

GIVES REASON FOR DEPRESSION

Rail Chief Declares Freight Charges Not the Cause of Stagnation.

FARM PRODUCTS ARE CITED

Business Depression and Lack of Demand the Real Trouble.

Washington, D. C.—In testifying before the senate committee on interstate commerce, which is conducting an inquiry into the railroad situation, Julius Kruttschnitt, chairman of the board of the Southern Pacific Company, went into great detail as to the effect of freight rates on produce shipments, foreign and domestic. The main points he made in this part of his testimony were: First—That business depression is not the result of high freight rates. Second—That the real cause of stagnation in produce shipments is lack of market or profiteering. He said, in part:

A widespread propaganda is being carried on to arouse public sentiment against existing freight rates, whereas the fact is that even since the rates have been advanced the cost of transporting commodities is far less than the toll taken by the commission merchant and the retailer for buying and selling them.

People Misled As to Situation.

People are misled and conclude that high rates have stopped the movement of a large amount of freight and that the railways would make more money if they would reduce the rates and thereby revive the traffic. There is the strongest reason to believe that the very great reduction in traffic has been due almost entirely to general business conditions that are worldwide in their effect, and that would have come if there had been no advance in freight rates.

Prices of commodities reached their maximum in the first half of the year 1920 and thereafter fell with great rapidity in France, the United States and the United Kingdom. The fall in the United States began in May, and was rapidly on its way downward in September, when the advanced rates took effect. Nevertheless traffic did not drop for at least four months.

Slump Not Caused by Higher Rates.

It was a general deflation and fall in prices from the heights to which they had been driven by war conditions that has caused a stagnation of business throughout the world. That it is not caused by the cost of transportation is convincingly shown by the fact that stoppage of buying has caused an oversupply of ships, hence ocean tonnage rates have been recently at the lowest points in their history. Notwithstanding these low rates, ocean traffic shows as great stagnation as rail traffic, and millions of tons of shipping here and abroad are rusting away in idleness. Many commodities would not move even if the freight charges on them were abolished entirely, because producers can find no market.

That the decline in business is not due to prohibitive freight rates is shown by the following examples:

In January of this year the total tonnage of lines west of El Paso and Ogden operated by the Southern Pacific Company fell off 41 percent. The combined intrastate freight tonnage in Arizona and Nevada declined 50 percent although increases in the intrastate freight rates in those states has been as yet authorized or made effective. This decrease embraced grain, hay and live stock, as well as ores and other commodities.

Cotton Unshipped for Lack of Market.

Of a Texas cotton crop of over four million bales, 40 percent remains unmarketed. The average cost of rail and water shipment from producing point to Liverpool has been reduced about \$1.25 per 100 pounds. In the face of which about one-half million bales of cotton less than normal have been exported to Liverpool. Obviously the freight rate is not responsible for the restricted movement. During September, October and November, 1920, 45 percent less rice, 50 percent less canned salmon and 77 percent less dried fruit were reported than during the same months of the previous year. Although the reduction in ocean rates was substantially more than the increase in inland rail rates, so that the material decline in the exports of these commodities was in the face of a less aggregate cost of transportation.

The Case of the Fruit Growers.

The troubles of the California lemon growers have attracted much attention. He claims he is unable to ship his product because of the increased freight rates. A removal of all the recent increase of the rate on lemons would not help him. He has a rate by sea through the Panama canal of less than half—48 percent—of the rail rate, yet his lemons are not marketed. The average price of a cantaloupe laid down in New York in the season of 1920 was not quite 11 cents. As they were retailed at about 25 cents, there is a further profit to somebody of 14 cents per cantaloupe.

The managers of the propaganda for a general reduction of freight rates have lost sight of the fact that in October, 1920, 1,195,321 carloads of coal were moved, being the maximum moved in any month in the preceding two years, although it was handled at the advanced freight rates, and we have heard nothing as to coal being produced at a loss or of the coal mine owners going out of business because of existing freight rates. The percentage of freight charges to value in the early part of 1921 is almost exactly the same as it was in 1914.

GOOD-NATURED AND PATIENT

English Visitor Pays Tribute to Virtues He Noted as Distinguishing American People.

A while ago I published a little book on a tour I made in America during war time. I dedicated it "To the kindest people in the world," and I put the dedication in Latin to spare their blushes. Should I write another work of the same kind, I think I should dedicate it "To the most good-natured, tolerant and patient people in the world," writes Sir Arthur E. Shipley in the Outlook.

Although as the election grew imminent interest in it became keen and discussion eager, still I only once heard an acute disagreement between the supporters of the rival candidates, and this was between a husband and wife. It seemed based upon a fundamental difference of opinion on that most innocuous and unexciting fluid, milk.

As a rule the discussions were most amicable, and usually finished up, after the method of Lincoln, in a joke or a story. Their toleration equals their good humor. They bear patiently every variety of religious dogma; these are almost as numerous in the United States as are patent medicines. They quietly endure and ignore the most infernal noises. Owing to the enormous distances one has to traverse in the states, one spends a considerable part of one's time on the train and it is this reason which possibly accounts for the fact that Americans persist in talking on the cars.

Mr. Lucas has recently reminded us that Carlyle bequeathed certain books to Harvard university because of his esteem and regard for the American people—"particularly the more silent part of them." The latter exist not only in the imagination of the Chelsea philosopher. They are perhaps not very numerous, still they exist.

MEAT UNDER PERPETUAL BAN

Residents and Visitors on Island of Valamo, Finland, Must Obey Law Centuries Old.

Every day is fish day on the little island of Valamo, Finland, 12 squares miles in area. Almost ten centuries ago monks of the Greek Catholic church embarked on Lake Ladoga to find a new home and landed on Valamo.

A fine old monastery they built and framed a law that from that day on no meat should ever be eaten on the island. Recently several members of the American Red Cross stationed at the Russian-refugee camp at Viborg, made a journey to the island and were entertained at lunch in the monastery built to replace the one destroyed in 1754. The old law is still observed by the 450 monks now living there.

From the day they arrive on the island to the day they leave or die no meat is eaten by them. Hensky, strong and living to a good old age, this lack of meat as food is not apparent in their build. For lunch the Americans had fish in several forms, fried, baked and in soup, but always fish.

Hunting is barred, trapping is taboo, so that temptation in the shape of meat may never come. Smoking also is banned.

No Aerial Mail for Chinese.

While Chang Tso Lin, who today dominates the north of China, was wondering just what he would do with six airplanes which he ordered from England the question of the disposal of three of them was settled for him. He was undecided whether to use them for military purposes or for the establishment of a mail service, in accordance with the terms of the contract. While debating the question he ordered three to be sent to Mukden, for possible postal use, and the remainder to Paoingfu for military purposes. Those shipped to Mukden were loaded on flat cars and started on their way. Some distance from Tientsin they bumped a railroad bridge and were not only smashed but also put the bridge out of commission. So it looks as though those who expected to get their mail via the air route are doomed to disappointment.

Thrill Not on Program.

President Obregon of Mexico has given his sanction to bull fighting by appearing one Sunday afternoon when Rodolfo Gaona and Ernesto Pastor fought jointly. He occupied a ring-side seat. When Pastor, playing the last bull, made what appeared to be a death thrust, the President arose to leave and the band immediately struck up the national anthem. The bull, however, was not dead and started to charge. At the sound of the anthem he stopped in his tracks, lowered his head, and with Pastor standing at rigid attention not three feet from the bull's horns, the hymn was completed. A second later the bull tumbled over dead. Veteran fighters asserted the spectacle was the strangest ever seen in the Mexico City arena.—Brooklyn Eagle.

Then All Was Quiet.

Junior has reached the age of inquisitiveness. With grandma, he was making a social call. He noticed that the piano was not in the same position as the one at home, that the day-enport was different, and that the library table was of another design and called attention to the facts in tones that all heard. "Grandma," he said, finally, "haven't they got any more chairs?" "Why of course they have, keep quiet." "Well, why is that man at the piano stool then?"

NECKTIE HALTED A ROMANCE

Lovers Who Had Been Apart for Forty Years Made Up When Man Wore Woman's Present.

Forty years ago John Emmons and Charity Timmons of Bishopville, Del., were twenty years old and sweethearts. With her own hands Miss Timmons made a necktie as a gift for her young gallant. The evening of the day he received it Emmons put it on. He didn't like the colors and replaced it.

As usual, he visited Miss Timmons that evening, according to a Seelyville (Del.) dispatch to the Philadelphia Ledger. It was a nice summer night. The moon revealed that he was not wearing love's token and Miss Timmons demanded the reason.

"It's too loud," replied the youth. "Do you mean you will never wear it? Then you don't love me," sobbed the girl, and she went into the house.

That apparently was the end of the romance. Emmons went to Portland, Ore., and prospered. As the owner of a big department store in the far Northwestern city, he returned to Bishopville last Christmas for a visit. It was inevitable that he should meet his former sweetheart in the village. Soon each learned that the old love would not die; that each had considered the other the only mate and that neither had married.

Of course, Emmons proposed, Miss Timmons did not refuse him, but she bought a tie as nearly like the one that started all the trouble as she could find. Then, when he wore it without flinching, she coyly murmured "yes." And so they were married the other evening.

PREPARING TURF FOR FUEL

New Method, Said to Have Originated in Russia, May Result in Relieving Shortage.

A new method of drying turf to relieve the serious fuel shortage in Finland has been put in operation in various Scandinavian countries. The new method was invented by engineers working under orders from the Russian soviet government, to find a more labor-saving method of preparing turf as fuel for the great central power station near Moscow, the process being made known in Finland through an escaping engineer. The fundamental principle of the process is quite simple. The raw turf in the swamp, by a powerful jet of water under a pressure of 20 atmospheres, is freed from all old roots and changed to thin mud. This is pumped out on a drying field and spread in layers. When sufficiently dry it is cut into bricks of uniform size by means of a tractor. The turf pump is constructed like an ordinary water turbine, is reversible with aid of electric motor, is equipped with a cutting apparatus which completes the work of the water jet, and can be raised or lowered as the surface of the mud varies. The entire equipment is mounted on a car which can be pushed forward or backward on rails along the line of work.—Scientific American.

Convicted by the Bible.

Law founded on the Bible is good enough for Mayor Gilmore of Morgantown, W. Va.

A local man charged with not having the tail light burning on his automobile was arraigned before the mayor, who assessed a fine of \$3.

The accused protested, said it was a poor law under which he was fined and that he did not think it would hold water in court.

The mayor declared any law founded on the Bible was good enough for him. The defendant said he couldn't see where a tail light had anything to do with the Bible. The mayor looked pityingly at the accused, and said:

"Do you remember the tale about the ten virgins, five of whom had lights and five of whom didn't? Well, if you do, you will remember that the Lord wouldn't have anything to do with the five without lights, and neither will this court."

Cotton Stalks Will Furnish Paper.

The possibilities of cotton stalks as a source of paper have long been suspected and experiments in this direction have been made, but for one reason or another it has never proved quite practical.

The nearest approach to success has been made recently, and it is announced that there is a plant at Greenwood, Mass., where 50 tons of paper are made every day from three times that amount of stalk.

Certain thin tubular fiber in the plant will make excellent cellulose for durable papers. It is strong and flexible. If a quarter of the annual supply of the cotton stalks of the South were put to this use each year there would be no need of a paper shortage in this country.

Reservation for Aborigines.

The commonwealth of Australia has taken steps for the preservation of the aborigines of that country and has assigned a tract of public lands in the northern territories as reservation for the tribes. It includes the Mann and Peterson ranges and practically the whole of Lake Amadeus. The governments of South and Western Australia have set aside adjoining areas for the purpose of this reservation.

in Plunk Center.

"Why do you doubt that my show will pack your insignificant town hall? It ran 300 times in New York."

"No offense, mister, and mebbe so. But she's got to be a purty good show to run one time yere."—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Japanese Marriage Laws.

The legal restrictions on the age at which a person can marry are different between men and women, according to the civil code of Japan. Men must be above 17 and women 15 years. There can be no marriage without the voluntary agreement of the man and woman when a marriage is to be contracted. If they have parents living they must obtain their consent, unless the man has completed his thirtieth year and the woman her twenty-fifth.

Ads Displaced by Electric Planer.

The ads is probably among the oldest of metal implements, but its work is now being done by an electric planer which performs the task much easier and with less expenditure of time. It is designed for heavy work, such as has been done by the ads about shipyards and similar establishments. It is driven by compressed air and works on the turbine principle with a two-bladed cutter.

Various Storm Warnings.

Flowers, trees and low-growing plants send out storm warnings. Certain plants and flowers close up tightly on the approach of rain. They give ample warning. The common dandelion does this, and also the leaves of the white clover. The silver leaf poplar gives fair warning of rain by tossing the silver under side of its leaves upward continuously.

Daisies Mistaken for Sheep.

In New Zealand there is to be found a member of the daisy family which is so large that it is often mistaken for a sheep in the distance. It grows in exposed places and the branches of the plant are covered with small leaves which greatly resemble the wool of sheep. The shape of the plant and the flowers add to the deception. It is sometimes called the vegetable sheep.

Thought the Clouds Hollow.

Every child today knows that the clouds are composed of tiny globules of water carried in the air and having some affinity to enable them to hold together. Formerly it was thought that clouds were hollow like soap bubbles, for otherwise they would not be able to float.

Seven Champions.

The Seven Champions of Christendom, who are often alluded to by old writers, were St. George, the Patron Saint of England; St. Andrew of Scotland, St. David of Wales; St. Patrick of Ireland, St. Denis of France, St. James of Spain, and St. Anthony of Italy.

A Conundrum.

While watching a moving picture of the Isle of Wight, recently, an old English conundrum was recalled to our mind. It ran thus: Why is the Isle of Wight a fraud? Because it has Needles you cannot thread, Fresh-water you cannot drink, Cowes you cannot milk and Newport you cannot bottle.—Boston Transcript.

Saltwater Rain.

Saltwater rain has frequently been reported during the prevalence of tropical cyclones. This is explained by the fact that the spray from the great waves which the storm generates is often carried many miles inland by the wind.

Campaign Emblems.

As far as known, the first campaign emblem was a finger ring of copper. It was worn by the adherents of John Quincy Adams in 1824, when he ran for President, and was inscribed "John Quincy Adams, 1825." Tintypes and medallions were among the insignia of the 1890 campaign when Lincoln was elected.

Names Traced to Chinese.

Many names of cities, mountains and rivers in the West, and along the Pacific coast, which have generally been regarded as Indian names, are really of Chinese origin, according to a writer in the New York Herald. Even the names of the state of Utah and Nevada are of Chinese origin, he says. "Pe" or "Pie" means north in Chinese; therefore the Pieute Indians were merely the North Ute Indians.

Remarkable Physical Strength.

While the average woman possesses only about two-thirds of the physical strength of the average man, there are plenty of exceptions, and there have been women who could rival almost every feat of the strongest man. One of the most wonderful of them all was Miss Kate Roberts, the daughter of a Welsh preacher. Though there was nothing in the least massive about this young woman, she could lift a full-grown man above her head with one arm.

Coal in Ancient Times.

Medieval writers usually refer to coal as "sea-coal" (carbones maritimi, or carbe de mari), in order to distinguish it from charcoal (carbons). The name evidently arose from the fact that it was brought to some places by water. The name was, however, used of coal which was carried into Chester from Ewloe, and of that found in the middle of Derbyshire. In the reign of Elizabeth coal was measured by the barrel, nine barrels to the ton.

Honey Mentioned in Bible.

There are references to honey in the Bible, in the sacred books of the Hindus and in the Koran. In the Far East new honey has for ages been esteemed as a laxative and old honey as astringent. Honey was one of the materials which the Egyptians used in embalming, and others of the ancients used it as a food preservative. There was a considerable traffic in bird's eggs and eggs packed in honey were shipped long journeys.

Forecast: Cold and Cloudy.

The host was showing his author friend the room in which the latter was to sleep during his visit. Indicating the books in the room, he apologized. "I'm afraid you'll find them a pretty depressing collection," he said. "I always dump my rubbish here." The author ran his eyes over the shelves. One volume seemed strangely familiar. He took it down and handed it to his host. "It took me two years to write that one," he said.

Patience and Insensibility.

A phlegmatic insensibility is as different from patience, as a pool from a harbor. Into the one, indolence naturally sinks us; but if we arrive at the other it is by encountering many an adverse wind and rough wave, with a more skillful pilot at the helm than self, and a company under better command than the passions.—Dilwyn.

Many Kinds of Honey.

There are more kinds of honey than you think. There is honey that is black and sour; honey that is red; honey that is poisonous, honey that is green and honey that is rose color. Many of us have eaten honey that is white, and most of us know honey that ranges in color from pale yellow to brown. Honey is of many flavors, depending on the kind of blossoms the bees work on.

High Explosive.

Trinitrotoluene, a product of toluene is derived from coal tar and composed of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen. It is considered one of the most powerful of the high explosives and is used for purposes for which dynamite and nitroglycerin are not adapted. The latter is the most powerful explosive of its kind.

To Remove Tar or Grease.

A very sure and safe way to remove tar or any such grease stains from colored gingham is to rub well into the spots fresh lard. Let it lie several hours; then wash in warm soapuds. All spots will come out easily.

Your Summer Suit

Will be right and will be priced right if you buy from us. Standard lines of High Quality Men's Wear, Shirts, Underwear, Neckwear, Shoes, Hats of the most approved make.

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