

FARMERS SEEK LOWER RATES

I. C. C. Examiners Open Hearings in Spokane; Arguments Advanced.

SPokane, Wash., (AP)—The case of the Pacific northwestern farmer in favor of lower freight rates on wheat was presented in part at a hearing opened here Wednesday by I. C. C. Examiners and E. L. Booth, examiner for the interstate commerce commission. Witnesses representing farming and business interests of this section offered testimony in an effort to show that the farmer, under present conditions, cannot make a profit on his wheat.

Walter J. Robinson, president of the Northwest Wheat Growers' association and manager of the Washington Wheat Growers, occupied the witness stand for several hours and presented testimony and exhibits to show that, whereas it cost \$1.20 to grow a bushel of wheat last season, the return to the farmer was but 37 cents. These figures he had obtained, he said, from actual computation of the returns from his farm at Garfield, Wash., and from 50 questionnaires sent to other wheat farmers.

Figures Explained.
Robinson explained that his figures took into consideration a return of 7 per cent on the farmer's investment, and admitted on cross examination by railroad attorneys that a 10 per cent reduction in freight rates would reduce the cost per bushel of raising wheat but a small fraction of a cent. He said, however, that the entire saving to the farmers of the Pacific north west would be considerable.

Because about 90 per cent of the Pacific northwestern wheat is of export variety, and not of the grades to compete with the harder wheat of Montana, the Dakota and Wyoming, it would be more desirable to have an export rate on this wheat than on grain grown east of the Rocky mountains. Mr. Robinson declared that last year's wheat output of the United States at about 25,000,000 bushels, as compared with about 69,000,000 for this year, and stated that even with lower prices this year, the farmer will receive a larger net return than a year ago.

Idaho Export Heard.
Adjustment of freight rates on wheat as compared with those on other products, and as between railroads serving the Idaho wheat belt, was asked by Samuel L. Newton, rate expert for the Idaho public utility commission. He urged that the bulk of Idaho's wheat should be exported through Pacific rather than eastern ports, and said the railroads would save money by hauling wheat instead of empty cars westward, which they could accomplish by decreasing westbound rates to a part with those to the east.

Bootlegging "Joint" Had Clever Process

SPokane, Wash., (AP)—After a carefully organized raid on a soft drink place here recently, officers discovered what they considered an unusually clever scheme for evading the prohibition law against sale of intoxicating liquor.

At the end of the bar, in the floor, the officers found a trap door not more than six inches square. Beneath it, resting on the beams supporting the floor, the officers reported, there were always kept three bottles of liquor.

If an officer entered the place, they said, the bartender opened the little door, pushed the three bottles off the beams and they fell into the basement onto a pile of jagged rocks ten feet below. To make more certain the destruction of evidence, according to the officers, a water faucet was arranged to flood the debris and wash away the liquor.

Fifty pounds of broken glass lay about the rock pile when the officers investigated following their successful raid. It was stated.

Board Councilman Resigns.
HOOD, RIVER, Ore.—The city council received the resignation of Frank Davenport Jr., senior member of that body, who declared that he lacked time to devote to the public duty. Mr. Davenport, while he continues to make his home here, spends the most of his time at Cascade Locks, where he is in charge of the office of the Wind River Timber company. No successor has been suggested. No action was taken on the resignation.

Hard-Fought Game



Lynch went out to Lincoln, Neb., and won from Nebraska University 4 to 6—but not without a struggle. This shows one of the high moments of the game. H. DeWitt of Nebraska is carrying the ball.



MEANY EX-SERVICE MEN SOON READY FOR JOBS

WASHINGTON, (AP)—A call for aid in finding suitable employment for the rehabilitated ex-service men of this country has been sent out to the American Legion by Frank T. Hines, Director of the Veterans Bureau.

There are approximately 71,000 men in vocational training, Director Hines declared in his call, and within the next three months about 10,000 of them will complete their courses. During the first three months of 1924 at least 12,000 will be graduated. These men, General Hines declared, have been virtually rehabilitated, and a job is the only thing they need to restore them to self-sustaining members of society. For three or four years rehabilitated men have been making good in their positions. It was added, and all they need is the chance.

American Legionnaires are in touch with employers, many are employers, and most points have employment officers. It was said in the call of the director, and Legionnaires are urged to communicate with the bureau if they have places open or hear of jobs needing men within the next 6 months.

Masonic Temple Planned.
FOREST GROVE, Ore.—Holtbrook lodge No. 39, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons, at its stated communication elected as officers for the ensuing year: Barnett Y. Rice, worshipful master; Dr. Ralph L. Mills, senior warden; Professor H. P. Price, junior warden; Charles E. Dekins, secretary, and Edward Allen, treasurer. The members of Holtbrook lodge will hold installation on December 27. Plans are now on foot for the construction of a new Masonic temple next year at a cost of \$15,000.

The smaller towns don't need street trolleys, except to get away from the reach of fool questions.

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Death of Triplets Proves Inaptus to The Maturity Law

By Michael E. Jones, International News Service Staff Correspondent.

DENVER.—A determined fight to secure passage at the next general assembly of the Colorado Legislature of laws to protect maternity is expected to result from the recent death of triplets within two hours of their birth to Mrs. Conrad Foss, a Russian woman hotel worker.

With the slogan "Colorado must be made safe for mothers," the Denver Business and Professional Women's Club, the Denver Woman's Club, and the legislative council of the Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs have launched a campaign to make impossible a repetition of the tragedy that occurred recently near Kersey, in Northern Colorado.

Mrs. Foss, having from the birth of the triplets, worked all day, gave birth, unattended, to three children. The mother and infants were rushed to a Kersey hospital, where all the children died. Mrs. Foss recovered.

A resolution presented at a meeting of the Business and Professional Women's Club will be transmitted to Governor Sweet with a request to order an investigation to determine why "Mrs. Foss, in her hour of danger, was denied consideration which, under the law would have been accorded a bureau, cop or other domestic animal in like plight."

In discussing Mrs. Foss' terrible experience, Mrs. Har Pash, official of the Colorado Social Welfare Association declared:

"Every woman in Colorado is placed on trial through this woman's experience. If she had been a domestic animal, worked in the field until the last minute, the Colorado Humane Society would have taken immediate action. Being a woman, she was kept at work on a cold day, leaving the muddy field only in time to return to her hotel to give birth to one baby but to three, and the babies died."

"They claim," Mrs. David continued, "that she stumbled over a coal bucket and that this induced premature birth. That is no defense. She is a human being, entitled to protection, and it is our business as human beings—women, mothers and voters—to see that she gets it."

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Clatsop Children Power

ASTORIA, Ore.—School census figures filed in the office of County Superintendent Hyland show that the total number of children in Clatsop county between the ages of 4 and 20 years is 6625 or 291 less than a year ago. In the city there are 1978 boys and 1901 girls. A total of 2379, while in the outside districts there are 1442 boys and 1711 girls, a total of 2750.

Vienna Thievery Exaggerated
VIENNA, (AP)—Thievery in Vienna was not as prevalent during the first five months of this year as was made to appear in a story sent out from this city last August in which erroneous figures (universally used, created a wrong impression.

It was then related that property of various kinds worth some 750 millions of paper crowns had been stolen during this period of time, and that very few jewels were on display in the shop windows. As a matter of fact, careful police records show less than nine millions of losses, instead of 750 millions, and the shops on the best streets of Vienna.

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