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## RAILROAD RATES ARE RAISED.

### Freight 25 Per Cent, Passengers Three Cents Per Mile.

Washington, May 27—To meet wage increases just announced and higher costs of coal and other supplies this year, Director General McAdoo today ordered railroad freight rates in the United States raised 25 per cent and passenger fares increased to 3 cents a mile from the present basis of about 2 1/2 cents. It is estimated that the program will bring in between \$80,000,000 and \$90,000,000 more revenues to the railroads within the next year. It represents by far the biggest rate increase in the history of railroads.

Director General McAdoo today telegraphed chairmen of state railway commissions, notifying them of the increased rates and asking them to cooperate by suggesting readjustments or changes. The director general does not expect state authorities to overrule any of his rate orders however.

Mr. McAdoo explained that the railroad act does not permit him to "share with the state commissions the responsibility which rests upon the railroad administration for the financial results to the United States government of the operation of the railroads."

The new freight charges, which cover both class and commodity rates, become effective June 25, and the passenger increase will go into effect June 10.

Issued under authority granted by the railroad act to President Wilson, acting through the director general, the order wipes out all intrastate lower rates effective on either freight or passenger traffic.

Travelers in standard sleeping and parlor cars are required to pay 3 1/2 cents a mile, in addition to Pullman fares, and in tourist sleeping cars 3 1/4 cent. Pullman rates remain the same.

## Regimental Drum And Bugle Corps Ordered.

Washington, May 28—The army general staff has ordered on General Pershing's recommendation that all regimental bands be increased from 28 to 50 pieces, a war department announcement today says. A bugle and drum corps for each infantry regiment will be created.

## MAY OPEN ARMY TO MEN OF 55 YEARS.

### War Department Asks For Passage of Bill Raising The Age Limit for Volunteers.

Washington, May 27—Secretary Baker has sent to congress the draft of a bill proposing to raise the maximum age limit for voluntary enlistment in the army from 49 to 55 years for non-combatant service.

In a letter to Speaker Clark asking that the bill be pushed, Secretary Baker said:

"Every man above the age of 40 years who is enlisted in non-combatant branches of the service will make available for duty with the line troops a man within the prescribed age limit for all troops.

"Many men whose long experience as mechanics and artisans will make them particularly valuable to the various staff corps and departments may be thus secured instead of younger men without such experience and the efficiency of the staff corps and the departments thus will be increased."

There are probably 7,500,000 men between the ages of 40 and 55 and many thousands of them have already attested desire to serve by bombarding the department with applications.

While the great majority of the men in this class undoubtedly will be restrained from enlisting by family and business ties, the number at liberty to join the colors is expected to be more than sufficient to meet the purpose in view.

## Sawed-Off Shotgun Used By Americans.

Atlantic City, N. J., May 28—American factories are now producing Lee-Enfield rifles at the rate of 9000 a day enough to equip two army divisions weekly—according to Representative John Q. Tilson, of Connecticut, a member of the house military affairs committee, who addressed the Hardware Manufacturers' Association for War Service here.

The speaker said he knew of the completion of one order for 10,000 sawed-off shotguns of the buckshot shooting model which General Pershing was quoted as inforcing as being especially well adapted for modern trench warfare. He said these guns now are being used by American fighting men.

## WAGES ON THE RAILROADS ARE RAISED

### Men Get Back Pay From January First.

Washington, May 27—Two million railroad employes will receive increases in pay, retroactive to January 1 last aggregating about \$300,000,000 a year, under an order of Administrator McAdoo, carrying out substantially the recommendations of the railway wage commission. Half of the amount will be distributed within a few weeks as back pay in lump sums ranging from about \$100 to nearly \$200 each.

The director general departed from the wage commission's recommendations in the following particulars:

The principle of the basic eight hour day is recognized, but owing to exigencies of the war situation, hours of employment are not actually reduced and overtime is to be paid pro rata; future adjustments of pay are to be made on the basis of eight hours.

In addition to the ordinary scale of increase, day laborers employed mainly on track work, are to get at least 2 1/2 cents an hour more than they received last December 31.

A minimum of 55 cents an hour is established for the shop trades, including machinists, boilermakers and blacksmiths, and women are to receive the same pay as men for the same work, and negroes are to get the same as white men for similar employment.

The wage order applies to all employes of the 134 roads now under federal management, but not to the so-called short lines unless they are retained by the government after July 1.

## Women Relieve Labor Shortage On Roads.

Chehalis, Wash., May 27—So scarce has labor become in the rural districts of Lewis county and in the towns and cities that a number of the road supervisors in Eastern Lewis county are employing women, dressed in overalls to drive teams and do general road work. The season for road work is pushing the supervisors, and a certain amount of repair work and new construction must be done now. The women are reported to be giving excellent satisfaction.

Twenty-four cents an ounce is the proposed rate for mail conveyed by airplane. You can say a lot in an ounce if you weigh well your words.

## OUR OWN STATE

### Some Recent Happenings In Various Parts of Oregon

#### Girl Hurt When Auto Upsets.

Lebanon, Or., May 27—Miss Lillie Dittmar, a member of an auto party, was seriously injured when an auto, driven by Miss Nella Richards, a high school girl, turned over at a street corner. Several other girls in the machine escaped unhurt.

#### Telephone Line and Trail Planned In Umpqua Forest.

Roseburg, Or., May 28—Over 30 miles of telephone line and trail is to be built in the Umpqua forest this season by Supervisor S. C. Bartrum. Three construction gangs will work. Mr. Bartrum expects to employ 63 patrolmen this summer in the forest to prevent fires.

#### Cow Presented To Red Cross Sold To Boost War Fund.

St. Helens, Or., May 27—Albert Adams, a patriotic citizen of Deer Island, donated to the Columbia auxiliary of Deer Island a fine Jersey cow to be sold for the benefit of the Red Cross. The cow was sold to Oscar Johnson, of Warren, and netted the Red Cross in the neighborhood of \$350.

#### Klamath Stockman Kills Self.

Klamath Falls, Or., May 25—Charles N. Myers, a local stockman, killed himself with a shot from an automatic pistol on Thursday night, owing to ill health. He was born in St. Louis in 1850, served the army as a packer in the Black hills in 1870 and for years after in Indian wars, and saw service during the Philippine war and the Boxer trouble in China. Last year, when war broke out, he was again accepted by the army, but later discharged on account of ill health.

#### Pays \$50 To Red Cross.

Klamath Falls, Or., May 27—Elmer Lynch, who was fined \$50 for bootlegging, was given his choice by Judge Gowen of spending 31 days in jail or giving \$50 to the Red Cross. He chose the latter course. Lynch is an Indian and has been up on similar charges before.

#### Power Plant Is Offered To Klamath Falls Government.

Klamath Falls, Or., May 27—Kerns Bros., of Keno, have made a tentative offer to the city of Klamath Falls of the power plant they own. A price has not been set as yet. The company was recently granted permission to enter the city with power lines, in order to supply the city with electricity. The matter is under consideration.

#### Three Defaulter's In Draft Are Being Kept In Jail.

Roseburg, Or., May 27—Three defaulters from the army draft are held here—James O'Malley, of Independence, Cal.; Frank Sullivan, of Bakersfield, and John Farrell, of Port Haron, Mich. Sullivan is being held pending other instructions. He was discharged from the national guard at American Lake, Wash., in October, 1916, but failed to answer the army reserve call of July, 1917. The other two men will either be allowed to answer questionnaires or be inducted into the army immediately.

#### State Fire Marshal Warns Home Owners.

Salem, Or., May 28—State Fire Marshal Harvey Wells, in an appeal to farmers, urges them to make careful inspection of their houses and other buildings to forestall destruction by fire. Brick chimneys and stovepipes through wooden partitions are mentioned as serious menaces to property and responsible for many fires of unknown origin.

Mr. Wells finds upon investigation that a large percentage of farm buildings destroyed by fire are not covered by insurance, and those that are insured carry only small protection.

## PRINEVILLE WILL HAVE OWN RAILROAD SOON

### Laying of The Rails Will Start This Week for Connection With Outside.

Prineville, Or., May 27—Prineville's vision of a railroad for the past 40 years is soon to be realized. This long-needed necessity, being built by the city, is to be completed soon. The right-of-way has been secured and fenced, grading is completed and the ties have been delivered. After the construction of a bridge and the laying of rails the road will be ready for use.

Director General McAdoo, of the government administration of railroads has granted the steel necessary for the completion of the road. This municipal railroad will have the service of the O. W. R. R. & N. company's tracks. P. L. Gogerty, of the O. W. R. R. & N., will supervise the remaining construction work and the laying of steel is to begin next Wednesday. Mayor Stewart is in Portland now, completing the final arrangements.

## GERMANY'S TWENTY-FIRST ENEMY.

### Costa Rica Declared War On Central Powers May 25th.

San Juan Del Sur, Nicaragua, May 25—The government of Costa Rica has declared war on the Central Powers, according to advices received here.

The declaration of war by Costa Rica on the Central Powers brings the total number of nations aligned against Germany up to a total of 21. All of the Central American states now have clearly defined their attitude toward the war. Panama, Nicaragua and Guatemala have become belligerents. Honduras has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, while San Salvador has remained neutral, explaining that this neutrality is friendly to the United States.

The government of Costa Rica, headed by President Tinoco, has never been recognized by the United States. It came into power after the deposition of President Gonzalez in January 1917.

#### Heppner Swept By Fire.

Heppner, Or., May 28—Fire starting from a box of hot ashes back of the local opera house late yesterday destroyed a portion of the business section here, causing damage estimated at \$25,000. B. G. Sigsbee, a photographer, and Oscar Otto were caught in Sigsbee's studio by the flames, and were rescued with difficulty from a window, both injured by the flames. Dick Johns, a garage owner, was badly burned about the face. A wind-storm prevailed, fanning the flames.

#### Earthquake In New Mexico.

Santa Fe, N. M., May 28—The third earthquake shock felt in Santa Fe since 1874 occurred here at 5:30 o'clock this morning, and was heavy enough to shake plaster off walls of houses. The shock lasted about five seconds, and was accompanied by a plainly audible rumbling. Reports from nearby towns indicate the quake generally was of the same strength and duration. No serious damage has been reported.

#### Quick Work With Murderer.

Kalama, Wash., May 27—William R. Horner, murderer of Mrs. Bassett and her two children at Kelso a week ago, this forenoon appeared in the superior court here and pleaded guilty to the murder before Judge W. T. Darch, and was sentenced to life imprisonment at Walla Walla penitentiary.

He made a confession of the triple murder in court and signed it before Judge Darch.

Lloyd-George would feel loggish without a fight or a crisis to face every week or two.

Do not forget the saving habit. There are likely to be other bond issues and there are the war saving stamps.

## INDUSTRIAL REVENUE

### Manufactures, Enterprises and Improvements, Providing Payrolls and Promoting Development of Oregon.

Portland—Big freighter West Indian, built here, completed and turned over to U. S.

Fake conservationists are still trying to block water power development at this critical time but the public has a better understanding of situation today and relief must soon be granted.

Klamath Falls—Molok lumber Co. rehabilitated old sawmill on Williamson river, built 30 working horses and is employing more than 100 men.

Marshfield—At least one government vessel will be launched each month from now on by Coos Bay shipyards.

Harney valley citizens eager for oil development. Convicted petroleum underlies large area of district. Abundance of gas found at shallow depth.

Portland—Fireproof paint, impervious to water and flames to be manufactured here, is local product.

As a patriotic duty, whether you be an editor, public official or private citizen you should fight for strictest economy in all municipal and state expenditures at this time.

Portland—Alisky building has been taken for investment by Laid & Tilson corporation. Valued at \$195,940.

Grants Pass—Josephine Co. mills enjoy all year run. About five mills each cutting an average of about 20,000 feet per day, in the district between this city and Swede Basin.

Oregon City—Oregon City Manufacturing Co. operating largest woolen mill in west. Losses grinding out enormous product. Employees 400 workers.

Marshfield—Water shipments of lumber large. Over 16,000,000 feet sent during April.

St. Helens—Another bank to be established here. Known as the First National.

Wood River—New cannery is rushed. Will employ 200 women and girls this summer.

Cottage Grove—Oakland Planing mill will be moved to Cottage Grove shortly for consolidation with Cottage Grove Planing Mill Co.

St. Helens—Contractors start work on St. Helens-Pittsburg road.

A man is either a fool or a hypocrite who would argue that utility rates can stand still when labor and material entering into their production have all increased from 25 to 400 per cent.

Reedsport—Kennedy & Browns to erect large store building. 80 by 36.

Reedsport—New boat shop being built here.

Coquille—New water main, drinking fountain and fire gongs authorized by city council.

## Abundant Harvest Is Likely In France.

Paris, May 28—Prospects for the coming harvest in France are better than any year since 1893, Victor Boret, food minister, informed the Associated Press upon his return from a week end tour in the country.

"Unless unforeseen situations arise between now and harvest time," he added, "actual restrictions on food consumption will not be increased. I may even say that the restrictions at present in force gradually will be eliminated."

## Soldiers To Ride For One Cent Per Mile.

Washington, May 28—Soldiers and sailors on furlough and traveling at their own expense will receive special passenger rates of about 1 cent a mile under an order issued by Director General McAdoo, to become effective as soon as necessary forms are printed and distributed, probably within two weeks.

## 8000 More Motor Trucks Are Contracted

Washington, May 27—Orders for 8000 more motor trucks for the war have been placed with 14 manufacturers, the war department announced today. This is in addition to 10,000 similar trucks now being delivered.

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