



NORTHWEST WILL FIGHT FEDERAL RAILWAY RATES.

Oregon, Washington and Idaho to Contest Authority to Fix Rates.

Portland, March 5.—Following a conference today at the court house between the public service commissions of Washington, Idaho and Oregon, decision was reached to legally test the jurisdiction of the director general of railroads over intrastate rates. Already the Washington commission has instituted legal proceedings testing the validity of intrastate switching rates instituted in Washington, and all three commissions will probably unite upon this as the test case, although it is barely possible that the Idaho and Oregon commission may also institute local suits.

Preceding the decision the question of the validity of the jurisdiction of the director general of railroads over intrastate rates were thoroughly discussed between the members of the three commissions, Attorney General Tanner, of Washington, and Assistant Attorney General Bailey, of Oregon. While the members of the three commissions seemed unanimous in the belief that the director general of railroads could not legally exercise jurisdiction over intrastate rates—especially now that the war has been terminated—Assistant Attorney General Bailey was unable to agree on the subject.

Auto Fees Total \$4000.

Yakima, Wash., March 2.—Applicants stood in line at the counter of the county auditor's office waiting for automobile licenses Saturday morning.

Automobile fee collections during the day amounted to nearly \$4000 and the auditor estimated that automobile owners of the county will pay this month upwards of \$400,000 for licenses.

Chrome Bill Signed by the President.

Washington, March 3.—A bill validating and authorizing adjustment of more than two and a half billion dollars of war contracts, and the thirty-three million dollar rivers and harbors appropriation bill were signed today by President Wilson. The first bill carries \$8,500,000 to reimburse war mineral developers.

Our Allies in the Near East

By CHARLES EVANS HUGHES

Probably at no time in the history of the world have there been so many fatherless and motherless children as there are today. Tens of thousands, probably hundreds of thousands in Armenia, Syria, Caucasus, Persia, Mesopotamia and Palestine are not only without parents, but are without any strong parental government to give them the help and protection which orphan children of other lands enjoy.

American Consuls and missionaries cable the American Committee for Relief in the Near East, almost daily regarding the situation. One message from the Russian Caucasus pleads for the support of 10,000 children at an average expense of two dollars per month per child. Another from Tiflis reports 40,000 children in one region waiting for an answer to a previous cablegram requesting help. Reports from other points indicate similar conditions. Among the many appeals it is possible for this committee to assume responsibility for only the most pressing cases, and it is upon these that the committee would focus the attention of the American people. Splendid help has been rendered the little ones in other lands, but these in Western Asia are no less human than those who have already been aided by American charity. It is the duty of Americans, as well as a privilege to respond to this great opportunity and help keep alive the best civilization that Western Asia has developed.

All expenses of administration for this relief are privately met, so that every dollar sent to the committee is used directly by their agents in purchasing food and supplies for the needy who, according to the best advices and from audited reports, receive the full benefit of the funds sent them.

Out of the horror and nightmare through which these people have passed comes the gratifying word that we can be of assistance; that our efforts will prove availing, and that we can share with these orphan children the bounty which we, as Americans, have enjoyed for years. The work done by this committee has been most unselfish and effective under conditions of great personal sacrifice. May America respond to their appeals.

OUR OWN STATE Some Recent Happenings In Various Parts of Oregon

10 Feet of Snow at Crater Lake.

Klamath Falls, March 3.—Snow is now nearly three feet deep on the level at Kirk on Klamath Indian reservation, 40 miles north of this city, and is about 10 feet deep at the Algoma Lumber company's camp, some distance west of Kirk, according to J. M. Bedford, in charge of timber on Klamath Indian reservation.

A depth of ten feet of snow was reported at Crater Lake national park several days ago. This amount being about normal.

Highway Commission's Plans Told by Booth.

Albany, March 2.—Highway Commissioner Booth addressed the Men's club last night in this city on roads. He indicated that the commission's policy would probably be to connect up the highway from Portland south instead of building short patches in scattered localities.

Ashland Policeman Killed by Locomotive.

Ashland, March 3.—George M. Lowe, night policeman, was accidentally killed in the local railroad yards Sunday night. He was struck by train No. 15 and evidently was bewildered by the glaring headlights, stepping onto the wrong track. His left arm was severed and he was otherwise injured, dying instantly. He had been on the police force since last August, and his age is 54 years. He leaves a wife and five children, residing on Vista street. A coroner's investigation will probably be held.

North Bend Scale Drops.

North Bend, Or., March 4.—It is announced that the North Bend Mill & Lumber company plant in this city, which has been closed for repairs and alterations since the middle of December, will resume operation March 10.

Operations will be resumed under a revised wage scale, with a minimum of 40 cents per hour for common labor, instead of 45 and 50 cents, as paid under the former Macy scale, and a corresponding reduction in the pay of skilled labor.

It is reported that the new wage scale is acceptable to the Loyal Legion and it is believed all mills in this section will operate shortly on this wage basis.

Oregon I. O. O. F. Get No Special Rates.

Washington, March 1.—No reduced rate will be granted the Oregon grand lodge of Odd Fellows or any other conventions in the United States, according to advices of the railroad administration to Senator McNary today. The only exception to the rule will be the G. A. R. and the Confederate veterans.

Hides Money in Stove Then Starts A Fire.

Canyonville, Ore., March 3.—When A. C. Carson of Canyonville, went away from home for three days last week, he hid \$225 in bills in his cook-stove, for safekeeping. He returned yesterday and built a fire in the stove. An hour later he thought of the money. A roll of charred paper marked its resting place.

League of Nations Indorsed.

Weston, Or., March 2.—At the close of an address on the league of nations by George W. Taylor of Los Angeles to an audience of more than 300 at the Ministerial association meeting a unanimous vote was given in favor of a league of nations, according to its constitution as now drafted.

Sulphur and Iron Spring Is Located Near Elma.

Chehalis, Wash., March 4.—A sulphur and iron spring just east of Elma on the ranch of Silas Pearson, has been located by Michael Ryan, the real estate dealer, and A. A. Brauer, banker. Ryan, Pearson and Brauer are to have the water analyzed and expect to exploit it as a sanitarium project. Iron and other ores are said to exist in the low line of hills around Elma.

GOVERNOR WITHY-COMBE DEAD

Ben W. Olcott, Secretary of State is Now Governor.

Salem, Ore., March 4.—James Withycombe, fifteenth governor of Oregon, died at 8:15 o'clock last night in his 64th year. His death was due to a general breakdown in health which had progressed during the last two years. Death came peacefully after the governor had put in the day disposing of enactments by the legislature. Ben W. Olcott, secretary of state, under the constitution of the state of Oregon, becomes governor, and until the end of term will act in the dual capacity of secretary and chief executive.

James Withycombe was Oregon's war governor. In the record of the state, which ranked high in volunteer enlistments, money contributions and bond buying throughout the nineteen months of warfare, his was the guiding hand. It was on his record as war governor that he was re-elected without difficulty by Oregon republicans in 1918.

As farmer, educator, breeder of improved livestock, state veterinarian for nine years and director of the state experiment station, Mr. Withycombe had made a name for himself in the affairs of his chosen state, for more than forty years before he was made its chief executive.

Oregon has New Governor.

Salem, Ore., March 4.—Ben W. Olcott, once appointed and twice elected secretary of state became governor of Oregon upon the death of Governor Withycombe last night. He is the sixteenth governor of Oregon.

By being thrust suddenly into the executive chair, Governor Olcott faces the heavy task of considering bills passed by the recent legislature and not yet disposed of by his predecessor. He also will have the appointment of several officials and members of boards and commissions created by the legislature.

The new governor will continue to hold office both as secretary of state and governor, and will have two votes as member of the state board of control and will control the actions of that board. He will draw both salaries.

Mr. Olcott was a candidate for the republican gubernatorial nomination last May but was defeated by governor Withycombe. He is a native of Illinois, 47 years old.

MADRID UNDER MARTIAL LAW.

Declaration Follows Uprising Against Profiteers; Constitution Guarantees End in Lerida

Madrid, Friday, March 1.—Martial law has been declared in Madrid and troops are patrolling the streets. Order has been restored, but some theatres have been closed.

This action was the result of rioting against profiteers today, provision and butcher shops being taken by mobs.

The government has taken possession of all possessions of all bake shops. Premier Romanones has issued a statement saying that martial law had been declared so as to enable the government to work better for a settlement of pending social questions.

King Alfonso has signed a decree suspending constitutional guarantees in the province of Lerida, Catalonia.

The workmen of the supply company at Barcelona have struck, according to information received here, and the municipal council has threatened to resign unless help is sent.

California Visited By Heavy Rain Storm.

San Francisco, March 3.—Rain visited every part of the state during the 24 hours ending at 5 o'clock today, the heaviest fall of 1.02 inches being reported at Eureka, according to the United States Weather bureau here. San Francisco has passed its normal rainfall to date by 6.51 inches. Eureka still is 1.68 inches behind the normal seasonal average of 32.28 inches. Southern California also is behind in rainfall. Los Angeles is lacking 5.49 inches and San Diego 1.13 of the average normal up to this date.

INDUSTRIAL REVIEW

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

Mar. 3.—Portland—Seven ships totaling 49,000 tons launched last week.

North Portland—The Portland Cattle Loan Company, the Columbia Basin Wool Warehouse and the Live Stock State bank of this place, during 1918, loaned to farmers and stockmen of the northwest \$59,500,000.

North Portland—Facades, mills and other enterprises in the Peninsula Industrial District, at North Portland, during 1918 did a total business of \$112,392,000.

Oregon legislature unanimous against government operative railroads.

Salem—\$28,000,000 in sight for Oregon highways for next three years.

Mulnomah and Clark counties made made \$19,883 on Vancouver bridge for 1918.

Sunday Portland Journal says 12,000 unemployed in that city.

Fuel famine on Coos Bay gives employment to men cutting wood.

Dallas—Polk county co-operative warehouse makes 5 per cent dividend.

Pendleton—St. Anthony's hospital to have \$100,000 addition.

Contract let for paving 333 feet of Seaside highway.

Work begun on Hood River-Mooser state highway.

Oregon legislature make liberal appropriation for salmon industry.

Leading livestock men in Oregon, Idaho, Washington and Montana hold conference in Portland. Adopt plan for \$500,000 exposition building.

Coast states can make no mistake appropriating money for propagation of salmon, the money is returned five fold in food products, revenues to the state and employment of labor.

Marshfield—Coos dairyman made \$225 a year from his cows.

Beck and Delta mills, on Siuslaw, have started operations.

Bend—80,000 acre tract withdrawn for reservoir above Benham Falls.

Tillamook co-operative cheese factories report increased product.

Lacomb—Plans completed for boring for oil near here.

Melalla to have a pottery factory.

Coos and Douglas counties get 93,000 acres wagon road lands.

S. P. Co. gets \$17,950,000 from government for use of lines.

Logging camps in Clatsop county begins operations.

Mosier and The Dalles cherry growers to co-operate in marketing.

Silverton—Pine Bluff motor vehicle service station to be built.

Bend to expend \$350,000 on streets this year.

Portland phone systems merged into one.

Marshfield—Bay Mill installs electrically operated shingle mill.

Roadsport—New bank building started here. Rumored that two more lumber mills will start up soon.

Hood River—Growers planning to increase pear acreage.

Astoria—Pacific Power & Light Co. to install 4,500 h. p. electric generating plant here. Addition made necessary by creation of 3,000 barrel flouring mill for Astoria Flouring Mill Company.

Eugene—Ranch of 40 acres sold for \$4000.

Port Umpqua—Bridge across Schofield River in course of completion.

Bend—Shevlin-Hixon logging road extension assured; contract closed for \$100,000 job; 150 men will be needed for six months.

First Woman Presides in House at Olympia.

Olympia, March 3.—For the first time in Washington's history, a woman, Mrs. Frances M. Heskell, Representative from Tacoma, today presided over the state house of representatives. Speaker Fred A. Adams called her to the chair while the house was discussing reclassification of counties.

Representative James Zylstra of Coupsville addressed the chair as "Madame Speaker." Mrs. Heskell rapped her gavel and declared "Mr. Speaker is the rule of the house." Zylstra apologized.

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