

OLD RATES STAND

Railroads Will Make No Advance in Near Future.

CONDITIONS ARE NOT SETTLED

Presidents and Operating Officials of Roads Fear Stagnation Would be Increased by Move.

Washington, June 9.—No general increase in freight rates is likely to be made by the railroads of the country in the near future, if it is to be made at all. At a recent meeting of presidents and operating officials of important railroads in New York it was the consensus of opinion that it was undesirable to put into effect at this time an increase of freight rates.

It was pointed out that the proposed increase in a time of depression would tend rather to increase freight stagnation than to stimulate freight movement. Such a result would be of only additional disadvantage to the carriers, the opinion being general that it would not induce increased revenues.

Most of the officials who attended the meeting indicated a belief that railway business conditions were improving. The freight revenues—and the passenger revenues, too—show a notable increase in the last month over the preceding three months, and a general revival of business in all industrial branches was reported from every part of the country.

The judgment was expressed that if business conditions did not continue to show improvement it would be necessary for the railroads to adopt some method for protecting the interests of their stockholders. Only two methods are suggested—an increase of freight rates and a decrease in wages of employees. It is quite certain that neither will be resorted to before the first of next October, and some of the officials believe it will not be necessary even then to resort to either of the methods named.

In some unaccountable way, the report became general among shippers, especially in the middle west and the south, that the president and the interstate commerce commission had given their approval to the suggested increase in freight rates. The members have spent a good deal of time trying to get their correspondents right on the matter.

While the commission has no power under the law to prevent the establishment of such rates as the railroads see fit to put into effect, unless after due hearing the increased rates should be found to be excessive, unreasonable or unjust, it would be equally impossible and inappropriate for it to give its approval to any proposed increase in rates.

NORTH TOPEKA IS ABANDONED.

People Flee Before Great Overflow of Kansas River.

Topeka, Kan., June 9.—The crest of the rise in the Kansas river is expected to reach here some time tonight. The government weather bureau says the water will reach a maximum height of about 28 feet. It now registers 26.9 feet. If the rise exceeds two feet above the present level the city waterworks will be in danger.

North Topeka is practically deserted. Boat patrols were busy all afternoon taking those people from their homes who had delayed. Much of the contents of the houses has been moved over and the warning has been given to everybody.

The water is deeper in the streets than at any time since the big flood of 1903. From the Union Pacific tracks to Soldier creek, Kansas avenue, the main street is all under water. The current is beginning to sweep away outbuildings and thousands of ties from the Union Pacific plant are pounding their way through the town. Train service is practically at a standstill.

Alaska Mine Sells Well.

Juneau, Alaska, June 9.—F. L. Underwood, who promoted the overhead trolley system at Chicago, has closed a deal in New York for the Ebner mine at \$1,500,000. The deal was handled by George Bent, a noted mining engineer. The new company announced that 200 stamps will be immediately installed to be followed by 700 more early next spring. The property was owned by B. M. Behrens, William Ebner, C. W. Young and eastern associates, and has been a steady producer for seventeen years. It is situated one mile from Juneau.

Death List Increased.

Omaha, June 9.—Reports from the scene of Friday night's storm in Southern Nebraska indicate that the conditions are even worse than at first reported. The death list will doubtless reach 25 or 26, while 50 persons have received serious injuries, some of them being dangerously hurt. The monetary loss may reach \$500,000. Eight Nebraska towns suffered from the effects of the tornado, Geneva, Fairfield and Carleton being the worst wrecked.

Ship Gold to Germany.

New York, June 9.—Goldman, Sachs & Co. yesterday announced an engagement of \$1,000,000 gold for export to Germany, and Heidelberg, Kellheimer & Co. took \$600,000, also for Germany. This makes a total of \$4,750,000 on the present movement.

TWENTY-ONE DEAD.

Tornado Sweeps Path Along Kansas-Nebraska Line.

Omaha, Neb., June 8.—The tornado which passed over Southern Nebraska and portions of Northern Kansas Friday evening was the most destructive and covered the most territory of any similar storm which has visited the state in many years. At least twenty-one persons are known to be dead, five fatally injured and a score of others more or less seriously hurt, some of them dangerously.

Additional reports received state that several persons were killed at the towns of Byron, Neb., and Courtland, Kan., which towns have been cut off from communication with the outside world.

At Fairfield more than forty buildings were more or less wrecked and some of them, including three churches, were demolished. The loss will exceed \$100,000.

In the vicinity of Hickley farm houses stood the brunt of the storm and one or more fatalities are reported, with a number receiving injuries, some of which will prove fatal. Serious damage is reported from Byron, ten miles west of Chester, attended by considerable fatalities, but no details can be learned. All the bridges are out and communication by telegraph and telephone is entirely cut off.

A telephone message from Hardy, Neb., says the town of Courtland, Kan., just across the Nebraska line, was struck by the storm and that several casualties occurred, but lack of communication makes confirmation impossible today. Trains in all directions are abandoned because of washouts and destroyed roadbeds. At Geneva the storm wrought great destruction. The storm has covered such a wide area and been so destructive wherever it touched the earth that it has almost caused a panic among the inhabitants. Hundreds of farmers drove into town seeking shelter, many of them being homeless.

END 33 DAYS' RAIN STORM.

Rivers Begin to Fall, but Communication is Stopped.

Missoula, Mont., June 8.—Saturday night at 6 o'clock the sun broke through the clouds after 33 days of rain and the rainfall, which had been lessening since morning, ceased. The rivers show a lower mark than they did 24 hours ago and there is hope that the worst is over. But there has been great damage and it may be days or weeks before railroad traffic is resumed to the eastward.

All day Saturday Missoula was cut off from the outside world. Not until night had there been wire communication and it consisted of a single line to the west and none to the east. Saturday night and Sunday morning the high water reached its maximum, registering the highest mark ever known in this country. All of the city and county bridges are out and Missoula is divided into three districts, each of which is without communication with the outside. Three large residences in the city went down the river. Their occupants had been warned and were out before the flood struck. The big log jam of the Blackfoot Company has been held in place and the great power dam owned by W. A. Clark is intact.

The damage to farms in the bottom lands will be great. The loss to the city and county will run far into the thousands and cannot be estimated until the water goes down. The outlook today is encouraging and it is believed the crisis has been passed.

MISSOURI ON RAMPAGE.

Continued Rains in Montana Cost 8 Lives and Much Property.

Great Falls, Mont., June 8.—Never before in the history of Montana has there been such a flood as has been sweeping down the valley of the Missouri River and its tributaries. Five lives have already been lost in the waters in this vicinity, and the damage to farms, railroads and industrial and commercial institutions will run into the millions. The river is at the highest point ever known since the first settlement of Montana and it is still rising.

Some of the smaller outside towns are in even worse condition than is Great Falls. At last reports Choteau was completely surrounded by water and all bridges were gone. A large part of Belt was partially under water and the people had taken to the high ground.

Canadian Bridges Go Out.

McLeod, Alberta, June 8.—The Canadian Pacific bridge at West McLeod was swept away Friday night. St. Mary's bridge, between here and Letbridge, is a total wreck and the Canadian Pacific pumping station has been swept into the river. The bridge at Browket on the Crow's Nest line is expected to go at any time, and mail and freight and passenger traffic is at a standstill. Rain continues to fall in torrents. Farms for many miles around are inundated and houses have floated away, and the loss will be enormous.

Machine Shops Burn.

Victoria, B. C., June 8.—The three machine shops of the Victoria Machinery Depot Company, Limited, were destroyed by fire Saturday evening, which broke out at 8 o'clock, doing \$180,000 damage and throwing 150 men out of work. The insurance amounted to \$30,000. The fire was caused, it is thought, by the fire from the moulding room. Usually it is the custom to send out men to watch the sparks from this source, but on Saturday night the precaution was omitted.

Twister Strikes Oklahoma.

Durant, Okla., June 8.—A tornado which swept over a territory 12 miles west of Durant Saturday night destroyed a dozen farm houses and with a heavy storm of hail, which accompanied it, did damage estimated at \$150,000. A number of persons are reported injured, none fatally.

NEWS ITEMS FROM WASHINGTON, D. C.

ALDRICH CALLS MEETINGS.

Senate Committees on Currency and Finance to Assemble.

Washington, June 11.—Senator Aldrich, chairman of the senate committee on finance and also of the general currency commission, has called a meeting of the sub-committee appointed to devise a plan of operation for the commission and also a meeting of the sub-committee of the finance committee, which will have under special consideration the tariff question, both of which meetings will take place at the Plaza hotel in New York today. The currency commission will probably be in session for several days, but the understanding here is that the tariff committee will not be held there for so long a time. The tariff committee is authorized under the law to employ government experts in preparing for its work and this meeting is expected to lay out work for them. It is expected Senator Aldrich will go to the currency meeting with a prepared general outline of action.

TEST BOAT WITH TORPEDO.

Demonstration of Destruction Will be Sent Against Monitor Florida.

Washington, June 9.—Sacrificed for the benefit of naval construction, the monitor Florida, shot two weeks ago with the heaviest naval gun, will, on Saturday, June 13, be punctured beneath her waterline armor by the most powerful American Whitehead torpedo.

The first demonstration was to test the respective strength of armor plate and explosive shell, also to show the effectiveness of a new design of fighting mast. The torpedo is to be sent into the Florida that it may be definitely known whether a water-tight bulkhead, specially constructed within her, designed with all the most modern ideas of construction, can be depended upon to save a ship from destruction against this dangerous method of attack.

Secretary Metcalf has invited Secretary Taft to witness the test.

Railroads in Fear.

Washington, June 5.—Newspaper hammering of the plan to increase rates has resulted in compelling the railroads to desist therefrom, apparently. The announcement was made at the office of the interstate commerce commission today that the commission had information that new tariffs would be filed July 1. The law compels that new tariffs shall be filed a month in advance of the time new rates are to go into effect. June 1 has passed, and no increased tariffs have been filed, indicating that the plan announced after the trunk line meeting at New York, looking to increased rates beginning July 1, has been abandoned. The shippers' victory in this matter is wholly credited to the newspaper publicity, which has been persistent throughout the country against increases.

Emergency May Not Arise.

Washington, June 6.—Treasury officials declared today, after a study of the new currency law, there is nothing in the measure which says that clearing house certificates are illegal. They also express the opinion that not a dollar of the authorized emergency currency will ever be issued. Should an emergency arise, they think that clearing house certificates instead of highly taxed emergency currency would be resorted to again. The treasury department is arranging for \$500,000,000 in emergency circulation notes in blank for any bank which might apply for them under the regulations.

New Postage Rates.

Washington, June 6.—Uncle Sam can write to John Bull more frequently next fall, for after October 1 it will cost but 2 cents for each letter instead of 5. Announcement was made today at the office of the postmaster general that an agreement has been perfected by which the letter rate between the United States, England, Ireland and Scotland will be reduced from 5 cents to 2 cents. The change will mean a saving of much money, as the transatlantic mails have been increasing rapidly in volume.

Will Send More Marines.

Washington, June 5.—Publication of the United Press dispatch telling of the critical condition of affairs in the republic of Panama, aroused great interest here, and it was announced today that 200 additional marines have been ordered sent to the isthmus at once, with orders to protect American property and help keep order at the coming election. It is also planned to detail on the isthmus a large body of sailors being transferred to and from the Atlantic fleet if conditions do not improve before the election.

Girl to Practice in Supreme Court.

Washington, June 10.—The whole Beggs family has been admitted to practice before the United States supreme court. They are from New York City. The Beggs comprise Miss Helen, Alexander and Roderick. Miss Beggs, a handsome girl, is the twenty-seventh woman to be admitted to practice before the supreme court. Among the other twenty-six is Belya Lokwood, former candidate for the presidency, who stands first on the list.

Miss Roosevelt a Bridesmaid.

Washington, June 11.—Miss Ethel Roosevelt has gone to West Orange, N. J., where she will be a bridesmaid at the marriage of Miss Georgianna Harding Farr and Mr. Fletcher Harpner Sibley.

WORK OF TRUST LAWYERS.

Gompers Condemns Memorial on Integrity of Courts.

Washington, June 10.—Indignantly denying that the American Federation of Labor had attacked the integrity of the courts, state or national, President Gompers of that organization Monday night declared that the federation would wage a fight in Chicago on the memorial of New Yorkers, asking for an insertion of a plank in the platform of the Republican party, affirming confidence in the integrity and justice of the courts and insisting on preservation of their independence and full constitutional prerogatives. The executive council of the federation will hold its regular meeting in Chicago during the time the convention is held. Mr. Gompers will leave here Thursday. He declared that most of the signers of the resolution of protest were attorneys or other representatives of great corporations. He said that in Chicago "we will assert our rights, with the hope that the great gathering of Republicans will not be insensible to them."

"I believe in the courts," he added. "Organized labor does. We have not attacked their integrity, but that right of injunction has been abused no one can deny."

Government Gets Many Cigars.

Washington, June 10.—The internal revenue department has planned a series of prosecutions for alleged infractions of the internal revenue laws all over the United States. Officers of that department made seizures Thursday at two local drug stores on the ground that they were selling cigars in contravention of the internal revenue laws. The tops of boxes to which the majority of the stamps were affixed have been removed, thereby leaving the packages unprotected by proper stamps. The government contends this is prima facie evidence of the non-payment of the taxes, and cigars not protected by stamps must be declared forfeited to the United States.

Big Drydock for Bremerton.

Washington, June 5.—Revised specifications for the naval drydock to be built at the Bremerton navy yard, on Puget Sound, were completed today by Rear Admiral Holliday, chief of the navy yards bureau. It is expected that the dock will be completed 18 months from July 1, when work is expected to be started. Bids for the construction of the dock have been asked, and it is announced that they will be opened on June 18. The preparations are being carried on with dispatch, and it is not thought that any delay will be permitted. The need of the big navy dock on the Pacific has been made clear by the visit of the Atlantic fleet.

Harps on Same Old String.

Washington, June 11.—With news from Chicago all indicating Taft's nomination, Senator Bourne becomes more persistent in his "second-elective" crusade. The Washington Star Tuesday cartooned him as an attenuated troubadour playing a second-elective term tune on a banjo, under the shade of the white house, where Roosevelt and Taft sit smiling over a telegram from Chicago. A white house policeman is shown trying to drive Bourne away.

Will Decide After July 1.

Washington, June 9.—It is doubtful if the decision of the interstate commerce commission in the Pacific Coast lumber rate cases will be rendered much before July 1. Several weeks' work remains to be done, although every effort is being made to expedite these decisions. It is proposed to announce simultaneously the decision in all the Pacific Coast lumber rate cases, as the points involved are practically the same in all.

Inquiry Will be Ordered.

Washington, June 9.—The accident on the armored cruiser Tennessee, in which four men were killed and several injured, was caused by the bursting of a steam pipe while the vessel was off the California coast, and will be thoroughly examined into by a board of investigation appointed by Admiral Sebree. Admiral Sebree has wired a report containing practically the same information as the newspaper dispatches.

Held as a Filibuster.

Washington, June 6.—Complying with the request of the state department, the minister of foreign affairs of Honduras has ordered the arrest of F. G. Bailey, former president of the Export Shipping company, of New Jersey, and the detention of the steamer Goldborough and her cargo. This information came to the department in a dispatch from Minister Dodge at San Salvador, dated Wednesday.

New Battleships Named.

Washington, June 10.—Secretary of the Navy Metcalf has announced that the names of the two new battleships authorized by the last congress will be the Florida and the Utah. The next battleship authorized will be named the Wyoming.

Wheeler in Office.

Washington, June 10.—William R. Wheeler of California has taken the oath of office as assistant secretary of the department of commerce and labor, to which place he was recently appointed by the president. He formally entered upon his new duties.

Root Going Into Training.

Washington, June 10.—Secretary Root will leave here June 20 and spend several weeks at a training establishment and then go to his farm near Utica for the rest of the season.

RAILROAD TRAFFIC STOPPED.

Entire State of Montana a Vast Waste of Water.

Helena, Mont., June 5.—With the greatest rainfall in 28 years, Montana is experiencing the most complete demoralization of railroad traffic since the first train crossed the Rocky Mountains in this state.

Thousands of passengers are marooned. Six persons are reported drowned; railroad tracks are washed out in every direction. Land slides are reported on the Great Northern near Kalispell and the rivers are rapidly rising. This is the situation briefly summed up:

The property damage to railroads will run into the thousands and many of the big mountain trestles are endangered. There is, as yet, no prospect of a let-up in the downpour. Last night's precipitation is estimated at more than two inches.

It is believed that at least six persons have lost their lives as a result of the high water.

Nine Northern Pacific trains which were held up in the eastern part of the state since last Sunday arrived yesterday and left over the Great Northern tracks. These trains are now stalled at Great Falls, Havre and other points in Northern Montana. On the east of Helena the Great Northern tracks are washed out near Basin and both the morning and evening trains from Butte are held up there.

West of Garrison the tracks were washed out several days ago and no trains have been able to get through for a week. This cuts off all means of transportation to the coast, since the Great Northern trains cannot get through from the north.

One of the leading theatrical companies is held up in Helena now and the probabilities are it will have to remain here a week. The company has cancelled all its dates for several days ahead.

SHOOTS AT DREYFUS.

Military Journalist Seeks Revenge for Insult to French Army.

Paris, June 5.—Just at the close of the ceremonies attending the canonization of Emile Zola in the Pantheon yesterday, when the president of France, the premier and a host of ministers of state were taking their departure, Louis Anthono Gregoris, a military writer of note, drew a revolver and fired two shots point-blank at Major Alfred Dreyfus, for whose liberty Zola fought and won.

Men distinguished in all walks of life filled the Pantheon and, when the shots rang out, there was great excitement in fear that the president had been assassinated, but even the attempt on the life of Major Dreyfus created a profound impression. Soldiers speedily surrounded Gregoris and he was taken to jail, bruised and bleeding, with his clothes almost torn from his back.

Major Dreyfus was not seriously injured. A bullet entered his forearm, but did not injure the bone. At a late hour the official statement was made that his condition was very favorable and that no complications were feared.

With regard to the erasors for Gregoris' act, the opinion prevails in Paris that there is much truth in his avowal that he was driven to the deed by the appeals to hatred with which the anti-Semitic papers have been filled since the government resolved to place the body of Zola in the Pantheon.

PLANS TO HONOR FLEET.

Festivities in Auckland Will Continue Four Days.

Auckland, N. S. W., June 5.—Festivities to last over four days have been arranged for the entertainment of the men of the American battleship fleet and the governor of New Zealand, all the federal officials, the mayors and the municipal authorities are to participate in the welcome. On the arrival of the fleet August 8 there will be an official reception and a review of the volunteers; to be followed by a dinner to the admirals and officers of the fleet in the evening.

A municipal welcome will be given the following day and will include a reception by the mayor of Auckland. August 12 and 13 will be devoted to a visit to Kotraqua Lake, where there will be entertainments by the Maoris. The governor will entertain the visitors August 14 and this function will be attended by the members of the legislature.

Police Protect Money.

New York, June 5.—A New York, New Haven & Hartford train carrying eight Adams Express company cars, one of which contained \$150,000 in cash, collided with a switch engine in the Bronx yesterday, smashing both engines and derailing the cars. A dense crowd collected about the scene of the wreck, and the reserves were called out to protect the money, which was loose on the floor of the car. The police formed a line about the wrecked cars and held back the crowd until the money could be removed to a place of safety.

McClellan Gains Five.

New York, June 5.—A net gain of four votes for Mayor McClellan was the result of the ballots in the first nine boxes opened yesterday in court in the contested mayoralty election of 1905. The contents of 35 boxes in all were examined during the day and another vote was added to the McClellan total, the mayor's net gain for the day being five votes. From 112 boxes so far opened Hearst's net gain is 118, as against 123 when yesterday's counting was begun.

Typhoon Off Australia.

London, June 5.—A typhoon off the west coast of Australia is believed to have wrecked 40 boats and killed at least 275 sailors. The meager reports received here concerning the supposed sea tragedy say that the boats comprise the great pearl fishing fleet.

FLOODS CAUSE HAVOC

Montana Cut Off From Outside by Raging Rivers.

RAILROADS LOSE MUCH TRUCKAGE

Great Steel Bridges Washed Out—Wires Down on All Sides—Deluge Continues.

Missoula, Mont., June 6.—At 5 o'clock last evening the flood situation in western Montana was growing more serious each minute. Helena is cut off from the outside world. She is without railway, telegraph or telephone communication. For a short time in the afternoon there was a telephone connection, and at the time it was learned that all of the streams in Helena and vicinity are overflowing, and that there has been much damage to farms and considerable loss of livestock.

The Great Northern's branch lines are out of service, and the main line in northern Montana is cut in several places. The first train started eastward out of Spokane over the Great Northern is now tied up. There is no communication either by rail or telegraph.

All streams continue to rise. The Big Blackfoot river is nearly its highest flood mark.

The Northern Pacific has lost several miles of track east of here during the day. At Bonita, Nimrod and Bearmouth the telegraph operators have been compelled to leave their posts, driven out by the rising waters. At Garrison nearly all the residents have fled from their homes and are camped upon the hills in the rain.

None of the dams on the river have given way, though the power dam owned by ex-Senator William A. Clark, above Missoula, is reported to be in a critical condition.

Yesterday afternoon the Northern Pacific released by wagon transfer 200 of the passengers that have been marooned east of here. They will be sent to Spokane on a made-up train.

The damage to the new roadbed of the St. Paul line between Missoula and Butte will not fall short of a million dollars, and it is becoming greater all the time.

The Northern Pacific has assembled on this division all of the pildrivers from the west that it can get; it has taken from its own western divisions and has borrowed from other roads. The fight against the water is being carried on by 10,000 men, but the water is gaining steadily, and the rain continues to fall in torrents. The Missoula river at this place is but a few feet below the highest mark ever registered. The expensive cities here are in danger, and are guarded to prevent their use, so dangerous are they considered.

West of here the Northern Pacific has no trouble as yet.

At midnight the Northern Pacific has surrendered the fight against the water east of Missoula for the present. Unless the rain stops soon, there will be very little left of 150 miles of the most expensive road on the line. Two big steel bridges have been washed out, but it is not understood that they are destroyed.

The serious feature of the situation is the fact that the high water has extended west of Missoula, and is attacking the track between Missoula and the west end of the state. The Idaho division has sent a big force of men over to help in the fight on the west end.

CRUISER'S BOILER BURSTS.

Four Men Killed by Explosion on Tennessee at San Pedro.

San Pedro, Cal., June 5.—While the United States armored cruiser Tennessee was steaming at 19 knots per hour on speed trial off Point Huemene, Cal., at 11:08 yesterday morning, a steam pipe in the starboard engine room burst under a 235-pound pressure, killing four men and injuring ten others—all of the men in the compartment at the time. Two of the injured will die.

The explosion, the cause of which is yet unknown, occurred only a few minutes after Admiral Urial Sebree, Captain J. B. Howard and Chief Engineer Robertson had left the engine room on a tour of inspection. Four of the men were killed instantly, and two more are expected to die at any moment.

Boycott Is Spreading.

Tokyo, June 6.—Two hundred thousand yen is now indicated as the size of the proposed present to Canton guilds if the boycott is discontinued. Meanwhile advices from north China and Manchuria state that, owing to the activity of the Cantonese emissaries, the movement is rapidly spreading throughout the north. The emissaries are working systematically and secretly. Their literature makes no mention either of the boycott or of Japan, speaking of "the national disgrace with reference to the country responsible," which the Chinese all understand means Japan.

Judge Administers Rebuke.

San Francisco, June 6.—Judge Conley administered a rebuke to the venemore who are attempting to evade jury duty in the trial of Walter J. Bartlett, the alleged bank wrecker, this morning. Nearly every man called had some ailment. Most of them were deaf, either in one ear or the other, and Judge Conley finally stated that it seemed that the venemore were drawn from infirmaries or hospitals. Only one man was passed today.

Bringing Back the Meat.

London, June 6.—It is declared here today that 210,000 pounds of American meat that has been stored in London, Glasgow and Liverpool was today shipped by fast steamer to New York to meet the continued shortage of meat in the United States.