

FOOD PRODUCERS OPPOSE RATE RISE

Other Shippers Appear Before
Commerce Commission to
Protest Increase.

BIG NUMBER REPRESENTED

Traffic Organization, Boston Chamber
of Commerce and Commer-
cial Interests of Sioux City,
Ia., Favor Granting Request.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—Food producers and other shippers opposing the request of the railroads for a general 15 per cent increase in freight rates began today the presentation of their side of the case before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Several trade bodies also submitted evidence on the side of the roads.

Representatives of Western food producers and jobbers, fruit and vegetable interests, natural ice manufacturers of New Jersey and Chicago, and the Colorado Grange appeared in opposition to any increase. Those who supported the plea of the roads that an increase is justifiable were the Chicago Traffic Commission, the National Industrial Traffic League, the Boston Chamber of Commerce and a committee representing Sioux City, Ia., commercial interests.

The Western food producers emphasized that no additional cost should be placed at this time on food products, and declared that a 15 per cent rate increase would disturb all existing adjustments between distributing centers as well as many future contracts in canned goods and dry cereals. Already, they said, their products had sustained an advance of 25 per cent since 1914.

Fruit Jobbers Protest.
L. A. Kinney, speaking for the Western Fruit Jobbers and the National League of Commission Merchants, composed of 20,000 growers, distributors, shippers and receivers, said the proposed increase would fall heavily on the whole industry, and George J. Kindel, representing the Colorado interests, proposed that an increase of 1 cent per hundred pounds would be more equitable. The plan is not one of higher or lower rates, but of differentials, Mr. Kindel said, contending that Denver would be discriminated against under a 15 per cent general increase.

"Our people are not going to stand for it," he said, "although it probably would satisfy the sugar trust, which seems to get what it wants."
W. H. Young, representing the fruit-growers of Nebraska, declared that since food products already had sustained an advance of 25 per cent since 1914, it would be manifestly unfair to make any additional now.

C. C. Childs, representing Sioux City commercial interests, declared they were not opposed to a general increase provided the Commission found it necessary. He asked that the relation between interstate rates and intrastate rates in South Dakota be preserved.

Potato Men Oppose Rise.
The Eastern Shore Produce Exchange, composed of 5000 Virginia producers of Irish potatoes, also entered a protest through S. P. Westcott, who pointed out that growers already had been burdened by many new items of expense.

H. C. Barlow, chairman of the traffic commission of the Chicago Chamber of Commerce and representing the Industrial Traffic League, composed of 350 firms, said that in a referendum on the question 112 members had voted for and only 17 against a rate increase during the present emergency. He asked that the old relation between the lake and rail lines be restored, should the increase be allowed.

J. A. Brown, of the Chicago Board of Trade, requested that if an increase is granted the lake lines be made to meet the conditions surrounding the rail routes.

Speaking for the Boston Chamber of Commerce, W. H. Chandler said the organization had gone on record by a vote of 1317 to 38 as favoring a rate increase. Under cross-examination he said there were several state street bankers on the Chamber's board of directors, and that Howard Elliot, of the New Haven, also was a director.

TORNADO BRINGS DEATH

(Continued From First Page.)

ing, but it was believed that many of these would be found tomorrow.

A heavy hail storm, which followed the wind, hampered the work of rescue, and late into the night persons were being dug from the ruins of wrecked buildings.

City officials asserted that there is a possibility that the death list may be materially increased.

Few reports from the surrounding farmers were available, but it was not believed that the damage anywhere in this vicinity was as great as in Mattoon.

In addition to pleas for doctors and nurses, the Mayor sent an emergency call to Governor Lowden for at least two companies of the State National Guard to be used in policing the ruins.

The wind played many strange pranks, scattering from the lumber yard passed entirely through a home in which the family was dining, hurling through the air over their heads and out through a window without injuring any of the diners.

Wire and rail traffic was practically at a standstill for hours after the disaster, miles of telegraph poles in each direction from Mattoon being leveled.

WESTERVILLE, Ill., May 26.—Four persons were killed here late today, when a tornado struck this hamlet and destroyed six or eight houses. About 20 persons were injured. Westerville is in Shelby County, on the Chicago & Eastern Illinois Railroad. The dead: Mrs. Mary Christman, Miss Myrtle Christman, Mrs. Sallie Jackson, David McDonald.

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill., May 26.—Reports received by the Chicago, Peoria & St. Louis Railroad indicate that one person was killed and two were fatally injured in the tornado at Modesto, Ill. The property damage, according to the report here, was not large.

JOLIET, Ill., May 26.—Mattoon, Ill., 10 miles southeast of Joliet, was partly wrecked by a wind storm late today and wreckage strewn the roadway for two miles out of the village. A call for help reached this city tonight, saying that many were injured and possibly some dead. Stores and homes were blown to bits. Elwood, six miles south of Joliet, was also damaged by the storm. One boy was killed by lightning.

TERRE HAUTE, Ind., May 26.—Telephone messages received here from Ashmore, Ill., asked that all available physicians be hurried to Charleston, Ill. The information was that scores had been injured in a tornado which struck Charleston and vicinity late this afternoon. Wires to Charleston are down.

ST. LOUIS, May 26.—According to advice emanating from the office of the Big Four Railroad in Charleston, Ill., tonight, 23 persons were killed in the tornado that struck there this afternoon. Long distance telephone connection had been established with the town, but it was interrupted before it could be learned how many were injured.

UNION COAL MINERS PROTEST TOWILSON

Assertion Made Plan of De-
fense Counsel Disrupts
Labor Agreements.

GRAVE DANGERS FEARED

Miners Must Not Be Chained to
Soll in Spirit of Old Russian
Serfdom, Declares Head of
Mine Workers' Union.

NEW YORK, May 26.—Declaring that the programme recently outlined by the committee on coal production of the Council of National Defense would "place the great coal areas of the Nation at the dictation of the avowed enemies of union labor, with all the calamities that would entail," John P. White, president of the United Mine-workers of America, today addressed a protest to President Wilson and the members of the Council of National Defense.

The mine-workers, he asserted, "must not be chained to the soil in the spirit of the old Russian serfdom," as the arrangement proposed by the committee on coal production "would chain them."

"A matter of grave concern to our Nation has been precipitated by the sudden development out of your organization of a committee on coal production which sets aside a complete National agreement between mine-owners and mine workers just recently arrived at in New York City," said Mr. White, in his letter to the President and Council of National Defense.

"By that agreement the coal industry of the Nation was placed on an assured foundation of adequate and uninterrupted coal supply."

Co-operation is offered.
"Speaking on behalf of the half million workers of our organization, I call to your attention the fact that these two notable conferences of the central competitive field and the anthracite field offered to include, as an auxiliary to your own Council, joint committees of operators and workers to direct the production of coal on that basis of mutual interest and mutual confidence and efficiency."

"Doubtless through the immense pressure of duties resting upon you that offer has been completely ignored and this vital, basic industry is threatened with complete disruption. If not protested against in time, and if not successfully resisted at once, your committee on coal production would place the great coal areas of the Nation at the dictation of the avowed enemies of union labor with all the calamities that would entail."

Labor Standards in Danger.
"It would defeat the maintenance throughout the war of those union labor standards of justice and efficiency to which the President of the United States only a week ago so nobly pledged himself and this Government to maintain. It would set at naught those principles of industrial square dealing which not only the United Mine Workers have successfully advanced, but which great associations of mine owners themselves have not splendidly and patriotically agreed to and endorsed."

"Perhaps most of all, it would set the mine owners who have recognized decent, humanitarian standards among their workers at the mercy of the cut-throat competition of the war, of employers in the business. It would disrupt all standards, all decency, all genuinely patriotic ideals."

Recall Move Failure.
PETITIONS AGAINST DR. A. W. SMITH 2000 SIGNATURES SHORT.

Robert G. Duncan, Secretary of Grocers' Association, Active Spirit Behind Agitation.

The proposal to recall Dr. Alan Welch Smith, school director, has failed by more than 2000 signatures, unless by some new interpretation of the law it is found that the recall can be authorized on signatures equal to 15 per cent of the school population of 8 to 21 years instead of 15 per cent of the school census of 4 to 21 years.

The petitions calling for Dr. Smith's recall were filed yesterday afternoon, where it was revealed that Robert G. Duncan, secretary of the Portland Grocers' Association, was the active spirit behind the recall movement, assisted by George R. Alexander, husband of Alecia Alexander, deceased teacher, whose trial was a sensational sensation for many weeks.

On checking, the petitions were found to carry 5145 names, which were 2117 under the 7262 generally held to be necessary to secure the recall. School Clerk Baker offered to keep open the office until midnight if the petition circulated tonight would include the 2117 names, but after brief parley and Mr. Duncan's discovery that he might have enough names under a union interpretation of the law the matter was dropped and the office closed. Unless the law is reinterpreted the recall proposal has failed.

The recall petitions directed against Dr. J. Francis Drake, started a few days ago and subsequently dropped, also were dropped by Mr. Duncan.

Mr. Duncan, always a man of positive opinions and decided statements, said he alone is fathering the recall movement and that he represents no one but himself. His motive, he says, is a desire "to clean out the whole school organization."

"I am paying for every name on the recall petitions obtained by paid circulators out of my own pocket, including the printing bill," he said. "I have paid out about \$500 so far. I expect to clean out the whole board."

"I also expected to recall Dr. Drake, but I was persuaded to give that up by people who are with me on the Smith recall, but who said Drake has been absolutely straight with them and if we did not 'lay off' him, they would not be with us on the Smith recall."

MR. McNARY TO BE NAMED
(Continued From First Page.)

The two preceding instances the men selected were of a different political faith from those they succeeded. In this instance a Republican will be named to succeed a Democrat.

Judge McNary is a native of Oregon and with the exception of a few years spent away attending school he has been a continuous resident of the state.

DO YOU KNOW—

That only about three feet more of this high water and save the expense of double moving?

DO YOU KNOW—

Our temporary warehouse at 44-46 Broadway has been leased by a permanent tenant.

We desire to make room in our own building just now, and the terms are the easiest.

Many homes will be made happy by new furnishings at your weekly price. Your home SHOULD be included!

EVERY price on sample pieces of over-stuffed furniture is flooded. YOU will enjoy this treat at our expense. The most luxurious Davenports, Chairs and Rockers at prices that startle.

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