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HIGHER FREIGHT RATES REFUSED

L. C. C. TURNS DOWN APPLICATION OF U. S. RAILROADS

MUST FOOT THE ENTIRE BILL

Of Increased Wages to Employees Virtually Forced Upon Them by Passage of Adamson Law

Washington, June 29. — The Interstate Commerce Commission tonight denied the rate advances asked for by the railroads of the United States.

Commissioner McElford dissented. The order declares the operation schedules submitted and upon which increases were asked hereby suspended until October 28.

Exceptions were made in the schedules of bituminous coal, coke and iron in southern and eastern districts. The commission finds the war has not affected railroads as disastrously as the first general increase of wages indicated.

The application of all the railroads of the United States for a 15 per cent advance in freight rates followed the action of the supreme court of the United States in upholding the Adamson law, thereby compelling the railroads to increase the wages of railroad employees.

This law, together with the favorable action of the supreme court, averted the great general railroad strike which all winter threatened to tie up the entire commerce of the United States and cause hundreds of millions of dollars loss to American business.

The action of the railroads in asking for the increase was tantamount to handing the bill for the increased wages over to the general public.

Railroads Suffer

The railroads, however, declared that in addition to the Adamson law increase, which amounted to about \$75,000,000 a year, the American railroads were suffering from the high cost of living as much as any individual consumer. The carriers submitted to the commission figures showing that the cost of railroad supplies, including building and operating materials of all kinds, had increased on an average of between 75 and 90 per cent in the last two years. Furthermore, the railroads showed that of their own movement they had granted wage increases, aside from those provided by the Adamson law, which ran far into the millions.

Altogether, the railroads claimed their increased operating bill amounted to about \$100,000,000 a year. This figure amounted to approximately 15 per cent of their gross revenues. This was the basis on which the roads applied to the commission for a rate increase to cover the higher cost.

Covered Everything

The increases in rates asked covered everything except coal and coke in the East. On these commodities the railroad asked specific increases of 15 cents per ton. Excepted from the general rate increase were such collateral railroad charges as switching, elevation, storage and lighterage.

The impression has been general that the administration favored the increase, especially since President Wilson told Congress it might prove necessary to enable the railroads through the Interstate Commerce Commission to increase their rates to meet the new charges under the Adamson law.

At the hearings before the commission the presidents of the principal railroads...

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MORE LEGAL FEES IN PONS ESTATE

FIVE APPEALS TAKEN TO SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY

ESTATE IS DWINDLING AWAY

Attorneys, Executor and Heirs All Dissatisfied and Give Lawyers Another Chance

The almost endless litigation over the Pons estate, which clouded the last years of Mrs. Pons' life, and which has been in the courts for five years, has broken out afresh. Yesterday five appeals were taken to the supreme court, when Judge E. K. Skinner refused a new trial on the question as to how the funds of the estate are to be divided.

When Mrs. Pons was alive, and interdiction proceedings were brought against her, partly on account of a will she made in favor of her favorite daughter and grandson, the estate was appraised at \$300,000. The litigation has steadily cut down its value. Property has been sold at a sacrifice on account of

the litigation alone. Last Monday Judge Skinner handed down a decision in civil court in which he sought to dispose of certain claims against Mrs. Pons' estate. The fee of P. L. Fourchy and Woodville and Woodville for \$30,810 was cut to an even \$30,000. An appeal to the supreme court had been taken on this item.

The fee of Paul L. Fourchy, individually, for \$18,500 was reduced to \$3,500. Consequently Fourchy has taken an appeal on this single item. Fourchy is executor of the estate, and as such professes to be dissatisfied with the manner in which the court is apportioning the claims. This gives ground for the third appeal.

The fourth appeal was taken by certain heirs of Mrs. Pons, including Mesdames Armand Veazy, George A. Louque, and Justin I. Deanehaud, the Ruiz heirs, and Walter A. Pons. They object to the size of the fees allowed the attorneys, and to the allowance made physicians and others who were concerned in the interdiction proceedings.

Mrs. Antonette Suarez, against whom the other heirs were arrayed in the interdiction proceedings, had put in a claim for \$3,000 for taking care of her mother during her last days. This claim was rejected by Judge Skinner, consequently the fifth appeal to the supreme court.

MERCHANTS INVITED

Henry M. Umbach, vice president of the Orleans board of assessors, yesterday issued a statement in which he invited the merchants of the city to appear before him regarding the assessment on their bills receivable. His statement follows:

"The attention of the various mercantile interests, whose places of business were visited by the inspectors of the board of state affairs for state assessment purposes for the year 1917, is called to the last paragraph of resolution, pertaining to assessment of notes, judgments, accounts and credits, adopted June 15, by the board of state affairs, which is: 'Every taxpayer claiming an offset under the terms of the above said resolution, shall make an affidavit of the amount of debts due by him and to him, and file a copy thereof with the assessor and one with the board of state affairs.' The board of assessors also suggests that all tax payers against whom a rendition of their holdings has been made call at the assessor's office, city hall, in order to attain a fair adjustment of value, for state assessment purposes."

Gen. Haig Catches Germans Napping

London, June 29. — Haig caught Hindenburg napping again today. While the Germans were concentrating their attention on Canadians the lower bank of the Souchon toward Lens, Haig's troops six miles southeast shot out suddenly and struck the German's front at South Oppy, a vital point in the switch that links the Wotan line with the Siegfried line.

The Germans were taken completely by surprise and staggered back on a front of two thousand yards to south and west of Oppy. Unofficial estimates of prisoners early this evening were 200. Berlin officially admitted the British occupied the German foremost lines but Oppy and Gravelle windmill still is in their possession. It disputed the new advance on Lens. In the meanwhile the Crown Prince played much the same game in the south as Haig did in the north.

MODERN ROMEO WINS WITH GUN

and Dauprine streets, his head up on the Laura Jean Libbey staff he would have known that the proper way to court a girl is with flowers and bouquets, and not with a loaded revolver. But it must be confessed that his methods, while crude, came very near being effective.

Ternova's downfall came yesterday as the result of an anonymous telephone call which caused Mrs. Marie Coggio, mother of pretty 15-year-old Tarmisina Coggio, to hurry to the third precinct police station. And shortly thereafter Ternova was behind the bars.

Owls 165 Cream Parlor Mrs. Coggio owns and operates an ice cream parlor at 600 Bourbon street. Ternova, who is 38 years of age, but not bereft of a romantic feeling, was employed by Mrs. Coggio for three years as a pastry cook.

Of late he had been paying attention to the 15-year-old daughter of the house, Mrs. Coggio frowned; perhaps she scolded a little—who could think it would be anything very serious.

Yesterday morning the telephone rang. The person at the other end of the wire would not reveal her identity, but she had a message that galvanized Mrs. Coggio into instant action. "You had better watch your daughter very closely," came the voice. "There is something up."

Clothes Are Gone Mrs. Coggio also was up very quickly—upstairs. There was no sign of Tarmisina's clothes, nor of the clothing of John Coggio, aged 13. Mrs. Coggio questioned her daughter, and the latter pulled from under the bed a valise filled with clothing.

She had planned to elope that very day with Ternova, the romantic—also the practical, for, according to Tarmisina, he had a revolver, and he was going to kill the whole family if she didn't go with him. Tarmisina protested that she did not care for the pastry maker one bit.

The girl's story was borne out in one particular when the police arrived from the third precinct station. They took Ternova into custody, and in the pocket of his street coat they found a five-shooter, fully loaded.

SOLD BEER TO CHILD, CHARGE

Tony Alphonse, barkeeper at 1919 Lafayette street, was arrested yesterday afternoon by officers from the juvenile court on a charge of selling 10 cents worth of beer to a negro girl 13 years old. The girl was charged with being a delinquent.

TWENTY COASTAL AIR STATIONS

TO BE BUILT ALONG THE ATLANTIC AND GULF COASTS

ALSO AMMUNITION STATIONS

Executive Defense Works Planned by National Government, Says Head Lumber Purveyor

Extensive defense works along the Atlantic and gulf coasts to guard against possible enemy attacks by sea or air are foreshadowed here today. Plans have been drawn for twenty coastal air stations to be established at various unannounced points, and lumber for their construction will be shipped at an early date, according to J. E. Rhodes, secretary-manager of the Southern pine association, who has just returned from Washington, where he has been in consultation with heads of the war and navy departments and other high officials.

In addition, says Mr. Rhodes, a number of powder houses, which are in reality to be ammunition stations, will be located at strategic points along the coast.

The lines of cantonments, except that timbers used will be heavier and the form of construction more permanent. Besides living apartments for the men, there will be hangars for the airplanes and sea-planes, mess and cooking quarters and outbuildings. Approximately 10,000,000 feet of lumber will be needed for each of these stations.

Powder houses will call for about 100,000 feet of lumber each, including timbers for slips and wharves.

Enormous Storage Places Planned

The committee on storage of the Council of National Defense, it is also announced, is devising plans

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National Guard to France in 4 months

Memphis, Tenn., June 29. — Major General Wood, commander of the Department of the Southwest, inspected the proposed sites for aviation fields and National Guard camps here today. He was entertained by General Luke E. Wright, former Secretary of War, and left tonight for Fort Logan E. Root, at Little Rock.

Gen. Wood said that the regiments from the Southern states and other units now being formed in the South will go to France between the first and the fifteenth of November.

PROCEDURE BODY ADOPTS REPORT

The program for reform in the procedure of the state legislature as outlined some time ago by State Senator E. M. Stafford, was formally endorsed last night at a meeting of the commission on legislative procedure, held in this city. The committee was in session from 7 o'clock until after 10 following which it had dinner at the Cosmopolitan.

Senator O. A. Boyer, chairman of the commission, was under the impression that the meeting would be a mere formality, but the other members were present. Those attending were Senator E. M. Stafford, Lieutenant-Governor Fernand Mouton, Thomas Campbell, O. H. Simpson, Hewitt Bouanchaud, speaker of the house, Senator Thos. E. Byrnes, and Secretary A. A. Moise.

The secretary has been instructed to draw up the proposed reforms in a concrete statement, and the commission at the time of the special session of the legislature will hold a public meeting which all members of the legislature will be urged to attend. It is desired to have the cooperation of the legislators in order that the proposed reforms may be put into effect as soon as possible.

Among the more important recommendations endorsed by the committee are the following:

No new bills except appropriation measures to be introduced after the first thirty days of the session.

Committees on revision to see that palpably unconstitutional or defective bills do not get through, without attention being called to their shortcomings.

Copies of every new act introduced to be struck off by the public printer and given to each member of the legislature.

Omission of unnecessary words and phrases from the bound copies of the acts of the legislature, and a more complete index.

Establishment of a legislative bureau, to be under the charge of the secretary of state.

TO ATTEND MAYORS' MEETING

Mayor Behrman Off for a Three Days' Absence Mayor Behrman left yesterday to attend the convention of the League of Louisiana Municipalities, where he is scheduled for an address. He will be absent from the city for three days. The meeting is in progress at New Iberia.

Before leaving Mayor Behrman telegraphed Major General Leonard Wood inviting him to visit New Orleans while he is in the state inspecting proposed camp sites. While no answer was received up to the time the mayor left, he believes that Major General Wood will accept the invitation.

The army officer is expected to visit New Orleans either Monday or Tuesday.

REGISTER GRACE HERE

Fred Grace, register of the state land office, was here yesterday looking after some official business.

PLAN FLEET OF FIFTY BARGES

TRADE ORGANIZATIONS WORKING FOR RIVER TRAFFIC

COMMITTEE NAMED FRIDAY

Which Will Organize Deming for Two-Million Dollar Concern? New Orleans Share, \$750,000.

The forming of an executive committee to make plans for the barge line on the Mississippi at a cost of \$2,000,000 was the first step taken in this movement yesterday at a meeting of representatives of the various trade organizations of the city held at the Board of Trade. It also was decided that New Orleans' share would be \$750,000.

Plan Fifty Barges

The preliminary plans provided for a fleet of fifty barges to be operated between St. Louis, New Orleans and Memphis. It is believed that the freight rates between these points can be lowered 25 per cent as a result.

Prior to yesterday's meeting word came from Memphis that the city had established an independent line to operate between New Orleans and Memphis.

The Memphis barge company, just formed, has undertaken to operate a bareline of twelve barges. It probably will be extended immediately to New Orleans.

Committee Named

The committee is composed of the chairman of the committees appointed by the commercial organizations to push the plan. W. P. Ross was made chairman; M. J. Sanders, ex-officio chairman, and H. S. Herring, secretary. The organizations represented at the meeting were the Board of Trade, Association of Commerce, Stock Exchange, Auction Exchange, Manufacturers and dealers' association, Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans, Steamship association, Cotton Exchange, Real Estate board and Wholesale Grocers' association.

SOUGHT ON CHARGE OF DANGEROUS ASSAULT

The New Orleans police last night were looking for Louis Powell, colored, charged with a dangerous assault on Sol Relp, a fellow laborer, and if they catch him he will not have the excuse to plead that the hot weather was responsible for his deed. Because it all happened in the ice house at Tchoupitoulas and General Taylor streets, owned by Vaccaro Brothers, there had been trouble between the negroes yesterday morning, and when laborers in another part of the ice house missed the ice blocks that should have been coming their way they investigated. Relp was lying on the floor in a serious condition with wounds about his face caused by an ice pick, and Powell had disappeared.

SUFFERING FROM SEVERE FALL

The many friends of Mr. James M. Augustin, 2731 Milan street, for many years head of the French department of the Bee, and one of the veterans of the newspaper profession in New Orleans, will regret to learn that he is still confined to his home, the result of sustaining a severe cerebral concussion by a fall when alighting from a street car some ten days ago.

RUSHED WITH ORDERS

Charles E. Goings of the Cloney Construction Co. at Lake Charles, was here on business yesterday. The big Lake Charles shipbuilding concern is crowded with orders and will be able to build much larger boats when the intercoastal canal to the Sabine river is deepened, as provided for in the pending rivers and harbors bill.

GREECE BREAKS WITH GERMAN

WITHDRAWS ENVOYS FROM CENTRAL COUNTRIES

NEW PEACE MOVE PLANNED

Lloyd George, British Prime Minister, is expected to announce a new peace plan.

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