

Morning Oregonian



VOL. LIX.—NO. 18,472

Entered at Portland (Oregon) Postoffice as Second-Class Matter.

PORTLAND OREGON, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1920

PRICE FIVE CENTS

WILSON'S FORCES TO MUSTER TODAY

Treaty Line-Up Expected to Be Portentous.

FRIENDS TO HOLD SESSION

23 Senators Needed to Block Reservations.

FAITHFUL REJOIN FOLD

President's Attitude on Grey's Letter Causes Some Followers to Return to Opposition.

OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU

Washington, Feb. 6.—The conference of the democratic "friends of the treaty," called by Senator Hitchcock for tomorrow, is expected to show whether the president can command enough votes to defeat ratification with the Lodge reservations.

After the publication of the letter of Lord Grey, British ex-ambassador to the United States, it was said that there were only two democrats standing out against swallowing the Lodge programme.

The revelation yesterday that the president's attitude was not altered by the Grey letter, it is found, has caused some of his faithful followers to return to the opposition side.

23 Senators Needed in Line-up

To defeat the Lodge reservations Mr. Wilson must be able to hold in line approximately 23 senators, which is a greater number than heretofore had been thought necessary. The different computation is due, however, to a report that the irreconcilables have lost three of their 14, thereby reducing the number to 11, all republicans except Reed of Missouri.

The identity of all of the alleged deserters from the battalion of death could not be learned, but one name mentioned was that of Senator Sherman of Illinois.

Need Not Invited

Senator Reed, democrat and irreconcilable, has not been invited.

Democrats who have been delving into the sudden switching of David J. Houston from the agricultural to the treasury portfolio and the unexpected appointment of E. T. Meredith of Iowa as secretary of agriculture, have ascertained that at least one other man besides the president knew something of the appointments.

Attorney-General Palmer is held responsible for both selections. The story is that Carter Glass, as secretary of the treasury, urged the appointment of R. C. Leffingwell as his successor. Formerly Secretary William G. McAdoo also asked the president to appoint Leffingwell. Palmer, being strongly opposed to Leffingwell, suggested shifting Houston to the job and the appointment of Meredith in his place.

Choices Made Accordingly

This suggestion pleased the president and the appointments were made on 24 hours' notice without consulting anyone else.

Mr. Wilson's action on these appointments has taken the heart out of those who are asking the appointment of James H. Hawley, ex-Governor of Idaho, as secretary of the interior. The strong indorsements given to Hawley would ordinarily win any kind of an appointment for anyone, but Hawley's friends fear that some day they will wake up to find another man has been named.

For secretary of the treasury it was said that Jouti Shouse of Kansas, one of the assistant secretaries, had a most formidable array of indorsements, but that they were never considered. It is to Hawley's advantage, however, that he has the indorsement of Palmer, who seems to have influenced the other selections.

Palmer's Entry Portentous

Attorney-General Palmer's announcement of his candidacy for the democratic presidential nomination is expected to open the contest on the democratic side in earnest. Much depends, however, on how much the attorney-general can make good on his promise that the cost of living will begin to come down this month.

It will be recalled that Mr. Palmer promised greatly reduced prices three months ago, but failed to make good, which caused some thoughtful persons to remark that economic changes cannot be wrought through the application of police powers.

There were several handicaps at the time of Mr. Palmer's earlier promise that will be removed this time, however, it is pointed out. For example, the molting season is over and the hens of this country will be molting in a few days to force down the price of eggs. And so with the cows, as spring rains conspire with green pastures to increase the supply of milk.

Oven Causes Not One Ripple

The announcement of Senator Robert Owen of Oklahoma that he is a

(Concluded on Page 3, Column 2.)

BABY, DISCLAIMED BY TWO MOTHERS, DIES

OTHER CHILD, WANTED BY EACH, IS BADLY BURNED.

Fate Takes Hand in Unusual Tangle About to Be Heard in Court. Both Born Same Day.

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 6.—Fate took a hand today in the tangled claim to blue-eyed Mary Elizabeth and brown-eyed Louise Madeline, 8-months-old babies, over whom two mothers were going to court tomorrow. Pneumonia claimed Mary Elizabeth, whom neither mother wanted, and the other child fell into an open grate, sustaining burns to her face that physicians said tonight might prove fatal or mar her looks for life.

The children were born the same day in hospital and recently Mrs. John C. Garner announced that the blue-eyed child was not her own, but that Louise Madeline, the brown-eyed girl, was hers. Daniel L. Pittman, to whom nurses gave the brown-eyed child, maintained it was her very own.

Mrs. Garner offered to take both children and later sought habeas corpus proceedings, hearings on which were set for tomorrow. Counsel for Mrs. Garner announced that her efforts to obtain possession of the brown-eyed child would continue.

J. L. LEWIS HEADS MINERS

Frank J. Hayes Resigns Presidency of International Union.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—At a meeting of the international executive board of the United Mine Workers of America today, Frank J. Hayes resigned as international president of the miners' union. The board advanced John L. Lewis, vice-president, to the office of president, and Phillip Murray, president of the Pittsburgh district, was chosen vice-president. Hayes has been in poor health for more than a year.

Murray is rated as one of the conservative leaders of the miners. He has been president of the Pittsburgh district for four years and in that time his district has won a smaller percentage of local strikes than any other district.

LEGION OUSTS DEMPSEY

Post Finds Honorary Membership Contrary to Constitution.

MILWAUKEE, Wis., Feb. 6.—Gordon Barber Post of the American Legion, which recently brought upon itself a storm of mingled protest and approval by making Jack Dempsey honorary life member of the post and declaring the slacker and draft-dodger charges against him to be false, voted tonight to nullify the heavyweight champion's membership.

The resolution praised Dempsey's character and war record and stated that the retraction was due not to any change of mind on the part of the legion members, but because of the discovery that honorary membership in the legion is unconstitutional.

INSECTS EAT UP TIMBER

Ranger Finds 1,000,000 Feet Is Ruined in Siuslaw Forest.

EUGENE, Or., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Approximately a million feet of timber in the Siuslaw national forest, in the vicinity of Yachats and Cape Creek, on the coast, was destroyed by insects during the past year, according to a special report just filed in the office of the Siuslaw forest ranger.

The investigation was made by one of the rangers who found that the ravages of the insects, the nature of which he was unable to determine, covered a strip about a quarter of a mile wide and 50 acres in extent, near the coast.

WEATHER MEN ASSAILED

Frequent Errors in Bureau's Forecasts Told in Congress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Attacks on the weather bureau were made in the house today by Representatives Mann, republican, Illinois, and Bee, democrat, Texas.

Frequent errors in the bureau's forecasts last summer, Mr. Mann said, led him to conclude generally that the weather would not be according to predictions, while Dr. Bee cited the death list resulting from the storm in the gulf last summer as partly due to lack of warning by the bureau as to the course of the storm.

DROP IN PRICE PREDICTED

High Rate of Exchange Causes Suspension of Exports.

MONTREAL, Feb. 6.—A sharp decrease in the cost of living was predicted today because of the virtual suspension of exports resulting from the high rate of exchange.

Canadian exporters have on their hands large quantities of foodstuffs designed for shipment to foreign countries and the only markets left for them are those in the Dominion.

MESSENGER, BONDS LOST

Chicago Bank Employee Missing With \$38,000 Parcel.

CHICAGO, Feb. 6.—George Franz, 37 years old, bank messenger for the Harris Trust & Savings bank, disappeared today, after leaving the federal reserve bank.

He had exchanged liberty bonds valued at \$38,000 for bonds of larger denomination.

GERMANY SLOWLY GAINS DEMOCRACY

Successful Transition Is Predicted, However.

PEOPLE SEEK OWN SALVATION

New Constitution Being Studied Assiduously.

SCHOOLS HOLD REACTION

Books Ordered Rewritten and Exurgations Made to Purge Minds of Imperialism.

BY CYRIL BROWN.

(Copyright by the New York World. Published by Arrangement.)

BERLIN, Jan. 1.—Bankrupt Germany is passing through a painful transition period of ruthless reorganization and haphazard reconstruction. But economic, social and political conditions are very appreciably better than one year ago. The German people are beginning to work out their own salvation by working hard and by the use of their own brains.

There is a fair prospect that, given half a chance, the German people can come out of the reconstruction period as a real republic.

Old Methods Dying

It is easy to be fooled about the Germany of today. It still looks and acts very much like the old Germany. Most of the machinery of the old imperial state is still intact and functioning, because there has not been time to substitute a brand new set of democratic works all along the line. The old men and methods are persisting under the near-republican regime with the vitality of nine-year-olds.

The old men and methods must be rooted out patiently one by one. The job of democratizing Germany is too big to be done all at once and quickly. But the fact remains that Germany is democratizing itself with painstaking slowness and thoroughness. Out of the wreckage of the old empire a new democratic Germany is pulling itself together and arising.

Election Interest Big

A suggestive small sign of the changing times is the cropping up of popular interest in Germany's first presidential election. A popular weekly has found it worth while to offer prizes to its readers for the correct answer to the question: "Who will be the next president of the German Reich?"

Hindenburg is being seriously discussed as a presidential possibility. Democratic politicians, however,

Flora York to Marry.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—The engagement of Miss Flora Payne Whitney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Payne Whitney, to Roderick Tower of Philadelphia, son of Charles Tower, former United States ambassador to Austria, Germany and Russia, was announced tonight.

STORM DEMORALIZES WORK IN NEW YORK

TRANSPORTATION STOPPAGE IS ALMOST UNPRECEDENTED.

Mayor Issues Proclamation Calling for Trucks and Laborers to Meet Emergency.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—New York still was storm bound late tonight and there was small prospect of relief. Demoralization of transit lines of all kinds was almost unprecedented. Surface cars had almost ceased to operate.

So serious was the situation that Mayor Hylan issued a proclamation late today calling upon all persons engaged in the transportation business, except in the delivery of foodstuffs, coal and milk, to turn their trucks and laboring forces over to the city to meet the storm emergency.

The street cleaning department admitted that it was virtually helpless because of its inability to hire men from 75 cents to \$1 an hour was offered for snow shovellers, but only 3000 of the 14,000 men needed could be recruited.

The problem of distributing the city's food supply also had become serious.

Dozens of persons were injured today, many seriously, by falling copings, awnings, cornices and marquees carried down by weight of snow. Lieutenant-Colonel Frederick Dawson, stationed at Governor's island, died today from a fracture of the skull suffered when he was struck by a glass canopy.

Conditions on the harbor were little improved, although it had been hoped a shift of the wind might release some of the boats held fast in fields of ice.

Eight steamers were fast in Long Island sound, and tugs sent to their relief were bucking vainly against the ice. Trans-Atlantic ships were held in port and wireless reports from vessels at sea told of high winds and raging waves.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6.—Severe storms, raising over practically the entire eastern half of the United States have cut seriously into operation of the railroads, Director-General Hines reported tonight. Trains were running late on nearly every division east of the Mississippi river.

The wreckage of the old empire and the transportation system, but a statement of the storm has permitted maintenance and repair work to be resumed. Delayed trains, however, tied up hundreds of cars of freight and the extra burden of moving them out, it was explained, has delayed shipments generally to some extent.

Wealth Piles Up Fast

Low Exchange and Gold Exports Make Argentina Prosperous.

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 6.—There is a heavy speculation in international exchange in Buenos Aires, the brokers virtually having formed a cartel market where the turnover amounts to a million daily. Intense excitement is shown over the receipt of the daily exchange rates from New York.

Meantime the wealth of Argentina is growing by great leaps, as is evidenced by estimates of her exports for January as 90,000,000 gold pesos as against imports of 30,000,000 pesos, enhancing the nation's already favorable trade balance and maintaining the high value of the Argentine gold pesos in international exchange.

VIRGINIA HITS SUFFRAGE

Legislature Refuses Women Vote After Stormy Session.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 6.—Virginia tonight rejected the federal suffrage amendment by a vote of 24 to 16. The action followed an all-day session marked by stormy debate. This makes the second defeat of the suffrage question in the Virginia legislature.

HAVANA IS SWEEP BY \$10,000,000 FIRE

BLAZE SPREADS FROM WOODEN-FREIGHTER BROOKLAND.

American and Agricultural Chemical Company Buildings Are Total Loss.

HAVANA, Feb. 6.—Fire destroyed the principal buildings of the American Agricultural & Chemical company and their contents at Regia, near here, today with a loss estimated at more than \$10,000,000.

The flames are said to have originated on board the American wooden freighter Brookland, laden with nitrate, which was moored at the Regia docks, in Havana harbor. The Brookland is a total loss. Numerous explosions spread panic among the inhabitants of the village of Regia. Several firemen are reported to have been injured.

All the members of the crew of the Brookland escaped. Several vessels docked nearby were able to get safely out of danger, but the Brookland burned to the water's edge.

Spectators who lined the docks on both sides of the harbor or were on board sight-seeing vessels applauded lustily when a member of the Brookland's crew, at great personal risk, returned to the vessel and saved the American flag floating at its stern and then leaped to safety in a small boat.

NOTED RAILWAY MAN DIES

William van Schoonhoven Thorne, Director of Northwest Lines.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—William van Schoonhoven Thorne, railroad director and financier, died at his home today after a short illness with pneumonia. He was 55 years old. Mr. Thorne was born in Millbrook, N. Y. He was graduated by the Sheffield scientific school at Yale in 1883, and entered railroad work as an assistant engineer on the Great Northern railway.

He later became an assistant to Edward H. Harriman of the Southern Pacific systems. At the time of his death he was director of the Union Pacific and Oregon Short Line railroads, Oregon-Washington Railway and Navigation company and several other corporations.

JURY IS SWORN IN FOR I. W. W. TRIAL

Vanderveer Quits Quiz Much in Anger.

MONTESANO, Wash., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Abrupt termination of the questioning of a venireman by the defense came this afternoon in the Centralia Armistice day murder case, on trial in superior court for Grays Harbor county, when George F. Vanderveer, counsel for 11 I. W. W. defendants, clashed with the court and declined to proceed with the examinations under Judge Wilson's rulings.

On objection from W. H. Abel, special prosecutor, the court had ruled as involved and improper a question put to A. R. Johnson, venireman of Hoquiam, when the latter was being examined as to his qualifications to serve as an alternate juror.

WEALTH PILES UP FAST

Low Exchange and Gold Exports Make Argentina Prosperous.

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 6.—There is a heavy speculation in international exchange in Buenos Aires, the brokers virtually having formed a cartel market where the turnover amounts to a million daily. Intense excitement is shown over the receipt of the daily exchange rates from New York.

Meantime the wealth of Argentina is growing by great leaps, as is evidenced by estimates of her exports for January as 90,000,000 gold pesos as against imports of 30,000,000 pesos, enhancing the nation's already favorable trade balance and maintaining the high value of the Argentine gold pesos in international exchange.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S Maximum temperature, 52 degrees; minimum, 40 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain, southerly winds.

Foreign. Germany is achieving democracy slowly. Page 1. Soviet envoy denies intent to attack Poland. Page 10. Havana swept by \$10,000,000 fire. Page 1. Lord Grey letter on treaty big influence in France. Page 4. France to demand full pay of Germany. Page 2.

National. Republicans will lead treaty fight. Page 3. Labor to make national campaign to elect friends to office. Page 2. U. S. treasury closes rule of certificates of indebtedness. Page 7. Storm demoralizes work in New York. Page 1.

Domestic. Conferees lower short haul rate. Page 3. Fate takes life of baby, disclaimed by two mothers. Page 1. Candidates in Mexican branded intolerable by General Howas. Page 6. South Dakota primary expected to test Wood boom. Page 2. Wilson to muster forces for treaty fight today. Page 1. Liner goes ashore, but wild sea halts efforts to rescue 104 passengers. Page 1. Funds for further credit to Europe are declared unavailable. Page 4.

Pacific Northwest. Jury is sworn in for I. W. W. trial. Page 1.

Sports. U. S. will challenge Australia for Davis tennis cup. Page 12. Litchfield wins tennis title in winner of Gibbons-McCormick go. Page 12. Judge McCredie has plan to help Beaver outbid. Page 12. Acorn basketers defeat Arlio 40 to 22. Page 12.

Commercial and Marine. Wheat trading comes to stop in northwest. Page 10. Canadian oats freely offered at Chicago. Page 10. Early losses in stock market are generally regained. Page 10. Louis Titus of San Francisco nominated as shipping board member. Page 10. Two more lumber vessels are chartered. Page 10.

Portland and Vicinity. Decision for 8-cent carfare appears to be likely. Page 1. Work on five state highways ordered by commission. Page 11. Lease held on Sunset theater property requires erection of six-story building by 1923. Page 20. Realtors approve state license law. Page 10. Women are aroused by vaccination order. Page 19. \$200,000 to be spent on Multnomah county market roads. Page 9.

JURY IS SWORN IN FOR I. W. W. TRIAL

Vanderveer Quits Quiz Much in Anger.

COURT'S RULING IRRITATES

Attorney for Accused Refuses to Examine Further.

BAILIFF IS SUSPECTED

Court Excuses J. H. Pittinger on Representation That He Is Employee of Prosecutor.

BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

MONTESANO, Wash., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Abrupt termination of the questioning of a venireman by the defense came this afternoon in the Centralia Armistice day murder case, on trial in superior court for Grays Harbor county, when George F. Vanderveer, counsel for 11 I. W. W. defendants, clashed with the court and declined to proceed with the examinations under Judge Wilson's rulings.

On objection from W. H. Abel, special prosecutor, the court had ruled as involved and improper a question put to A. R. Johnson, venireman of Hoquiam, when the latter was being examined as to his qualifications to serve as an alternate juror.

Vanderveer Quits Quiz Much in Anger.

COURT'S RULING IRRITATES

Attorney for Accused Refuses to Examine Further.

BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

MONTESANO, Wash., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Abrupt termination of the questioning of a venireman by the defense came this afternoon in the Centralia Armistice day murder case, on trial in superior court for Grays Harbor county, when George F. Vanderveer, counsel for 11 I. W. W. defendants, clashed with the court and declined to proceed with the examinations under Judge Wilson's rulings.

On objection from W. H. Abel, special prosecutor, the court had ruled as involved and improper a question put to A. R. Johnson, venireman of Hoquiam, when the latter was being examined as to his qualifications to serve as an alternate juror.

BAILIFF IS SUSPECTED

Court Excuses J. H. Pittinger on Representation That He Is Employee of Prosecutor.

BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

MONTESANO, Wash., Feb. 6.—(Special.)—Abrupt termination of the questioning of a venireman by the defense came this afternoon in the Centralia Armistice day murder case, on trial in superior court for Grays Harbor county, when George F. Vanderveer, counsel for 11 I. W. W. defendants, clashed with the court and declined to proceed with the examinations under Judge Wilson's rulings.

On objection from W. H. Abel, special prosecutor, the court had ruled as involved and improper a question put to A. R. Johnson, venireman of Hoquiam, when the latter was being examined as to his qualifications to serve as an alternate juror.

WEALTH PILES UP FAST

Low Exchange and Gold Exports Make Argentina Prosperous.

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 6.—There is a heavy speculation in international exchange in Buenos Aires, the brokers virtually having formed a cartel market where the turnover amounts to a million daily. Intense excitement is shown over the receipt of the daily exchange rates from New York.

Meantime the wealth of Argentina is growing by great leaps, as is evidenced by estimates of her exports for January as 90,000,000 gold pesos as against imports of 30,000,000 pesos, enhancing the nation's already favorable trade balance and maintaining the high value of the Argentine gold pesos in international exchange.

VIRGINIA HITS SUFFRAGE

Legislature Refuses Women Vote After Stormy Session.

RICHMOND, Va., Feb. 6.—Virginia tonight rejected the federal suffrage amendment by a vote of 24 to 16. The action followed an all-day session marked by stormy debate. This makes the second defeat of the suffrage question in the Virginia legislature.

LINER IN DISTRESS IN FURIOUS STORM

WILD SEA HALTS ATTEMPTS TO RESCUE 104 PERSONS.

If Efforts to Shoot Lines Aboard Fail, Naval Dirigible May Try to Carry Cable Out.

NEW YORK, Feb. 6.—Baffled by a blinding snow storm and the towering waves of a furious sea, all attempts of rescuing vessels to reach the Old Dominion liner Princess Anne, aground off Rockaway Point, with 104 persons aboard, had failed tonight. More than a half dozen sea-going tugs, a coast guard cutter and a police boat were unable to get within hailing distance and shortly after midnight temporarily abandoned their plans to take off the 32 passengers.

The distressed vessel, which is about a half-mile off shore, could not be discerned through the darkness tonight because of the thick weather. She is apparently resting easily on a sand reef.

If the weather continues rough tomorrow and the stranded steamer is endangered by the heavy seas, it is planned to attempt the rescue of the passengers by breeches buoy. If it is impossible to shoot lines aboard it, it is stated, the naval dirigible B-10 may be used to carry a line to the vessel.

SHIP CALLS FOR HELP

Steamer Polar Bear Adrift 600 Miles Off New York.

BOSTON, Feb. 7.—The steamer Polar Bear, in distress signals which were intercepted here early today, reported that she was disabled 600 miles southeast of New York and requested assistance.

The message said she was drifting eastward at the rate of one-half knot an hour. The coast guard station at Norfolk was said to be sending assistance. The Polar Bear, which registers 2600 tons, sailed from Dakar on January 5 for New York.

RAILROAD TO PAY TRIBUTE

All Activities on Santa Fe to Cease for Five Minutes.

TOPEKA, Kan., Feb. 6.—For a period of five minutes tomorrow all activities on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe will stop as a tribute to E. P. Ripley, for many years president of the Santa Fe.

Funeral services will be held for Mr. Ripley tomorrow at 12 o'clock at Santa Barbara, Cal.

INDEX OF TODAY'S NEWS

The Weather. YESTERDAY'S Maximum temperature, 52 degrees; minimum, 40 degrees. TODAY'S—Rain, southerly winds.

Foreign. Germany is achieving democracy slowly. Page 1. Soviet envoy denies intent to attack Poland. Page 10. Havana swept by \$10,000,000 fire. Page 1. Lord Grey letter on treaty big influence in France. Page 4. France to demand full pay of Germany. Page 2.

National. Republicans will lead treaty fight. Page 3. Labor to make national campaign to elect friends to office. Page 2. U. S. treasury closes rule of certificates of indebtedness. Page 7. Storm demoralizes work in New York. Page 1.

Domestic. Conferees lower short haul rate. Page 3. Fate takes life of baby, disclaimed by two mothers. Page 1. Candidates in Mexican branded intolerable by General Howas. Page 6. South Dakota primary expected to test Wood boom. Page 2. Wilson to muster forces for treaty fight today. Page 1. Liner goes ashore, but wild sea halts efforts to rescue 104 passengers. Page 1. Funds for further credit to Europe are declared unavailable. Page 4.

Pacific Northwest. Jury is sworn in for I. W. W. trial. Page 1.

Sports. U. S. will challenge Australia for Davis tennis cup. Page 12. Litchfield wins tennis title in winner of Gibbons-McCormick go. Page 12. Judge McCredie has plan to help Beaver outbid. Page 12. Acorn basketers defeat Arlio 40 to 22. Page 12.

Commercial and Marine. Wheat trading comes to stop in northwest. Page 10. Canadian oats freely offered at Chicago. Page 10. Early losses in stock market are generally regained. Page 10. Louis Titus of San Francisco nominated as shipping board member. Page 10. Two more lumber vessels are chartered. Page 10.

Portland and Vicinity. Decision for 8-cent carfare appears to be likely. Page 1. Work on five state highways ordered by commission. Page 11. Lease held on Sunset theater property requires erection of six-story building by 1923. Page 20. Realtors approve state license law. Page 10. Women are aroused by vaccination order. Page 19. \$200,000 to be spent on Multnomah county market roads. Page 9.

8-CENT CARFARE APPEARS LIKELY

Decision in 30 Days, if Possible, Is Promised.

HEARING BROUGHT TO CLOSE

Removal of Paving Charge and Tolls May Be Urged.

CUT WOULD FOLLOW

Under New Rate Books Would Average Seven Cents Ride With Transfer One Cent.

After a hearing, continuing for a period of four full days, the state public service commission yesterday afternoon at 5 o'clock took under advisement the case of the Portland Railway, Light & Power company, which operates street cars in this city, in which an order is sought fixing a rate of fare for passengers sufficient to pay expenses plus 7 per cent interest on the investment.

Fred G. Buchtel, chairman, said the members desire briefs from all parties concerned as soon as possible and that they want to announce a decision within 30 days if such action is at all feasible.

Judging from questions propounded by Chairman Buchtel and Commissioner Corey—Commissioner Williams being absent because of death in his family—it seems evident that the commission intends to make a strenuous effort to arrive at some decision whereby adequate relief for the company may be provided without increasing the fare beyond possibly 8 cents straight, with all transfer privileges on this basis and books at 7 cents or a 7-cent rate, with an extra cent added for transfers.

End of Tolls May Be Asked

In case of a straight eight-cent fare and the seven-cent rate for a book, it would not be surprising should the commission, in issuing its order, make recommendation to the people, through the city council, to the effect that, should relief from bridge tolls, paving charges and free rides for policemen and firemen in Portland be afforded the company, a decrease in the fare would follow in proportion. In fact, it seems reasonable to believe that something like this will be urged by the commission, whatever its decision as to the rates.

Members of the commission are not vested with power to issue arbitrary orders on any of the points suggested as remedies for the relief of the company, except as to fares. In that, they have absolute authority, subject only to court review. It is believed, however, that the commission is not of the reasonableness of assertions that there should not only be adequate revenue to keep the cars running at least as good as at present, but that a portion of this should come from other than fares.

Taking that view of the situation, it is believed, they will at least make the effort to bring about action that will eventually bring again to public determination the question of remission of bridge tolls, paving charges and free rides for municipal police and firemen.

Council Must Act First

This would first be taken up with the Portland city council, which, if its members should see fit, has authority to refer proposed charter amendments on the subject of remissions to a vote of the people. The earliest feasible time for this would be at the primary nominating election May 21. It could be done at that time without additional cost to the taxpayers of the city.

Figures have now been presented to show just what difference remission of those charges now levied against the company would make in the rate of fares necessary to enable the company to operate its system at its present efficiency, but it would be an important factor, as shown by the fact that the city's paving programme, which is now outlined for 1920, will, if pushed through, require for the company's share, approximately \$600,000.

Two outstanding features of the afternoon session yesterday were the showing by J. P. Newell, consulting engineer for the city, by direction of Stanley Myers, assistant city attorney, that a 7-cent fare with a cent for transfers would "get the company by," and the placing of a tentative value on tracks of the company of \$4,000,000 by Eugene Clarke of the commission. Both incidents were noteworthy and caused considerable comment.

Original Report Explained

Originally, Mr. Newell had given figures indicating that no less than an 8-cent fare, with 7-cent book tickets, would afford for the company, as reported by Eugene Clarke of the commission, a 7-cent fare, with an alternative of an 8-cent with tickets sold seven for 50 cents would, during 1920, provide sufficient revenue to meet all expenses and give a reasonable return on investment. This would leave school tickets at 4 cents, as now.

(Concluded on Page 3, Column 1.)

