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HILL GIVES FACTS ON COMMERCE

States in Examination Before Merchant Marine Commission That Trouble Is Purely Commercial.

Says Government Aid Is Essential to Success of American Shipping Interests.

TROUBLES OF EXPORT TRADE

Hill Advocates a Tonnage Tax on Goods Shipped in Foreign Bottoms as Protective Measure.

New York, May 24.—James H. Hill, president of the Northern Securities Company and of the Great Northern railroad, appeared this afternoon as a witness before the merchant marine commission, the joint congressional commission, which is investigating the causes of the decline of American shipping. Hill believes the question to be purely commercial. If there is profit in it people will engage in it, if there is not they will not.

"What the country wants is a market," said he. "Outside our agricultural products there are very few things we can export because the cost of production is so high we cannot sell them." After relating his experience in building ships, which he says he does not care to repeat, Hill continued: "Our business on the Pacific is hard; we have to compete with all nations and they are fighting very hard for the oriental trade, and I think we have placed obstructions in the way of this trade. Go to Puget sound—the heads of the unions are boarding house keepers, and the man who is dead broke and broken down by excesses is the man sent to us. It is the same way along the shore. You hire 200 men as stevedores, and tell them to come next day. They don't come as long as they have money and others are sent."

A brick dialogue followed between Hill and Representative McDermott concerning government aid, Mr. Hill contending that the tonnage tax on goods exported in foreign bottoms would force shipments in American craft.

Hill said he was satisfied that there

must be some sort of government aid, or it was a case of get out of business.

SAYS HE KNOWS NOTHING.

Man Quoted as Authority on Corwin Wreck Disclaims Knowledge.

Victoria, B. C., May 24.—Victoria was last night deluged with requests for details of a disaster to the Nome liner Corwin, formerly an American revenue cutter, supposedly wrecked in the inside passage between Vancouver island and the mainland, with considerably fatality. The rumor was traced to a Seattle newspaper, which allegedly had received it from J. H. Greer, a local shipping man. Greer denies all knowledge of the supposed wreck and the canard is believed to have originated with a use of the name by some unknown party.

The circumstance that the Corwin, before leaving Seattle, had been compelled to stow her intended deckload, being adjudged topheavy by the inspector, gave color to this rumor, and caused general misapprehension in shipping circles. The steamer called at Nanaimo several days ago for bunker coal, however, and is probably now well on her way to her port of destination.

REVENGE WITH RIFLE.

San Bernardino Bay Shoots Companion Fatally.

San Bernardino, May 24.—Because his companions had ostracised him on account of his nationality, and would not permit him to go rabbit shooting and horned toad hunting with them, little 11-year-old Peter Moreta, an Italian boy, shot MacDonald Durbin, leader of the opposition against him, today, sending a 22-caliber rifle ball completely through his body, the bullet flattening on his ribs and tearing, in consequence, an ugly and probably fatal hole through his lungs.

The shooting occurred at an early hour within sight of the Durbin boy's home. Durbin, with the sons of a neighbor, all the same age, had started on a hunting trip in nearby fields, when they encountered Moreta with his rifle. He wanted to go, but was refused, and while 50 feet distant, raised his rifle, calling out: "See me wing you," and aiming directly at Durbin pulled the trigger.

The bullet entered the right side near the armpit, ranging downward and came out at the back. Durbin managed to reach home, while Moreta ran off and has since been missing.

Miner Missing.

Wallace, Idaho, May 24.—L. Lovell, a miner at Prospect, near Borax, Mont., has been missing for 10 days and it is believed he has perished from exposure and hunger. Searching parties have gone from Wallace.

SURRENDER OF KINCHOU TO BESIEGING JAPANESE MOMENTARILY EXPECTED

Rumored Cossacks Captured Two Jap Transport Columns, Leaving Brownies Without Supplies.

Active Preparations Are in Progress for Reduction of Port Arthur by Japanese—Japs Have Evacuated Fengwangchang—Russians Defeated and Compelled to Retreat Near Yinkau.

Seoul, May 25.—The correspondent of the Daily Telegraph says that Kinchou is being besieged by the Japanese and the surrender of the city is momentarily expected.

Included in the score of rumors is one sent by the Shanghai correspondent of the Post to the effect that the Russians have been defeated near Yinkau, abandoning 50 guns, and that Kuropatkin has been advised by Alexieff to retreat to Harbin.

London, May 25.—The correspondent of the Post at Mukden, under date of May 24, says it is believed General Rennenkampf's cossacks captured two Japanese transport columns, leaving the Japanese army without supplies in a difficult country.

Preparing to Reduce Port Arthur. London, May 25.—The Daily Mail's correspondent at Shimonoseki, Japan, cabling on May 24, asserts that active preparations are in progress for the reduction of Port Arthur.

Very heavy artillery, the correspondent says, is being landed on Liao Tung peninsula.

Dispatches to the Telegraph say the telegraph line between Fengwangchang and the south has been cut by Russians disguised as Chinese. A Russian transport is moving from Liao Yang in the direction of Mukden, but it is not known whether this means the retirement of the army or merely the removal of the winter clothing.

The Telegraph's Nuchwang correspondent declares that Kuropatkin is determined to check the Japanese at Liao Yang, where probably the greatest battle of the war will be fought. He adds that the Japanese land operations against Port Arthur are meeting with little success and that General Stoessel continues to make well directed but desperate sorties against the advance of the Japanese.

Fengwangchang Evacuated. Liao Yang, May 25.—It is reported

from a Chinese source that the Japanese have evacuated Fengwangchang and are occupying villages in the surrounding territory. There is no explanation of this move, but it is thought it may be connected with the prevailing cholera epidemic.

Jap Fleet Busy.

Chefoo, May 25.—(12:30 p. m.)—Four Japanese cruisers and a fleet of torpedo boats and torpedo boat destroyers passed midway between Port Arthur and Miao Tao islands at 4 o'clock this morning, but no sounds of firing have yet been heard.

The Russians have again removed their guns and troops to the forts at Nuchwang.

Continual Skirmishing.

Liao Yang, May 24.—There is continual skirmishing between the Russian cavalry and the Japanese. Cossacks are pressing the Japanese in the hills and by the roads, generally driving them back.

The general plan of the Japanese has not been divulged. They are apparently marking time, awaiting the arrival of the reserves from Korea, who have been delayed, owing to the impassability of the roads.

The Chinese report the destruction of another Japanese battleship off Port Arthur, but the report is unconfirmed and is not credited.

Japs Wiped Out.

Liao Yang, May 24.—A report has been received from Nuchwang, saying that on May 18 five battalions of Japanese troops reconnoitered to the south almost as far as Kinchou and ran into General Fock's artillery, which was strongly posted on the heights in the narrow sections of the Liao Tung peninsula, and that the Japanese were entirely wiped out. The report lacks confirmation.

Prince Hilkeff Arrives.

Liao Yang, May 24.—Prince Hilkeff, minister of railroads, has arrived here from Harbin.

MAY ABOLISH EMBASSY.

Trouble Between France and Vatican Goes to Deputies.

Paris, May 24.—The government has decided to fully present the vatican controversy, culminating in the recall of M. Nisard, to the chamber of deputies. A violent debate is expected and the government is preparing itself for more radical action that has been heretofore taken, since it is anticipated that an effort will be made to abolish the French embassy to the holy see.

Officials express the belief that the embassy will not be suppressed, but they say the present feeling may lead to that result when the appropriation for sustaining the embassy comes before the chamber a month hence.

VICTORIA DAY OBSERVED.

Washington University Narrowly Defeated in Baseball and Rowing.

Victoria, B. C., May 24.—Victoria's annual celebration of Victoria day has on this occasion been the most successful in history. The principal athletic events decided were the defeat of the University of Washington, at baseball, by Victoria, by a score of 12 to 11.

The James Bay athletic association senior four-oared crew beat the University of Washington, after an exciting race, by barely a half length.

INEQUITY OF MORMONISM.

Presbyterian Conference Commends Work of Church Women.

Buffalo, May 24.—The work of the Presbyterian general assembly consisted in the consideration of the home

missions report of the standing committee, being presented by Rev. John F. Carson of Brooklyn, chairman of the committee. As a part of the report Dr. Carson stated: "We heartily commend the work of Christian women of all denominations in carrying on so successful a campaign against the inequity of Mormonism."

The afternoon session was devoted to the report of the standing committee on aid for colleges and the discussion of the subject of college education.

EDITORS ELECTED.

Methodist Conference Rushes Things Through at Los Angeles.

Los Angeles, May 24.—The Methodist conference held two long sessions today. The greater part of the day was taken up in speech-making, incident to fixing the places for episcopal residences. At the morning session the editors for 10 church publications were elected, the Epworth Herald being omitted from the list.

There was very little of interest in the election of the editors, as the field had been thoroughly canvassed by the respective candidates and in most cases there was but one nomination for each office.

FOUR DROWNED AT BOISE.

Boat Filled With Loggers Is Overturned in the Rapids With Dire Result.

Boise, May 24.—John Bowen, John Conley, John Bedore and a man named McDonald, were drowned in the rapids of the Payette river this morning. The remains have not been recovered. The four men were a part of the crew

bringing down a big log drive. They were attempting to come down the rapids in the boat when in some manner it was overturned.

ATTORNEY LOSES FEES.

State Entitled to Every Cent Collected on Liquor Licenses.

Olympia, Wash., May 23.—The supreme court of the state of Washington has sustained the state treasurer in his refusal to pay over to the attorney general 10 per cent of the amount of a judgment secured by the state against the city of Seattle. This money was recovered in an action brought by the attorney general, who claimed the money was due the state on account of liquor licenses collected by the city.

When the suit was decided in favor of the state the attorney general claimed 10 per cent of the fees collected by virtue of a territorial law which provided that in addition to an annual salary of \$1800 the attorney general should also receive the further sum of 10 per cent on all money collected and paid into the territorial treasury upon legal process instituted to enforce payment of any claim against the territory. The state treasurer refused to allow the 10 per cent rakeoff and the matter was left for the courts to decide.

The court finds that the action of the territorial legislature was annulled by the adoption of the state constitution, which fixed the salary of all state officials, including that of the attorney general, and it is held that compensation of the attorney general is limited to the salary prescribed by the constitution.

This decision by the court keeps W. B. Stratton, the present attorney general, out of about \$7000 fees. During his term the state has been successful in collecting \$70,000 in claims against the cities and from various sources.

BASEBALL SCORES.

Pacific Coast.

At Seattle—Tacoma 4, Seattle 5.

At Oakland—Portland 4, San Francisco 9.

At Los Angeles—Oakland 2, Los Angeles 1.

American.

At Boston—Chicago 2, Boston 6.

At New York—St. Louis 6, New York 8.

At Washington—Cleveland 10, Washington 6.

At Philadelphia—Detroit 6, Philadelphia 4.

National.

At Pittsburg—Boston 0, Pittsburg 7.

MURDERER ON TRIAL FOR LIFE

Norman Williams Arraigned At The Dalles Charged With Murdering Alma Nesbitt and Her Mother.

Case Is Probably the Most Peculiar in the Criminal History of the Pacific Northwest.

EIGHT JURORS ARE CHOSEN

Circumstances Seem to Point to Williams as the Murderer—Will Probably Be Found Guilty.

The Dalles, May 24.—The trial of Norman Williams, on the charge of murdering Alma Nesbitt, near Hood River, Ore., October 10, 1899, was commenced at 1:30 this afternoon. Eight jurors had been secured when the court adjourned.

The case is probably the most peculiar in the criminal history of the Pacific northwest. Almost five years ago Alma Nesbitt and her mother, Mrs. L. J. Nesbitt, both from Omaha, Neb., were sent to get into a rig just at nightfall with Norman Williams, at Hood River, to go to the homestead claim, which Williams had induced Alma Nesbitt to locate. The two women, it is said, were never again seen alive. On October 29 last Williams was indicted at the instance of the government on a charge of forging the name of Alma Nesbitt to a homestead relinquishment. The Associated Press account of the indictment and the allusion to the almost forgotten disappearance of the two women was brought to the attention of George Nesbitt, the son and brother, who came to Oregon in search for his lost relatives.

The mother and sister were not found, but evidence of their having met with foul play was discovered, abundant enough to warrant the authorities in causing Williams' arrest. The man was arrested at Bellingham, Wash., February 9, and brought to this city to answer to the charge.

FOR ALL WEATHERS!



The nice thing about a raincoat is, you can wear it in shine as well as rain, and look well. The best fact about our raincoats is, they're made for us by Hart Schaffner & Marx, which is only a short way of saying that there are no better raincoats to be had anywhere; and that you'll think so yourself if you buy one. We have plenty of other good overcoats to show you; we'll show you the Hart Schaffner & Marx label in them: a small thing to look for, a big thing to find.

P. A. STOKES, One Price To Everybody

Peerless Skirts

Peerless in name, quality, style and price. We have them—a splendid line of Wash Skirts in White Pique, Duck and Linen all trimmed in the newest style, and for fit—there are no better made. For summer wear there is nothing cooler or neater than a wash shirt waist suit—our line of these goods is up-to-date with prices from \$1.25 to \$2.90 a suit.

EMBROIDERIES

For corset covers, all beautiful patterns 50c, 55c and 75c a yard. In embroidery edgings and insertions our line is full and cannot be beaten—prices from 45c to \$1.35 a yard.

CHILDREN'S HATS

This department will satisfy the most exacting. Hats of straw, linen, mull and silk, as dainty as skill can make them. You can buy Cheaper

At THE BEE HIVE

Reduced One-Half

David Harum 75c
Story of Mary McLane 75c
Mississippi Bubble 75c
Ziska 75c

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