

GOVERNMENT TO ACT

Railroads Invoke Erdmann Act to Secure Arbitration.

ALL NEGOTIATIONS HAVE FAILED

Strike Would Tie Up Every Railroad from Chicago to Coast—Lines Involved.

Chicago, March 28.—The United States government will be asked to intervene to prevent a strike of the conductors and trainmen on the Western railroads and, if the plans of the managers do not miscarry, the whole matter will be submitted to arbitration for settlement. Late last night the general managers gave out a statement declaring they will demand arbitration under the Erdmann act. A strike of the men would interfere with interstate commerce. The railroad officials believe they can prevent a strike by asking the government to step in and take command of the situation.

The Erdmann act passed in 1898 provides for the arbitration of labor differences, where interstate commerce is involved, by the chairman of the Interstate Commerce commission and the commissioner of labor.

The strike has been agreed upon already by the railroad employes by referendum vote. The officers were authorized to call the men out if the terms put up to the railroad managers were not accepted. Determining the time for the suspension to take effect is a mere detail and that probably will be decided today at a meeting of delegates at the Sherman house.

The railroads involved are: Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe coast lines, Burlington, Canadian Pacific, Canadian Northern, Chicago & Northwestern, Chicago & Alton, Chicago & Great Western, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul, Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific, Chicago, St. Paul, Minneapolis & Omaha, Colorado Midland, Colorado & Southern, El Paso & Southwestern, Frisco System, Great Northern, Houston & Texas Central, Illinois Central, Kansas City Southern, Missouri, Kansas & Texas, Northern Pacific, Oregon Short Line, San Antonio & Arkansas Pass, Southern Pacific Atlantic system, Texas & Pacific, Duluth, Missabe & Northern, Fort Worth & Denver City, Frisco in Texas, Gulf, Colorado & Santa Fe, Houston, East & West Texas, International & Great Northern, Minneapolis, St. Paul & Sault Ste Marie, Missouri Pacific, Oregon Railway & Navigation company, St. Louis Southern, San Pedro, Los Angeles Salt Lake, Southern Pacific system, Wisconsin Central, Yazoo & Mississippi Valley.

The labor chiefs will await the arrival of the government officials before ordering a strike. If the good offices of Mr. Knapp and Mr. Neill result in bringing greater concessions to the employes than have yet been offered, the strike may be averted. The employes, however, say they will not accept arbitration and today again declared their position that nothing short of greater concessions from the railroads will prevent them from walking out.

President Roosevelt has been following closely the developments in the situation here and Messrs. Knapp and Neill will undertake the delicate work imposed on them by law with full consciousness that the president is extremely solicitous that all differences be settled by arbitration.

The general managers said that no attempt would be made to operate trains if the employes struck.

SCHMITZ TO PROVE INNOCENCE.

Says He Will Then Give no Quarter in Libel Suits.

San Francisco, March 28.—In a statement today to the Associated Press, Mayor Schmitz denies the truth of charges published in the local papers to the effect that the prosecution has abundant evidence that Schmitz profited to the extent of not less than \$662,000 from participation in the hoodluming operations now being investigated by the grand jury.

"These charges," said the mayor, "are maliciously false, and as soon as I am afforded the legal opportunity, I shall prove them to be so." After declaring that he is anxious for a speedy trial, he says:

"It is notoriously unfair that I should be brought to trial before any judge in this city and county," all of whom he alleges to be biased, and declares it is outrageous that he should be kept "for months under this foul cloud with the prospect that the trial will be delayed for another four months."

The mayor says this is no time for libel suits, but, when he has been tried and judged by a jury, he will give no quarter.

Charge Based on Wreck.

New York, March 28.—Indictments charging manslaughter in the second degree were returned today against the New York Central railroad, Ira A. McCormick, general superintendent of the company, and Alfred H. Smith, one of the vice presidents, in connection with the wreck of the Brewster express on the Harlem division of the railroad last month. McCormick and Smith pleaded not guilty and were released on \$10,000 bail each. The grand jury also handed up many recommendations to the state railroad commission.

No More Negro Troops.

Houston, Tex., March 28.—Announcement was made today at the local recruiting station that orders have been received from the War department at Washington, instructing that no more negroes be accepted for service in the army, also that negro troops in the United States will be dispatched forthwith to the Philippines.

WRECK IN CALIFORNIA.

At Least Twenty-Six Persons Killed and a Hundred Hurt.

Colton, Cal., March 29.—One of the most disastrous wrecks in the history of the Southern Pacific railroad occurred one and one-half miles east of this town shortly after 4 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when westbound train No. 9 from New Orleans for San Francisco ran into an open switch, while going at the rate of 40 miles an hour, and ten of the 14 coaches were derailed with frightful results. Twenty-six people are known to have been killed and the final list will total much higher than this number. The injured number about 100, many of whom are seriously injured and will die.

The wrecked coaches were hurled in every direction. Four of them were smashed into splinters. Most of the dead were Italians from New York and New Orleans, going to San Francisco. They occupied the smoker and day coach.

But two Americans are known to have been killed, although several of those among the injured will undoubtedly die within the next few hours.

Out of 80 Pullman passengers, but two sustained serious injury. The three Pullman coaches and the diner, which were on the rear of the train, did not leave the track. The occupants of these cars were practically unharmed.

L. R. Alvord, W. K. Davis and W. G. Gusemeyer, members of the switching crew who are accused of leaving the switch open and causing the wreck, were taken into custody and held in bail of \$1,000 by Coroner Van Wye.

TRY MEDIATION.

Knapp and Neill Will Attempt to Adjust Railroad Dispute.

Chicago, March 29.—Government intervention will be tried in an effort to avert the great railroad strike which threatens to paralyze the business of the West. In response to the appeal of the railroad managers, Chairman Knapp, of the Interstate Commerce commission, and Commissioner of Labor Neill will arrive in Chicago Saturday morning and offer mediation in the controversy. Failing to adjust the matter in a conciliatory manner, they will endeavor to bring about arbitration under the provisions of the Erdmann law.

The labor chiefs will await the arrival of the government officials before ordering a strike. If the good offices of Mr. Knapp and Mr. Neill result in bringing greater concessions to the employes than have yet been offered, the strike may be averted. The employes, however, say they will not accept arbitration and today again declared their position that nothing short of greater concessions from the railroads will prevent them from walking out.

President Roosevelt has been following closely the developments in the situation here and Messrs. Knapp and Neill will undertake the delicate work imposed on them by law with full consciousness that the president is extremely solicitous that all differences be settled by arbitration.

The general managers said that no attempt would be made to operate trains if the employes struck.

NO ADVANCE IN LUMBER RATES

Northern Roads Deny Present Intention, but Are Investigating.

St. Paul, Minn., March 29.—An official statement was made by traffic men of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads today that it is not contemplated to make any immediate change in lumber rates from Puget sound to St. Paul and Missouri river cities, as the lumbermen have advised the Interstate Commerce commission in Washington. A joint statement was made by the lines as follows:

"We have not considered an increase in Pacific Coast Missouri-River lumber rates, except as they may have been involved in discussions covering the general rates and cost of service. No immediate changes are contemplated."

Burning Gas Terrifies Farmers.

Sapulpa, I. T., March 29.—The gas well two miles east of here that caught fire Saturday is still burning fiercely. After 14 days of work the well was capped. But the great volume of gas found another way out through the crevices and for half a mile it spread over the earth. At one place a hole three feet wide and 20 feet long was torn. Then the gas caught fire and has been burning ever since. At one place a sheet of flame 20 feet long and 15 feet high is blazing. Tons of rock and shale were thrown from the cracks.

Faculty Rebukes Magoon.

Havana, March 29.—The directors of Havana university held a meeting today and entered a protest against the recent action of Governor Magoon in licensing two American doctors to practice in Havana without first passing an examination in the University of Havana, as required by law.

OREGON STATE ITEMS OF INTEREST

EARLY DAY POSTOFFICES.

Inspector Richies Comes Into Possession of Interesting Relic.

Portland—Postoffice Inspector Richies, of this city, owns a copy of a "List of Postoffices of the United States," which was issued by the government in 1862. The list has been, until recently, in the possession of John Hedden, postmaster at Scottsburg, Douglas county, Oregon, who had it from the government soon after its publication. Some time ago he gave it to Inspector Richies on the occasion of an official visit to that office by the latter.

Scottsburg is one of the oldest postoffices in the state, and Mr. Hedden was its first postmaster. In 1862 Oregon had 50 postoffices. In Multnomah county there were three, Portland, Springfield and Sandy. Polk county led in the number of postoffices, having 13. Marion county came next, with 10. "Wascopum" county is credited with one, and Wasco county with one. Wascopum county's office appears on the list as Hood River. There were 20 counties in Oregon in 1862 in 1862; the state having made a gain of 13 counties in since that time.

NUMEROUS SITES OFFERED.

State Board to Select Land for Institute for Feeble Minded.

Salem—At a special meeting of the members of the board for the feeble minded institute, a voluminous list of tracts of land sites for the construction of the new buildings was presented by the owners for the consideration of the board. Maps, blue prints and descriptions of many desirable places were laid before them. In fact, the table around which Governor Chamberlain, State Treasurer Steel and Acting Secretary of State Benson sat was piled so high with documents that the board decided to appoint a special committee to examine each tract of land separately, select the most desirable, secure the best prices and report to the board at the earliest opportunity.

Bag to Get Deeds.

Salem—Jacob D. Holtzman, of Minneapolis, attorney for the holders of 14 Kelliher-Turner school land certificates, covering about 2,800 acres located in Southern Oregon, appeared before the state land board at a recent special meeting in the interest of his clients, who want deeds to the land. Most of them live at Dayton, Ohio. These certificates were among those issued upon what is known as the Kelliher-Turner applications, which were alleged by ex-State Land Agent Oswald West to have been forgeries, and upon being investigated by the Marion county grand jury during the month of April, 1905, were so reported to the state land board.

Parents and Teachers Organize.

The Dalles—The Teachers' and Parents' Educational association, organized March 8, now has 125 patrons, as the result of circular letters sent out by the city superintendent to ascertain the sentiment of the people relative to school and home co-operation. The object of the association is to encourage a better school spirit in The Dalles; to bring the parents and teachers closer together in a social way; to discuss, freely and fully, all matters pertaining to school life, and to recommend such reforms in the schools of The Dalles as will meet the requirements of the present and provide for the future.

Terminal Rates for Baker.

Baker City—With a view of taking up a fight for terminal rates for Baker City, the Merchant's association has appointed a committee to plan the organization of a local shipping bureau. The committee is meeting with marked success, and the bureau will be established within a short time. This bureau will be under the management of a rate expert, who will compile local complaints against the railroad and put them into shape to submit to the state railroad commission.

Rich Strike in Pine Valley.

Baker City—The richness of the placer gold mines at old Auburn and even the wealth of the California placers are rivaled by reports of the strike recently made by Blair, Herbert and Underwood in the Seven Devils district. Pine Valley, about 60 miles east of Baker City, is the place where the discovery was made, and those who have been on the scene predict that it will be one of the greatest placer camps in the West.

Arousing Interest in Horticulture.

Oregon City—Professor E. R. Lake, of the forestry and botanical department of the Oregon Agricultural college at Corvallis, and W. K. Newell, president of the state board of horticulture, will be among the speakers at the next meeting of the Clackamas County Horticultural society, which will be held in this city Saturday, April 13.

PROBE FOR LAND FRAUDS.

Another Federal Grand Jury Begins Sessions in April.

Portland—Within two weeks another Federal grand jury will begin to grind on Oregon land frauds. The jury will be summoned soon and the old as well as the new cases that have been investigated by and through the United States district attorney's office and by the agents of Special Inspector Thomas B. Nohansen, together with the cases that have been worked up by Edward W. Dixon, in charge of the special agent for Oregon, will be laid before the jurors.

When Francis J. Heney left Portland to tear the lid off of graft in San Francisco, he left a number of land fraud cases, evidence in which was already in the hands of the United States attorney, to be brought to the attention of a grand jury. Since his departure the work of investigating new cases of fraud has been going on and when the jury gets into action it will have a long session.

Among the cases of alleged fraud that will be brought to the attention of the jury are those said to have been discovered in and around Pendleton. To this list will be added others that rumor says involve a number of prominent men, not only in Oregon, but in several other states.

Work on the Poorman Group.

Baker City—That there are 100,000 tons of copper ore assaying \$14 a ton lying at the surface on the Poorman group of claims, is the declaration of Manager Arthur, of the mines, who has just returned from the property. There are outcroppings assaying from 2 to 5 per cent in copper, the greatest in Oregon. The Poorman group promises to be one of the richest copper mines in the great copper belt of Eastern Oregon. The company now has a double shift at work.

Willamette Rally Off Till June.

Willamette University, Salem—Announcement is made that the big rally in connection with the new building and its unknown donor, which had been scheduled for April 3, has been postponed until next June. The meeting, which was for the purpose of making announcements, boosting the endowment fund, and formulating plans, cannot be held, as all the plans contemplated will not be completed by that time.

Ned Smith for Sheep Inspector.

Salem—A committee consisting of a number of Benton county sheepmen waited on Commissioner Stensloff and asked him to appoint Ned Smith, of Corvallis, as one of the district inspectors of sheep, there being three to appoint. Mr. Stensloff has taken Mr. Smith's application under advisement, and will probably give him the position.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Club, 73c; bluestem, 75c; valley, 70c; red, 71c.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$29@30; gray, \$28@29.
Barley—Feed, \$22.50 per ton; brewing, \$23; rolled, \$23.50@24.50.
Rye—\$1.45@1.50 per cwt.
Corn—Whole, \$25; cracked, \$26 per ton.
Hay—Valley timothy, No. 1, \$15@16 per ton; Eastern Oregon timothy, \$17@18; clover, \$9; cheat, \$9; grain hay, \$9@10; alfalfa, \$14.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 35@37 1/2c per pound.
Butter Fat—First grade cream, 36c per pound; second grade cream, 2c less per pound.
Poultry—Average old hens, 15c per pound; mixed chickens, 14c; spring fryers and broilers, 20@22 1/2c; old roosters, 10@12c; dressed chickens, 14@17c; turkeys, live, 13@15c; turkeys, dressed, choice, 18 1/2@20c; geese, live, 8c; ducks, 16@18c.
Eggs—Oregon ranch, 23c per dozen.
Apples—Common, 75c@1.25 per box; choice, \$1.50@2.
Vegetables—Turnips, \$1@1.25 per sack; carrots, \$1@1.25 per sack; beets, \$1.25@1.50 per sack; horseradish, 7@8c per pound; cauliflower, \$2.50 per dozen; celery, \$4 per crate; lettuce, head, 35@45c per dozen; onions, 10@12 1/2c per dozen; sprouts, 9c per pound; radishes, 30c per dozen; asparagus, 12@15c per pound; rhubarb, \$2.25@2.50 per box.
Onions—Oregon, \$1.10@1.35 per hundred.
Potatoes—Oregon Burbanks, fancy, \$1.50@1.75; No. 1 choice, \$1.25@1.40.
Veal—Dressed, 5 1/2@9c per pound.
Beef—Dressed bulls, 3@3 1/2c per pound; cows, 5@6c; country steers, 6@7c.
Mutton—Dressed, fancy, 10@10 1/2c per pound; ordinary, 8@9c; spring lambs, 15@16c.
Pork—Dressed, 6@9c per pound.
Hops—8@11c per pound, according to quality.
Wool—Eastern Oregon average best, 13@18c per pound, according to shrinkage; valley, 20@23c, according to fineness; mohair, choice, 28@29c per pound.

TRIAL DRAGGING.

Juror in Hermann Case Drops Asleep in Court Hours.

Washington, March 27.—That interest in the trial oflinger Hermann is lagging was strikingly illustrated today, when one of the jurors fell asleep in the midst of the testimony of Harry C. Robertson, formerly private secretary to Senator Mitchell. The testimony produced this week has not been startling, in fact it covers ground already gone over by other witnesses, it being the intention of District Attorney Baker by preponderance of evidence to convince the jury that Hermann had an important motive in destroying his so-called private letter books. The testimony, however, is largely technical and uninteresting.

Mr. Robertson's testimony today covered the same ground as his testimony in Portland. He showed the close relations that existed among Hermann, Mitchell, Mays and Pater, testified as to their correspondence regarding land matters, since proven fraudulent, and to that extent materially aided the prosecution.

Had Mr. Robertson been permitted to tell extensively of his relations with Hermann in 1896-97, when the latter was first in congress, he could have materially offset some statements of those who appeared as character witnesses for the defendant. Before court opened District Attorney Baker about his relations with Hermann while serving him as private secretary and an attempt was made to bring out these facts, but objection was made by counsel for the defense, inasmuch as they had no direct bearing on the case at bar, and the court sustained the objection. For that reason Mr. Robertson's testimony was robbed of considerable interest.

INQUIRY IN OAKLAND.

Telephone Companies Pursued Same Tactics in That City.

San Francisco, March 27.—The grand jury investigation took a leap today across the bay and landed in Oakland. It was shown during the examination of witnesses that the Home Telephone company and the Pacific States Telephone company had been engaged in a battle over a franchise similar to the warfare here which resulted in wholesale bribery. It developed that Halsey was in Oakland and that Detweiler was there also. These are the men accused of bribing the San Francisco officials.

Aside from this revelation, the inquiry failed to reveal anything of a sensational nature. At the end of the session District Attorney Langdon said the day had been spent in "filling in." Testimony was given which serves to supply some of the missing links in the general recital of bribery.

The grand jury will soon begin to reveal the part played by Mayor Schmitz in the hoodluming transactions. The mayor, it is estimated, received close to \$750,000 as the result of his operations.

CALL ELECTION IN PHILIPPINES

If Peace is Complete, President Will Order Commission to Act.

Washington, March 27.—The Philippine commission has been instructed to cable to inform President Roosevelt by tomorrow whether a condition of general and complete peace, with recognition of the authority of the United States, has continued in all that portion of the archipelago not inhabited by Moros or other non-Christian tribes for the past two years. If the answer is in the affirmative, the president will direct the commission to call a general election on July 30, next, for the choice of delegates to the first popular assembly of the people of the Philippines.

The proposed assembly consisting of the two houses, the upper composed of the Philippine commission and the lower of the delegates to be elected, will take over all the legislative power now exercised by the Philippine commission alone. Under an act of congress none of the members of the non-Christian tribes can participate in the elections.

Bonilla Ordered Surrender.

Managua, Nicaragua, March 27.—It is stated upon the highest authority here that President Bonilla, of Honduras, after his retreat to Amapala, following the defeat of the Honduran-Salvadoran forces at Choluteca by the Nicaraguan army, ordered from Amapala the surrender of Tegucigalpa, capital of Honduras, to the victorious troops. The city is now in the possession of the Honduran-Nicaraguan government junta. Senor Barahona, Honduran minister of war, was mortally wounded, and many captured.

Honduras Retakes Trujillo.

New Orleans, March 27.—A private telegram received here today said that the Hondurians had recaptured the port of Trujillo. This was the first Caribbean port of Honduras taken by Nicaragua.

SCHMITZ'S VILE PLAN

Has Desperate Scheme to Prevent Franchise Revocation.

TRIES TO BUY OFF SUPERVISORS

Have Enough Resign to Make His Veto Effective—Sweeping Reforms Are Instituted.

San Francisco, March 30.—Mayor Schmitz has opened negotiations with certain members of the hoodluming board of supervisors in the hope of consummating a bold coup. The plan of the mayor is to purchase the resignation of enough members of the board to make his veto power sufficient to prevent the revocation of the franchises of the big corporations which obtained their permits through the illegal use of money.

It requires 14 members of the board to override the mayor's veto. If he can secure the resignation of five out of the 18 he will be able to check by his veto any of their reform measures adopted under the aegis of F. J. Heney's big stick. It is a desperate game, doomed to failure almost at the outset.

The "reformed" board of supervisors, acting under the direction of the district attorney's office, gave another startling exhibition today of a desire to be good, when it made plans for the abolition of a score of ornamental officials. James Devoto, attorney for the board of public works at a salary of \$250 per month, will be despatched. Other officials, who under the Ruess regime have done nothing but draw salaries, will be dropped. In the course of the next few weeks reforms will have been instituted which will save the city \$100,000 a year.

FAMINE WOULD RESULT.

Railroads Hold Out Gloomy Prospect if Strike is Called.

Chicago, March 30.—Famine in supplies of food, coal and manufacturing materials for Chicago and many other cities throughout the entire West was predicted today, if the impending railway strike became a reality. Railroads of the entire West will be allowed to remain completely paralyzed in case the strike of trainmen and conductors on 43 traffic systems is ordered. This course has been practically decided on by the general managers of the systems.

A meeting of the managers was held today and the impracticability of filling the places of 45,000 men who are talking of a walkout was discussed. No move has been made to hire men to run trains. In fact, no preparations is being made by the railway managers.

"If these men strike it would be almost, if not entirely, impossible to operate the railroads," said an official high in railroad circles. "It is as good as certain that freight traffic will be entirely shut off. Consider what it would mean, if Chicago were to be isolated for 24 hours. What would happen if the milk supply were interrupted or the immense importations of perishable freight halted by a tie-up of the roads."

HILL MAY ISSUE NEW STOCK.

Minnesota Supreme Court Holds Restrictive Law Invalid.

St. Paul, March 30.—The State Supreme court today upheld the Great Northern railroad in its contention that it had the right to issue the \$60,000,000 of stock authorized by the board of directors some months ago, and which was enjoined by Attorney General Young, who claimed that the company should first come before the state railroad and warehouse commission and submit to an examination to show the necessity and be purpose of the issue.

This contention of the state was upheld by Judge Hallam in the Ramsey County District court, who ordered an injunction to issue. The Supreme court today reverses that decision. The opinion of the court was unanimous. Chief Justice Start delivered the opinion of the court.

Sailors Loot Steamer

Norfolk, Va., March 30.—One hundred sailors from the battleship Connecticut, while on the way from Willoughby to Fortress Monroe upon the passenger steamer Ocean View today, without apparent cause took forcible charge of the steamer and put the crew to rout. The sailors broke windows and doors, drove the cooks from the galley, poured out all provisions aboard, dumped on deck the fire in the stoves, turned steam on the fire-extinguishers and did other damage. Their names are not known.

Tobacco Buildings Burn.

Danville, Va., March 30.—A disastrous fire broke out in South Boston, Va., 32 miles northeast of here, late this afternoon, and, spreading rapidly, destroyed the tobacco buildings, causing a loss of \$900,000.