

SLUMP IN RAILWAY SECURITIES ALARMS

Eastern Carriers Fear Result of Rate Ruling, Says F. J. Miller, After Inquiry.

SURVEY IS MADE IN EAST

Chairman of Oregon Public Service Commission Reports Unprecedented Traffic, With Rads Rapidly Running Down.

SALEM, Or., Nov. 16.—(Special).—The values of railroad securities are falling with much rapidity as to be a source of great alarm to bankers in the East, is the statement of Frank J. Miller, chairman of the Public Service Commission, who just returned from a several weeks trip in the Eastern States.

Bankers particularly feel decided apprehension over the result of the application of the carriers for an increase in rates, said Mr. Miller. "The feeling of some of the financial institutions is decidedly bitter over the decision of the Interstate Commerce Commission in the first rate case, and they believe that the Commission did not meet the issues squarely, nor treat the carriers altogether fairly."

Carriers Are to Blame. "The result, however, has been largely the fault of the carriers themselves. They failed to make a showing upon which the Commission could base an affirmative finding for them and I was present at a hearing at which the carriers attempted to present their latest demand for increases."

The demand was nothing more nor less than an application on the part of the carriers for the commission to point out to the roads what they could ask for with the hope of obtaining it. The chairman of the commission told frankly that the commission could not prejudice the case and that it was the duty of the carriers to present their demands and to make a showing to uphold such presentation.

Roads Need Repairs. "People in the West have no idea of the situation on the Eastern roads. The deferred maintenance of those roads is unprecedented in the history of railroading in the United States. They are entering the winter with rough roadbeds, high rail joints, rotten ties and poor equipment. Some of the roadbeds I passed over on what are supposed to be high-class railroads are worse than the Western roadbeds after a heavy winter's use, and they are just now entering the winter."

The traffic is so congested that on all the trains upon which I traveled through the greater part of the East, but one was on time, and that on a little local line. Passenger trains are sidetracked or freight trains and must hold their time. Every consideration is laid aside for Government freight. Fuel has precedence over passenger except munitions and supplies for Government service. And Government fuel for Government supply factories has precedence over all other fuel.

East Very Prosperous. "Factories are springing up over night through the East and unexampled property is being crowded to the limit. Factories are burning 25 per cent more fuel than ever before. Fuel for personal needs is practically impossible to obtain. Relatives of mine whom I visited in Ohio, and who ordered fuel last June, were compelled to be in bed when I was there to keep warm."

The railroads are experiencing particular difficulties in the East for lack of terminal and switching facilities. In the West we are confronted with transportation problems because of lack of cars. But in the high-class railroads, centers of transportation it is practically impossible to get terminal sites, and their cost is almost prohibitive.

Mr. Miller said that he passed a day going over the docks and transfers in the company in New York before waiting upon the company's officials, and ascertained that at the most the cost imposed would not exceed from \$1 to \$6 per car, and the road has practically guaranteed that if it imposes such a charge next year it will be no greater than those amounts.

ERIC LIFTS TERMINAL CHARGES. Mr. Miller explained that one accomplishment of his in the East justified the expenditure for the entire trip, and that was obtaining the assurance from the Erie Railroad that it would not attempt to enforce a terminal charge of from \$22.50 to \$24 a car on fruit from the West. The reason given by the railroad for assessing the charge, Mr. Miller said, was because of the fact that carload shipments received by the road include sometimes 50 or 100 smaller shipments from as many shippers, and these have to be segregated on the docks and at the transfer.

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BUSINESS MEN ARE CONSCRIPTED

No Pleas for Exemption Heard, No Excuses Accepted and No Recompense Promised.

NOVEL DRAFT PLAN WORKS

John B. Foster, Clerk of Exemption Body, Hits on Idea to Get Assistants in Heavy Preliminary Labor of Arranging Data.

Seven Portland business and professional men were conscripted yesterday and ordered to perform immediate duty. They were the first Portland men to be drafted. If any claims for exemption were made they were disallowed arbitrarily by local board No. 19. Some of the men have large families, but it made no difference. No pleas for exemption were heard; no excuses were accepted; no recompense was promised.

This novel method of conscription is said to be the first of its kind attempted since the selective draft act became a law, but it worked—and worked like a charm. It was the advanced method adopted by John B. Foster, clerk of the local exemption board No. 19, to secure volunteers to assist in the heavy preliminary work of assembling and arranging all data of war potentialities preparatory to the calling of the second draft shortly after the first of the year.

With other local boards throughout the country, the Portland local board this week received instructions from the War Department to begin at once to classify all registered males, their occupations and family alliances as shown by their first registration cards.

Plan of Conscription Works. In order that this work might be done promptly Mr. Foster, of local board No. 19, hit upon the plan of conscripting a number of residents of his district to assist in the work. For this work he selected the following men: Charles C. Scott, 1799 Dwight street; J. M. Hart, 601 Lombard street; W. F. Louno, 674 Grand street; Harry B. Reynolds, 1489 Portsmouth; Dr. Charles W. McKenna, 1678 Van Houten; T. L. Dille, 1771 Duval; and T. P. Keeney, 443 Farragut street.

Each of these men received the following order to report for immediate service: "You are called to render immediate service to Local Board No. 19, of Portland, state of Oregon, by aiding and assisting in compiling certain data from records to be used by the War Department at the earliest possible date. The work requires quick action and special manipulation of different parts of the records. You are hereby commanded to appear at the Portsmouth School on Thursday, November 15, 1917, at 7:30 P. M., for the purpose of aiding your country in this hour of peril. Excuses cannot be accepted. The service is a patriotic one and must be rendered."

No Slackers in List. In fairness to the "conscripts" it must be said of them that there was not a slacker in the list, said Mr. Foster yesterday. Every one of the selected men reported for duty Thursday evening at the appointed hour and place. They went about their work with will, glad to render what service they could do. They were at work again last evening, and will continue to assist the board in their work until granted permanent exemptions.

All of the 11 local boards in Multnomah County are hard at work assembling the necessary data to have it ready before the questionnaires are sent out to all registrants. Much of this work is being done by volunteers; in fact, none of the boards they are working with any difficulty in securing patriotic people to aid them in the work.

For the most part, these data refer to the occupations of the registrants being 39 separate divisions in the new occupational code of the newly drafted war regulations. Many of the boards have completed their questionnaires, others expect to have it completed early this coming week.

The other two members of this preliminary conscription board, Mr. Foster, who resort to "conscripting" their work may be completed promptly as Elliott Wilton, chairman, and Dr. W. J. Gilstrap, examining physician.

Definite returns have been made from the various counties for account for the following totals: Baker, \$2000; Benton, \$2000; Clackamas (west), \$500; Clatsop, \$3758; Coos and Curry, \$1509; Crook, \$599; Deschutes, \$2300; Douglas, \$373; Gilliam (south), \$289; Gilliam (north), \$1100; Grant, \$1795; Hood River, \$1700; Jackson (south), \$1700; Jackson (north), \$1000; Josephine, \$2100; Klamath, \$1000; Lake, \$1352; Lane, \$4400; Linn, \$4325; Malheur (Ontario), \$1100; Malheur (Oregon), \$382; Marion, \$3382; Morrow, \$1000; Multnomah, \$375; Polk, \$3500; Sherman, \$3894; Tillamook, \$1430; Umatilla, \$7500; Union, \$2000; Wallowa, \$758; Washington (east), \$375; Washington (west), \$2000; Yamhill (east), \$2390; Yamhill (west), \$2400; total, \$74,241.

Children Give Aid. Of yesterday's reported total in Portland \$1670 was received through efforts of school children. The real aggregate pledged by students of the various high schools will become known at noon today, when leaders of the canvasses in these institutions will make reports at the workers' luncheon. It promises to be a handsome and surprising total and one that will materially push ahead the city's record, declare those who are familiar with this part of the campaign.

On Monday more than 600 high school students will devote their energies to a house-to-house canvass of residence sections, Monday marking the official close of the Nation-wide campaign. All of the money being raised through efforts of the students goes directly into the fund of the National council

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PURE CANE SIMON'S BIG SATURDAY OFFER

Big Saturday GROCERY BARGAINS! BACON, WALNUTS, PRUNES, PEAS, TOILET SOAP, Cream Oil, Peroxide or Glycerine, cake.

SIMON'S VERY SPECIAL BARGAINS FOR NEXT WEEK

Monday Singapore PEACHES, Tuesday RICE, Wednesday Cream White or Bone White SOAP, Thursday WESSON OIL, Friday Cream or Run-off Baking Powder.

MEN'S WOOL MACKINAW, Sizes 36 and 38 only. SPECIAL \$6.50 \$7.50

Very Interesting Bargains Dry Goods, Furnishings Ladies' Wool-Mixed DRAW-ERS special at \$1.98

COTTAGE GROVE IS IN LINE Half of Allotment Raised and Large Force Is at Work.

Men's Suits Well worth up to \$25.00, \$14.95 Price. A Special Lot of MEN'S OVER-COATS \$12.95

TWO-PLY ROOFING PAPER, DOORS, WINDOWS, PAINTS, BIG BARGAINS AT SIMON'S

Complete Line Guaranteed ALUMINUM WARE—\$2.50 Tea Kettle \$1.75, \$3 Tea Pot \$1.98.

SIMON'S Entrances on ALDER, FIRST and SECOND STS. SIMON'S

TARRING IS THREAT

Warning to I. W. W. Thrown Into Headquarters.

During recent weeks a number of small strikes have been called by the I. W. W. in logging camps cutting spruce, and a number of cases of sabotage have occurred. These have been mainly confined to empty dust put in bearings of engines in mills and logging camps, but in several cases the damage has been heavy.

"BLACK ROBES" SIGN NOTE

Organization Returns to Hoquiam After Once Vacating and After Calling Small Strikes Gets Mysterious Message.

Lake Superior whitefish and trout have been selling in the retail markets of Port Arthur and Fort William, Ontario, at 15 to 18 cents a pound.

CLOUDS FOIL PLOTTER

Infernal Machine in Walls Walla Fails to Ignite Building.

HOQUIAM, Wash., Nov. 16.—(Special).—A warning signed "The Black Robes" and hunting at tar and feathers last night was thrown through a window of the Industrial Workers of the World headquarters in this city, where it was found this morning. The Industrial Workers immediately appealed to the police for protection.

GRAIN REPORT IS MADE

Continued From First Page. tember 23 and 24. The acreage of Fall sown grain is about 60 per cent above normal and the acreage of plowing done in Spring sowing is about 30 per cent above normal, which is perhaps in the largest acreage for plowing in the history of the territory.

The Fall sown acreage in the Peace country, due to the dry season, is not doing well, the consensus of opinion at this time is that there will be a great increase in the acreage seeded to Spring grain, which, with favorable Spring weather, should yield an exceptionally large crop next season.

The test of to-day is the Pocket Book test

Today home management is on a war, not a peace basis. "How much am I getting in nutriment for what I pay?" is the home manager's problem.

In peace or war Ghirardelli's Ground Chocolate makes good as an economical and appealing food. A blend of pure cocoa and sugar, two of the most nourishing foods known, it supplies energy and resupplies waste tissue at lowest cost. Use it freely as a food and you will practice food conservation.

Ghirardelli's Ground Chocolate comes in 1/2-lb., 1-lb. and 3-lb. cans. Order from your grocer. D. GHIRARDELLI COMPANY Since 1852 San Francisco

SOCIALIST IS ANSWERED

POSTMASTER-GENERAL REPLIES TO SUIT OF VICTOR BERGER.

Milwaukee Paper Held to Have Published Matter in Clear Violation of Law.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16.—Postmaster-General Burleson answered the suit of the Milwaukee Leader, Victor Berger, editor, to compel the restoration of second-class mailing privileges canceled by the Postoffice because of the alleged refusal to publish articles designed to hamper the Government in the conduct of the war and make the general charge that the Postoffice has evidence of an organized propaganda throughout the country to embarrass the Government, and that a certain class of publications are "daily accomplishing results in clear violation of the law."

The Milwaukee Leader, Mr. Burleson charges, is among them.

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Mr. Miller said that he passed a day going over the docks and transfers in the company in New York before waiting upon the company's officials, and ascertained that at the most the cost imposed would not exceed from \$1 to \$6 per car, and the road has practically guaranteed that if it imposes such a charge next year it will be no greater than those amounts.

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