

NEW RAILWAY BILL DEFERRED IN HOUSE

Supplementary Measure Raises Eight-Hour Limit in Specific Cases.

SPECIAL BOARD PROVIDED

Strikes Would Be Forbidden Pending Inquiry—Full Approval of Bill by President Uncertain. Defense of Law Is Planned.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—A bill designed to meet President Wilson's recommendations for supplementing the Adamson law was introduced in the House today by Representative Adamson, who is chairman of the commerce committee, with the announcement that he will press it for early consideration without waiting for completion of the President's railroad legislation programme by the Senate.

The measure was framed by Mr. Adamson after conferences on the subject with President Wilson and Senator Newlands, chairman of the Senate commerce committee. There has been no indication, however, whether it will have the endorsement of the Administration in all of its details.

An eight-hour day is provided for, but railroad employees could work overtime on approval of the Interstate Commerce Commission, which could, in specific cases, authorize "exceptions or allowances" from the eight-hour requirements. The eight hours need not be consecutive.

Special Board Provided.

After all efforts at mediation of differences had failed, the President upon notification would create a special board of inquiry, under the measure, comprised of three members who would investigate and report to the President or the mediation board as the President may direct, as speedily as possible. In any event a report would be requested within three months from the reference of the differences to it. It could be required to make its recommendations in its report, and, pending the report, a strike or lockout would be prohibited. No person could serve on such a board if he were directly interested in settlement of the differences.

The bill backs up the requirements with a provision that the President shall have authority to take possession of any common carrier's lines in emergencies, which term, Mr. Adamson said, he construed to mean military necessity or the blocking of commerce.

Plans for defense of the Adamson act before the Supreme Court were completed today by the Department of Justice and the Government's brief was made ready for presentation Monday morning.

Brotherhoods Not to Appear.

In arguments which began Monday afternoon and probably will be concluded Tuesday, Solicitor-General Davis will be in charge of the defense. Counsel for railroad brotherhoods, it was announced after a conference today, will not appear.

The court will be asked to grant extra time for hearing. Attorney General Clegg and the Government to test the law's constitutionality. The Solicitor-General will open the argument for the Government and the closing argument will be made by Special Assistant Frank Hagerman. Attorney General Gregory will appear only as a spectator and G. Carroll Todd and E. Marvin Underwood, assistants to the Attorney-General, who aided in the test suits at Kansas City, in which Judge Hook declared the law invalid, will not take part in the arguments.

The Government's Brief Is Understood to Submit Railroad Schedules of Many Trunk Lines and Contracts Between Railroads and Brotherhood Employees.

Special reliance is understood to be placed on the "hours of service" law as a precedent. It prohibits railroads from working employees more than 18 consecutive hours.

Counsel for railroads attacking the law will arrive here tomorrow, headed by Walker D. Hines, chairman of the railroad committees of attorneys. Other railroad counsel who will take part in the arguments are Arthur Miller, representing the Missouri, Oklahoma & Gulf, and John G. Johnson, of Philadelphia.

BRIEF FILED AGAINST HORN

Belligerents Would Make America Playground, Says Prosecution.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6.—In a brief filed in the Supreme Court today the Department of Justice declares that if the courts uphold Werner Horn's plea of immunity from prosecution in connection with the dynamiting of the international bridge near Vanceboro, N.C., the result will be to "make this country during the present war a playground for belligerent foreign dynamiters holding commissions in foreign armies."

Horn, a German, claims immunity on the ground that he committed only an act of war against Canada. If his plea for a habeas corpus writ is granted on that ground, the Government's brief contends, his immunity would apply to thousands of other reserapist officers of belligerents in this country, "threatening the very life and sovereignty of our Government."

"Nothing could be more destructive of international law than to hold that acts of foreign individuals, not expressly authorized or adopted by their government, are acts of the foreign nation and not of the individual," continues the brief.

The technical charge against Horn is that he transported explosives on a passenger train in violation of interstate commerce laws. The appeal will be argued next week.

MOTORS AID ROAD FUNDS

Many Officials Ignorant of Present Legislation.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—Some of the county courts in the state are unaware that they are receiving returns from licenses paid on motor vehicles and that for the past four years such money has been turned back into the road funds of the various counties for use on good roads. Some of the legislators are said to be equally ignorant.

Today one of the members from a Columbia River county broached to a state official the subject of so amending the automobile license law that the money received by the motor vehicle department from license fees be turned back to the various counties for road purposes. He stated that he had discussed the matter at considerable length with the Commissioners of his county and that they all had reached the conclusion that such a plan would be preferable to the one now in use.

Invest at Aronson's

Aronson still is selling diamonds and jewelry for less. Many who received money on Christmas or a bonus on January 1st are investing it here.

—A lady saw a trinket in the window—stepped inside, saw a diamond she liked, and plunked down \$200 for it. Saved money, too.

—A young man who works for a public service corporation invested his bonus in a diamond ring. He'll be president of his company some day.

—A gentleman who paid Aronson \$175 for a diamond ring just before Christmas brought it back and Aronson was glad to get it at the price for which he had sold it. But hold, gentle reader—the lady in the case had said "yes," and on top of that the gentleman received a cash present on New Year's day, so he simply paid Aronson the difference and took a larger ring at \$500.

When it comes to diamonds, Aronson is a bear—he's surely "bearing" the market. Buy diamonds, folks—see these:

- \$25 diamond engagement rings, \$17.65.
- \$50 diamond engagement rings, \$36.85.
- \$75 diamond engagement rings, \$52.50.
- \$100 diamond engagement rings, \$69.75.
- \$150 cluster diamond rings, \$107.50.
- \$400 cluster diamond rings, \$296.50.

Are you going to Winter south—Pasadena, Palm Beach, Peru? Here's the best stock of traveling sets in Portland, and Aronson has generously lowered the price on every one:

- a \$75 suit case and traveling set for \$56.50.
- a \$45 suit case and traveling set for \$33.50.
- a \$25 suit case and traveling set for \$18.75.
- a \$35 traveling set for \$26.35.
- an \$18.50 traveling set for \$12.35.

And anything else you find at Aronson's, save a few contract goods, is going at less than its price during this jolly January Jewelry Jubilee. Come quickly—buy freely; the days are passing.

ARONSON'S

Jewelers, Goldsmiths, Opticians
WASHINGTON AT BROADWAY

LEVY BASES LOWER

Valuations in 18 Counties Decrease Over Land Grants.

PROBLEM CAUSES CUTS

Lincoln Leads With 93 Per Cent Assessment and Malheur Shows Greatest Falling Off, With Only 42 Per Cent.

SALEM, Or., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—While 18 counties in the state were compelled to decrease the amount of their assessed valuation because of the Oregon & California land grant problem, a resume of the completed returns on the assessment from the various counties as filed with the State Tax Commission indicate that the state, with some few exceptions, have arbitrarily assessed property valuations much lower.

While the law provides that Assessors shall assess property at a full 100 per cent valuation, this is seldom if ever done, and a similar condition exists in practically all other states in the Union; it was stated at the offices of the Tax Commission.

Lincoln County is the banner county for high valuations, showing a 93 per cent assessment. Tillamook comes next with 91 per cent, Morrow next with 88 per cent and Curry next with 87 per cent.

Malheur Decrease Greatest.

Malheur County shows the greatest decrease in the assessed valuation, being as low as 42 per cent and cutting its valuation down from \$8,932,730 in 1915 to \$5,938,929 in 1916. The next lowest county is Yamhill, which cut its assessed valuation down to 59 per cent, a decrease of 2 per cent from the preceding year.

While the assessed valuations are cut down by the Assessors from the 100 per cent basis, it was stated at the office of the Commission that the decrease in the valuation has no effect on the taxes paid, because of the equalization.

This is true providing the valuations

NEWLY ELECTED DOUGLAS COUNTY ASSESSOR IS ONLY 26 YEARS OF AGE.



Guy Cordon.

ROSEBURG, Or., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—Guy Cordon, who has assumed the duties of Assessor of Douglas County, is probably the youngest man in Oregon holding a similar position. Although only 26 years of age, Mr. Cordon has been employed as deputy in the Assessor's office for nearly seven years and is entirely familiar with the affairs of that department.

He was one of six contestants for the Republican nomination for Assessor at the primary election and was successful. At the general election in November he was elected by a big majority.

Mr. Cordon today announced the appointment of Harry Black and Mrs. Lucile Gillette as deputies. Mrs. Gillette has been employed in the Assessor's office for two years.

are made uniformly throughout the county. However, if the valuation is decreased on one and increased on another taxpayer in the same county, the amount of taxes paid varies.

Eighteen Counties Affected.

In the land grant counties the decreased valuations are decidedly marked in some instances. Eighteen counties are affected by the grants. Multnomah County is slightly affected, although its decreased valuation is greatly decreased, approximately \$15,000,000. The greatest share of this decrease is due to lower assessments by the Assessor.

Multnomah County is assessed at 60 per cent of a full cash valuation, while in 1915 it was assessed at 62 per cent. Multnomah's percentage of the equalized value of taxable property to the total value of taxable property in the state and per cent of state taxes paid by it has increased slightly over the preceding year. Its percentage in 1915 was .36781, while in 1916 it was .36858.

Multnomah's assessed valuation in 1915 was \$28,588,255 and in 1916 \$27,137,949. But according to its ratio as to other counties in the state as equalized by the State Tax Commission its valuation is \$28,963,304, as compared to \$343,586,570 for the equalization of the preceding year.

HOOVER FOUNDER DEAD

LATE TIMBERMAN WELL KNOWN IN WILLAMETTE VALLEY.

Large Tracts Acquired on Arrival in Oregon 21 Years Ago, and Mill Operated by W. A. Hoover.

ALBANY, Or., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—W. A. Hoover, who passed away at his home in Detroit Wednesday, was one of the best-known timbermen in the Willamette Valley. Coming to this county 21 years ago he acquired large tracts of timber in Linn, Marion and Clatsop counties and built a large sawmill a few miles above Detroit, where a town sprang up, which now bears his name. After sawing most of the timber on his lands near Hoover he retired from the sawmill business and has spent the past few years looking after his large timber interests.

He was a member of the Protestant Episcopal Church. The funeral was held at Albany this afternoon at the Fortmiller undertaking parlors. Dr. Franklin H. Gesebrach officiating, the interment taking place in the Riverside Cemetery.

He is survived by seven children—Walter H., of Portland; E. J., of Tacoma; R. N., of Salem; Mrs. Susan McCaskey, of Portland; L. H., of Dubois, Pa.; Mrs. C. B. Hanley, of Clearfield, Pa.; and Mrs. Nettie Brown, of Jersey Shore, Pa.

\$450,000 WORK LISTED

RAILWAYS TO MAKE TUNNEL IMPROVEMENTS AT TWO POINTS.

Great Northern Plans Expenditure on Butte Division and North Bank on Farrington Here.

SPOKANE, Wash., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—Tunnel improvements to cost close to \$450,000 on the lines of the Great Northern and Spokane, Portland & Seattle railways in the Butte division and near Pasco, respectively, have been announced by the two companies, and a number of Spokane contracting firms are preparing to submit bids.

The work called for the enlarging and concreting of six tunnels on the line of the Great Northern, Northern and on the Great Falls-Billings branch of the same road. The Spokane, Portland & Seattle will enlarge and enforce with concrete two tunnels at Farrington, near Pasco. The Montana work approximates \$350,000 and the Farrington improvement \$100,000.

Porter Bros., Bates & Rogers, Twoby Bros. and Grant Smith & Co. are Spokane firms which will bid on the work. The Guthrie-McDougal Company, of Portland, probably will submit a bid.

Starlight District Dissolved.

CANYON CITY, Or., Jan. 6.—(Special.)—On December 29 the dissolution of the Starlight Irrigation District took place. The district was organized several years ago for the purpose of irrigating 20,000 acres of bench land between this city and Dayville. Since its organization about \$6000 was spent for surveying, water rights, etc. Misunderstanding, jealousy and prejudice between the members rent into the district and lawsuits were instituted.

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RATE INJUNCTION DENIED

ROADS IN ILLINOIS NOT DEPRIVED OF RIGHT TO FIGHT FURTHER.

Decision in 2-Cent Fare Case Clears Decks for Real Controversy, Railroad Attorneys Say.

CHICAGO, Jan. 6.—Decision of three judges of the United States District Court sitting en banc here in the Illinois 2-cent fare case today does not settle the litigation, but clears the legal decks for the real controversy, according to a statement issued by counsel for the railroads tonight.

Twenty-eight railroads operating in Illinois sued for an injunction against the Public Utilities Commission to restrain it from influencing the Illinois law which is said to conflict with a rate of 2 1/2 cents authorized by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Today the judges denied the petition

"without prejudice" and indicated that the burden of attacking the problem rests with the utilities commission.

The immediate effect of today's proceedings was to pave the way for a decision by Judge Landis on an application for a permanent injunction. In this way decision on the merits of the case is expected to be attained with a decision by the Supreme Court in ultimate view.

INCOME TAX IS UPHELD

Government Has Right to Collect From Southern Pacific.

NEW YORK, Jan. 6.—The Government's right to collect an income tax of \$18,882 from the Southern Pacific Company on dividends of \$18,361,597 received by the company from the Central Pacific Railway Company in the first six months of 1914 was upheld by a decision in the Federal Court here today. The decision was rendered in a test suit brought by the Southern Pacific to recover the amount assessed

against it by the collector of internal revenue.

This was the second of two test suits brought by the company but by stipulation only the second was litigated, the first, involving taxes of \$13,163 being held in abeyance on the outcome of the second action.

*Duke de Dino Dies.

NICE, France, Jan. 6.—Charles Maur-

ice Camille de Talleyrand-Perigord (Duke de Dino) died yesterday at the Villa Perigord at Monte Carlo. He was 72 years old. The Duke de Dino twice married American women. His first wife was Miss Elizabeth Curtis, of New York, whom he married in Nice in 1867. She divorced him in 1888. The following year the Duke married Mrs. Adela Livingston Sampson, of New York. She divorced the Duke in 1903.

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