

**PORTLAND JOBBERS AT DISADVANTAGE**

Higher Wholesale and Retail Prices in All Coast Cities May Be Expected.

**JUNE, 1917, RULING UPHELD**

Full Effect of Interstate Commerce Decision Will Not Be Known Until Detailed Copy Is Received.

Higher wholesale and retail prices in all coast cities and surrounding territory is a possible result of the Interstate Commerce Commission's ruling on the famous Intermountain or Spokane rate case yesterday. A possible consolation for terminal cities is that miscellaneous freight and class rate shipments are not affected.

Portland jobbers are put at a distinct disadvantage in the ruling for the reason that the rates to all terminal cities are raised, leaving interior rates the same, instead of reducing interior rates to a level which the terminal cities have operated on for years.

Specifically the ruling yesterday is not a new ruling. It is, instead, the upholding and application of an amendment to section 15 of the former ruling requiring carriers to submit for approval their new schedule of rates, ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission's ruling of June 1917, when water competition, owing to the blocking of the canal and security of bottoms, was practically held nullified by the Commission, and the advantage long held by terminal cities swept away. The ruling yesterday authorizes the roads to put into effect their schedules in modified form. Hearings on these schedules were held in New York October 5, Chicago October 12 and Portland October 21 last year, when the shippers and jobbers had an opportunity to protest. The shippers' and jobbers' protest, apparently, was slightly regarded.

**Steel Increase Heavy.**  
In one single commodity, steel and iron products used in shipbuilding, the difference against Portland and other terminal cities will be as much as 10 to 15 cents a hundred pounds, the rate on steel from Pittsburgh now being 75 cents a hundred and 85 cents from Chicago.

John H. Lothrop, secretary Portland Traffic and Transportation Association said last night that the ruling would receive attention of the association at once, but that possible action was problematical in view of the fact that the Government is now operating the roads and that water competition has not been altered since the Commission's ruling last June.

The jobbers, however, will probably follow the line of reasoning pursued by Justice Harlan in June, when he rendered a dissenting opinion opposing the discrimination against the coast cities on the ground that abnormal water competition conditions should not be used to upset rate conditions and cause abnormal confusion in business for which there would be no basis when the war is over and bottoms are again available and the canal open to traffic.

The ruling will also be the cue for coast cities to redouble efforts to establish lines of water communication.

**Details Must Be Awaited.**  
The ruling's full effect will not be known until a detail copy is received and the changes in class commodity rates is learned. One thing seems certain, however, and that is that the rate on numerous commodities, including drugs, hardware, staple goods of all kinds, drygoods and clothing and almost every article shipped in large quantities to Portland and other coast cities are affected.

The rate of the interior or intermountain cities now is the rate to terminal cities, plus a back haul charge. The backhaul charge, or the famous "fourth section," has been the bone of contention for the 25 years since the famous case had its origin in Spokane. On several occasions the interior cities have won slight concessions and have repeatedly carried the fight forward their last appeal coming when the war and Canal conditions were auspicious to their cause. The backhaul charge is now about 75 per cent of an original haul from the coast to the inland cities. The inland cities have in the last 10 years won concessions in commodities handled in less-than-carload lots.

Inland jobbers, under the new ruling, will be enabled to make inroads in the trade territory formerly held by terminal cities, for the reason that they will be able to operate on the charges they have paid for years, while terminal cities will not only have to pay the higher rate, but readjust their business to absorb it. It will be revolutionary in effect on the jobbing business here, as well as extending down to the consumer. Trade territory built up at great expense and trouble will be menaced.

The steel and shipbuilding industry will especially be hard hit as the 15 per cent increase will run into thousands of dollars in this commodity alone.

**Railroads in Neutral Position.**  
Portland, among the terminal cities, has taken an especially active part in the fight in behalf of water competition advantages.

The dissenting vote of Commissioner Atchison is of especial interest in Oregon for the reason that he is an Oregon man and formerly was Railroad Commissioner and Public Service Commissioner.

For the first time in the history of the long fight the railroads are in a distinctly "neutral" position on the ruling, for the reason that under the Government order taking over the lines and proposing to guarantee earnings on a three-year-average basis, the roads themselves are, temporarily at least, only theoretically concerned.

Their final attitude will depend on what action Congress finally takes in fixing the earnings.

J. D. Farrell, president of the O. W. R. & N. Company, last night said that not only must he reserve opinion until he had read the detailed ruling, but that any opinion the roads might offer now would be contingent on Congressional action on the earnings.

Officials of the S. P. & S. qualified to speak for the roads were out of town last night or unavailable. One of the road's traffic men said that while present conditions obtain there seems to be little chance for any action one way or the other by the roads.

**Tax List Contracts Awarded.**

With bids of 30 cents and 40 cents per column inch, respectively, the Oregon Journal and the Portland News were awarded contracts yesterday for publishing the Multnomah County delinquent tax list for the current year. Commissioners Holman and Muck agreed on these two bids with but little discussion.

**Last Day of Our Before-Stock-Taking Sales in All Depts.**

**To Be Held at This Store**  
**Cat and Pet Stock Show**  
The first annual Cat and Pet Stock Show of the Oregon Branch National Breeders and Fanciers Association will be held in our Sixth Floor Auditorium, February 14, 15, 16. For premium list and all information write the secretary, care of Meier & Frank Co.

**We Make to Order**  
**Service Flags**  
Service flags of silk, wool or cotton for private families and lodges, societies, schools, organizations. Estimates furnished.  
—Fifth Floor, Sixth Street.



**All Charge Purchases**  
today will go on the February accounts which are made  
**Payable March 1**

**Continuing Our Great Annual Sale of "Hurt" Goods**  
Cut glass, chinaware, glassware, nickelware, aluminumware, tinware, graniteware, brassware, ironware, woodenware, etc., at a fraction of cost. Slightly marred and imperfect articles. No phone orders—no deliveries on less than dollar purchases.  
—Basement.

**Our Great Annual Sale of SUITS**



**For Men and Young Men**  
*BEGINS TODAY PROMPTLY AT 9 A. M.—IT BRINGS*  
**500 High-Grade All-Wool To \$35 Suits \$23.85**  
**In All Styles and Sizes at**

This is the famous Meier & Frank annual sale of suits for men. It is a sale which never fails to draw the crowds—weather, previous engagements or other things notwithstanding, our big daylight Clothing Section on the Third Floor has always been thronged from opening till closing time the first day and the interest has been steadily maintained up to the very last day of the sale. And, everything considered, this year

**The Sale Is Bigger and Better Than Ever**

An opportunity like this may not present itself again for months, for years to come. Men who buy now can do so with the certain knowledge that they are purchasing the world's best clothes at

**Unprecedented Savings**

and the values are all the more remarkable when you consider what price advances are sure to come within the year. Wise men will buy two or more suits at this most exceptional sale price.

Materials include finely serviceable unfinished worsteds in novelty weaves, stripes and checks and plain brown chevots and cassimeres in handsome patterns. These garments are ALL WOOL and tailoring is of the finest, many being hand tailored throughout.

**Famous Makes of Clothing**

are included—such as Adler-Rochester, Hickey-Freeman and "Society Brand" clothes. There are suits to please men of all ages and tastes—youthful men's belted models and form-fitting English garments as well as suits of conservative cut for business men and men of more mature years. A wonderful assortment for long, short, stout, thin men and those of regular build. Single and double-breasted styles. These suits are finely designed and tailored to hold their shape and

**Most of Them Are Taken From Our Regular Stock**

The others were obtained in a special purchase from the same reliable manufacturers who make up garments for our regular stock. Many of these suits are on advance Spring models—they will be in the height of fashion months from now. Sizes 33 to 50 included, but the number in some sizes is limited. It's the chance of a lifetime to purchase these excellent to \$35.00 suits at \$23.85. Come as early as you can.  
—Men's Clothing Shop, Third Floor.

**A Sale of Broken Lines Men's Handkerchiefs**

The following specials in men's handkerchiefs have been taken from our regular stocks and reduced for today only:

**25c-35c Handkerchiefs, 3 for 50c**

Two kinds of handkerchiefs at this low price. Men's white Jap silk handkerchiefs with colored striped borders. White Jap silk initialed handkerchiefs with white embroidered block initials—not every initial but a good variety. Full size.

**Men's Handkerchiefs for 33c**

Three kinds of handkerchiefs at this low price. Men's hand-embroidered linen initialed kerchiefs with cord borders and turned hems. Cheney white silk, colored border handkerchiefs. White Jap silk initialed handkerchiefs with large or small block initials—not every initial. Full size. 3 for 90c.  
—Men's Furnishings Shop, Main Floor.

**A Sale of Dresses**

*For Women and Misses—*  
**\$29.50-\$35 Values**

**\$19.85**



An extraordinarily good sale of women's and misses' street and afternoon dresses. In serge, taffeta, satin and velvet, satin and serge, satin and Georgette combinations. Fashionable shades of black, navy, brown, green, tan, plum and taupe.

The season's most popular models in sizes 16 years to 44 bust. Regularly \$29.50 to \$35.00—for quick disposal only \$19.85.  
—Apparel Shop, Fourth Floor.

**\$3.75 to \$5.50 Neckwear \$2.59**

Separate crepe and voile collars. Collar and cuff sets. Imitation Fillet collars. Net vests. Colored satin collars. Most of the models in this lot are hand-embroidered, a few are lace trimmed. \$3.75 to \$5.50 values on sale at \$2.59.

**Sale Ostrich Boas**

**\$2.50 - \$5.00 Values \$1.98**  
**\$6.50 - \$9.50 Values \$2.98**

Included are ostrich boas in white and combinations of black and white. Very specially priced at \$1.98 and \$2.98.  
—Neckwear Shop, Main Floor.

**Office Chair Pads 75c**

No more shiny garments—if you use one of these comfortable chair pads. Made of felt. Various shapes and sizes. These are the most exceptional kind of values at 75c each.  
—Seventh Floor, Sixth Street.

**Short Lengths of Laces, Etc. 5c-15c**

1000 pieces. Short lengths of lace and embroidery edges and insertions. Lengths range from 1/2 to 3 yards. EACH 5c, 10c, 15c.

**Short Lengths of Laces, Etc., Ea. 98c**

300 pieces. Short lengths of embroideries, cotton and silk laces, metal laces, novelties, cotton and silk nets and chiffons. Lengths range from 1/4 to 1 1/2 yards. Each 98c.

**\$2.00-\$2.50 Edges and Flouncings, \$1.69**

Novelty metal and net top edges and flouncings in gold, silver, white, cream and black. 9 to 24 inches wide.  
—Main Floor, Fifth Street.

**'Welworth' Blouses \$2**

The blouse illustrated here is a Welworth—one of two models just received—on sale today for the first time. Welworth blouses, as you know, are the peer of all \$2.00 blouses in America. Sold here only in Portland.  
—Blouse Shop, Fourth Floor.



**Our Entire Main Floor Center Aisle Bargain Squares**

*Have Been Given Over to This Sale Today—for This Is*

**A Never-Before-Equaled Sale of Fine Wool Auto Robes**

*A Special Purchase of Famous Genuine "Oregon City" Robes at Two Prices*

**\$10.50-\$15 Robes \$7.35**

200 fine wool robes for auto, bed, sleeping porch, steamer use, etc. The regular prices range from \$10.50 to \$15.00, most of them are the higher-priced kinds—as you can see, on some this sale price is LESS THAN HALF! All are the most exceptional values. Many ALL WOOL, some with cotton warp. A good assortment of handsome plain shades in fast colors. Beautifully made and finished, with turned edges.

**\$15 Robes Only \$9.75**

A small lot of fringed ALL WOOL robes at this greatly reduced price. Some slightly damaged but nothing to impair the wearing quality.

**We Also Offer BLANKETS at Sensational Underprices**

**200 Pairs at \$4.75**

Easily worth \$6.00 today. 200 pairs fine double bed blankets in size 66x80. Heavy wool mixed blankets in plain white, tan and gray with colored borders, also good looking plaid effects.

**300 Pairs at \$2.19**

This sale price is close to present wholesale cost. Heavy cotton double bed blankets and a number of single wool-finish blankets in generous sizes. Plain colors and plaids. SEE WINDOW DISPLAY OF ROBES IN THIS SALE.  
—Center Aisle Bargain Squares, Main Floor.

