

CAR SHORTAGE IS SERIOUS

Due Solely to Increased Demands Upon the Railroads.

During Month of February the Roads of the United States Were 150,000 Cars Behind Demands Made on Them—Not Due to Decreased Efficiency.

Chicago, April 25.—During the month of February the railroads of the United States were, it is estimated, nearly 150,000 cars short of the demands made upon them by the actual traffic offered for transportation. This amazing fact was given to the American Railway association at its closing session today and the knowledge of it won the day for some drastic measures to correct the evil.

The problem of car shortage, the operating men declare, is today the greatest and the gravest which the railroads have to face and to solve. It was stated that a searching investigation disclosed the fact that the car shortage is not due to decreased car efficiency, as the records showed that the average daily movement of all freight cars had been 25.4 miles. It was therefore concluded that the shortage is due to the extraordinary increase in the demands made upon the railroads.

The committee also reported that it had confirmed the general opinion that a great deal can be accomplished to improve the situation which has been effecting a partial paralysis of the business of the country. First, by the railroads themselves; second, by the railroads in their relation to the public, and third, by the railroads in their relations with each other.

BUYS SUPPLIES WHOLESALE.

Reclamation Service Saves Money by Concentrating Business.

Chicago, April 25.—For the purpose of obtaining and furnishing supplies necessary in reclaiming the arid regions of the West, the United States reclamation service yesterday opened a new purchasing and transportation office in Chicago. Heretofore all of this business was left in the hands of the engineers in charge of the work, who purchased their supplies from the nearest dealers. It was found, however, that the prices in the past were so excessive that the government had to save money by buying direct from the wholesalers in Chicago and other points.

At present the work is being carried on in 29 different projects. An expenditure of \$46,000,000 will be made and when completed more than 2,000,000 acres of arid land will have been reclaimed. The freight bills alone last month amounted to \$38,000. The new office is expected to result in a total saving to the service of at least 20 per cent.

POLICE GUARD TILLMAN.

Exciting Incidents Mark His Lecture at Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh, April 24.—As a precautionary measure, 22 detectives and a squad of uniformed policemen were stationed in Carnegie music hall last night during the address of Senator B. R. Tillman, of South Carolina, who discussed the race problem. Several exciting incidents occurred, but no trouble ensued. Ten negroes were present.

After declaring that the races in the South were gradually becoming more antagonistic, Mr. Tillman called for a vote of the audience as to whether the negro was the equal of the white man. The entire audience except the ten negroes voted in the negative by rising.

One man interrupted Mr. Tillman several times during his address. Mr. Tillman had him admit that he came from Europe and then bitterly denounced Europeans in America who undertake to judge questions concerning this country.

Train Young Ministers.

St. Louis, April 25.—The general board of education of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in session here today, appropriated \$50,000 for the establishment of a training school at Palo Alto, California, to be conducted in conjunction with Leland Stanford, Jr., university. The appropriation is conditional upon an additional \$50,000 being raised in California. It is stated that a Californian, whose name is withheld for the present, has promised to give \$200,000 in money and property to the school.

Indicts Court Official.

Chicago, April 25.—John Lenehan, chief deputy clerk of the Municipal court, was indicted today by the grand jury on charges of forgery and falsifying public records. Lenehan was arrested immediately after the return of the indictment and was released on a bond of \$2,500. There were two counts in the indictment, on charging the forgery of a juror's name who escaped service and the other covering the falsifying of public records.

Factory Men to Go on Strike.

St. Petersburg, April 25.—A sympathetic strike started here today in several factories, including Nobel's. Ten thousand men are already out and it is feared the strike will become general. This movement is the outcome of a conflict yesterday between troops and a number of men who held an illegal meeting in a factory, in which 200 were injured by sabers and whips.

GOVERNOR TO INVESTIGATE.

Insane of Illinois Kept in Vilest of Conditions.

Chicago, April 26.—Sensational revelations of the horrors of county insane asylums, including the chaining of young girls, forcing patients to sleep in coffin-like boxes and subjecting women to indescribable indignities, have aroused such indignation that Governor Deneen announces he will call a special session of the legislature if the present session does not appropriate sufficient funds to place the insane patients in charge of the state.

Some of the revolting conditions that are set forth in the report to the governor are:

That steel handcuffs, barred cells, cages, padlocks and ankle chains are in use, girls 20 years old being found in steel cages with their ankles chained.

That insane women in many institutions bear illegitimate and idiotic children.

That in most institutions there are no facilities for bathing, and in some of the places the patients have not had baths for 18 years. In others bathing is optional. In still others there is but one bath tub, and that used optionally by both sexes.

That a majority of the county institutions are vermin ridden, have no ventilation, use filthy bedclothes, are cold and damp, the patients illy clad and the houses fire traps.

That in a number of places the sexes are permitted to mingle without restraint, old men being found caring for young girls.

That some of the houses are "not fit for human habitation."

That boxes are used for sleeping quarters, some of the patients being padlocked in boxes little bigger than caskets, with small airholes cut out.

That in 54 institutions there is no separation of the insane from the paupers.

That primitive toilet facilities exist, with shocking sanitary conditions.

DECLINES TO BE RUSHED.

California Supreme Court to Hear Ruel's Case in Order.

San Francisco, April 26.—Abraham Ruel's application for release on bail from the custody of Eliaz Biggy, by writ of habeas corpus, will not be decided at today's conference of the supreme court, according to a statement to the Associated Press by Chief Justice Beatty, who said:

"The impression seems to have gone abroad that there is great urgency for an immediate decision in this matter. There is no urgency. The matter stands very well as it is. We do not view it as taking precedence over other matters priorly filed, and it will not be determined until reached in due course. There are many other pressing and far more important matters engaging the court at present."

Demurrers to the nine indictments for bribery which confront Louis Glass, vice president of the Pacific States Telephone company, were submitted today in Judge Lawlor's court by Attorney T. C. Cogan. Glass was present.

After the reading of one of the demurrers, the case was by agreement put over until next Tuesday.

MAY PROSECUTE THIEVES.

Pennsylvania Capitol Commission Has Evidence of Much Graft.

Harrisburg, Pa., April 26.—As a result of the investigation by the legislative commission into the expenditure of \$9,000,000 for furnishings and decorations for the new state capitol, it is probable that criminal proceedings will be instituted by the state against certain persons who have prominently figured in the construction. The commission has been investigating the charges of extravagance, overcharges, duplications in payment of bills and fraud for nearly two months and has yet to take the testimony of many important persons who have knowledge of the subject under investigation. Among those to be examined is ex-Governor Pennypacker.

Whether civil suits can be brought has not been determined, but members of the commission are convinced that it has been demonstrated that criminal action can be brought.

Tropical War Ends.

San Salvador, April 26.—A treaty of peace between Salvador and Nicaragua was signed last night by ministers representing each country at Amapala. The terms of the treaty are honorable to both countries. The conditions proposed by Salvador were accepted, but the demands made by President Zelaya, of Nicaragua, for preparation for Salvador's part in the recent war between Nicaragua and Honduras and that there be a free interchange of commodities between Nicaragua and Salvador were rejected.

Bonilla Is Still Warlike.

Coatzacoalcas, Mexico, April 26.—Ex-President Manuel Bonilla, of Honduras, arrived here last night direct from his own country via Salina Cruz. He declares he will wait here the arrival of a steamer from the south which will bring a friend and then will proceed to Belize and from there back to his own country to take up arms. He takes a pessimistic view of the conditions and outlook in Central America.

Arrange Tariff for Year.

Berlin, April 26.—It is understood that the new provisional tariff between Germany and the United States shall endure for one year and that it will prevail automatically if no notice of a change be given.

NEWS ITEMS OF GENERAL INTEREST FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

AFTER LUMBER TRUST.

Government Extends Inquiry to Every Producing Section.

Washington, April 26.—The investigation of the lumber trust is now in full swing. It is regarded by the bureau of corporations as the most comprehensive and far reaching of any yet undertaken. The information obtained will be used by the department of justice in prosecuting the trust, if such action is warranted.

A preliminary inquiry regarding prices has already been concluded. Special agents are now being sent to all the principal districts where lumber is produced to ascertain facts relative to production and the restraint of competition. Every section of the country will be visited by these agents.

Data now collected show the steady and uniform advance in prices for all kinds of lumber during the past ten years. There was a remarkable increase of cost prices in 1906. The figures collected show that the diminishing supply of timber is not alone responsible for the great advance in prices.

Commissioner Smith will make a special effort to ascertain why lumber prices were so sharply advanced in 1906. It is believed to have been the result of combination control in violation of the Sherman anti-trust law.

Canal Zone's Health Record.

Washington, April 26.—Health conditions on the canal zone are about as good now as they ever will be, according to a report from Colonel Gorgas, chief sanitary officer, for the month of March, just received at the offices of the Isthmian Canal commission. Since last August the number of sick among the employes has steadily declined until it is now 19.40 men per 1,000 as against 33.72 in August. Among 4,500 Americans, white, employed there were only two deaths from disease during March.

Taft Back at Work.

Washington, April 25.—Secretary Taft yesterday resumed his routine duties at the War department. The fact that it was cabinet day made it necessary for him to cut short the time allowed to callers. It is doubtful if in his Washington experience the secretary has had to deal with more newspaper men than he saw during the day. They were mainly desirous to learn just what the secretary intended to do in answer to the challenge which Senator Foraker had issued in regard to the contest in Ohio.

Immigration Commission Meets.

Washington, April 24.—The commission appointed in pursuance of the action of the last session of congress to investigate conditions in connection with the subject of immigration met today. It is expected that a preliminary investigation of the ports of New York and Boston will be made, and afterward either the full committee or a subcommittee will go abroad to extend the inquiry in the foreign countries from which most of the immigrants come.

Bank's Bonds Are Exempt.

Washington, April 24.—Deciding several cases brought to it by savings banks in Des Moines, Ia., the Supreme court of the United States held today that government bonds in which the capital stock of such banks is invested are exempt from taxation. The test opinion delivered by Justice Moody reversed the ruling of the Iowa courts. The chief justice and Justices Harlan and Peckham dissented from the decision.

No Hope of Agreement.

Washington, April 25.—The Central American controversy is no nearer settlement today than it was yesterday, according to a dispatch received today at the State department from Philip Brown, the American charge at Guatemala, cabling from La Union, Salvador. Mr. Brown stated that the deadlock was still on. He held out no hope of an early agreement.

How Roads May Be Made.

Washington, April 27.—Senators Fulton and Bourne are asking for the assignment of Samuel C. Lancaster, government road expert, to Oregon, Washington and Idaho for one year as instructor in modern road building. Samuel Hill, of the Washington Good Roads association, is here, interested in the project.

Roosevelt Going to Oyster Bay.

Washington, April 24.—President Roosevelt will leave Washington for his summer home at Oyster Bay on June 2. This is much earlier than has been his practice heretofore, but he feels that public business is in such shape that he can leave. The president is to make two speeches on "Georgia Day" at the Jamestown exposition on June 10.

San Domingo Favors Treaty.

Washington, April 25.—Minister Dawson, at San Domingo, cables that yesterday the treaty with the United States was favorably reported to the senate. Its consideration was intrusted to three senators, two of whom filed a report in its favor, and the third a report in opposition.

Stevens Talks With Roosevelt.

Washington, April 23.—John F. Stevens, formerly chief engineer and chairman of the Isthmian Canal commission, talked with the president today about conditions on the isthmus. He said it will take between six and seven years to complete the canal.

RIGHTS IN DANGER.

Opinion of Senator Bourne Regarding National Government.

Washington, April 24.—"In my opinion a great crisis now confronts this country," said Senator Bourne in an interview given here today. "The reactionaries are determined, if possible, to obtain control of the government and use it for their own personal advantage and to the detriment of the people. The true Republican policies, as promulgated by Lincoln and enlarged and exemplified by Roosevelt, are the rights of man and the absolute sovereignty of the people. The issue now before this country is: 'Shall the advocates of the rights and liberties of the people and of the power and majesty of the government, or shall the enemies of both prevail? The people must decide.'"

Want Republican Convention.

Washington, April 27.—President Roosevelt today discussed national politics and some of the business of the Republican national convention with its acting chairman, Harry S. New, who remained with the president some time. With the newspaper men Mr. New would not talk politics. He said, however, that four cities are already in the field for the honor of holding the next national convention of the Republican party, invitations having been received from Chicago, St. Louis, Kansas City and Seattle. A selection will be made by the national committee at its meeting here in December.

Borah Denies Rumors.

Washington, April 25.—"I have not come to Washington to make an appeal to the president or to the Department of Justice," said Senator Borah, of Idaho, as he left the White House today after a brief call upon the president. This statement was made by the senator when his attention was called to reports that he had come East to induce the officials here to call a halt upon the Federal officials in his state in the matter of the alleged indictment of persons charged with having been engaged in timber land frauds.

May Build Bridge.

Washington, April 25.—Permission has been granted the Southern Pacific by the War department to erect a railroad bridge across the Willamette river, starting at a point near Oswego, on the West Side, and terminating near Milwaukee, from which point the road will reach the Southern Pacific car shops. The grant is not exactly to the liking of the railroad interests, as certain minor restrictions are placed on it.

Will Appraise Railroad.

Washington, April 25.—John F. Stevens, formerly chief engineer and chairman of the Isthmian Canal commission, is to be employed by one of the large Eastern railroad companies to make a physical valuation of its property. Mr. Stevens declined tonight to name the railroad with which he is to become affiliated, but admitted that it is one of the large companies of the East. He expects to enter upon his new duties soon.

Many Dead Letters.

Washington, April 27.—All previous records for a day's work in returning letters to writers from the division of dead letters were eclipsed on Monday last when 20,368 letters were returned. The largest number heretofore returned in a single day was 14,488 on March 28 last. The number of letters on hand awaiting return has been reduced to 63,000. A little over a month ago there were over 200,000 of such letters on hand.

Coal Land Laws Codified.

Washington, April 23.—A codification of the coal land laws, combined with regulations for their administration, was issued today by Commissioner Ballinger, of the United States land office. The lands are classified according to values and information as to the price at which the government will sell each tract is disseminated. The price varies from \$10 to \$20 an acre, according to accessibility.

Keeps Attorney General Posted.

Washington, April 25.—District Attorney Ruick went to Baltimore today and conferred with Attorney General Bonaparte regarding the Borah indictment, Idaho land fraud and Haywood-Meyer case. When he returned to Washington he declined to discuss what took place in Baltimore.

Funston to Command California.

Washington, April 23.—Brigadier General Frederick Funston has been relieved of the command of the southwestern division, to take effect upon the expiration of his present leave of absence and will proceed to San Francisco to take command of the department of California.

Hero of Russo-Japanese War.

Washington, April 25.—Baron Kuroki, second in command of the Japanese forces in the Japanese-Russian war, will land at Seattle May 2 and come East via the Oregon Short Line. It is possible he will visit Portland on the way. He is here to see the Jamestown exposition.

Not Forbidden to Go to Isthmus.

Washington, April 24.—So far as the Italian embassy in this city has been informed, Italy has issued no decree prohibiting her subjects from going to Panama as canal laborers.

FOR NEGRO EDUCATION.

Aged Quaker Woman Provides for Schools in South.

Philadelphia, April 24.—A gift of \$1,000,000 for the establishment of a fund for rudimentary schools for Southern negroes was announced here tonight. The donor is Miss Anna T. Jeanes, a Quaker of this city.

Booker T. Washington, head of the Tuskegee Institute and Hollis Burke Frisell, president of the Hampton Normal Industrial institute, are named as trustees of the fund, but neither of the institutions they represent will share in the gift. The income of the million dollars is to be used for the sole purpose of assisting in the "Southern United States community, country and rural schools for the great class of negroes to whom the small rural and community schools are alone available."

Mr. Washington and Mr. Frisell are empowered to appoint a board of trustees in connection with the fund. The Pennsylvania company for insurance on lives and granting annuities of this city will act as fiscal agent for the trustees.

Miss Jeanes, the donor, is about 80 years of age and comes from an old and wealthy family that has been prominent for more than a century in the Society of Friends. She has long been interested in the welfare of the negro and has been a contributor to the institutions for education.

SUSPICIONS AROUSED.

French Officials Believe Incendiary at Work in Toulon.

Toulon, April 24.—For the sixth time within a few months this port has been stricken by disaster from fire, but this time the resultant damage is principally material. Shortly after midnight a sentinel at the arsenal noticed a glare of flames in a storehouse used for rope yarns. He at once gave the alarm and soldiers, members of the crews of warships in port and employees of the arsenal were turned out to fight the flames, which spread with incredible rapidity.

The buildings in the vicinity of the storehouse contained 200,000 pounds of material to clean machinery, 60,000 pounds of oakum, 5,000 sponges, enormous quantities of ballast, baskets, hampers, sail cloth, turpentine, linseed oil and other inflammables.

The wall of a storehouse fell in, burying 60 men, 10 of whom were severely injured. The cause of the fire has not yet been ascertained. The finding of two pieces of fuse of a kind not used in the French navy has aroused the suspicion that it was not altogether accidental. A rigorous investigation is being conducted. The authorities are becoming more and more convinced that the outbreak of fire was due to malevolence.

Expenses of German Army Grow.

Berlin, April 24.—During the discussion in the reichstag today of the army appropriation, General von Einen, minister of war, referred to the difficulties encountered by the army administration recently because of the purpose of the government to rearm the field artillery, the foot artillery and the infantry as quickly as possible. The extraordinary expenses in the army appropriation for 1907 include \$10,250,000 for the rebuilding of fortresses, against \$5,250,000 in 1906. When this is done, expenses will be less.

Attack Guatemala Next.

Mobile, Ala., April 24.—Passengers arriving here today from Honduras say President Zelaya will declare war again in Guatemala in about two months. They say the natives of Port Barrios believe this fervently enough to begin work on sandbag fortifications fronting the town. The general opinion is that Zelaya will now turn his attention to Guatemala. All traces of the recent trouble have been smoothed over and the Nicaraguans are in control.

Say Strikebreakers Are Imported.

Vancouver, B. C., April 24.—Prosecutions were commenced this morning in the Supreme court under the alien labor act against Smith & Sherburne, Alderman & Baynes & Horie, contractors, charging that they brought here ten carpenters from Seattle to take the places of local strikers. It is alleged the men were hired by Agent Williams in Seattle and that their fares were paid to Vancouver.

Li Hung Chang's Son Appointed.

Pekin, April 24.—Lord Li Ching Fang, the adopted son of the late Viceroy Li Hung Chang, has been appointed Chinese minister to London. The new minister is very wealthy. He was formerly minister to Japan and was the second plenipotentiary of China at the time of the peace negotiations after the war between China and Japan.

Coldest April in El Paso.

El Paso, Tex., April 23.—The temperature here fell to 31 degrees last night and a heavy frost covered everything and did damage to fruit. It is the coldest April weather known in El Paso's history. Twenty-two years ago the temperature got down to freezing.

Treasure Revealed by Earthquake.

Lisbon, April 24.—A cave was discovered containing valuable treasure including many old pieces of gold coins, jewelry and antique arms, supposed to have been a buccaner's hoard. Recent earthquakes which exposed the cave, made the discovery possible.

Plague Rages at Cartagena.

Madrid, April 24.—According to an evening newspaper, the minister of marine has received a telegram from the captain general at Cartagena saying the plague is raging at that port and that 300 persons have been sent to hospitals.

CRISIS NEAR ON HAGUE MEETING

Lines Being Sharply Drawn on Disarmament Question.

Germany and Austria Refuse to Discuss Limiting of Armaments at Risk of Enmity of America and Great Britain—Italy Is Yet Undecided.

Washington, April 23.—A most important revelation in connection with Baron von Sternberg, German ambassador, and his visit to Germany at this time has been made by a diplomat in this city. The diplomat in question is quoted as saying that, although the purpose of the German ambassador's vacation—a very brief one, by the way—is ostensibly to take a rest in his own country, in reality it is concerned with the present instability of German international politics. It was even said that Baron von Sternberg was the bearer of an important message to Emperor William from President Roosevelt and that this action was being hidden under the pretext of a vacation to his estates.

In connection with the German ambassador's departure, it is hinted that two other ambassadors may find it necessary to postpone or rearrange their plans for the late spring and summer. These are Baron des Planches and M. Jussera. It turns out that the cause of this diplomatic turmoil is the disarmament question at The Hague, as proposed by England, and what may happen in case Germany and Austria insist on not discussing the proposal.

This question concerns the United States, because it is believed—and the president's remarks lately seem to confirm this view of it—that, if the powers persist in maintaining their unyielding stand, it will cause a realignment of the nations and a serious rupture will occur between this country and Germany. It is with these possibilities in view that the Italian and French ambassadors will endeavor to place before their respective governments special reports containing suggestions.

Hitches are likely to occur in the near future between England and Germany, and France and Germany. If Italy persists in taking sides with Austria and Germany at The Hague conference, it is stated, it will cause a halt in the sympathies between herself and England and France, and also this country.

DEVoured BY PEST.

Disease Is in Nearly Every Chinese Famine House

Victoria, B. C., April 23.—Mail advices from Shanghai tell of many pathetic incidents observed by committees engaged in famine relief work in Central China. Refugees and dogs were seen fighting for the flour spilled at distributing depots. Smallpox is ravaging the stricken areas. In nearly every house there is smallpox or fever and nothing to eat but the bark of trees and potato vines.

James Ware, of the Red Cross, writing from Tsing Kiang Pu, says he saw bodies of children laid out by the roadside to be devoured by the semi-wild dogs of the plains, and dead men scattered along the roadway.

Many families are tearing down their houses and selling the timbers to purchase food.

Hundreds are employed repairing roads and filling swamps, being paid from 5 to 10 cents a day.

British Delegates to the Hague.

London, April 23.—The British delegates to the peace conference at The Hague are as follows: Sir Edward Grey, ex-lord justice of appeal and a member of the permanent court of arbitration at The Hague; Sir Ernest Satow, ex-British minister at Tokio and Pekin and member of permanent court of arbitration at The Hague; Lord Reay, president of the Royal Asiatic society and University college, London, and a member of the privy council, and Sir Henry Howard, the British minister at The Hague.

Runs Car Through Fire.

Chicago, April 23.—Fire damaged to the extent of \$250,000 a six story building at 290-300 Wabash avenue today. Twenty girls employed by the Healy Music company were obliged to leave the burning building by means of fire escapes, but none was injured. Horace Manley, in charge of the elevator, made repeated trips with his car and rescued 15 girls. Manley finally was overcome by smoke and was carried out.

Wholesale Sheep Theft.

Butte, Mont., April 23.—A Miner specia from Billings states that John Tilden and Chester Martin, two of the most prominent stockmen of Eastern Montana, have been arrested on the charge of wholesale stock thefts. It is alleged that the two men stole 425 wethers, driving the animals into the recesses of the Bull mountain district, far from their accustomed range.

Rains Flood Mobile City.

Mobile, April 23.—From midnight last night until this morning, Mobile was visited by a torrent of rain. So great was the downpour that streets in many sections of the city were covered with water two feet. Children were unable to reach the schoolhouses and the schools were closed. The new union station was surrounded by water.