

POWER COMPANIES PREPARE OPERATION MAY BE STOPPED UNLESS ADEQUATE REVENUE IS OBTAINED.

PRESIDENT GIVES EVIDENCE

Mr. Griffith Tells Labor Board Representatives Men Now Ask an Increase of 128 Per Cent, Compared With June, 1917.

Portland's peculiar condition, emanating from operations of the Oregon Electric and the Southern Pacific electric trains by the Railroad Administration and the plan of wages on those two lines of a team railroad basis, is responsible for discontent among employees of interurban lines of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, according to President Griffith, who testified yesterday afternoon on the hearing on the application of the Portland Railway, Light & Power Company, for an increase in wages of eight-hour day and time and one-half for overtime.

President Griffith explained that his company could not meet steam railroad wages, and that if he could not be secured to defray cost of operation, it would cease operation. He pointed out that the present application for a wage increase is not taken into consideration by the Public Service Commission, which was asked last November for an increase in freight and passenger rates. This request was heard only recently, Mr. Griffith said, and a decision has not been reached.

Mr. Griffith said he did not oppose a fair living wage for his men, provided the company can get revenue with which to pay them. He strongly opposed the comparison of electric interurban wages with those paid by street cars operated by the Government, but favored the shorter day, if practicable. He did not object to a penny being attached when it was impossible to arrange schedules so that men could start at 7 o'clock and finish at 6 o'clock.

The application for an increase had been filed by the company's trainmen, engineers and conductors on a basis of 79 cents per hour for conductors, 63 cents for brakemen, 73 cents for motormen and 53 cents per hour for trolley men. The present scale is 57 cents for conductors and motormen.

The morning session of the hearing was taken up by the testimony of trainmen and their representatives, who contended they were entitled to a higher compensation, and officials of the Oregon Electric and the Southern Pacific relative to duties of men in their employ.

Business or Professional Man in Draft Age Who Cannot Afford to Take Work at Eugene May Gain Here.

It will be possible for the middle-aged man to obtain the same military training at home that is being given at the Eugene training camp by Colonel John Leader. The extension course of the University of Oregon is taken up this branch and Colonel Leader says that when the units are formed by the military and instructors.

By this arrangement a business or professional man who cannot afford to take a month off to go into training at Eugene, can attend the same preparation in Portland. The men of middle age who are in the draft age, as a rule, are not able to maintain their family on the pay of a private. The training given by Colonel Leader through the extension course will assist in solving this problem.

A longer period will be required to graduate these students than in the camp at Eugene, but concentrated and intensified training goes on for a month.

C. M. Thomas, of Medford, who has been placed in charge of organizing units for the military, has designated a Portland committee to accept applications. E. S. Rank, of the Water Bureau, is secretary of the committee and is prepared to give information.

Dr. John J. Landsbury, of the University of Oregon faculty, is in Room 451 Courthouse, in the evening and Sundays Dr. Landsbury can be reached at the Imperial.

FINN UNWILLING TO FIGHT Oregon City Resident Would Withdraw Application for Citizenship.

OREGON CITY, Or., Sept. 30.—(Special.)—Alfred Gronlund filed application today to withdraw his citizenship petition, made July 5, 1912, before the local court.

Gronlund, who is a native of Finland, took citizenship very frankly and that he didn't want to fight. He stated that he thought he had a brother in the German army, and he wouldn't want to fight against him. He is a married man with children and his family's questionnaire a few days ago stated that his withdrawal petition was pending.

Astoria Boy Reported Killed.

ASTORIA, Or., Sept. 30.—(Special.)—Mr. and Mrs. Jens Nielsen, of this city, received a telegram from the War Department today that their son, Niels Christian Nielsen, was killed in action on August 29 on the western front. The young man, who was familiarly known as "Happy," was 22 years of age, and had been in France several months. Besides his parents three sisters and one brother survive, the last, Carl Nielsen, being in the Navy.

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