

# SHORTAGE IMMENSE

## Railroads Still Far Behind With Orders for Cars.

### IS NO DECREASE OF EFFICIENCY

Problem Is the Greatest and Gravest Companies Have to Face—Increased Traffic Cause.

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 affecting 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.

Pittsburg, April 25.—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 negro 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, one 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 meeting of men who held an illegal number in a factory, in which 200 were injured by sabers and whips.

### BUILDINGS UNFINISHED.

#### Jamestown Exposition to Open 80 Per Cent Completed.

Norfolk, W. Va., April 23.—Despite the energetic efforts of officials and workmen, the Jamestown Tercentennial exposition will be opened this week unready. Many of the structures that are to have domestic and foreign commercial exhibits and shelter the achievements in the industrial arts are incomplete. Yet the sum of what has been done, as compared with the unfinished work, forms a satisfactory result.

In the beauty of the water show with its amazing gathering of foreign fleets, representing the most formidable types of naval fighting machines of nearly every power in the world, and in an opening program with President Roosevelt in the leading role, with diplomatic, military and naval representatives of great and small foreign nations participating, the public will have its recompense.

The grounds and buildings at the exposition are about 80 per cent finished. Several thousand of the most important buildings are built solidly of brick, cement and iron, and these are intended to remain on the grounds as a nucleus of a great park. Regardless of the permanence of the work, however, the exterior of most of the buildings will be ready when the exposition is formally opened on Friday next.

The Jamestown Tercentennial, when completed, will be almost all that is implied in the expression, "a world's fair," but it will not stop there. No other exposition has attempted to show the world the life of the colonists, the hardships of the pioneers who opened the country after civilization had been attained on the seaboard, and the achievement these people worked from the raw material. Twenty-five states will trace their history from their earliest days to the present, and the exhibits will be sheltered by buildings. The state buildings have been grouped along the historic shore of Hampton Roads, and command an excellent view of the navies of the world.

It is this great naval display that will prove the crowning glory of the exposition. Nothing like it has ever before been attempted. There are few harbors in the world that accommodate so large an assemblage of warships. The fleets will number, in addition to several of the best types of each of the foreign naval powers, the Atlantic fleet of the United States navy, under command of Rear Admiral Evans, which is considered to be the finest organization of fighting machines afloat.

The seal of government sponsorship will be set upon the exposition by the coming of the president of the United States, ambassadors and ministers of foreign governments, the governors and representatives of states and territories and delegations representing important civic bodies.

### BIG BENEFIT TO GRAIN CROPS.

#### Fruit Slightly Injured in Nebraska but Snow Did Great Good.

Omaha, Neb., April 23.—As a result of unprecipitated weather that prevailed during the greater part of the month of March, and the freezing weather and heavy snowfall of the past few days, early fruits, such as peaches, plums, apricots, cherries and blackberries in this section have been injured, but the general opinion among those who have the best means of information is that the damage is not as great as has been reported. Indeed, many are of the opinion that, while early fruits have been injured and in some instances completely killed and possibly some of the later varieties have been hurt, the benefits resulting to the grain crops from the snowstorm more than offsets the damage.

"Reports from points along the line of our railroad are not unfavorable," said G. W. Loomis, assistant general manager of the Burlington, today.

"The fruit in the southern part of Nebraska, which the unusual warm weather in March had brought to an advanced state of development, is reported to have been pretty badly damaged, but little or no damage is reported from points north. The snow, however, did a vast amount of good to winter wheat, and has put the ground in fine condition for other farm crops."

Similar reports have been received at the general offices for the Northwestern road.

### To Defend Harriman Line.

Topeka, Kan., April 23.—It was rumored here today that N. H. Loomis, general solicitor for the Union Pacific railroad in Kansas, was to be made general counsel for all the Harriman lines in cases before the Interstate Commerce commission. Mr. Loomis today admitted that such a plan was under consideration. In case the position is created, Mr. Loomis will move to Chicago, where he will have a large corps of assistants. The position is new in railroad circles and is made necessary by the passage of the new rate law.

### Snow Flurry at El Paso.

El Paso, Tex., April 23.—Snow fell here this morning at a lively rate for more than an hour. This is the latest snowfall ever known here, and the temperature, which was 36 degrees, did damage to the small fruit and truck gardens in the valley, variously estimated at from \$50,000 to \$100,000. Frost is predicted by the local weather bureau for tonight. The Golden State limited on the Rock Island road is six and one-half hours late on account of the snow.

### Pray for Rain in Cuba.

Havana, April 23.—Prayers for rain were offered in churches throughout the island Sunday. No rain has fallen in six months. The country is parched, many cattle are dying and forest fires are devastating vast areas.

# NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

### 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 Gorges, 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, Cables from La Union, Salvador. Mr. Brown stated that the deal 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 entrusted 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 President.

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 officers 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.

### DEVICE FOR FIRE RESCUE.

#### Ingenious Apparatus Invented by a Resident of Baden-Baden.

The Department of State has been furnished with a description of an ingenious device for the removal of persons and property from burning buildings. It was sent by United States Consul Brittain of Kehl. It is said a model of this profitable fire escape invented by Wilhelm Lampe of Baden-Baden will soon be brought to this country and may be exhibited in Washington.

The apparatus is built on a wagon or trucks. It is provided with a number of extendable platforms which can be set according to the heights of the floors of the building from which the people are to be rescued. It is also supplied with a double arrangement of ladders and with the necessary number of railed safety bridges which can be let down and put together. These are to assist in the rescue work and in removing furniture from burning buildings. The entire fire escape with appliances may be placed in service in a few minutes. It can also be used in making military observations and for searchlights.

A framework of lazy-tongs is constructed in such a manner that the external places of inflection of every second pair of legs are adjusted to serve as supports for the platform. These platforms can be put up at the various heights of the floors of a burning building and a gangway is hinged to each platform. By the aid of these gangways persons are enabled to pass from the windows of a burning building to the main platform and then descend by the aid of a rope ladder.

When in operation the gangways may be let down collectively by a single movement so as to stand out horizontally, with their outer edges or ends laid upon the window ledges of the different floors of a building. The entire framework of the portable tower or fire escape may be folded up and placed in a comparatively small space. When the tower has been adjusted ready for use it is kept in position by a system of rods made of tubing and attached to the framework in a manner which makes the tower very substantial.—Washington Star.

### HE WAS NOT AT HOME.

The extreme distaste of the modest Quaker poet, John Greenleaf Whittier, for foolish hero worship, and the skill which he attained in politely eluding too enthusiastic admirers, have been emphasized in many anecdotes. Even now, however, new ones occasionally come to light. One such recently related tells how two women, of the type at once sentimentally gushing and over-confident of their own importance, visited Amesbury to seek the poet in his home.

They went astray in their search for his house, and bustled into a small general store to be redirected. The clerk, smiling a little queerly, informed them that the Whittier house was near by—but a few steps round the corner.

One of the women, a big, florid, over-dressed being with languishing eyes, caught the smile, and clasped her hands with a rapt air.

"Oh, don't you think he'll see us?" she demanded. "He simply must! We've heard he doesn't like to, but he must; we won't go away till he does. We've thought up ever so many things we want to ask him."

The clerk, still smiling, glanced casually toward a quiet man in a shadowy corner, sitting on a barrel, surrounded by a group of other leisurely customers. They had all been talking politics together, village-fashion, when the strangers came in.

"Think he will?" said the clerk. "Well," replied the man on the barrel, hesitatingly, "the one knows Greenleaf I don't find it easy to refuse a lady. I think perhaps he will—if he is at home."

The women bustled away again, excited and expectant, and a chuckle went round among the laughing men. The man on the barrel, with a trace of apology in his tones, rose from his perch to go.

"He will not waste five minutes," he murmured, "it is such a little way. Besides, she knows very well that exercise is a good thing for stout ladies." "That's so, Mr. Whittier," assented the clerk.—Youth's Companion.

### A Blow to Sentiment.

"I cannot sing the old songs any more," said the man who had been chided for his silence. The sympathetic hostess turned to him with her gentle smile.

"They are too full of memories and associations, I suppose," she said, softly.

"No," said the man, decidedly. "They are not full enough, that's the trouble. I can't remember the words, madam."

### Novel Claim of a Priest.

Father Bernard Vaughan in opening a bazaar at Liverpool the other day in aid of a charitable society ridiculed the assertion that all poverty was caused by idleness. He said: "It is all fraud and nonsense and blithering idleness. The real reason that drink upsets the poor is because they have no food to take with it."

The only thing we can recommend to women for the management of a husband, is to feed him well and trust to luck.

A girl can please her father by promising not to marry until she is thirty; but her mother won't like it.

# PRESIDENT TO KING

## German Ambassador Carries Message on Hague Meeting.

### DISARMAMENT LINES ARE DRAWN

Austria and Germany Refuse to Discuss Limiting of Armament—Serious Rupture Feared.

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 visit—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 d. 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 decisive 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 special 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 theft. 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.