EUGENE, OREGON

Morning Register

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SCORES PERISH WHEN STORM HITS GOTHAM

Thundering Tornado Vents Fury on Small Pleasure Craft off City Isle and in Bay

DEATH TOLL MORE THAN 60

Morgues of the Devastated Area Filled With Victims

FERRIS WHEEL IS WRECKED

Damage Estimated at $1,000,000 Is Wrought on Land and Sea and Hundreds of Injured Being Are Cared for in Hospitals

NEW YORK, June 12.—Morgues and undertaking establishments of the devastated area tonight held the bodies of more than three score men, women and children—victims of yesterday's brief cyclonic thunder storm.

Marine police, who continued throughout the day their work of grappling in Pelham Bay and Long Island Sound off City Island, where the greatest toll was taken among the Sunday canoeists and fishermen, predicted they would find a least a score more victims—enough to push the death toll past eighty. Witnesses of the swift tragedy placed the number even higher.

At least 250 canoes, rowboats and small motorboats were bobbing about off the island, witnesses said, when the storm came screaming down in the resort at a velocity of 80 miles an hour or better. Occupants of the little craft, sensing their danger, scampered for shelter. But scarcely had they got under way when they were engulfed in a blinding storm of rain and hail.

Storm Vanishes in 5 Minutes

As quickly as it had come, the storm vanished. It had lasted less than five minutes. But scarcely a dozen of the 250 small crafts had survived. Horror stricken, but helpless to aid the crowds about the beach and the casino pier, scores of men and women clinging to wrecked and overturned craft in the choppy sound and bay. One by one, they gave up the struggle and dropped quietly off to be carried out toward the open sea by the tide.

Some of the bodies, the police say, probably never will be recovered. The tide, turning, brought more than a score of them back today. Witnesses estimated there were between 500 and 750 persons in the ill-fated crafts. Heroic work by United States life guards, members of nearby yacht clubs and sailors from the shore crowd, saved hundreds. The waters had been cleared by nightfall of all living. But the search for the dead continued through the night. Guided by the searchlight of the police boat, John F. Hylan, a score of boats cruised about occasionally finding bodies.

Darkness Descends on Shore

Meantime, chaos reigned on shore, where darkness descended unbroken by the usual glare of electric lights. The island power plant had been put out of commission by the storm as had the telephone and telegraph lines.

Mothers, fathers, wives of the missing besieged the police station where a temporary morgue had been set up, gazing fearfully at the faces of the dead by the flickering light of candles and lanterns. Others crowded the wreck-strown beach waiting for the rescue boats to come in with more bodies.

Fresh crowds hurried to the island today, when they had first news of the tragedy through the morning newspapers. Police directed them to the Bronx morgue, where the 34 bodies so far recovered had been removed.

Ferris Wheel Topples Over

The City Island calamity, which the greatest, was not the only havoc wrought by the storm.

Pending investigation, a charge of homicide was lodged against Paul Simon, owner of the 75-foot ferris wheel at Clason Point park, in the Bronx, which was blown down from its base and hurled its sixty occupants on the beach of Long Island in a tangle of steel wreckage. Seven were killed and 27 injured.

More than a score of isolated drownings, electrocutions by touching fallen wires and deaths beneath trees were reported from various parts of the area.

Marked by heavy thunder and lightning, winds of terrific intensity and hurricane proportions, the storm caused hundreds of minor accidents, property damage that will exceed $1,000,000 and was followed by riots and panic at traffic centers and summer resorts where Sunday pleasure seekers had sought relief after ten days of sweltering weather.

Hundreds of injured are being cared for in hospitals today and thousands in private homes are suffering from minor hurts received when caught in the storm or attempting to save their property.

Tide Brings in Bodies

The death list leaped ahead when an incoming tide returned with more bodies that had been swept out to sea last night. Four more bodies were recovered at Hunter's Island and two were reported to have been picked up at Travers Island.

City Island, a haven for Sunday pleasure seekers and amateur fishermen, was the hardest hit point in the metropolitan area, but casualties, mostly by drowning, were reported from many other points. The beach at City Island today presented a desolate spectacle. Several hundred persons, relatives of the missing, worn by hysteria, waited in little groups among the wreckage on the sand for some word of the fate of their loved ones.

Marine squad police, exhausted by

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IN TODAY'S MORNING REGISTER

The Weather

For Oregon: Tuesday cloudy near coast and fair in the interior.
Sunday's weather in Eugene: Maximum temperature, 74 degrees; minimum, 46.
Monday's weather: Maximum temperature, 81; minimum, 48. Stage of river, 5 feet.

Eugene and Vicinity

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PREMIER POINCARE IS FIRM

DOES NOT RECEDE FROM STAND ON MEMORANDUM

PARIS, June 12. — Premier Poincare, in his note to the British government, in reply to the recent British memorandum, does not recede an inch from the position taken in his memorandum of June 1, with respect to The Hague conference. He insists that if the powers come to an agreement in advance and present a united front to the Russians at The Hague and not permit them to stray from the point, they can and will accomplish all required of them. As proof of this, M. Poincare instances what they have done for Italy in the treaty just concluded.

The French document, although lengthy and business-like, is devoid of diplomatic circumlocutions. Somewhat disparaging references to the Genoa conference are frequent and there is what apepars to be an uncomplimentary allusion to the bankers' commission. When speaking of the question of credits to Russians, the reply refers to "the demands formulated by prospective lenders with regard to certain countries whose prosperity and economic future could not be doubted."

GOVERNMENT OUTLAY LESS

DAWES FIGURES ON SAVING OF NEARLY TWO BILLION

WASHINGTON, June 12.—Expenditures for carrying on the ordinary business of the government for the current fiscal year will be nearly $1,700,000,000 less than last year, or about $100,000,000 more than the latest estimates by Director of the Budget Dawes, treasury officials predicted today. Expenditures of the government, chargeable against ordinary receipts exclusive of the principal of the public debt for the fiscal year date have amounted to $3,523,136,768, compared with $5,138,806,937 for the corresponding period last year, according to the latest daily treasury statement.

Pressure by the budget bureau, officials declared, would prevent undue last minute expenditures before July 30, so that General Dawes' estimates would be more than borne out by the results for the year.

MADALYNNE NOW ON TRIAL

MERE FORMAL ROUTINE IN THE OBENCHAIN HEARING

LOS ANGELES, June 12.—There was only formal routine testimony today in the trial of Mrs. Madalynne Obenchain, charged with the murder of J. Belton Kennedy. It consisted of the proof of death by an undertaker and a county autopsy surgeon, and identification of a map showing the scene of Kennedy's death by a county engineer.

The courtroom was filled with spectators all day. These included the Rev. and Mrs. W. A. Burch of Evanston, Ill., parents of Arthur A. Burch, co-defendant with Mrs. Obenchain.

KLAN PARADES UNDER BAN

CHICAGO COUNCIL COMMITTEE PROHIBITS MASKED SORTIES

CHICAGO, June 12.—A recommendation that Ku Klux Klan parades and public demonstrations be prohibited within the city limits if the participants appear masked was made today by unanimous vote of the council judiciary committee.

The committee also refused to bar the exhibition of the motion picture films of Roscoe C. Arbuckle, the comedian.

PILGRIMS OF SHRINE PREPARE FOR REVELS

Bands Garbed in Gay Oriental Colors Trek Jauntily Thro' Streets of Bay City

PARADES TODAY'S FEATURE

Market Street is Enlivened By Airs of Brass and Reed

HOT SANDS ARE TRAVERSED

Special Trains, Auto Caravans and Steamships, All Bring Their Quotas to the Meeting City of the Imperial Council

SAN FRANCISCO, June 12. — The great kaleidoscope of fantastic Oriental bostumes and decorations that to the human eye represents the annual imperial council of the Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine began slowly to revolve today. Gaily garbed bands and patrols swung jauntily through the streets on the home stretch of their pilgrimage to the meeting place of the annual convention.

Bright splotches of color—reds, greens, yellows, blues and purples—drove the somber gray and brown habilliments of work-a-day humans into the background as from all quarters of English-speaking North America the temples of this Masonic organization poured their delegations into San Francisco.

Tomorrow the formal parades, the elaborate receptions to the Imperial Divanand the business sessions of the imperial council will begin, but today was given over to welcomes, to finding quarters for the many thousands of nobles and their ladies and to band concerts and merry making. The mysticism of medieval Arabia furnished the inspiration for costumes and ritual, but a desire to relax, to make merry and make others cheerful at the same time was the impelling motive for the result of this order.

Caravans Trek to Shrine Mecca

Special trains, special cars, automobiles, caravans and steamships all brought their quotas to the meeting city of the imperial council. All day long Market street resounded to the music of arriving bands as they marched to their headquarters and by midnight the last of the pilgrims had ended their journey over the figurative "hot sands."

Processions, concerts, receptions, teas, dinners, automobile trips, yacht races, automobile races, aviation contests, swimming matches, military drills, sight-seeing trips, plays, minstrel shows, golf, tennis, trap shooting and for the women, shopping tours, are among the ways in which the Shrine organization will live up to its generally accepted title as the playground of Masonry.

SAN FRANCISCO, June 12.—San Francisco is on her prayer rug in a long, low salaam to the mystic shrine today. Throughout the city hosts of Islam are swarming from the minarets of the embarcadero, which lead to the wide bay, to the place of the 20 kneeling camels and the great city hall, which might be taken today as a new St. Sophias.

It is the time of the golden jubilee of Islam. For many days the great caravans, long and picturesque as the safaris that wend their way across the wastes of Araby, have been passing through the city gates. Only yesterday Karam Temple from the oasis of Waco, Texas, which is across the reaches of El Colorado, arrived in mecca. It is recorded in the log of the caravan that it was nearly out of zem zem water when it arrived, but San Francisco saved the pilgrims from exhaustion.

Damascus Pilgrims Arrive

The Damascus pilgrims are here, having made the journey in 13 days from the oasis of Rochester, N. Y., guided by the glowing crescent. There were a number of fair pilgrims in this safari. Syria arrived from Pittsburg, Pa., with sand on their cloaks perhaps, but none in their eyes. It is evident that Syria and the other temples have determined to leave the sandman behind for the period of the convention.

Al Amin arrived from Little Rock, Ark., with scimitars in hand, ready to draw. Allah forbid, that they ever should use them in San Francisco, however. The city received them with open arms and the scimitars were seen no more.

Al Kader from the Caliphate of Portland, Ore., arrived in mecca and reported at the shrine that the pilgrimage was a pleasant one. El Katif from Spokane came in about the same direction as Al Kader, and after parking its camels outside the meat, made a long low salaam to the welcoming caliph and was received in the city with much shouting and acclaim.

Camels Lend Reality to Scene

There was seen on the streets today leading to the mosques and the place of the 20 kneeling camels, Murat, of the oasis of Indianapolis, far to the east, with guns on shoulders and drums beating a martial note. A pilgrim from the oasis of Waco stepped from the throng to ask a guardian of the peace, "how, sahib?"

He was told that Murat is here to protect mecca against any invaders during the period of the great jubilee. He was content.

Bagdad from Butte, came bearing dates. Zurah, which had trekked its way over the burning sands from the caliphate of Minneapolis paraded the streets boldly, while the pilgrims on the paths looked on the glory of their out thrust chests and shouted "allah be praised."

Mirza from Pittsburg, a mecca of the caliphate of Kansas, said it was pleased to reach the cool expanses of the far west mecca after a pilgrimage over the hot sands that threatened blisters to the feet.

A real camel headed the Nile Temple delegation from Seattle. The camel, a stout young animal about the size of a Shetland pony, marched proudly along, but two husky members of the temple walked on each

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FOREIGN NATIONS ACT ON DEBT TO UNITED STATES

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL STATUS SENT TO COMMISSION

Funding Negotiations Will Be Begun With France Whose Mission Is Due to Sail

WASHINGTON, June 12.—Foreign nations—world war debtors of this country, have begun submitting to the allied debt funding commission, statements of their financial conditions in the light of their obligations to the United States.

It was said today at the treasury that two nations have presented briefs of their fiscal conditions in connection with the debts to this country.

The names of these two were withheld. Their statements were being analyzed by the commission, it was explained, and would be very helpful when the negotiations for the funding of the obligations were begun.

Other Statements Expected

Statements from the other debtor nations are expected by the commission. So far it was said nothing official of the debt question has been heard from Great Britain since the formation of the commission, although the belief was expressed at the treasury that a special mission to discuss that nation's indebtedness might be expected at any time.

Meanwhile it was stated at the treasury, funding negotiations will be begun with France whose government has announced the early departure of a special mission to this country unless earlier activity developes on the part of Great Britain who owes about $5,000,000,000 of the total $11,000,000,000 foreign debt to the United States.

Proceedings of the debt commission when negotiations begin will be carried out with the usual diplomatic discretion as regards publicity, it was made plain at the treasury.

CHANG ROUTED IN BATTLE

OVERTURES FOR ARMISTICE IS RUSE TO GAIN TIME

(By the Associated Press)

TIENTSIN, June 12.—After heavy fighting all day Sunday between Chinwangtao and Shanhaikwan the Fengtien forces of General Chang Tso Lin withdrew northward toward Shanhaikwan. The Chihli forces of Wu Pei Fu are pursuing them.

Notwithstanding Chang's overtures for an armistice last week his reported acceptance of Wu's terms the Chihli line extending from the Liaotung Gulf to the hills, strongly supported by machine guns and artillery. Chang's request for an armistice is believed to have been a ruse to gain time for his realignment of defeated and retreating troops.

This morning Chang's Fentien forces launched a violent drive against the right flank of the Chihli army, resting on the sea at the mouth of the Gulf of Liaotung. Wu's battle line held fast, however, and the Fengtien assault was repulsed. Two carloads of wounded are expected to arrive in Tientsin from the front tonight.

SHIP SUBSIDY SPEEDED UP

COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES BILL WILL BE PUT UP TO HOUSE

WASHINGTON, June 12.—President Harding's demand for speeding the framing of the administration's ship subsidy bill, resulted tonight in announcement by the merchant marine committee that it would be submitted to the house.

Meanwhile the steering committee was considering the president's urgent request that the bill be put to a vote as a party measure, if necessary, prior to any adjournment of congress. At a conference today with representative Mondell, Wyoming, the republican leader, the president reiterated belief that the measure was of vital interest to the business welfare of the country and that it should not go over until the short session, beginning in December.

Reports were current around the capitol that the president had informed members of the merchant marine committee that congress would be called in special session, solely to consider the shipping bill, if it failed to reach the voting stage before adjournment.

JOHN ETHERIDGE IS HELD

PORTLAND MAN TO FACE TRIAL FOR EMBEZZLEMENT

PORTLAND, Ore., June 12.—John L. Etheridge must stand trial on an indictment charging embezzlement, which was returned against him following the collapse in December 1920 of the bond house of Morris Brothers, Inc.; of which he was president, according to a decision today by Presiding Circuit Judge Tucker overruling a motion by Etheridge's attorney for dismissal of the indictment. Date for the trial has already been set for June 15. Four indictments were returned against Etheridge, but the trial is to center around one charging embezzlement of $100,000, according to the district attorney's office.

Possibility of further delay in the trial of Etheridge developed when W. P. LaRoche, his attorney, announced that an appeal would be taken to the state supreme court from the circuit court's action today in overruling the motion for dismissal of the indictment.

PRISON FOR HARA SLAYER

NAKAOKA IS SENTENCED TO AN INDEFINITE TERM

(By the Associated Press)

TOKIO, June 12. — Imprisonment for an indefinite period was the sentence imposed today on Ryichi Nakaoka, the Korean lad of 19, who assassinated Premier Takashi Hara in a railway station here last November 4.

Hashimoto, who was charged with instigating the murder, was acquitted.

Nakaoka slipped through the guards on the station platform and stabbed the premier fatally. The boy was arrested on the spot. Hashimoto was arrested later. Nakaoka was quoted at the time as saying that he objected to the liberal policies of Premier Hara.

RAIL STRIKE MAY BE FINANCED IN CANADA

This Rumor Heard as New Wage Cuts Swing Over the Heads of 350,000 More Workers

COURT EDICT THUS AVOIDED

By Change of Base Unions Plan to Evade Damage Penalty

NEW SLASH OF WIDE SCOPE

Proposed Reduction Expected to Increase Total Cut of Workers' Wages to $150,000,000 a Year—Clerks, O'lers and Others Affected

CHICAGO, June 12.—While additional wage cuts swung over the heads of 350,000 more railway employes and awaited only formal release by the railroad labor board to slash another $40,000,000 from the pay rolls of the carriers, it was rumored today that any rail strike growing out of present threats may be directed and financed from Canada as a means of evading the recent decision of the United States supreme court holding unions liable for damages caused by their members.

Leaders of the rail unions said to be contemplating the move viewed the establishment of Canadian headquarters as legitimate in view of conditions caused by the supreme court opinion, because the unions are international organizations. Financial penalties in case of a walk-out could thus be averted, it was said.

The expected new wage reduction order will increase the total cut from railway workers' wages to approximately $150,000,000 a year. Clerks, signal men, stationary firemen, oilers and marine department employes will join the shopmen and maintenance of way employes as victims of the slash.

Letter Accompanies Ballots

Strike ballots to the 400,000 railway shopmen, sent out from Chicago, were accompanied by the following letter:

"Every possible effort should be made to obtain the vote of every employe eligible. This ballot will be tabulated as soon as possible and there must be no stoppage of work until you are properly authorized to do so.

"This is the time for action and not talk or unnecessary delay. The railway employes department desires that every ballot shall be in Chicago at the earliest possible moment and in no case later than June 30."

The bulk of those whom the new cut will hit are railway clerks who number approximately 200,000. Their pay, it was said today, would not be cut more than five cents an hour, however, and certain chief clerks and other supervisory clerical forces may not feel the order at all.

About 5000 train despatchers, generally considered as subordinate officials, while coming under the pending decision, will not suffer any reduction, according to authoritative information. Supervisory officials in the shop crafts, whose pay was recently slashed $60,000,000 likewise receive no cuts.

Reduction Is Five Cents an Hour

Coal passers, oilers and water tenders, including in the general classification of stationary engineers and firemen and freight handlers and other common labor included in the station employes group, are expected to receive a reduction of approximately five cents an hour, the same cut applied to common labor in the maintenance of way department. There are about 125,000 unskilled laborers in these two classes.

The signal men and marine employes, numbering 15,000 and 800 respectively, are expected to come under the reduction but no figures were available to indicate the amount of their cut.

Anticipating a reduction, however D. W. Helt, president of the signal men, declared the board would "probably hamstring us," adding that he could find no justification for the cut to the present of his men and that he expected them to vote to strike as soon as decision was issued.

E. H. Fitzgerald, president of the clerks, likewise declared a further cut was unreasonable and that his organization would begin a strike vote immediately when the decision is announced. In line with the agreement of the 11 organizations affected by the cuts to take strike votes, made at a conference in Cincinnati last week.

OPPOSES SHOALS DISPOSAL

HARDING REPORTED TO HAVE TAKEN FIRM STAND

WASHINGTON, June 12.—President Harding is understood to have taken a determined stand today against action by congress at this time on pending bills for disposal of the government's nitrate plant at Muscle Shoals, Alabama.

The views of the President as outlined, it was stated, to Representative Mondell, Wyoming, the Republican leader, at the White House, were conveyed to the Republican steering committee.

There was no intimation as to how the President regarded the proposal of Henry Ford for release of the property beyond the statement that he felt the matter was too big to be hurriedly considered and in what members regarded as the closing period of the present congress.

TURKS MASSACRE BRITONS

TWELVE SOLDIERS PUT TO SWORD NEAR DARDENELLES

(By the Associated Press)

LONDON, June 12.—Twelve British soldiers have been massacred by the Turks in the neighborhood of the Dardenelles, according to a semi-official dispatch from Athens received here tonight.

The men were taken prisoner during a raid by Kemalist bands on a weak British detachment.

LABOR, PRIMED TO FIGHT, OPENS 42ND CONVENTION

NOT FOOLED BY FANCIED SECURITY, SAYS GOMPERS

Chief Declares There Shall Not Be Imposed Upon Workers Type of Man With the Hoe

CINCINNATI, June 12.—Facing a fight that leaders of organized labor regard as one for the very existence of unionism, the American Federation of Labor here today opened its 42d annual convention, which was marked by the presentation of many issues to be considered during the next two weeks, and a speech by President Samuel Gompers declaring "we do not fool ourselves into any fancied scurity." The issues were brought before the delegates in a report of the Federation's executive council.

"We are not in a mood," said Mr. Gompers, "to have those rights and privileges guaranteed to us by our stitution taken from us by any subtle reasoning or assumption of power, no matter whence it emanates." This declaration of the veteran labor leader was greeted by applause, as was also his statement that organized labor would "go onward and forward more determined than ever that there shall not be imposed upon our brow, upon our backs, the type of the 'man with the hoe.'"

Welcoming Address Given

The speech of Mr. Gompers came after a program of welcoming addresses by Mayor George P. Carroll, Secretary T. J. Donnelly, of the Ohio Federation and others.

In his brief speech, Mr. Gompers declared that organized labor only asked employers to meet with the union leaders in conference for the settlement of disputes, but he said that a genuine conference was impossible unless both sides stand on an equal footing. The "open shop," he added, is not the rsult of conferences. Mr. Gompers concluded with a reference to the disarmament conference, asserting it made a beginning toward abolishing war and that labor throughout the world made the greatest contribution toward that purpose."

SCHOONER WEST FOUNDERS

CARGO OF OREGON LUMBER IS LOST OFF AFRICAN COAST

SAN FRANCISCO, June 12. — The schooner Edward R. West, from Columbia river points, with a cargo of lumber for South African points, is ashore and a total loss off the coast of South Africa, according to a message received today by the marine department of the chamber of commerce. The cargo is also a total loss, the message said.

The Edwin R. West left the mouth of the Columbia river April 12.

PORTLAND, Ore., June 12. — The crew of the Edwin R. West, when she sailed from Portland April 8 for Port Elizabeth, South Africa, consisted of 10 men. They were Captain C. B. Foster, of Mobile, Ala.; Mate Eric Carlson, San Francisco; Boatswain J. Freestman, Portland, Ore.; Adolph Kranfeldt, Elsma Teserberg, Esthonia; G. W. Fitzhenry, Yreka, Cal.; C. Anderson, Wastervik, Sweden; Otto Petterson, Portland, Ore.; Andrew Larsen, Stavanger, Norway; Cook C. P. Scarberry, Portland, Ore. The vessel's cargo consisted of 950,000 feet of lumber.

POINDEXTER FACES FIGHT

FARMER-LABOR PARTY AND NON-PARTISANS HIS FOES

YAKIMA, Wash., June 12.—Representatives of the farmer-labor party, sentatives of the farmer-labor party and other so-called liberals, who have been in conference here, decided that if Miles Poindexter wins the nomination for United States senator in the republican primaries, they will rally to the support of Clarence C. Dill of Spokane, who is expected to be the democratic candidate, according to statements made by B. C. Marsh, who presided at the conference.

Candidacies for United States senate of J. E. Balaine or George Lemping of Seattle, would be acceptable to the convention, which appointed a committee to interview prospective republican senatorial candidates with a view of getting some of them to withdraw so as to leave only one opponent to Poindexter in the primaries, it was declared.

BILLS ON ARMS PARLEY UP

MEASURES RATIFYING ACCORD ARE IN FRENCH CHAMBER

(By the Associated Press)

PARIS, June 12—Bills ratifying the accord reached at the Washington armaments conference are in committee in the chamber of deputies and probably will be reported at an early date.

Pressure of other matters has delayed action thus far, but Premier Poincare is anxious that they come up for consideration by the full chamber before the summer session.

The government will accordingly press for prompt consideration of the measures in committee.

In official circles no obstacle to ratification of the Pacific accord is expected, but a reservation to the Root resolution will probably be proposed and adopted, demanding that if submarines be prohibited from attacking merchantmen, the latter must be prohibited from arming against submarines.

IRISH PARLEY IS HOPEFUL

NEGOTIATIONS SAID TO BE PROCEEDING SATISFACTORILY

LONDON, June 12.—The Irish negotiations are declared to be proceeding satisfactorily and will be continued tomorrow when Michael Collins reaches London. Winston Spencer Churchill, secretary for the colonies, will take up the discussion with the two Irish leaders where it left off today and he is expected to make a statement in the house of commons Thursday.

The technical advisers are in continual session at the colonial office dealing with the details of the constitution and it is hoped that the whole business will be concluded this week.

SPROULE GIVES FACTS ON ALLEGED MERGER

Rail Head Says Common Control of S. P. and Central Pacific Dates Back 50 Years

ARE SEPARATE IN NAME ONLY

Supply Demand Which Single Company Cannot Fill

S. P. OWNS CENTRAL STOCK

Statement is Issued in Commenting on Recent High Court Decision Directing Absolute Separation of the Two Railroads

SAN FRANCISCO, June 12.—That the Southern Pacific and the Central Pacific railroads have been under common control for half a century and that their growth has been the development of a single railroad system, separate in name only, filling a demand which a single company could have not have filled, is asserted in a statement issued today by William Sproule, president of the Southern Pacific company. The statement was issued in commenting on the recent UnitedStates supreme court order directing absolute separation of the two railroads.

"The Central Pacific has been leased to the Southern Pacific for 37 years," President Sproule said. He continued: "The Southern Pacific has been the owner of the entire capital stock of the reorganized Central Pacific for 22 years. The decision of the supreme court is that these facts are in violation of the Sherman act, although the Sherman act was not passed until 1890.

Held in Common Ownership

"Besides all this, there is sufficient evidence that the Central Pacific and the Southern Pacific were held in common ownership as early as October, 1870. The official records prove that the two have been under common control and management for 50 years, or since July, 1870.

"The growth has been of one system and not of two. The two companies did what one company could not do, under the circumstances of the time. Each has been necessary to the other for effective service.

The supreme court now decides, in effect, that the lease of the Central Pacific to the Southern Pacific became void when the Sherman act was passed, because of the Sunset Route through Texas on the south, competing with the line through Ogden on the north. The business fact is that the line down the San Joaquin valley and over the Tehachapi mountains to Los Angeles was built to meet the public demand for a railroad through the San Joaquin valley and to Southern California. The same public demand was behind the further extension of the line from Los Angeles eastward through El Paso and to Sierra Blanca, Texas.

Central Carried Extension to Goshen

"The Central Pacific carried the extension into the San Joaquin valley as far as Goshen, the Southern Pacific taking it up there and carrying it southward and eastward. Everything that was done had behind it the backing of public desire, with the approval of congress, for the development of the resources of California, Oregon and other Pacific states, resources then dormant but with their possibilities evident."

After expressing his belief that the early question of present interest to the public is whether the public is hurt by having this development done by a single control under two corporate names instead of by a single control with a single name, President Sproule points out that the transportation act of 1920 "provides that with the consent of the interstate commerce commission it shall be lawful for two or more carriers to consolidate their properties or any part thereof under conditions in harmony with the general plan of consolidation of the railroads of the country in groups."

"The interstate commerce commission can thus take up the chain of events," the statement of the Southern Pacific head continued. "The fact is that government control of the railroads has so increased and the policy of the government so changed since the suit was begun in 1914, that the situation needs to be dealt with in the light of present day conditions and not the conditions that prevailed from 1885 to 1899. Every essential factor in the railroad business is supervised by the commissions created to protect the general public interest.

Consolidation Plan Prepared

"The interstate commerce commission following the mandate of the transportation act of 1920, already has prepared a tentative plan for consolidating the railroads into a limited number of systems. In this tentative plan the Central Pacific and the Southern Pacific remain together.

"As a business question the commission evidently saw the wisdom of not disturbing the present control and found no reason to believe that there was any undue restriction of competition in the situation now existing; or if there was any titular restriction that it was more than balanced by the other conveniences it afforded the public.

This single unit can now be separated into two units only by a process of disintegration and tearing into confused remnants of railroads, neither of which can function of itself. Therein would lie a new and real restraint of trade."

In concluding, President Sproule said:

"There seems, therefore, to be proper motive for direct appeal to the end that the power lodged in the interstate commerce commission may be exercised to maintain the operation of this transportation system as a unit, justified by the general experience of the public served. If necessary, for this purpose, a new power might well be appropriated by appropriate legislation."