

RATE CUT DECLARED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE

Roads Can't Stand Reductions in Charges, It Is Said.

FINANCES HELD WRECKED

Chairman Cummings Blames Government Control in War Time for Financial Condition.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 25.—During a discussion of rates before the senate committee which is investigating the railroads, Chairman Cummings remarked that "however congress is willing to consider making another appropriation of money for the support of the railroads, we may consider some steps for a general reduction of rates."

"So long as the present condition exists, with railroad income barely equaling their expenses and no return for earnings on the properties, the only money that can be secured for rate reduction is in the treasury," he added.

Howard Elliott, chairman of the Northern Pacific, whose testimony was concluded today, earlier had said that the government control of the roads after wartime administration with their earning power "practically annihilated," which was contrary to the spirit of the transportation act. He declared a general rate reduction could not be considered until justified by decreased expenditures.

SPOKANE, WILL FIGHT CUT

Intermountain Country to Be Called On to Assist.

SPOKANE, Wash., May 25.—(Special.)—Stirred to fighting mood by the announcement that the railroads that they will seek to restore low terminal rates to coast cities, Spokane today renewed its rate war of 25 years' duration against rates unfavorable to interior cities. All the rate-fighting machinery of the Spokane chamber of commerce, the Spokane Merchants' association and the Intermountain Freight Rate association, representing numerous intermountain cities, will be put into action immediately to fight the proposed rate cuts.

James A. Ford, managing secretary of the chamber of commerce, has been engaged in the rate fight for several years, took action today toward an immediate rally of interior interests at Salt Lake City to map out the campaign against the proposed rates in favor of coast points.

"If the application of the railroads for terminal rates is granted the intermountain country will be placed in the same position it occupied before the discrimination was removed several years ago," said Mr. Ford today. "It is up to all intermountain interests to unite at once in this fight."

TIMBER SHOWS GROWTH

Large Gains Registered in Cowlitz County Cruise.

KELSO, Wash., May 25.—(Special.)—Thomas & Meserve, who are re-cruising the Cowlitz county timberlands, are now working in some of the less heavily timbered areas and are checking over much partially logged-off land, so their reports are not showing the big increases of the old cruises as was shown last year. During March 27,663 acres were cruised, showing an increase of 1,000,000 feet, compared with an old cruise of 872,650,000 feet. In April 49,296 acres were cruised, showing an increase of 1,226,250,000 feet, compared with 1,244,075, a total increase of 62 per cent.

FLOOD CUTS DIKE BULK

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1 of a foot and was still coming, though slower than it did several days ago. An inch of new rain would more than double the amount of water when the river first begins to rise, as it is so much broader.

When the high water of 1918 flowed off of the mountains the weather along the Clearwater river and Bitter Root mountains was bright and clear, according to Chas. Knutson, a resident of this city who happened to be climbing in the Bitter Root mountains that spring.

DEEP SNOWS ARE MELTING

Waters of Catherine Creek Reach Highest Stage of Year.

LA GRANDE, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—Although little more acreage was flooded today than has been under water during the past week in the vicinity of Catherine creek and the Grand Ronde river, the waters of the lower end of Catherine creek are the highest they have been this spring. One bad spot was reported this afternoon on Bald mountain, where the warm weather is fast melting the deep snows.

TRUCK GARDENS IN DANGER

Flood Waters of Columbia River Menace Bottom Properties.

HOOD RIVER, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—The Columbia river rose 14 inches here the last 24 hours. A further gain of 18 inches will send the flood waters over truck gardens in the Butten farm and result in the destruction of a river bottom pear orchard. A heavy acreage of garden truck at Bingen, Wash., normally shipping carloads of tomatoes, was being inundated.

The strong wind of today felled numerous large cottonwood trees along the waterfront, the floods having softened the earth around their roots.

Rumors of Dam Break False.

BEND, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—Persistent rumors current here this

morning to the effect that the Ochoco reservoir dam had gone out, releasing a 30-foot head of water to sweep through the streets of Prineville, were found false when investigated by telephone. A slight leak, which was noted in the dam, was since the beginning of construction and which engineers consider of no consequence, was apparently the only basis for the report.

WATER DESTROYS SPINACH

The Dalles Reports That Columbia Continues to Rise.

THE DALLES, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—More than 200,000 pounds of spinach grown in Wasco county has been destroyed by the rising waters of the Columbia river, according to C. Ross, manager of The Dalles King Produce company. The spinach was grown on lowlands which are not under water and was contracted for by the local dehydrating company. The local plant started dehydrating spinach today, but will be compelled to close down after about two weeks because of lack of material upon which to work, according to Ross. The Columbia river continues to rise gradually today, coming up from 37 feet to 37.3 feet during the last 12 hours.

Scappoose Lowlands Inundated.

SCAPPOOSE, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—High water has covered most of the lowlands east of Scappoose. About 1000 head of livestock were moved to higher ground. F. A. Prakes moved his 100 registered Holsteins to his farm on Jackson creek, recently placed in order. Buildings and fences have not yet suffered much damage, but serious destruction is certain if the water reaches the 24-foot stage.

River Readings at 8 A. M. Wednesday.

STATIONS—	Height in Feet	Change in Feet
Wenatchee	40 07 04-1.2	
Lewiston	22 17 06-0.2	
Emmerville	40 02 04-0.2	
The Dalles	37 00 00-0.3	
Eugene	10 00 00-0.1	
Bozeman	10 00 00-0.1	
Salem	20 00 00-0.1	
Portland	15 00 00-0.1	

18 IN PARADE WOUNDED

The Willamette river, Portland will rise slowly during the next three days, reaching stages about as follows: Thursday, 22.0; Friday, 22.2; Saturday, 22.4.

18 WOMEN AND YOUNGSTERS HURT IN SOFIA.

Communists Accused of Outrage and Several Are Arrested, While Mob Burns Club.

SOFIA, Bulgaria, May 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—A mob of 1000 men today wounded 18 women and children. Several wounded were expected to die.

Communists who had expressed hostile sentiments with regard to the parade are accused by the population of having been responsible for the outrage. Many of the communist leaders were arrested and a mob burned the communist club.

MISSION WORKER RESIGNS

Rev. Earl S. Taylor Quits Service on Methodist Board.

NEW YORK, May 25.—Rev. Dr. Earl S. Taylor has resigned as a corresponding secretary of the Methodist Episcopal board of foreign missions because of failing health. It was announced today at the board's headquarters.

CONSUL GETS COMMISSION

Mexican Ex-Minister to Represent Republic in West.

AKRON, O., May 25.—General Alfredo Serrano, former Mexican minister of war, has received his commission from President Obregon as Mexican consul for western Mexico.

SENATE VOTES TO DISARM

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ments of Great Britain and Japan to send representatives to a conference which shall be charged with promptly reaching an understanding agreement by which the naval expenditures and building programmes of each government, the United States, Great Britain and Japan, shall be substantially reduced annually during the next five years to such an extent and on such terms as may be agreed upon, while understanding or agreement is being reached.

Further negotiations were held today between senators on amendments recently defeated to establish a new naval supply base at Alameda, Cal., and for continuing work on Charleston, S. C. Little headway toward an agreement on the Alameda project was reported.

Business to Stop for Pageant.

THE DALLES, Or., May 25.—(Special.)—All business houses in The Dalles will close on the afternoon of May 27 in order that everybody in the city may turn out for the good roads meeting and historic pageant.

A \$300,000 bond issue and resultant construction of The Dalles-California highway will be propounded. Visitors from all parts of the state are expected to witness the pageant, in which more than 1000 persons will take part.

FOREIGN RELATIONS NOT RIGHT OF WAY

Domestic Issues Secondary in National Interest.

TAX INQUIRY IS TAME

Tariff-Making Also Lags, While Stabilization of World Holds Attention of Congress.

BY MARK SULLIVAN.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., May 25.—

(Special.)—Nobody can follow events in Washington without observing again and again that our foreign relations have a trick of getting right-of-way over everything else. Probably the most important item of domestic affairs now being transacted by the government is the framing of the new tax bill. But anybody who watches the senate finance committee engaged in that work, must observe how tame and dreary a business it is compared with the excitement which flares up when Ambassador Harvey says something about the league of nations, or when anything else comes up that reminds us of our relations to Europe.

Nearly every day, for a part of the day, or for the whole day, the 17 members of the senate finance committee hold hearings and listen to arguments from persons who have ideas about how our present tax schedule should be revised.

Special Interests in Evidence.

The persons who come to talk are ordinarily representatives of special interests affected by the taxes. One day, for example, lawyers representing various insurance companies gave reasons why the laws as they are now stand are inadvisable. It is all perfectly legitimate and the arguments for the most part are sound.

But no one can observe the time devoted to it by 17 senators without feeling strongly that it doesn't get very far. The occasional person who comes to argue with the committee, not about special phases of taxation, but about the whole theory of it, are not at all rare. In fact, they have been a few thoroughly sound arguments by first-class men, but for the most part those who come to tell the senators how they ought to do it are persons also strongly moved by fixed ideas and generally radical ideas.

Senator Penrose Invited.

Senator Penrose, the chairman of the committee, became rather irritated the other day by the fulfury of it and announced that the hearings would be stopped shortly. The 17 senators who have listened for weeks to this sort of thing have not been much affected by it. Except for a few individuals of a few senators, the privacy of their offices, the making of the tax bill is not much further ahead now than it was in the beginning.

Those who believe in a sales tax are as confident now as at any time that sooner or later this new form of taxation will come. They say it will come because the country must have the money and this is the only way to get it. They have the confidence of inevitability.

Tariff Measure Also Lags.

The new tariff bill is not very much further ahead, and except for special interests affected, has not had much more attention than the tax bill. It probably will be the middle of next month before either bill will have reached even that tentative stage of progress that marks introduction into congress.

The reason for the lack of interest, the hesitation and the slow progress on these domestic matters lies in the uneasy feeling, which increases daily, that these things, after all, are not primary, but secondary, and that nothing we can do about them can be very effective until after something has been accomplished in the way of an affirmative policy looking towards the stabilization of Europe.

HARDWARE CAUSES COLIC

Keys and Nails Irritate Negro's Department of Interior.

ST. LOUIS, May 24.—Carl Williams, a negro, held by police on a minor charge, last night complained of stomach pains. An examination revealed that he had swallowed a key and a nail.

When told the cause of his ailment he said: "Mighty funny; things like that don't usually bother me." He was taken to the city hospital.

END OF POLYGAMY URGED

Amendment to Federal Constitution Is Proposed.

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 25.—An amendment to the federal constitution which would prohibit polygamy in the United States is proposed in a resolution introduced in the house today by Speaker Gillett.

The amendment, it is said, would remedy the situation existing in some states where state laws do not prevent plural marriages.

BODY BELIEVED IN LAKE

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his wife's name to an order admitting him to her safe deposit vault.

More Developments Follow.

They have not yet attacked the authenticity of a power of attorney he claimed to have obtained from his wife before they parted at St. Paul. He gave him authority to manage her many properties.

Nor have they yet attacked the authenticity of a letter addressed to the property over to Mahoney. This letter was a late police development today.

"Shortly after her marriage," said E. J. Mahoney, a realty firm at Third and Madison street, signed by Mrs. Mahoney, written from St. Paul, directing the firm to turn the property over to Mahoney. This letter was a late police development today.

A short time after they left for the east," went on Mr. Kirk, "we received a letter signed by Mrs. Mahoney directing us to turn the property over to her husband, who was returning to Seattle."

A couple of days later Mahoney appeared and my partner, Albert Wilson, closed with him, no effort being made to hold Mrs. Mahoney to the contract. After Mahoney left the of-

fice Mr. Wilson burned the letter and the contract, not considering them of any further value."

Wagon Reported Seen.

Assertion that Mrs. Mahoney was seen in Seattle last week came from Miss A. L. Hamilton, a tenant at the Sophie apartments. She told Attorney Johnston, representing Mahoney, she looked out of her window and saw a large closed automobile containing a man and a woman draw up on the Fourth avenue side. The woman, she believes, was Mrs. Mahoney from her clothes, though she did not see her face. She wore a pink blouse, black hat with pink roses, and was a small woman.

The pair went into a vacant apartment directly across from Miss Hamilton, who said she heard them leave shortly after. She was surprised she said before Mahoney had told her two days before leaving that she intended to visit a sister in Ireland. When the arrest of Mahoney came the incident was told to Mahoney's mother, who informed Attorney Johnston this morning.

Mahoney, paroled from the state penitentiary at Walla Walla last December after serving two years of a five-to-eight-year sentence for highway robbery, is held by the police, in default of a \$10,000 bail, on a first degree forgery charge.

MATERIAL TRUST FINED

Ten Persons and Nine Corporations Penalized for Gouging.

NEW YORK, May 25.—Justice Davis of the supreme court today imposed fines totaling \$3450 on ten individuals and nine corporations, members of the dealers' association in masons' to illegal combination, who pleaded guilty to illegal combination.

The fines given individuals varied from \$300 to \$400 each. The corporations were fined from \$1000 to \$4000 each.

FRENCH EX-PREMIER DEAD

Emile Combes, Once Minister of Interior, Passes Away.

PONS, France, May 25.—(Special.)—Emile Combes, French premier from 1902 to 1905, died yesterday, aged 85. M. Combes, while premier and minister of the interior, devoted his energies to securing separation of the church and state, and of his guidance France in 1904 took the first definite steps toward this end.

CUSTOMS HOUSE IS FIRED

(Continued From First Page.)

Irish parliament are being made by the police and the unionists. Neither side appears to attempt to conceal the fact that personation was carried on to an unprecedented extent, as from a case in the province, the number of cases in which children voted yesterday increased, but there was only one anywhere which was reported.

It is not unusual for Ulster children to get on the voting lists, a case is recalled in the last elections where a family of eight children, ranging from 15 years downward, exercised the franchise. It is easy for their names to get on lists on which all persons of voting age automatically are placed and there they remain until the revision which occurs in every year when they can be objected to. Meanwhile they are fully entitled to vote.

Sometimes the child, named for a deceased parent, has its name on the lists, but more often the children's names are on the poll books through misapprehension. When election agents ask how many persons in the house are eligible to vote, not infrequently the respondents give the names of all members of the family.

DESPERATE BATTLE FOUGHT

Irish Office Reports on Burning of Custom House.

LONDON, May 25.—(By the Associated Press.)—The Irish office tonight issued the following official report on the custom house burning: "Three tenders carrying auxiliary cadets and accompanied by an armed corps approached the Dublin custom house building at 10 o'clock yesterday afternoon. As they approached the building, bombs were thrown at the tenders from the railway bridge, while revolver fire was opened on them from the windows of the custom house, which was occupied by a large force of Sinn Feiners.

"The cadets, under heavy fire, surrounded the custom house, which was burning. Fire from the auxiliaries and the machine gun on the armament was poured into windows, from which the rebels replied vigorously, and desperate conflicts followed between the crown forces and seven or eight parties of rebels who rushed from different doors of the building, making dashes for liberty and firing as they ran. The first party to emerge consisted of three men, one of whom was killed and the others wounded.

"Smoke and flames were pouring from the building and the official staff, including many women, who had been held prisoners by the rebels, fled in confusion. A number of rebels, waving white handkerchiefs, while the staff was making its exit the rebels made a last sortie, seven men participating, of whom one was captured, the rest being killed or wounded.

"Some of the auxiliaries then stormed the building, where many of the rebels surrendered. Some were found to be saturated with petrol and several were probably burned to death.

"The firemen were held up at the fire station by mobs, so that the fire engines did not arrive until 10 o'clock, by which time the fire had taken hold of the building. At the conclusion of the fighting dead and wounded rebels lay about on all sides.

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BIG RAIL CONSPIRACY CHARGED BY LABOR

Policy to Reduce Forces by Thousands, Alleged.

DENIAL OF PLAN MADE

More Than 100 New Wage Disputes Are Submitted by Roads to Federal Board.

NEW YORK, May 25.—Exhibits tending to show that the policy of the railroads in laying off thousands of shop workers was unjustified and uneconomical, were placed in evidence by the four unions at today's hearing of the interstate commerce commission on locomotive repair cuts.

P. E. Crowley, vice-president and general manager in charge of operations of the New York Central railroad, denied that the action of the company in laying off shop workers was part of a conspiracy to bring about a reduction in wages.

Estimates Held Unfair.

Estimates that the New York Central expended \$3,169,322 more to have 185 locomotives repaired by outside shops than it would have cost to rehabilitate the engines in its own plants were offered. Railroad officials contended that these estimates, submitted by an examiner for the commission, were unfair.

Wage Reductions Petitioned.

Every submission asks a reduction of wages in various classes of employees from train service and shop crafts divisions to common laborers. The disputes will be heard by the board beginning June 6.

Announcement recently that a wage decision ordering reduced wages would be made June 1, effective July 1, has opened the door of the wage cuts to every road. As a result many roads which previously asked reductions for but a few cuts in other classes, and in some cases, for all employees.

BOSTON, May 25.—The state department of labor and industries today announced that its reports indicate improved conditions in the textile industries that the demand for boots and shoes persisted, although the majority of the plants were still on reduced schedules and that the metal and machinery trades were dull.

The department reported 24 strikes or lockouts, 16 of them over wages, since May 1. They involve about 8000 employees.

SHIP OWNERS REMAIN FIRM

Operators Determined to Reduce Wages of Seafarers.

NEW YORK, May 25.—The wage and working rules committee of the American Steamship Owners' association today modified certain regulations relating to duty aboard ship which had been laid down by the operators in their negotiations with striking marine unions.

Winthrop L. Marvin, general manager of the association, was made to accord with suggestions by federal mediators.

He asserted, however, that the association stood firm in its determination to cut wages 15 per cent and not to sign any more agreements with sea-going unions. The modifications will be presented to Secretary Davis of the Federal Maritime Commission.

SABOTAGE AT SEA REPORTED

Air Pumps Aboard Admiral Watson Tampered With on Voyage.

SEATTLE, Wash., May 25.—Air pumps aboard the steamer Admiral Watson, bound from Seattle to Alaska, were tampered with during the voyage north, and salt water was allowed to enter the boilers and fresh water tanks, delaying the vessel 48 hours, according to a message from Captain Charles Glascock, master of the Watson, to the Pacific Steamship company, owners of the liner, today.

The Watson, which left Seattle last Thursday, arrived in Ketchikan late last night.

One member of the crew, alleged to have been found tampering with the vessel's machinery, was put ashore at Ketchikan, the message stated.

Union Pacific Proposes Cut.

OMAHA, May 25.—A wage reduction conference between representatives of the employees of the Union Pacific system and officials of the company was held today, but no agreement was reached. General chairman for the union was J. M. Harbo, a prominent blacksmith, sheet metal and electrical workers represented the employees. Tomorrow officials of the company are scheduled to meet with representatives of stationary steam engine and boiler room employees in a similar proposal by the company to reduce wages, effective July 1.

Southern Pacific Cut Refused.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25.—Shop supervisory forces of the Southern Pacific, who took under advisement

the company's proposal to reduce wages, refused to accept the reduction.

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