

CAR SHORTAGE PREDICTED FOR FALL MONTHS

Equipment Condition of Freight Cars Still Bad, Says Babson, and Congres- sion Committee

WELLESLEY HILLS, Mass., July 15.—During the past week Roger W. Babson has been in New York in consultation with important railway interests. He has returned believing that a freight car shortage is inevitable this fall, and everything possible should be done to prevent it. Concerning the same, Mr. Babson states as follows:

"There are various events which indicate a serious congestion of freight this fall. First, there is a real shortage of equipment in good condition. Throughout the war the equipment of most railroads was allowed to run down. Little was done to repair equipment until this year. During the past few months railroads have been endeavoring to do five years repair work in one. As a result a great many freight cars are either in the process of being repaired or are waiting to be repaired. In other cases they are out of service. It is true that many of these cars will be back in service by winter but they will not be available by fall. This means that there are fewer cars available today to haul freight than are usually available.

"Usually the railroads haul their coal during the spring and summer. The winter supply is usually delivered by the railroads during the summer months. Thus far this year very little coal has been hauled. Only immediate needs have been taken care of. Yet only two more months remain before people will be starting their furnaces. On the assumption that the miners will soon be back to work this means that the railroads will be deluged with coal during the remainder of the year. Every available car capable of hauling coal will be pressed into service and the coal tonnage should be very, very heavy.

"The outlook today is for good crops this fall. At prevailing prices the farmers will want to sell their grain and move it as soon as they can. This means that the railroads will be called upon to move a tremendous amount of grain while they are attempting to move the coal. There are factors which lead one to believe that manufacturing as a whole will be more active this fall than it has been at any time this year. Fundamental statistics indicate that the low point in business will be reached this summer. Thus the railroads will be taxed by hauling raw materials in general and manufactured products of all sorts."

Mr. Babson was then asked what effect such a congestion would have upon commodity prices and securities. To this he replied as follows:

"Freight car congestion inevitably leads to higher prices. This is entirely natural as prices are determined, not by costs, but by supply and demand. If a city uses 30 carloads of potatoes a day, any day that there is a shortage of only two or three cars, the price of potatoes in that city goes up. Another day when there is a surplus of only two cars, the price of all potatoes goes down. This is not determined by the total quantity of a product produced or consumed, but rather by that small percentage of surplus or shortage. A freight car shortage this fall would inevitably lead to a shortage in certain raw materials and merchandise in some localities. As a result these commodities will temporarily strengthen in price at those points. Such a result is inevitable, are often—although not always—prevented by strengthening security mea-

es. The stock market usually discounts news in the commodity market. Thus a congestion of freight might mean both advancing commodity and security prices. Furthermore, in the case of a freight congestion, the railroads should temporarily, at least, show very handsome earnings. Already the railroads are showing very good earnings owing to the high rates and reduced operating expenses, notwithstanding the fact that they are hauling very little freight. If the time comes when the railroads will carry 100 per cent capacity, those earnings should be very large. Large railroad earnings should tend for higher prices for railroad securities. A word to the wise is sufficient."

General business, according to the index figure of the Business Chart, stands at 17 per cent below normal—the same as last week.

VEGETATION ON MARS PROVED

Astronomers Declare They Have Evidence of Life on Distant Planet.

(By Associated Press)

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz., July 15.—Members of the staff of Lowell Observatory here are elated over recent studies of the planet Mars which they assert bear out the theories of the late Percival Lowell, founder of the observatory, as to snowfall and vegetation on the little red planet. Mars, nearest neighbor of this world with the exception of Venus, is closer to the earth now than at any time in 18 years. Observations have been in progress for the past five months each hour of every night that weather conditions would permit. Hundreds of photographs and charts have been made.

The seasons on Mars have the same significance as on our earth and occur in the same manner, but about twice the length of our own, according to Doctors E. C. and V. M. Slipher, of the observatory staff. A statement by them on the results of the latest observations here follows:

"Winter has been occurring in the southern hemisphere of the planet Mars and the extensive dark areas there are now faint and have been so for some time betokening the dead season of vegetation in conformity with the view held by Lowell regarding the seasonal changes on the planet. The large winter cap of white snow at the south pole of Mars, which for some months has appeared to consist of only mist or cloud covering the south polar regions of the planet down to latitude forty degrees, is now dissipating and disclosing a mantle of snow beneath. The spring season for the southern hemisphere is now approaching, the season there at present corresponding to our March 21, and these changes are characteristic of late winter over the south of Mars."

"In the northern hemisphere autumn is arriving and the polar cap there has already become conspicuous, having increased rapidly during the last few Martian nights. On the night of June 17 it was observed that where the planet's longitude 245 came into Martian sunrise, and therefore visible to us, that a vast area there had during the preceding night been covered with a bright canopy. This bright hood faded off toward the equator but was discernible down nearly fifty degrees north latitude and veiled the darker markings of the northern part of the planet. This event marked the first really big autumn storm in the northern hemisphere of Mars so far this year. On that date the Martian season corresponded to our September 11. Early indications of autumn made their appearance a month and a half ago at a Martian season corresponding to our late August. These observations have been recorded on photo-

LA GRANDE TO PLAY IN ELGIN

Sunday's Game in Inter- mountain League Expected to Develop Much Inter- est.

While Baker is tackling one of the toughest propositions in the league when she journeys to Cove Sunday to attempt to down the Farmers, the Pirates will go to Elgin, there to meet the Argies in what promises to be a hard contest. Union and Raines will meet again at Elgin and the Cowboys will have their last chance to down the Federals. Union has won both games from the Baker county lads and should Raines win it will be her and Union for last place placing the Union-La Grande game in jeopardy.

Conditions in the intermountain league are getting to a point where the pennant race tests between teams, La Grande, Cove and Baker, with the Pirates having a little bit of the advantage. They have already won from Cove two out of three and broken even with the Colts, and have only one hard game left to play—the one with Baker at La Grande on July 30; while Baker has two and Cove has one.

Should Cove win from Baker it will throw La Grande into first place. If she defeats Elgin, she will put Cove back into the running, but if she loses it will leave the race between Baker and La Grande, making the game on July 30 the critical one of the season. The Pirates have a better chance to annex the pennant now than ever before during the season and the team has been playing in championship form for several weeks. It is very likely that word will not be received regarding the contest until before the Baker-La Grande game.

The La Grande batters are hitting at a faster rate than ever before, although several of them went down the batting average column against Cove last week. The boys seem hitting Alexander hard nevertheless. Loved his, two of them homered, were retired and seven or eight Pirates fled out to the outfield. And the Pirates have a fighting team which counts for a lot. Four of the games won out of eight were have been uphill fights, which isn't so bad.

In the last four games, the Pirates have made five double plays and very few errors have been checked up against them. Most of the errors that have been counted were due to hard chances that very few infielders would even reach.

Quite a number of rooters are planning on making the trip to Elgin Sunday and with McGee pitching, it looks like a good chance for a victory for the local boys. The spitting element is backing up the team now better than at any time this year, due to the showing made in the last few games. Several observers say that the Pirates have the best team La Grande has seen in years.

After Sunday's game with Cove the team average dropped five points. McInnis, Rosenbaum, Knight, Crows, Johnson and Gentry all went down the list a little. Rosenbaum lost one point while Johnson hit teammate, climbed to third place with a lead of five points. Workman stepped out in front with four hits out of five giving him

a percentage to be envied. McInnis still retains the lead over McGee in pitching average with a percentage of .833 against 750.

The individual batting averages are Workman .770; Rosenbaum .611; Thomas .447; McInnis .355; Knight .289; McGee .260; Crows .242; Johnson .242; Hickey .241; Messers .232 and Gentry .230. The team batting average now stands at .369, with 147 hits out of 399 times at bat. Rosenbaum now leads in stolen bases with 9, while Crows and Thomas are tied for second place with 6 apiece.

INDIAN CHIEF GIVEN FREEDOM

SPOKANE, Wash., July 15.—James McInnis, an old Federal Indian scout and a New York veteran of Chief Joseph's war was recently a guest of the city, because of too much "firewater" and his weakness for visiting bootleggers. Because of his war record, the famous Indian was released.

About a year ago Slickpoo became so full of spirit that with the aid of two companions he burned up most of his clothes and \$10 in money, and was arrested while going about town in his original Indian dress complete with fancy beads and a large collection of elk teeth.

During the trouble with Chief Joseph in 1876, Slickpoo was an Indian scout with the government forces and it is said that he did more good work in putting down the uprising than any other one person.

Trade Agreements Signed by Poland

WARSAW, July 15.—The Polish foreign office in publishing the ratification of the Franco-Polish commercial treaty announces that Poland has now signed trade agreements with nine other signatories: Italy, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, Hungary, Austria, Mexico, Spain, Portugal and Luxembourg, and is making negotiations for similar treaties with England, Japan, Switzerland and Norway. Preparations with Germany and Russia also have commenced. While no formal treaty has been made between Poland and the United States, an agreement has already been reached.



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LIQUOR LAWS INVESTIGATED

(By Associated Press)

WASHINGTON, July 15.—Views of the various interests concerned in the question of the legality of the sale of intoxicating liquor on American vessels on the high seas as well as foreign vessels coming within the three mile limit were sought by Attorney General Daugherty in open hearings prior to rendering a formal opinion.

The opinion was requested by Internal Revenue Commissioner Blair as a result of the controversy presented by the Anheuser-Busch Brewing company in attacking the shipping board for selling liquor on American vessels.

The shipping board itself will not be represented at the hearing, that organization taking the view, it was said in official circles, that since Chief Counsel Schlemmer of the board already had rendered a decision upholding the legality of the liquor sales at sea, it had no further interest in the matter until the question was decided by the attorney general.

Prohibition Commissioner Haines, it was understood, would be represented during the hearings, with other interests, including the Anti-Saloon League and the steamship companies.

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GUNS FOR SEINERS

(By Associated Press)

ASTORIA, Ore., July 15.—Machinists and one-pounders will discourage purse seiners from violating Oregon laws. The guns were mounted on the state fisheries department patrol cruiser Phoenix, and the vessel will patrol the coast to prevent purse seiners. A report was current Wednesday that a fleet of 20 purse seiners was due to arrive Thursday from Puget Sound. The seiners are said to have raised a fund of \$2000 to fight the Oregon law and the Washington regulations against that form of seining.

QUITS JOB TO LOOK FOR DOG

(By Associated Press)

LOS ANGELES, July 15.—Edwin Rayfield, employed by an automobile accessory company, has gone from his home here to Brooklyn, N. Y., in an effort to establish the identity of a Scotch collie.

White Rayfield was in training at Pelham Bay naval station, New York, during the war, he gave his mother a Scotch Collie pup named "Boy." Last March "Boy" disappeared. In May Mrs. Rayfield saw a Collie she was sure was "Boy."

But the dog's owner was quite certain the Collie was not "Boy." So Mrs. Rayfield brought suit for the dog, and her son, consequently, deserted his home, and employment to help her establish the identity of the dog.

TRACTORS IN FAMINE AREA

(By Associated Press)

NEW YORK, July 15.—Tractors operated in the Russia famine area by the Quakers will plow for communities or district groups, for the fall crops, the American Friends Service committee has announced.

The Friends, impurposed by the committee to help them with their sowing, purpose to plow only for community groups and not for individuals, and to spend not less than a fortnight at each stopping place where only one large plot would be plowed. This will give efficiency arising from centralized performance.

The plowing, it is planned, would be done mostly in districts remote from railroads where the animal death-rate is high and food scarce.

MANY PRIZES OFFERED

(By Associated Press)

KALISPELL, Mont., July 14.—Prizes for the races and other sport events at the Montana State Elks' convention to be held here July 15 to 21, inclusive, will total \$3,000 according to those in charge of the convention gathering. The events on the program include running races, harness races, wild horse races, relay races, fancy roping events, steer riding and bucking broncho contests.

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