

Attempts to Bar Roads From Wage Hearing Fails

Vice Chairman Hooper Rules Against Evidence Intended to Show Railways Have Violated Law.

Chicago, March 13.—An attempt to bar a number of railroads from the present wage hearings before the United States railroad labor board failed when Vice Chairman Ben W. Hooper ruled against evidence presented by railway employees to show that the roads had violated the law and therefore have no standing before the board.

The ruling brought out the fact that action on cases involving three roads, charged with violation of the transportation act because of contracting shop work to outside firms, is expected soon. The question at issue, Vice Chairman Hooper said, was one of the most important the board has faced. If such contract work were declared legal, he added, "the ground would be cut out from under this board and the vital of the transportation act would be killed."

Cases against the Erie, the Indiana Harbor Belt and the New York Central are now pending before the board. All involve the subcontracting of shop work to contractors, all of whom are paying lower wages than the scale set for railroad shopmen by the board.

The ruling was made over the vigorous protest of B. M. Jewell, head of the shop crafts unions, who asserted that if shops were to be closed by the railroad one day and opened by a contractor at lower wages the next, the railroads were setting an example which might convince the employees that "the very small number we have termed radicals were right and the great majority of sane-minded employees 100 per cent wrong."

Reds Seen in Bombing of U. S. Sofia Legation

Sofia, Bulgaria, March 13.—(By A. P.)—The explosion in the American legation Saturday night is believed by the authorities to have been caused by a bomb thrown from the street into the legation conservatory. Passersby pursued a man who may have been responsible for the outrage, but he eluded them in the darkness.

Both the police and the American minister, Charles S. Wilson, believe the act that of a mad man or of radicals seeking revenge for the American policy in regard to soviet Russia.

A person dressed as a working man twice recently had attempted to see Mr. Wilson and the American consul, renewing his attempts Saturday. The fact that the bomb was thrown into the conservatory instead of into Mr. Wilson's residence suggests that it might have been in an effort to discredit Bulgaria.

A mass meeting held as a demonstration for the autonomy of Thrace yesterday was turned into a procession which went to the legation and checked Mr. Wilson. A memorial condemning the bombing of the legation was delivered to Mr. Wilson.

Son of Millionaire Held After Girl Jumps From Auto

Kalamazoo, Mich., March 13.—John D. Dodge, son of the late John F. Dodge, millionaire Detroit automobile manufacturer, and Rex Tarri of this city, were held in the county jail today pending further investigation into an automobile accident yesterday that resulted in the serious injury to Miss Emmeline Kwakerneck, 19, a Western States Normal school student.

Miss Susan Stegenga and Miss Ethel Clemons, also Western Normal students, who also were in the machine, told officers Dodge and Earl offered to take them to their home from a dance, and that Miss Kwakerneck leaped from the machine when Dodge, who was driving, ignored their protests that he was not driving in the right direction to their rooming house. They charge he drove into the country at high speed.

Army Fund Bill Would Cut Forces to 126,000 Yanks

Measure Provides for Withdrawal of Troops From China, Hawaii, Panama Canal and Rhine.

Washington, March 13.—With provisions which would necessitate reduction of the size of the regular army to 115,000 enlisted men and 11,000 officers, the army appropriation bill, carrying \$270,353,080.67, was reported today by the house appropriations committee.

The amount recommended for the military and nonmilitary activities of the War department during the coming fiscal year is a reduction of approximately \$116,000,000 from the total of the current year, and \$87,996,086.80 less than budget estimates.

As drafted by a subcommittee headed by Representative Anthony republican, Kansas, the bill would require the return to the United States by next July 1 of all troops stationed in China, 6,500 men from Hawaii, about 2,000 men from the Panama Canal zone, and all but 500 officers and men in the army of occupation on the Rhine.

No limitation is placed on the number of men to be maintained in the Philippines, the committee's report stating, however, that Secretary Weeks believes that under present conditions "some reduction" can be made in the force there.

The contemplated withdrawals, it was said, would leave 5,000 men in the Hawaiian islands and a like number in the canal zone. The present strength of the army was given by the committee as about 13,000 officers and 132,000 men, exclusive of 7,000 Philippine scouts.

Lingo Regulates Speed of Autos in New Mexico

Santa Fe, N. H., March 13.—If you speak Spanish you may drive your automobile 20 miles an hour in New Mexico, but if your tongue only manipulates the English language you must hold the bus down to 15 miles an hour. The 1921 enactments of the New Mexico legislature, it has been found, as printed in English provide for a speed limit of 15 miles an hour. The Spanish version provides a 20-mile limit.

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