



COAST POINTS TO HOLD LOWER RATE

Water Competition Is Still Factor.

SPOKANE LOSES CONTENTION

Long-and-Short-Haul Clause Is Not Absolute.

RAIL TARIFF ZONES FIXED

Interstate Commission Holds That Coast Rates May Be Lower Than to Intermediate Points, but Reduces the Differential.

POINTS OF DECISION. Spokane and other intermediate points fall in their contention for transcontinental rates equivalent to those in effect from Eastern points to Portland and Puget Sound.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—In what are known as the Spokane-Reno-Pacific cases, the Interstate Commerce Commission today ordered material reduction in freight rates from the East to points between Denver and the Western terminals of the transcontinental railroads.

For many years the railroads have exacted from shippers to intermediate points such as Spokane and Reno higher rates on Eastern freights than were charged for the much longer hauls to Seattle, San Francisco and other Pacific Coast points.

Comparison Is Defense.

The theory has been that the railroads must meet water competition to the Pacific Coast. The higher rates to intermediate points, arbitrarily fixed, have been defended by a comparison with the coast rates, plus a theoretical backhaul from the coast to the inland stations along the line.

The Commission recognizes the right of a railroad to meet water competition to Pacific Coast points, but practically wipes out the back-haul rates to Inter-Rocky Mountain territory.

Fair Rate Laid Down.

It lays down what it considers would be fair and just rates to various freight zones in the West and gives the railroads until October 15 to adjust their tariff accordingly.

The Commission holds in the so-called Reno case that traffic originating at Chicago and in Chicago territory moving under commodity rates may have a rate 7 per cent higher to intermediate points than that imposed on freight originating in Chicago and Chicago territory destined to the Pacific Coast terminals.

Eastern Rate May Rise.

From Buffalo-Pittsburg territory the rates may rise above those demanded for the same points to Pacific Coast terminals to the extent of 15 per cent; while from New York and trunk line territory, trunk rate charges shall not exceed 23 per cent over Pacific Coast terminal rates.

These are the first decisions announced by the Commission in which a definite principle in response to the long and short haul provision is laid down. While the opinions fully recognize the influence of water competition, to a marked extent they draw a line upon indiscriminate "market" competition.

Commercial Causes Count.

The effect of the decisions will be to notify the carriers that they will be allowed to meet water competition to a reasonable extent, but that the location of the markets hereafter will be left more to the play of commercial causes than to the will of the traffic managers of railroads.

The cases involved are those of the City of Spokane against the Northern Pacific Railway Company, known popularly as the "Spokane rate case"; the Commercial Club of Salt Lake City against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company and others; the

RAILROADS SHOW BETTER EARNINGS

IN WEEK GAIN IS .8 PER CENT OVER YEAR AGO.

Increase Not Considered Large, but Indicates Recovery From Tendency Toward Contraction.

CHICAGO, July 24.—(Special.)—For the first time in a considerable period the weekly report of railroad gross earnings shows some increase, the total for the first week in July of all railroads in the United States aggregating \$9,042,019, a gain of .8 per cent compared with the earnings of the same week for the corresponding week a year ago.

While the increase is not very large, it is considered satisfactory, as showing recovery from the tendency toward contraction that has been in evidence for some time past.

In the South, the Central of Georgia, Chesapeake & Ohio, Louisville & Nashville, Seaboard Air Line and Mobile & Ohio, among the leading systems, now report gains, while in the West and Southwest earnings are larger than last year on the Denver & Rio Grande, Minneapolis & St. Louis, Missouri, Kansas & Texas, Missouri Pacific and Texas & Pacific.

In other sections of the country the Chicago & Alton, Chicago Great Western, "Soe" and Wabash are among the roads that report increased earnings.

BLAST DESTROYS LAUNCH

Richard at Bay Ocean Is Burned After Explosion Occurs.

TILLAMOOK, Or., July 24.—(Special.)—When the boiler of the T. B. Potter, Realty Company's launch, Richard, exploded at the Bay Ocean wharf this morning the boat was wrecked and the fire, which followed, consumed the wreckage and gutted the hull. Joe Richardson, the only occupant at the time was badly burned about the hands and face.

The Richard had just returned from Garibaldi and docked at the wharf and Captain Richardson was tinkering with the engine, which was still running when the explosion occurred. He was stunned for a moment, but had presence of mind enough to crawl out through a window. It is thought that the explosion was caused by ignition in the muffler.

The Richard was a seagoing craft, which has been maintained at Bay Ocean for pleasure purposes, and has been there since the first of the year. She was a speedy gasoline launch and was fitted especially with passenger accommodations. Her length was about 39 feet.

OLD COIN IN CIRCULATION

Postal Savings Bank Brings Out Money Hoarded for Years.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—(Special.)—Postmaster-General Hitchcock has received a letter from William F. Elgin, postmaster at Corinth, Miss., in which he enclosed a silver dollar of the coinage of 1853, a sample of several hundred he has received since the postal savings bank system went into effect in his office about a week ago. This coin has a coating of green mould, seeming to indicate that it has been either buried or kept in a moist place for some years at least.

Postmaster Elgin in his letter to the Postmaster-General says: "I am inclosing, with my compliments, a silver dollar, which was deposited together with several hundred others just like it which had apparently been buried for many years. I send this to show you the benefits which the enactment of the Postal Savings Bank is really bringing about. I believe it will be the means of putting a great deal of money into circulation which has been concealed heretofore and will in reality prove a benefit to the banks rather than an injury as some have predicted prior and subsequent to the enactment of the postal saving bank law."

ENVELOPE FACE CLEARED

All Stamps but Uncle Sam's Must Be on Reverse Side.

Use of Red Cross or other imitation stamps on the address side of domestic mail has been prohibited by orders just issued from the Postoffice Department at Washington. Postmaster Merrick has received a copy of the order, which provides that no adhesive stamps or imitations of stamps, of any form or design whatever, shall be affixed to the address side of domestic mail. "All such stamps," reads the order, "provided they do not resemble lawful postage stamps, may be affixed to the reverse side of domestic mail matter. All such mail bearing any such stamps on the address side will be returned to the sender, when the address is known, otherwise they will be forwarded to the dead letter office."

GERMANY MUST SPEAK OUT

Lloyd-George's Speech Interpreted by France as Warning.

PARIS, July 24.—Opinion in France is that the time has arrived for Germany to say what she really wants, since the present situation of uncertainty may soon disturb international relations. Meantime, the speech of David Lloyd-George, the British Chancellor, before the London bankers last week, is interpreted as a direct warning to Germany, and is considered as having enormously strengthened the attitude of France, which will not accept any German proposal that involves a wholesale turning over of French colonial territory.

The press is unanimous in its opinion that Lloyd-George's words signified that the British-French entente is really an alliance with which Germany must reckon.

HOTTEST DAY IN 4 YEARS MELTS CITY

Thermometer at 99.3 Stifling Record.

DESERT FIERY WIND WAFTED

Cascades Powerless to Check Interloping Breeze.

JULY CLIMATE IS FREAK

Portland Third Warmest Place in Union in Surprising Day—Noon Mercury Highest for Long Period—Relief 2 Days Off.

HIGH TEMPERATURES IN PACIFIC NORTHWEST MONDAY

Portland ... 99.3 Spokane ... 94
Oregon ... 92.0 Walla Walla ... 100
Boise ... 92.0
Marshall ... 70.0 Tacoma Island ... 70
Roseburg ... 100.0

When the mercury rose to a point within seven-tenths of a degree of the 100 mark yesterday afternoon at 4:20 o'clock, Portland basked in its hottest temperature since July 30, 1907, when 102 degrees was recorded.

The afternoon was a scorcher, the comparative mean temperatures showing nothing to equal it since the record day of 1907. The mercury ranged above 97 degrees from 1:45 o'clock until 5:45 P. M. and between 4 o'clock and 5 o'clock it was 99 degrees and at 4:20 o'clock it was 99.3 degrees.

The day started with unusual temperatures, 70 degrees being reached as early as 7 o'clock. At 10 o'clock 80 degrees was registered and at noon 88 degrees, the hottest at that hour for many years. From noon on the mercury rose at a great rate until the maximum was attained at 4:20. With the evening the usual cool breezes were wafting and at 7 P. M. the mercury was still up to 92 degrees.

Desert Heat Blown.

The heat waves, as usual, came from the deserts far to the east of Portland and were so hot that even the Cascades could not take the edge off before they reached the city. A hot breeze from the east was stifling. On the Willamette bridges the hot wind could be felt most of the afternoon.

Portland was not the hottest place in the United States, but it was not far from it, according to the afternoon weather Bureau reports. Phoenix, Ariz., led the list of cities with 102 degrees, and Roseburg and Walla Walla were tied for second place with 100 degrees. Portland came a close third with her 99.3 degrees. New York's maximum was 84 degrees and Chicago 78 degrees. Galveston, Tex., was the coolest place in the United States, a maximum temperature of 58 degrees being recorded and the weather being clear there.

The present July is dubbed at the Weather Bureau as a real hybrid in (Concluded on Page 3A.)

MEDFORD TOSSED BY SUDDEN GALE

OPERAHOUSE LIFTED TWICE OFF BASE, SHACKS FALL.

Lightning Blazes Shaken City and Rain and Hail Fall—Damage to Fruit Considerable.

MEDFORD, Or., July 24.—(Special.)—Destroying thousands of dollars' worth of fruit and blowing down a number of flimsy structures, an unprecedented storm raged here this evening between 8 and 9 o'clock.

A furious wind heralded the storm and the Medford opera-house was twice lifted off its foundation by the force of the hurricane, windows were broken by flying objects and wires were blown down, leaving the city in darkness for two hours.

The damage to orchards resulted largely from fruit blowing off the trees. However, a number of trees were felled in the more exposed portions of the large orchards south of town, and this loss will be considerable.

The storm came from the south. There was a display of electricity unusual in this section of the country, followed by slight rain and hail.

METEOR SWEEPS HEAVENS

Brilliant Spectacle Over City Is Witnessed by Citizen.

J. D. Coffey, 1034 Ohio street, reported the appearance of an exceptionally large meteor at 9:35 o'clock last night. It rose in the south and passed entirely across the heavens, being visible for half a minute. Mr. Coffey said that it resembled a brilliant sky-rocket of enormous size and was followed by a long showering train of bright sparks. He heard no sounds of hissing or explosions such as often accompany the passage of a big meteorite.

The meteor disappeared in the northern sky.

SPRINGFIELD, Or., July 24.—(Special.)—A huge meteor illumined the heavens here at 10:05 tonight. It is believed the sky-visitor fell in the Mohawk Valley.

FAMILY TICKERS ON SPREE

Untimely Timepieces in Salem Home Cause Man to Lose Sleep.

SALEM, Or., July 24.—(Special.)—Bon Ling, Salem manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company, encountered a timeless hoodoo last night. As he started to retire he wound a large clock. Exercising too much strength, the mainspring broke. He then started operations on his watch, when by a strange coincidence the mainspring of that broke as well. As a last resort, Mrs. Ling wound her watch. As she started to hang it on the wall she inadvertently put her finger through the crystal and that watch stopped. Manager Ling remained awake the remainder of the night so as not to be late at the office this morning.

WORKMEN DIE IN CAVE-IN

Four Dead and Seven Missing Following Accident in Oklahoma.

MUSKOGEE, Okla., July 24.—As the result of four cave-ins this afternoon on the line of a municipal trunk sewer, four workmen are dead, six injured and seven are missing. Two hundred workmen witnessed the accidents.

FRANTIC COMMONS HOOT AT ASQUITH

Scene Unparalleled in English History.

BRITISH HOUSE IN FRENZY

Premier's Speech Is Drowned in Wild Uproar.

VETO BITTERNESS CAUSE

After Prime Minister Is Jeered Down for Three-Quarters of Hour, Speaker Declares Adjournment to Prevent Blows.

LONDON, July 24.—The last act of the Parliamentary revision was ushered in today amid a revolutionary scene. For the first time in its history the House of Commons refused to listen to a speech by the Prime Minister. For the first time in its history the Speaker was compelled to invoke the rule which empowers him, "in case of grave disorder," to declare the sitting adjourned on his own responsibility.

No such hostile passions have had free rein in a chamber which traditionally carries on its debates with chivalrous courtesy since the stormy days of the Gladstone home rule bills. Probably there has been no such passage in the American Congress since the reconstruction era. For three-quarters of an hour Mr. Asquith rose at short intervals and read a sentence or two from a manuscript, only to be overwhelmed by jeers, hootings and cries, among which "traitor" was the most frequent, but with "Redmond," "Patrick Ford" and "American dollars" often distinguishable.

Asquith Loses Temper.

Again and again the Prime Minister tried to speak, but his voice was drowned. He spoke a few broken sentences, a word or two of which could be heard. Finally his mouth hardened and he glared at his tormentors like a lion at bay—an impressive figure, with straight-out features flushed with anger. He closed his manuscript and cried: "I am not going to degrade myself. I shall simply state the conclusion at which the government has arrived."

Having announced the government's intention as briefly and hurriedly as possible—although they were not heard—the Premier sank back in his seat.

The leaders in the outburst against the Prime Minister were Lord Hugh Cecil, intensely unpopular member of one of the oldest families, and a young barrister, F. E. Smith, who recently achieved prominence in the Conservative party.

Blows Narrowly Avoided.

The former kept up a constant fire of monotonous cries, and a labor member, Will Crooks, in rough clothes and slouch hat, sitting across the aisle, several times jumped up as though

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CASTRO SEARCHES FOR FRIENDLY SPOT

EXILE TRYING HARD TO PUT FEET ON VENEZUELA.

Watchful Guardians Turn Him Back Just as Success Seems Sure—Whereabouts Mystery.

WASHINGTON, July 24.—Ex-President Castro, in the opinion of a diplomatic officer, who has given some study to the problem of finding the Venezuelan, is now a sort of "flying Dutchman," making a desperate effort to reach a friendly port in his native country, and just as he nears his goal being turned back, not by storms, but by watchful guardians of the coast, or warships of other nations, which seek to prevent a renewal of his activities in his own country.

According to this official, the basis for stories that Castro had landed in Western Venezuela was the appearance of the little Dutch Island of Aruba of the yacht Coronet, flying the American flag. Facts were reported to the Governor, but the vessel disappeared.

The Coronet next appeared well up in the Gulf of Maracaibo, at a point well suited for landing a party. The Governor of the province started an investigation, but again the vessel disappeared.

A careful search has been made of the entire Goajira Peninsula, the Venezuelans have satisfied themselves that Castro is not there, and the belief prevails that he is still afloat somewhere.

4 COMETS HOVER NEAR SUN

Strange Visitors, Invisible to Unaided Eye, Perform Antics.

CHICAGO, July 24.—(Special.)—Four comets—every one of the bashful variety which refuses to be seen by the unaided eye—are hovering around the earth, dodging behind the sun and performing other antics which are keeping astronomers busy. Two of the four are brand new visitors and are more eagerly watched on that account. The two others are periodicals.

One of the visiting comets has proved a distinct disappointment. This is the Kless comet, which was discovered about July 7 by the Lick Observatory, and was later picked up by the Yerkes Observatory at Williams Bay, Wis. Observations made this morning at Williams Bay showed that the comet was getting away from the earth.

CITY SPENDS \$423,791

\$378,077 of General Fund Left, and \$293,166 Needed.

A report showing the condition of the general fund of the city July 1 was read to the ways and means committee of the City Council at its meeting yesterday. The appropriations this year have amounted to \$801,889.51, and of this amount \$423,791.87 has been expended this year. This leaves a balance of \$378,077.64 on hand. The estimated expenditures for the rest of the year are \$393,166.36.

Of the amount so far expended \$15,909.85 was paid on the new garbage crematory at Guild's Lake, and \$16,768.92 remains to be paid. During the six months the street cleaning department cost the city \$154,375.43, and it is estimated that it will cost \$128,776.09 for the remainder of the year.

CATS' DIN STIRS CITIZEN

Postoffice Superintendent Asks City to "Muzzle" Felines.

L. S. Wright, superintendent of Postal Station F, and living at 210 Ross street, has written Mayor Rushlight and the City Council, asking that at the time the anti-chicken ordinance is taken up by the Council, a clause be inserted against the keeping of cats within the city limits.

"A lousy, many tom cat will not only howl and fight all night in the street, in your neighbor's yard, or under your window, but if you succeed in scaring him out, he will go down the line howling as he goes. The cats are constantly killing birds, destroying flower gardens and spreading contagious diseases," declares Mr. Wright.

\$25,000,000 CLAIM FILED

Bluefields Steamer Company Says Fruit Firm Is Banana Trust.

PHILADELPHIA, July 24.—A statement of a claim to recover \$25,000,000 damages has been filed in the United States Court here by the receiver of the Bluefields Steamship Company against the United Fruit Company.

The Bluefields Company claims damages in this amount for alleged stifling of competition and creating an alleged monopoly in the sale of bananas in this country.

The suit was brought under the Sherman anti-trust law.

OFFICERS HURT IN RIOT

Pennsylvania Miners Held on \$1000 Bail for Uprising.

PITTSBURGH, July 24.—In a riot today between miners of the Mansfield mine, of the Pittsburg Coal Company, at Glendale, an isolated portion of Allegheny County, three Constables, two county detectives and a score of miners were injured, several fatally.

Fourteen men and one woman have been arrested. All were held in \$1000 bail on a charge of rioting.

FORESTS ABLAZE OVER NORTHWEST

Hundreds of Persons Flee to Safety.

WIDE AREAS DEVASTATED

Army of Men Battle in Effort to Check Flames.

SMALL TOWNS IN DANGER

Camp No. 6 of Curtiss Lumber Company Near Mill City Burned and 140 Inhabitants Have Close Call for Their Lives.

FORESTS BURNING OVER BIG AREA

From all parts of the Northwest forest fires are reported raging. Thousands of acres of valuable timber have been destroyed, corporate and private property burned and hundreds of persons forced to flee for their lives. Hundreds of men are fighting the flames.

East of Mill City a fire Sunday destroyed Camp 6 of the Curtiss Lumber Company and 140 persons narrowly escaped.

In the Clear Creek district, southeast of Estacada, flames are burning timber over an area five miles wide. The towns of Dodge and Springwater are in danger.

Fires near Brush Prairie, Clark County, are menacing farms and a large area of timber is afloat.

The Summer resort at Niagara, Marion County, is reported as surrounded by forest fires and campers and residents there are fleeing.

Near Po Eth, Wash., fire has destroyed 1,000,000 feet of timber, but is thought to be about burned out.

MILL CITY, Or., July 24.—(Special.)

—Beyoncé control and sweeping with irresistible fury through the timber east of this city, fire today threatens nearly every logging camp and town in this vicinity. Already hundreds of persons have been forced to flee for their lives, one logging camp and several railway bridges have been burned and thousands of dollars' damage to timber and property in general has been done.

Fanned by a strong east wind, a small fire which had been kept under control at camp No. 6, on the Curtiss Lumber Company's logging railroad, eight miles southeast of this city, suddenly broke out with renewed energy Sunday afternoon and in a few hours attained such proportions that the 140 persons in the camp were forced to flee for their lives.

Train Saves Lives.

Their escape was narrow, and while some took the trail to Gates, the others, among whom were many men with families, were brought to Mill City by the logging train.

Though menaced on either side by the burning forests and by burning trees falling across the right of way the train made two trips to camp six before escape was cut off.

It is not believed any lives have been lost, though one man has not reported. It is thought that he may have escaped by way of the Gates trail or taken refuge on a nearby ranch.

So rapid was the advance of the flames that many residents of camp six had no time to bring any of their personal effects.

Bridge Burns Out.

On the train's second trip to the camp the track was found blocked near the outskirts by a burned-out trestle and the few persons left at the camp were forced to go down through the canyon and ascend the other side to where the train was waiting.

The burned district today extends for miles, and the loss is only minimized because a large portion of this acreage consists of old cuttings of the Curtiss Lumber Company. The fire has now entered the green timber south-east of here and unless a rain comes soon or the wind changes the loss will be enormous.

A crew of men from the United States Forest Service and a big crew from the mills of the Curtiss Company at Mill City and from nearby logging camps of the company are now at work fighting the fire, but the latest reports received here is that the fire is now of such size that the present fire-fighting force will be unable to stop it.

FIRE IS FIVE MILES IN WIDTH

Clear Creek District, Near Estacada, Scene of Conflagration.

ESTACADA, Or., July 24.—(Special.)—With a front five miles wide, a forest fire is raging in the Clear Creek district, about five miles southeast of this city, and all efforts thus far to check its rapid spread has proved of no avail. Thus far the damage has been only to the timber, but if the wind continues with the same velocity throughout the day it is feared the town of Springfield will be burned out.

