Men Attend Memorial Services in U. S. District Court for Late Federal Judge.

"I wish a record of the life of Walter I. Smith might adorn the walls of every high school in the state of Iowa as an everlasting reminder to the youth of the state of the possibilities of the humbler," said Judge Martin J. Wade, one of the speakers yesterday afternoon at the memorial services in honor of Judge Smith, held in the United States district court room at Council Bluffs.

The services were held under the auspices of the Pottawattamie County Bar association and were attended by many prominent jurists and attorneys and by a large crowd of friends and admirers of the late Judge Smith. Spencer Smith, president of the bar association, presided.

Three other federal judges attended the services and made short talks. They were Judge T. C. Munger of Lincoln, Judge C. W. Woodrugh of Omaha and Judge George C. Scott of Sioux City. Judge Smith was on the bench of the federal circuit court of appeals at the time of his death.

Price of Corn Interests Cuming County Farmers. "We are not very much interested in the price of corn," said A. R. Goranson, of West Point, who brought in a load of cattle. "The corn crop of Cuming county was big, but most of it was sent to market in the form of livestock."

State Board of Control May Purchase More Land. Lincoln, March 8.—(Special.)—Purchase of 160 acres of land adjoining the reformatory, to be used for agricultural purposes by the inmates, will be considered by the state board of control in a short time. J. A. Seel, owner of the land, offered to abide by a decision of a board appointed by the board of control as to the worth of the land. This board has valued it at \$282.52 per acre.

Free Lecture on Christian Science. By Rev. Andrew J. Graham, C. S. B. of Boston, Massachusetts. At First Church Edifice, St. Mary's Ave. and 24th St. THURSDAY EVE., MARCH 9, AT 8 O'CLOCK. The Public is Cordially Invited to Be Present.

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"Sparks" Jokes About Weather as Ship Sinks

For an hour or so the Grontov's wireless operator kept talking cheerfully. "A terrible night for us lads at sea," he ticked and answered himself.

"Our old man thinks maybe we'll have a nice breeze by and by," he tickled, and added: "The steward is making ham sandwiches of the lifeboats now." "The old wagon lists like a busted teapot, old dear," he buzzed in again and when Hansen responded: "Hold on, hold on, old man; we'll be along-side soon," the Grontov's man shot back:

Then a few minutes after noon he was serious again. "We are sinking now," he said. "Going down stern first. The decks are awash and the boats are smashed up. We can't hold out any longer." "That seemed to be the end. But in a trice Hansen's ears got another jangled message: "The skipper sent that last one," it snickered. "He ought to know. Where's my hat? Got to go to this party. Sorry we couldn't wait for you, old man. But in a big hurry now. So long, Skoll! sk—"

Mysterious Phone Call Is Followed by Robbery. Des Moines, Ia., March 8.—(Special Telegram.)—Following a mysterious telephone call jewelry valued at \$5,000 was taken from the V. A. Wilkins home, it was discovered by Mrs. Wilkins Tuesday night. Mr. Wilkins is out of town. The loot included several diamond rings, a diamond platinum bar pin, a pearl necklace and several watches.

Foot of Section Laborer Crushed in Rail Accident. Alliance, Neb., March 8.—(Special.)—Sam Jirvis, 24, a Greek section laborer for the Burlington, in the Alliance hospital with half of his right foot crushed off as the result of an accident at Hyannis. He lived in a bunk car near the railroad tracks and had just stepped from the bunk car onto the track when a freight car backed into him, catching his foot beneath the wheels. He was brought to Alliance on a special car by the crew of the train which struck him. It is expected that amputation of the remainder of his foot will be necessary.

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Second Church of Christ, Scientist, of Omaha, Nebraska Announces a Free Lecture on Christian Science. By Rev. Andrew J. Graham, C. S. B. of Boston, Massachusetts. At First Church Edifice, St. Mary's Ave. and 24th St. THURSDAY EVE., MARCH 9, AT 8 O'CLOCK. The Public is Cordially Invited to Be Present.

Iowans Freed on Blackmail Charge

Evidence Will Be Presented to Grand Jury Sitting at Fort Smith.

Fort Smith, Ark., March 8.—Blackmail charges against Edward H. Hunter and George A. Dismore, Des Moines (Ia.) bankers, were dismissed this afternoon in municipal court by County Prosecutor Sam R. Wood, who announced the charges would be presented directly to the grand jury now in session.

The Iowa men declined to expose the information upon which they said they were proceeding in an effort to recover \$26,000 in bonds, part of the \$45,000 loot stolen from the bank March 25, 1919. In a statement to the police, Joe R. Ward, who preferred the charges, declared Hunter and Dismore claimed the robbery of the bank to tracing the \$45,000 worth of stolen bonds. The trail led to various parts of the country and finally to Fort Smith, here they were arrested upon the complaint of Joe R. Ward, wealthy ice manufacturer, who charged they tried to blackmail him by connecting his son with the robbery.

Seminole Indian Chief Found Shot Through Heart. Miami, Fla., March 8.—Jack Tigertail, Seminole chieftain, was found slain at an Indian village here this morning. He had been shot through the heart. Tigertail was a familiar figure on the streets of Miami for years and was known by thousands of northerners.

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