

COMMISSION MAY ACT ON TERMINAL

Refusal of Execution Stay Likely to Bring Action.

HEARING WOULD RESULT

Denial of Usage of Facilities to Two Roads Declared Injustice to Entire State.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Refusal yesterday of J. P. O'Brien, president of the board of directors of the Northern Pacific Terminal company, to stay execution of the recent order denying to the Great Northern and Spokane, Portland & Seattle roads joint usage of the terminal facilities pending completion of an investigation by members of a committee appointed by Mayor Baker of Portland and the Oregon public service commission, probably will result in the entire matter being referred to the interstate commerce commission for final determination, according to statements made today by Fred A. Williams and H. H. Corey, members of the commission.

Fred G. Buchtel, chairman of the public service commission, was out of the city and it was impossible to obtain a statement regarding his attitude in the controversy.

Proceedings Are Predicted. Although the members of the public service commission have not yet taken up the terminal controversy officially, both Mr. Corey and Mr. Williams said that it was only natural that the body would initiate proceedings upon its own motion to have the interstate commerce commission review the ouster order and make any ruling the body may deem expedient and just on behalf of the traveling public. In case such an order is made by the Oregon commission, Mr. Williams said, it was almost certain that the city of Portland would intervene on behalf of the state, as would many other interests which are affected by the order of the terminal company. This would mean, Mr. Williams said, that the interstate commerce commission would call a hearing at some date in the near future when all parties to the controversy would be given an opportunity to submit testimony bearing on the questions at issue. Whether this hearing would be held in Portland or Washington would be a matter for the interstate commerce commission to decide, according to Mr. Williams. Although he refused to say whether the ouster order was being challenged, Mr. Williams intimated that the ouster order was being challenged in this state. Also that it was the first time in the history of Oregon that a public utility had denied the patrons of the railroads a hearing through its official representatives.

Conference Is Intimated. Commissioners Corey and Williams intimated tonight that the members of the commission probably would hold a conference some time this week when official action would be taken. The absence of jurisdiction on the part of the commission in matters involving interstate traffic, it was said at this action, naturally would necessitate referring the entire matter to the interstate commerce commission for settlement. Both Mr. Williams and Mr. Corey agreed that in denying to the Great Northern and Spokane, Portland & Seattle roads common use of the terminal facilities in Portland the terminal corporation had denied the entire state an injustice. It was pointed out by Mr. Williams that it was one of the few cities of the state in the United States which divided territory between two railroads. The results of Mr. O'Brien's order would be far-reaching. Neither Mr. Corey nor Mr. Williams could give any information tonight as to whether any action that may be taken by the commission would have the effect of staying the ouster order, which becomes operative at midnight December 31. It was intimated, however, that telegrams would be sent to the interstate commerce commission asking that it try to intercede on behalf of the Oregon public service commission and a city of Portland and delay execution of the terminal corporation's order until the maximum time allowed. This is the only way, it was said, in which operation of Mr. O'Brien's order could be stayed.

AS HEARING ENDS TODAY

LATE RISE DECISION TO BE ANNOUNCED SOON.

Chairman Buchtel Says Commission Probably Will Decide Case Before January 1.

The hearing on the application of the Portland Gas & Coke company for permission to increase its rates will terminate before the state public service commission today, according to an announcement made by Chairman Buchtel. He said that the commission would probably announce its decision before January 1. The hearing has been on for several days at the courthouse. Witnesses for and against the proposed rate increase have been examined. C. J. Green, chief engineer of the public service commission, testified Saturday that an increased income of \$124,438.92 during the coming year would be assured the company if dividends were maintained at the present scale. This figure, he said, was provided that \$2.75 was the best price per barrel the company could get on purchases of oil.

CONGRESS TO BE BUSY

HEAVY PROGRAMME CAUSES ABANDONING OF HOLIDAY.

War Finance Resolution, Adopted by House, Goes Back to Senate Today.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—By abandoning the usual Christmas-New Year's recess for the first time in years, congressional leaders plan to put through a heavy programme this week and present several pieces of

legislation to the nation as holiday gifts.

Farmers' relief measures hold the leading places on the programme, which contemplates final adoption of the resolution to revive the war finance corporation, passage by the house before Christmas of the emergency tariff bill relating to agricultural products and progress on several other important measures.

The house will adjourn Thursday over Christmas, until the following Monday, when the senate appeared to lean toward a partial cessation of business for three days recess until after New Year's day.

The war finance resolution, adopted yesterday by the house, will go back to the senate tomorrow, either for immediate acceptance of the house amendment eliminating suggestions to the federal reserve board for farm loans or for a brief conference. The resolution is expected to go to President Wilson early in the week.

The house plans to take up the emergency tariff bill Tuesday or Wednesday with the sundry civil and many other appropriation bills to follow. Senate leaders are prepared for a tilt early this week on motion of Senator La Follette, republican, Wisconsin, to reconsider passage of the Polindexter anti-strike bill.

A motion by Senator Polindexter, republican, Washington, to table the La Follette motion, a move barring debate under the senate rules, is in prospect.

The emergency immigration measure, passed by the house, is to be taken up Tuesday by the senate immigration committee, which is expected to arrange for hearings after the holidays.

Another house bill, that proposing repeal of general war laws, will be before the senate judiciary committee tomorrow.

The committee will hold hearings Tuesday on a bill by Senator France, republican, Maryland, to punish persons convicted of violating the espionage laws.

Important information regarding national taxation, including taxation of liquidation and tariff, is expected from Secretary Houston of the treasury department Thursday, when he appears before the senate finance committee to discuss the house bill for adjustment of compensation for former service men.

Further testimony regarding cable landings in the United States and cable conditions abroad, in which this nation is interested, is to be taken during the week by the interstate commerce sub-committee in charge of Senator Kellogg, republican, Minnesota.

SHRINERS OUTLINE PLANS ACTIVITIES FOR COMING YEAR ARE CONSIDERED.

Visit to Tacoma January 8 First on Programme, and Ball Will Be Given on Twentieth.

Although Al Kader temple, Mystic Shrine, has just completed the biggest year in its career, Frank S. Grant, grand high priest, and other officials of the temple are busy completing the plans for the activities of 1921.

First on the list is a visit to Tacoma, Wash., when officials and members of Al Kader will participate in the annual event of importance will be the annual ball given in honor of the illustrious potentate which will be held in the public auditorium on January 20.

Two days later the first ceremonial of the year will be held, with one section conducted in the armory and the other section in the public auditorium. Potentate Grant announced yesterday that a party of Shriner, including Mayor Baker, Judge Stapleton, Hon. W. J. Hoffman and Harvey Wells, would accompany him to Tacoma next Sunday night to arrange details of the Portland visit to Tacoma on January 8.

Mr. Grant also announced his choice for appointive officers in the divan, as well as members of the standing committee. Shriner were expected to fill the appointive offices were as follows: Phil Metcher, first ceremonial master; J. L. Hammer, second ceremonial master; Dean Vincent, director; Herman Von Borstel, marshal; Harvey Wells, captain of the guard; Walter J. Holman, senior wald Taylor, chaplain; P. P. Kilbourne, outer guard.

The following committee appointments were announced by Potentate Grant: D. C. Tomasi, William Parker and Bert Trago, finance committee.

Herman Von Borstel, chairman entertainment committee.

Carl Tipton, Dr. Allan Welch Smith and Fred Jennings, welfare committee.

Other committee appointments will be made by Potentate Grant within a few days, it was announced.

POLICEMAN IS MISSING

Marshfield Patrolman Draws Pay, Borrows Money and Disappears.

MARSHFIELD, Or., Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Earl Parker, night policeman of Marshfield for the last two months, has been missing since Friday afternoon when he requested a layoff for 24 hours because of illness. That evening he boarded a northbound train telling a questioner he was going to North Bend, three miles away. Since then he has not been seen.

Nothing was thought of his absence until he failed to report for duty Saturday night. The night before Parker requested his layoff, two stores within half a block of the police station were robbed. The officer drew his pay to the time of his layoff and borrowed money from a fireman at the city hall. He said he had to send money east to relatives.

43 INITIATED BY KNIGHTS

Three Degrees of Order Are Given at Local Clubhouse.

The Portland council, Knights of Columbus, initiated 43 candidates at special services held yesterday afternoon at the new clubhouse, 384 Taylor street. Twelve of the class of 43 scheduled to receive degrees were not present.

The first and second degrees were given by officers and members of the local council. The major degree was under the direction of A. J. Chamberlain, Dr. Corvallis, Or., district deputy. At the conclusion of the ceremony the new members were guests at a luncheon served in the club rooms. R. Murphy presided as toastmaster and an impromptu programme was presented. C. E. Reilly was chairman of the class committee which arranged for the day's programme.

REFERENDUM ON TAX REVISION IS STARTED

U. S. Chamber of Commerce Submits Proposals.

EXCESS PROFIT LEVY HIT

Excise Assessment on Articles of Wide Use But Not of First Necessity Also Suggested.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—A proposed programme of federal tax revision, suggesting radical changes in present methods of levy, was put to a referendum vote today by the United States chamber of commerce.

The proposals were prepared by the chamber's committee on taxation, which has made necessary a year's study of the subject. The board of directors made it clear that the board itself neither approved nor dissented from the report.

The propositions upon which the chamber's members were asked to express their views were:

Excess Profits Tax Issue. The excess profits tax should be repealed. Revenues now derived from the excess profits tax should be obtained from taxes on incomes.

There should also be excise taxes upon some articles of wide use, but not of first necessity. Should a sales tax be levied instead of the taxes mentioned in the second and third proposals?

Should a sales tax be levied in addition to such taxes as are mentioned in the second and third proposals?

Members voting in favor of proposal four or proposal five are asked to indicate the type of sales tax they advocate; whether a general turnover tax, a limited turnover tax, or a retail sales tax.

Corporations Tax Viewed. There should be a moderate and graduated undistributed earnings tax on corporations.

Each individual stockholder of a corporation should pay his own normal income from any new issues of securities which may lawfully be made subject to federal tax should be taxable.

American citizens resident abroad should be exempt from the American tax upon income derived abroad and not returned to the United States.

Allocated Levy Suggested. Profits arising from sale of capital assets should be allocated over the period in which earned and taxed at the rates for the several years in the period.

An exchange of property of a like or similar nature should be considered merely as replacement. Net losses and inventory losses in any taxable year should be cause for redetermination of taxes on income on the preceding year.

Ascertained by the government of any tax based on income should precede payment.

Administration of income taxation with regard to a sales tax was declared to be that it was impracticable. Ascertained by the government of any tax based on income should precede payment.

The committee's own judgment with regard to a sales tax was declared to be that it was impracticable. Ascertained by the government of any tax based on income should precede payment.

In its opinion the government's expenses would remain high for some time and it explained that the revision it proposed was not aimed at reducing the amount of yield, but in changing the manner of levying the taxes.

YULE TREES ARE GATHERED

MOTORISTS LINE HIGHWAYS SEEKING EVERGREENS.

Portland Families Prepare for Holiday Season by Gathering Own Natural Decorations.

Many an evergreen tree was taken yesterday from the seclusions of woods in the vicinity of Portland to be decorated with the attraction of Christmas day celebrations in Portland homes. Crowds of people took advantage of the fine weather to gather trees and greens for Yuletide decorations.

Traffic as heavy as any on the picnic days of summer was found on the various highways near the city and the large number of cars parked along the roadsides bore evidence of happy youngsters and enthusiastic motorists joined in a search for the proper ornaments for the event of December 25. The Columbia highway, Terwilliger boulevard and Sandy road attracted the greater portion of machines, but many small parties went off the beaten track to less frequented woods.

The fir tree was the most popular, but cedar was chosen in many cases because of the ornamental value of its boughs. Oregon grape, which grows so abundantly in the state, was the favorite decoration, as it is an excellent substitute for holly.

Owens of holly trees were popular as the men who furnish the ingredients for Christmas punch, and quantities of material for wreaths were given to friends by these persons, the symbolic green shrub with red berries.

TIMBER CROP IS STUDIED

FOREST SERVICE INVESTIGATORS END 2-DAY SESSION.

Methods of Handling Stock in Timber and Dry-Killing Are Discussed.

Methods of growing new crops of timber on logged-off lands, methods of handling sheep and cattle in the national forests so as to increase the carrying capacity of the range, methods of dry-killing lumber, and many other problems of vital importance to lumbermen and stockmen were discussed at the meetings of the investigating committee of the United States forest service which ended a two-day session in Portland, Saturday.

It was brought out that the most important requirement for the growing of new crops of timber is protection of cut-over areas from fire.

In the Douglas fir forests, abundant reproduction will follow the burning of the logging slash from seed stored in the top layers of soil and if this young stand of trees is protected from fire, a second crop will soon be established.

In the yellow pine forests, the in-

vestigators of the forest service pointed out, abundant reproduction is ordinarily already established in the forest before cutting, so that if re-usable slash is taken not to destroy it during logging and during disposal of the slash, a second crop is assured. This permanent committee, which meets annually in December and decides what investigative projects or studies shall be taken up for the next year, reports progress on studies being conducted. The members present were: J. F. Kummel, forest management, chairman; T. T. Munger, forest management; R. H. Waldman, forest management; Dr. J. V. Hofmann, director, Wind river experiment station; Dr. J. S. Boyce, pathologist, bureau of plant pathology; W. H. Gibbons, forest products; M. L. Merritt, operation, fire studies; J. L. Peterson, grazing, range and grazing studies; D. C. Ingram, grazing, range and grazing studies; W. B. Osborne, operation, fire studies; and E. H. Brandegee, forest supervisor, Columbia national forest.

NEW TREATY IS REPORTED

SPANIARD NONCOMMITTAL ON PACT WITH ENGLAND.

Political Circles Inclined to Believe Spain Has Abandoned Isolation Policy.

MADRID, Dec. 19.—(By the Associated Press.)—Although Marquis de Lema, Spanish foreign minister, was non-committal today when questioned regarding the reports of an important treaty having been concluded between Spain and Great Britain, there is inclination in political circles here to give credit to the indication which have found publicity recently that Spain intends to break away from the isolation which has been her policy since the restoration of the monarchy.

The foreign minister's informal statement was that he was unable to give a definite reply to the inquiry regarding the reported Anglo-Spanish treaty, but he remarked that the treaty having been concluded between Spain and Great Britain, there is inclination in political circles here to give credit to the indication which have found publicity recently that Spain intends to break away from the isolation which has been her policy since the restoration of the monarchy.

LONDON, Dec. 19.—A Reuters dispatch from Madrid today reports the issuance of an official denial by Foreign Minister De Lema of the reports that an Anglo-Spanish alliance had been concluded.

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 19.—Spain has given three months' notice of termination of the Spanish-Swedish commercial convention, in operation since 1892.

POLICE JUDGE TO SPEAK

"Autos and Pedestrians" to Be Topic at Library Hall.

"Autos and Pedestrians" will be the subject of an address delivered by Municipal Judge Rossman at the library hall tonight as a feature of the series of educational lectures which are being given weekly in the city under the auspices of the National Safety council. G. E. Spencer, of the Oregon School of Technology, will also speak, taking as his subject the "Power Plant Engine."

Both lectures will be of an educational character and in line with the plan of the National Safety council for pre-empting "safe drivers." Hugh H. Herdman, local general manager of the council, will preside at the meeting.

DUEL CHALLENGE IGNORED

Mexican ex-Minister of Treasury Wants Fight With Editor.

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 19.—Salvador Alvarado, ex-minister of the treasury has challenged Felix Palaquini, editor of El Universal, to a duel, which the latter has not accepted.

The challenge followed the publication by the newspaper of charges that Alvarado had obtained the concession to build an oil pipe line from Tampico to Mexico City and other concessions which were alleged to have been granted regularly during the minister's incumbency. The challenge stipulated that the duel was to be fought with pistols at 7 o'clock in the morning at Chapultepec park.

HEAVY SNOW REPORTED

Heavy Blanket Covers Eastern Oregon and Washington.

Snow was reported to be falling generally last night throughout northeastern Oregon and southeastern Washington. It was the first snow which has fallen in the season over so large a territory and indications pointed to a comparatively heavy fall.

Pendleton reported snow to a depth of two inches and Baker reported a fall of three inches. At Kamela seven inches of snow fell and in the Cascade mountains the depth was said to be even greater.

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SOLDIER HOSPITAL EVILS TO BE AIRED

Congress Will Investigate Bad Food Charges.

FIRE IMPERILS SCORES

Executive Officer Denies Allegations; Senator McCumber Admits Flaws of System.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19.—(Special.)—Congress will be asked to investigate the tubercular hospital maintained here by the public health service for veterans of the war as a result of a fire which burned a frame building at the hospital this morning, impeding the patients, and the charge by the latter that they are fed "embalmed" beef, bad eggs and skimmed milk. Last Sunday at Walter Reed hospital there was a fatal blast.

Past Assistant Surgeon-General Christian is conducting an investigation into the charges of bad food. According to some patients, when they complained to Dr. Trimble, executive officer of the hospital, they were told: "If you don't like the food and the way things are going you can take the gate."

Blanket Denial Made. Dr. Trimble said today he only told the patients if they were dissatisfied they did not have to remain. Of the food, Dr. Trimble said:

"We have a contract with a local merchant to serve fresh eggs from the country. We have a contract to get fresh beef. I want to deny emphatically the charge that the government is serving to its former soldiers bad eggs, bad beef and skimmed milk. One of the complaints the men make may be true. That is service. We find it difficult to get milk."

"The men get their three meals each day and are allowed a milk punch, raw milk or cocoa between meals. Some of these men drink from four to five glasses of milk at each meal. Others will not drink any."

McCumber Admits Faults. While admitting that disabled veterans are not getting the care they should, Senator McCumber of North Dakota, acting chairman of the senate finance committee, said today:

"The congress clearly intended to grant the relief that is sought by the committee for the aid to disabled veterans, the American Legion and other soldier organizations. Congress did not intend to be parsimonious. The fault does not lie with congress, but with the administrative bureau."

"Congress will at an early date, I am sure, correct these evils and pass such legislation as is recommended by the committee for aid of disabled veterans. The real question is whether the state of the treasury will permit us to impose an additional burden of from one and a quarter to two million dollars just at this time, or whether it shall provide that 'payments shall begin one or two years later. But in the meantime I think that aid to the injured should not be neglected."

Philippines Hold Trade. Business Conditions Said to Be Best on Islands of All Far East.

The Philippine islands, although suffering some from the fluctuation of the eastern exchange, are still much better off from the standpoint of business conditions than any other country in the far east, according to James J. Rafferty, commercial agent for the Philippine government who arrived in Portland yesterday on the course of a survey which he is making of this country.

Mr. Rafferty has recently been in New York city and he came to this city from Seattle. He said that the purpose of his present survey was with a view to developing trade with the islands which he represents.

Mr. Rafferty will meet with business men of the city today and expects to make a trip around the port with a view to determining the shipping possibilities here.

Mr. Rafferty is staying at the Multnomah hotel.

Taxes Paid Anonymously.

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 19.—A trouble conscience resulted today in the sending of a typewritten anonymous note to the receiver of taxes with \$2250 in cash. "For back personal taxes improperly made out, due the city and state, the note read.

Doctor's Won't Match Skill. SPOKANE, Dec. 19.—A proposed

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