



ALTERNATIVE FOR FARE LIFT SOUGHT

All Angles of Street-Car Problem Studied.

GRAVE DIFFICULTIES FOUND

Increased Charge Seems Only Practicable Course.

HEARING MAY END TODAY

State Commission Shown to Be Only Official Body Vested With Power to Remedy Situation.

Municipal ownership, remission of bridge tolls, elimination of free rides for city firemen and policemen, revocation of pavement charges against the corporation and making up its deficit from taxation, were features discussed by various persons before the state public service commission yesterday as means for meeting the problems of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company without ordering an increase in fares. At 5 o'clock adjournment was taken until 9:30 this morning. Fred G. Buchtel, chairman, said every effort would be made to close the hearing by noon.

None but L. L. Levings, representing the Woodmere Community club, on the Mount Scott line, contended that power to overcome all the ills suffered by the company and to end bridge tolls, free rides for city employees and paving charges is vested by law in the state commission, and even he frankly admitted he was "not a lawyer, but just a common, ordinary streetcar rider."

Commission's Power Limited.

Chairman Buchtel, Stanley Myers, assistant city attorney, and Franklin T. Griffith, president of the company and head of one of the city's largest legal firms, agreed that the commission has no such power. Mr. Levings, however, insisted that it has and that by applying such power it "would at least draw the affair into the courts, where the equity of the matter would undoubtedly be recognized."

It was the contention of Mr. Levings and also of Martin L. Kimmel, a salesman for a local firm, appearing in his own behalf, that it is an injustice to the streetcar rider that he be forced, as now, to pay the entire operating costs of the company plus its returns on investment (of which, it is said, there have been none for six years) when, as they emphatically asserted, "the general public, including business men, is equally benefited. No one present disputed the equity of the matter, but no one did anyone indicate any intention of taking action along this line."

Revenue Admitted Short.

Mr. Kimmel, after entering objection to any advance in fares, was asked by Mr. Myers whether he thought the attitude of the public has so changed that, should charter amendments relieving the company of certain burdens be submitted to the people, they would vote favorably. Mr. Kimmel was in doubt, he said, although expressing the belief that the company is not receiving sufficient revenue.

The people voted these proposed charter amendments down at a ratio of about 5 to 1 when they were submitted at an election, and Mr. Griffith yesterday expressed more or less doubt regarding relief by any means other than fare increases, saying, "I have been in contact with this proposition a long time and I know how slowly these things go."

Mr. Levings Persistent.

Mr. Levings, who said he represented 1000 people, declared that his neighborhood is not composed of "corporation batters" and said he and they realize that the company is receiving insufficient revenue for operation; that it would be disastrous should the street cars cease to run, and that that company should have all that it has asked—but he clung to his contention that the car rider should not be obliged to finance the proposition in its entirety.

During the morning session J. P. Newell, consulting engineer for the city, and W. F. Woodward, a prominent merchant of the city, were on the stand. Mr. Newell finished his testimony, which had run for nearly two previous days, and covered his investigation of the company's affairs, under orders of the Portland city council, with figures agreeing within less than 1 per cent with those submitted by the company.

Asked by Chairman Buchtel concerning municipal ownership of the street car tracks, Mr. Newell expressed the opinion that such an arrangement would be advantageous.

Mr. Woodward, a volunteer witness, gave it as his belief that the people of this city want good service—better than they are now receiving—and are willing to pay for it. He expressed the opinion that, if necessary, the people would pay 10 cents a ride, but that they would demand improved service. He said there were not nearly enough cars now and that the manner in which young women were being ridden to and from their places of employment "is shameful."

Taking the remedies suggested at yesterday's hearing, the generally accepted opinion shows:

Municipal ownership would require

NEW YORK WRITHES IN GRIP OF STORM

ICE FOLLOWING SLEET AND SNOW BLOCKS TRAFFIC.

RECORD HIGH TIDE WRECKS CONY ISLAND AND OVERFLOWS BATTERY AND DOCKS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—(Special.)—New York city is today literally writhing in the grip of the worst sleet and snow storm that has been experienced in several years.

STATE RIGHTS ISSUE RAISED

People Subservient to 'Superpower of Washington.'

PERSONAL LIBERTY GOING

Discourse on "Political Sacrilege" Greeted by Mingled Feelings at Big Gotham Dinner.

NEW YORK, Feb. 5.—Prohibition was injected tonight into the testimonial dinner given here to Homer S. Cummings, chairman of democratic party Daniels was the principal speaker. One thousand invitations had been issued to the banquet, which was attended by prominent democrats from all parts of the country.

The prohibition issue was brought up by Governor Edwards of New Jersey and was greeted with obviously mingled feelings by the diners. Governor Edwards was not on the official list of speakers and was called upon unexpectedly after Secretary Daniels had concluded his address.

Earlier in the evening the New Jersey executive had been given a striking ovation when he entered the hall and there was an even greater demonstration when he arose to speak.

Great Issue Up to People.

Governor Edwards declared a great issue had emerged from the past, "the issue of state rights and personal liberty." He asserted this issue must be decided by the people next November.

"If the federal government," he continued, "may subvert the doctrine of state rights and without a commission or mandate from the people enter upon our firesides and into our homes with the bureaucratic system of officeholders and overlords, the theory of our constitutional government, and all the rights incident to home rule and local state government are destroyed. Under such a system the indestructible union of indestructible states becomes a myth and we have the necessary alternative of a great super-power at Washington, imposing its will upon us in the direction of our habits, our manners, our tastes and our local customs, until nothing is left of the independent state of our fathers but the name."

Political Sacrilege Seen.

"To me, this situation is a political sacrilege and I purpose to carry the fight to San Francisco regardless of what any man or set of men may personally think, so as to bring about a popular restatement of the doctrine of state rights and popular local home rule upon which our fathers founded this government."

Governor Smith of New York sent a telegram expressing his regret that illness prevented him being present at the dinner. In his telegram the New York executive said:

"Do not forget the time-honored

DEMOCRAT'S SIRE UP OVER PROHIBITION

Governor of New Jersey Views With Alarm.

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PASTOR'S WILL GIVES 'FAITH' TO CHILDREN

REV. T. B. FORD'S BEQUESTS ARE FILED FOR PROBATE.

WASHINGTON AND NORTH PLATTE LANDS TO BE OPENED.

Secretary Lane Makes Announcement Following Passage of Joint Resolution by Congress.

DRAMATIC ACTION CERTAIN

Abrupt Ending of Examination Expected.

HALF OF JURORS FARMERS

Over 400 Witnesses Summoned for Case Which Will Likely Last for Two Months.

POLICE SHOOT PROWLER

Chase Down Business District Ends in Fugitives' Capture.

SOVIET FALL FORECAST

Member of French Commission to Kolkchak Returns.

GERMANS ACCEPT DEMAND

Charge d'Affaires Goes to Paris With Order to Get War Crime List.

ODESSA REPORTED TAKEN

Ukrainian Regulars and Insurgents Join in Capture.

FOCH JOINS IMMORTALS

French Academy Receives Marshal at Brilliant Assembly.

JUDGE WOLVERTON IS ILL

Portland Jurist Is Forced to Quit Bench at San Francisco.

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MONTESANO TRIAL JURY COMPLETED

Selection of Alternates Due Today.

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SIX IN THOUSAND HELD WEAK-MINDED

REJECTIONS FROM ARMY SERVICE TAKEN AS BASIS.

FUNCTIONAL NERVOUS DISORDERS ARE BLAMED FOR INABILITY TO FACE TRYING SITUATIONS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 4.—More than 24,000 candidates for military service in this country during the war were rejected on the ground that they were feeble-minded, according to a paper written by Dr. Pearce Bailey, chairman of the New York state committee on mental defects, as read at the closing session of the Society for Mental Hygiene here tonight. Dr. Bailey was unable to be present because of illness.

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ROAD WORK WAITS ON RISE IN LEVY

Commission Holds Programme to Minimum.

BRIDGE CONTRACT AWARDED

Youngs Bay Span at Astoria to Cost \$308,620.

LOOP HIGHWAY PENDS

Mount Hood Project Not to Be Pushed at Sacrifice to Other Districts in State.

ACTION OF HIGHWAY COMMISSION.

Awarded contract for bridge across Youngs bay; price, \$308,620.

Refused to make any promises for paving until result of May election is known.

Decided not to push Mount Hood loop at a sacrifice of highways in Lake, Klamath and other counties.

Agreed to extend The Dalles-California highway 35 miles from Modoc Point to Sand creek.

Suspended contract on Hadram-Prineville road and will add county on Crooked river road toward Paulina.

Will neither pave nor consider road from Woodburn to Newberg until state map roads are disposed of and new roads are taken up.

Accepts proposals of Union county, pending result of May election, and orders contracts called.

Survey ordered to finish Enterprise-Flora road in Wallawa county.

No action to be taken on Crater lake project until after May election.

Unless the constitutional amendment is passed at the May special election, increasing the state's indebtedness for road purposes from 2 to 4 per cent, the highway programme will bog down. This information was given to the various county delegations which appeared before the commission at the meeting yesterday.

Until the result of the election is known, the commission is not in position to map out any further road programme, and the commission declined to commit themselves to any new projects. All requests for paving were turned down yesterday and even flattering offers of co-operation from counties were laid on the shelf until the commission knows whether it will receive more funds.

Loop Road Plan Waits.

Philip Dater of the bureau of public roads held a consultation with the commission and the result of the loop road project of the commission is not completed until an early hour today.

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