

COMMISSION ASKS TERMINAL TRUCE

Chief of Interstate Commerce Body Acts.

INVESTIGATION TO BE MADE

Stay of Ouster Order in Meantime Proposed.

LEASES UP DECEMBER 31

Terminal Company Is Requested to Continue Present Conditions Until Hearing.

SALEM, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—Chairman Clark of the interstate commerce commission has requested the Union Pacific and the Southern Pacific railroads, which own controlling stock interests in the Northern Pacific Terminal company, operating the Portland terminal, to continue the Great Northern and the Spokane, Portland & Seattle railroads in joint management of the facilities under present conditions until a situation can be investigated, according to a telegram received at the offices of the Oregon public service commission here tonight.

Members of the Oregon commission said that the request of the interstate commerce commission was in accordance with an order vacating the previous ruling of the terminal company pending an official investigation.

Leases Expire December 31. The controversy over the Portland terminal resulted a short time ago in J. T. O'Brien, president of the Northern Pacific Terminal company, serving notice on the Spokane, Portland & Seattle and Great Northern railroads that they would not be allowed joint use of terminal facilities after midnight December 31, when their leases expire.

Mayor Baker of Portland, who previously had appointed a committee to investigate the terminal situation, then caused the matter to be referred to the Oregon public service commission, with the request that the ouster action be stayed pending completion of the inquiry.

F. G. Buchtel, chairman of the commission, later sent a letter to Mr. O'Brien in which he alleged that the eviction of the Spokane, Portland & Seattle and Great Northern railroads from the terminal would be an injustice to the traveling public and a detriment to the best interests of the state. This appeal on the part of Mr. Buchtel was futile and the original order was allowed to stand.

Oregon Commission Acts. In the absence of jurisdiction to handle interstate traffic the public service commission then sent a telegram to the interstate commerce commission, urging that operation of the ouster order be stayed until an investigation of the situation could be completed.

Members of the Oregon commission tonight also said that the interstate commerce commission probably would call a hearing at an early date, when all parties to the controversy would receive an opportunity to present their case. Whether the hearing will be held in Portland or Washington is a matter for the interstate commerce commission to determine, according to members of the local public service commission.

Oakland Situation Similar. Railroads now using the Portland terminal include the Oregon-Washington Railroad & Navigation company, Southern Pacific, Spokane, Portland and Seattle, Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads.

A situation similar to that involving the Portland terminal also has existed at the Oakland pier, according to the telegram received here, but the railroads operating there have agreed to continue joint operations pending an inquiry on the part of the interstate commerce commission.

LaRoche Gets Telegram

City Attorney Informed of Action Regarding Terminal.

The interstate commerce commission's chairman's message reached William Sprone and Carl R. Gray, presidents respectively of the Southern Pacific and Union Pacific systems, yesterday. The granting of the Oregon public service commission's petition for delay in the ouster proceedings until a hearing could be held also was made known when City Attorney LaRoche received a telegram from Clyde B. Aitchison to that effect.

Mr. LaRoche had telegraphed Mr. Aitchison, who is an Oregon man and a member of the interstate commerce commission, as had Fred G. Buchtel, chairman of the Oregon public service commission, outlining the situation existing here relative to the terminal ouster order served on the two non-tenant members recently. The action of the chairman of the interstate commission followed ex-

J. L. ETHERIDGE QUILTS AS BOND HOUSE HEAD

PRESIDENT OF MORRIS BROTHERS IN POOR HEALTH.

Interest in Firm Bought by Fred S. Morris, Who Will Assume Control.

Announcement was made last night of the resignation and retirement of John L. Etheridge, president of the bond firm of Morris Bros., to take effect immediately, with the additional announcement that Fred S. Morris, partner and former president, will again assume control and management.

"Mr. Etheridge is in poor health and it is imperative that he retire from business duties and recuperate," said Mr. Morris, commenting on the announcement. "I have purchased his entire interest in the firm, and the business will be conducted along the same sound lines of service as it has been in the past."

"It is probable that in the near future the capital will be largely increased and new associates enlisted. But for the present there are no definite announcements to be made in these particulars."

The firm of Morris Bros. was launched 30 years ago in Denver, by Fred S. Morris, and the Portland branch was opened a score of years ago. The firm later opened and still maintains offices in Philadelphia, under an identical name. Fred S. Morris is also interested in the eastern house, which is headed by his brother, James H. Morris.

Mr. Etheridge came to Portland in 1916, having been associated with the firm in Philadelphia. He enlarged the operations of the bond house, opening branch offices at San Francisco, Seattle and Tacoma. For the last year and a half he has been in direct control, as president. During the liberty loan campaigns Mr. Etheridge was active in the director, building up an organization that met with success in the attainment of state quotas.

WAR HEROES GET CHECKS

Payments Rushed by Government as Measure of Yule Cheer.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—War risk bureau clerks rushed work on mailing out checks to former service men, or their beneficiaries, this month, as a measure of Christmas cheer, getting out a total of 245,540 December payment checks for more than \$15,000,000, up to December 15. It was announced tonight by the bureau.

On December 20 the bureau had 258,875 active accounts, it was said, and now has paid out since its operations began a total of \$33,806,958.

TURKEY MARKET STEADY

Price Holds Firm at From 50 to 65 Cents a Pound.

There was no break in the turkey market yesterday, and poultrymen believe prices will hold today. The best turkeys sold at 65 cents and others not so good at 50 to 60 cents. Buying was brisk, in spite of the wet weather, and if the trade today is of the expected proportions all the Christmas birds will be disposed of. Other kinds of poultry also sold well, dressed ducks bringing 60 cents; geese, 50 cents, and chickens, 35 to 45 cents, according to size.

FOURRAGERE IS AWARDED

Fifth Field Artillery Is Rewarded for Battlefield Service.

FAJETTEVILLE, N. C., Dec. 23.—The 5th field artillery, commanded by Colonel A. J. Bowley and stationed at Camp Bragg, was today notified that the French government, the highest award that can be bestowed upon a military organization for bravery in action.

INAUGURAL CHANGE ASKED

Amendment Would Have President Take Office in January.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—The third Monday in January instead of March would be inaugurated under an amendment to the constitution proposed today by Senator Ashurst, democrat, of Arizona.

The amendment also would provide that the terms of members of congress begin on the first Monday in January and congress meet on the second Monday in January.

SICK PRELATE CHEERFUL

Cardinal Gibbons' Condition Is Reported Unchanged.

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 23.—Cardinal Gibbons' condition was unchanged today, according to advices from Union Mills, Md., where he is staying at the home of friends.

He was said to be cheerful and was conserving his strength in every possible way.

U. S. MAY REBUKE BRITAIN FOR SNUB

State Department Roiled by Cable Action.

EMBASSY DEALS WITH SOLON

Letter Denying Censorship Is Sent to Kellogg.

LATIN IS DISCOURTEOUS

Guatemalan Minister Takes Up Directly With Senator Moses Proposed Detention of Cabrera.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(By the Associated Press.)—Official cognizance was taken today by the state department of the action of the British embassy in writing directly to Chairman Kellogg of the senate committee investigating cable communications, denying testimony that the British authorities imposed a censorship on cable messages coming to the United States from Great Britain.

At the department's request Senator Kellogg sent to Acting Secretary Davis a copy of the embassy's letter, together with a transcript of the testimony of officials of American cable companies that a censorship was imposed. Mr. Davis conferred today with Assistant Secretary Merle-Smith, in charge of western European affairs, and Fred K. Nielson, solicitor. At that time, however, the letter from Senator Kellogg had not reached the department.

Guatemala Also Blunders. Officials declined to discuss the incident, but it was indicated the embassy would ask for an explanation of what was regarded as a breach of diplomatic courtesy. A similar course was followed by Dr. Julio Bianchi, the Guatemalan minister, who took up directly with Senator Moses of New Hampshire a discussion of the senator's resolution asking the state department for information concerning the detention of former President Cabrera by the present authorities in Guatemala.

It was clear, however, that the two incidents were not regarded as within the same category as one dealing with contemplated action by the legislative branch of the government, whereas the other had only to do with an effort to correct what was regarded by the embassy as erroneous information which had been given to a senate committee in the course of a hearing.

Officials also indicated their belief (Concluded on Page 2, Column 1.)

SANTA CLAUS VEXED; NO SNOW, FORECAST

ALMOST ENTIRE U. S. WITHOUT WHITE CHRISTMAS.

Rain and Unsettled Conditions Is Prophecy for Coast; Storm on Way Here.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 23.—Santa Claus on his visits to the homes of American children tomorrow night will be compelled to resort almost completely to an airplane or some similar new-fangled conveyance, for the weather bureau tonight forecasted a snowless Christmas for almost the entire United States.

"Fair and cold." Was the weather forecaster's general prediction. The only snow of sufficient depth for the sleigh of the Christmas saint, the bureau said, would be in Wisconsin, northern Michigan, northern New York and northern New England, where snow fell early in the week and has not melted. There may be some new snow in the northern Rocky mountain region, it was said, but elsewhere the fall will be confined to flurries.

The Pacific coast was excepted from the forecast for fair weather. The charts and maps of the weather bureau showing that rain and generally unsettled weather might be expected west of the Rocky mountains.

One of the most severe storms of the winter was central off the British Columbia coast last night, with the phenomenally low barometric pressure of 29.1 reported from its midst.

The wind at North Head, at the mouth of the Columbia river, reached a velocity of 60 miles from the south yesterday afternoon, and strong southerly gales during the night and today were predicted by the weather bureau for Portland and vicinity.

Storm warnings were ordered for the Oregon and Washington coasts.

HOOD RIVER, Or., Dec. 23.—(Special.)—The mid-Columbia is assured a white Christmas. Driven by an east wind, a heavy fall of snow began this afternoon and continued at the rate of more than half an inch an hour. The snow already is three inches deep.

Transportation here tomorrow may be chiefly on runners.

VOLCANO CAUSES TERROR

Forests and Villages in Vicinity of Asama Set on Fire.

TOKIO, Dec. 23.—The continued activity of the volcano Asama is causing alarm. Violent explosions occurred in the crater Wednesday evening and the country for many miles around was strewn with ashes.

Later a thick column of flame and smoke shot skyward and the entire area was a blazing furnace.

The towns around the volcano suffered from heavy earthquake shocks. The forests and several villages were set on fire. It was impossible to gain access to the fire zones owing to the lava streams.

HERRICK AND HARDING CONFER OVER EUROPE

BUSINESS CONDITIONS HERE DISCUSSED WITH OTHERS.

Ex-President Taft Is Slated to Visit Marion Today for Talk About Problems.

MARION, O., Dec. 23.—World peace and American business conditions were foremost again today in President-Elect Harding's consultations about the policies of his administration.

The plans for an association of nations he discussed with Myron T. Herrick, of Cleveland, American ambassador to France at the beginning of the world war, who has been suggested persistently as a possible selection for a similar post under the next president. During the summer, Mr. Herrick made an extended tour abroad and his advice to Mr. Harding on the peace problem is understood to have been based on information gathered in conferences with leading European statesmen.

Afterwards the ex-ambassador would only say that various internal and national matters had been discussed in his talk with Mr. Harding.

Business conditions were taken up by the president-elect with Fred Upham, William Wrigley and Marshall Field, all of Chicago. Mr. Upham, who is treasurer of the republican national committee, also discussed various organization questions left over from the campaign.

Others who saw Mr. Harding during the day included Harriet Taylor Upton of Warren, D., vice-chairman of the republican national committee, and Harry M. Daugherty of Columbus, member of the republican campaign committee.

Ex-President Taft is to come to Marion tomorrow in response to Mr. Harding's invitation to discuss the peace association plan and other subjects. Although an advocate of the Versailles league, Mr. Taft has indicated that he will support any other practical plan to promote peace and he is counted on to contribute particularly to the proposal for an international court.

EXPRESS INCREASE DENIED

Railroad Commission Refuses to Allow Boost in Rates.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—The railroad commission refused today to grant the American Railway Express company a 13 per cent increase in rates on the ground that the company had not produced facts to show that its business in California was conducted at a loss, although the commission was convinced the system as a whole was operating at a tremendous loss.

The increase had been sought in order to make the California rates harmonize with those granted by the interstate commerce commission to meet a 22,000,000 wage increase over the entire system. Previous to the action of the national commission, the California commission had granted a 12 1/2 per cent advance to enable the company to meet emergency conditions.

VETO OF FINANCE BILL IS EXPECTED

Wilson Disapproval Held All but Certain.

COMING CONFLICT FORECAST

Measure Counted Key to Politics of Future.

"EASY MONEY" NO REMEDY

Political Taint Also Seen in Proposal for Relief of Farmers, Declares Mark Sullivan.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.

(Copyright by the New York Evening Post, Inc. Published by Arrangement.)

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23.—(Special.)—There is now before the president for veto or approval the first bill passed at the present session of congress. The president's action will be important not only as regards the present bill in question, but also as the first in a long series of conflict between two schools of opinion, which conflict will undoubtedly compose the bulk of American politics for several years to come.

The present bill is for the re-establishment of the war finance corporation. This corporation was an offshoot of the treasury, originally organized during the war for the purpose of issuing government bonds and utilizing the proceeds to aid private corporations doing war work which needed banking assistance. After the war ended congress renewed the corporation for the purpose of facilitating exports.

Secretary Houston Acts. Last May Secretary Houston, by his personal order, discontinued the corporation. He based his action chiefly on the ground that it was no longer necessary to facilitate exports, as goods were already going abroad in unprecedented quantities through the normal activities of private business, and on the ground that the treasury had other and more pressing needs for the money, being at that time compelled to borrow for the purpose of paying current bills.

This discontinuance caused some commotion at the time, but that circumstance was mild compared to that which arose later and during the past three months. As soon as exports slowed up and for other reasons began to fall, and farmers of the south and west, who were among the chief victims of the fall in prices, were heard from. They asked Secretary Houston to withdraw his order and permit the war finance corporation again to function.

Farmers' Plea Refused. Secretary Houston refused on the ground that the fall in prices was due chiefly to other causes which could not be materially remedied by the resumption of the war finance corporation, and also on the ground that the government could not continue in the banking business, the government needing all the funds it was able to borrow at a reasonable rate for the purpose of paying its ordinary bills.

Finally, when congress came together, one of the most obvious incidents of its temper was a response to the pressure from farmers for relief and a determination to attempt some form of relief. The senate committee on agriculture held hearings in which, on the one hand, the distress of the farmer was pictured by witnesses from the south and west, and on the other the specific question of reviving the war finance corporation was covered by the testimony of Secretary Houston, Governor Harding of the federal reserve board and the former managing director of the war finance corporation, Eugene Meyer.

These hearings took in a way the form of a debate, Messrs. Houston and Harding resisting the revival of the war finance corporation and Meyer, backed by the farmers, earnestly advocating it.

Gronna Bill Follows. Anyone who followed these hearings carefully felt that Secretary Houston and Governor Harding were in rather the better position. They stood on the solid ground of first principles. The advocates of the measure more or less frankly based their argument on grounds of an expediency justified by the emergency.

At the close of the hearings Senator Gronna, chairman of the senate committee on agriculture, introduced a bill containing two sections. The first section directed Secretary Houston to revive the war finance corporation. The second section of the bill was clearly less defensible. It directed the federal reserve board "to take such action as may be necessary to permit this member banks of the federal reserve system, in accordance with the law and consistent with sound banking, to grant liberal extensions of credit to the farmers of the country."

Much can justly be said in favor of reviving the war finance corporation, on its merits, but the second section tainted the bill as a whole. It was promptly and vigorously denounced by many senators, chiefly by Senator McLean of Connecticut, a republican, and Senator Glass of Virginia, a democrat. Senator McLean said: "I think we had better not try to

HIGHWAYMEN GET \$500 LONG BURIED ON FARM

5-YEAR DELIBERATION ON INVESTMENT IS TOO LONG.

Money Recently Dug Up on Farm If Lost When Possessor Is Held Up and Robbed.

After five years of deliberation upon the investment of \$500 which was buried on the farm of his father during that time, an accommodating pair of robbers last night solved the problem for Andrew Newman, 246 Lincoln street. The \$500 was invested as tuition in the school of experience. Newman told detectives that he recently went to the farm of his father, S. Newman, near Scappoose, and dug up his savings. There were ten \$20 gold pieces, four \$50 bills and five \$20 bills. These he placed in a money belt, thrusting the belt in his inside vest pocket.

Upon reaching Portland he carried the money with him while he pondered as to whether he could make more money with a little soft-drink stand, an auto truck or a farm. He said that he had never flashed his roll and that no one knew he carried the money.

Someone evidently did know of the money, however, said detectives, because two men at 9:30 last night held him up at the northeast corner of Third and Hall streets. They nearly tore his vest off getting the roll. Newman was so excited he could not give a description of the men, except that there were two of them.

LABOR MAY GET STOCK

Standard Oil May Sell Shares to 19,000 Employees.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 23.—Stockholders of the Standard Oil company of California will be asked at a special meeting March 10, 1921, to authorize an increased capitalization of \$15,000,000, to be sold and distributed to employees on the installment plan, it was announced today.

The proposed increase would raise the company's capitalization from \$10,000,000 to \$25,000,000. Proponents of the plan to sell the stock to employees plan to have the company pay a bonus for each share subscribed by them, the bonus to be added to the employee's subscription and to apply to the purchase price of the stock. Under the arrangements, it is expected that a great majority of the 19,000 employees will participate, K. R. Kingsbury, president, said.

CHAMBERLAIN NO BETTER

Oregon Senator May Undergo Operation This Afternoon.

THE OREGONIAN NEWS BUREAU, Washington, Dec. 23.—The condition of Senator Chamberlain, who is ill at the emergency hospital, was reported as unimproved this afternoon. He was suffering more than on any previous day of his illness, and an operation, it was said, seemed unavoidable, although this will not be determined until late tonight or early tomorrow.

If an operation is decided upon the senator will go on the table tomorrow afternoon. Many messages of sympathy came to the senator's bedside today, both by telegraph and mail, several of the telegrams coming from constituents in Oregon.

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PORTLAND JOYOUS WITH YULE SPIRIT

Holy Trail to Bethlehem Is Strewn With Holly.

KINDLINESS MOTTO OF DAY

Christmas Leven of Charity and Love Will Reign.

MANGER SYMBOL GUIDES

Bounty of Oregon Unfolds Natural Wealth to Aid in Giving Merry Christmas Pleasures to All.

BY BEN HUR LAMPMAN.

When those wise savants of old—Gasper, Melchior and Balthazar—witnessed the rising of the strange star and turned toward the long trail to Bethlehem—and this in a day so dimmed by the past that hispidous have crumbled, and gods down to dust—they were celebrants of the first Christmas; pathfinders of the holiday that was to touch the heart of the world so surely that not even the centuries could prevail against it.

To Portland on the morrow comes that singular and redemptive ray of spirit that is peculiar to Christmas, and that is but inadequately expressed by holly-wreaths and smiles. So many seasons of Yule have passed, each with its treasures of memory, that it is in nowise difficult to forecast how Portland will greet that fine old holiday, and the joyous way of spirit that is peculiar to Christmas, and that is but inadequately expressed by holly-wreaths and smiles.

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