

## MILLIONS INVOLVED IN RAIL DECISION

Federal Valuation of Roads  
for Rate Making Based  
on 1914 Costs.

Washington, D. C.—Federal valuation of railroads for rate-making and all other purposes will be based upon costs, prices and wages prevailing during 1914 rather than upon the much higher levels of later years, a majority of the interstate commerce commission decided.

Railroad officials saw in the findings, which were handed down in sustaining the government's attempt to collect excess income from the St. Louis & O'Fallon railroad, a decision which may sway the computations attached to railroad property by billions of dollars.

"We are dealing here with one small railroad," said the majority opinion written by Commissioner Meyer. "Nevertheless, what we do in this case we must in principle do for all the railroads of the United States."

As the first effect of the sweeping policy outlined, the St. Louis & O'Fallon company was ordered to pay to the government within 90 days \$226,878, this amount being half the excess earnings the commission decided that it had in the years 1921 to 1924, inclusive. For other carriers the prospect is now clear that demands for excess earnings in amounts many times as great will be forthcoming from the government, though the final payments will not be met until the litigation is carried to the supreme court for confirmation or rejection of the commission's policy.

## D'AUTREMONT ENTERS PLEA OF NOT GUILTY

Medford, Or.—Hugh DeAutremont, 23, jointly charged with his fugitive twin brothers, Ray and Roy DeAutremont, with participation in the Skid-you tunnel train robbery and resultant death of four trainmen October 11, 1923, stood in the circuit court at Jacksonville and in a firm, clear voice, without the slightest show of emotion, answered not guilty to four indictments charging murder in the first degree.

The date of the trial, set for Tuesday, April 12, was postponed until Monday, May 2.

The district attorney was given one week in which to designate on which indictment DeAutremont would be brought to trial. The grand jury of Jackson county alleged in four indictments that with his twin brothers he was implicated in the murders of Sidney Bates of Dunsmuir, Cal., engineer; Marvin Seng of Ashland, fireman; Coyte Johnson of Ashland, brakeman, and E. E. Daugherty of Ashland, mail clerk.

## BRITAIN PREPARES TO ACT

London Proposes to Play Strong  
Hand in China.

London.—Great Britain is prepared to play a lone hand and a strong hand if necessary, in settling the Nanking affair.

A note to the Cantonese authorities stating the British demands was approved by the cabinet and is to be forwarded to the Washington and Tokio governments in the hope that they will agree to make the protest jointly. Otherwise Great Britain will act alone.

It is understood that the final draft of the note demands reparations for the victims of the Nanking outrages, or their families, punishment of the perpetrators and apologies to the governments whose consulates were looted and whose officials were attacked.

Although advocating drastic and immediate action to obtain full satisfaction regarding Nanking, officials here emphasize that Great Britain's fundamental policy of conciliation for China and recognition of the legitimate aspirations of the nationalists is unaltered.

## Federal Land Bank Bonds Offered.

New York.—A public offering was made Monday by a country-wide group headed by the 12 federal reserve banks of a new issue of \$100,000,000 federal land bank 4 1/4 per cent bonds, priced at 101 1/4 to yield about 4.10 per cent. Approximately \$52,000,000 of the proceeds will be used to redeem all outstanding federal land bank 4 1/4 per cent bonds due 1937, 1938 and 1939. Through the transaction, the government will effect a saving of about \$232,000 annually.

## Coolidge Wrist Sprain is Rheumatism.

Washington, D. C.—President Coolidge has recovered from rheumatism in his right wrist which has curtailed his White House handshaking the past few weeks. What was at first believed to be a sprain or strain was diagnosed by Dr. W. S. Hayer of Baltimore as "old fashioned rheumatism," to use the president's words.

THOMAS A. STONE



Thomas A. Stone, secretary of the newly established Canadian legation in Washington.

## 22,000,000 CARS REGISTERED IN U. S.

Washington, D. C.—More than 22,000,000 motor vehicles were registered in the United States during 1925, according to reports received from state registration agencies by the bureau of public roads of the United States department of agriculture. The year's registration represents an increase of 10.3 per cent, or slightly more than 2,000,000 more than that of 1925.

Florida, with an increase of 40.2 per cent, not including non-resident registrations, shows a greater gain than any other state.

Of the total number of vehicles registered, 19,237,171 were passenger automobiles, taxis and busses, and 2,764,222 were motor trucks and road tractors. Receipts from registration fees, licenses, etc., amounted to \$288,282,352 as compared with \$260,519,621 in 1925. Of the gross receipts \$190,406,960 was available for highway construction under the supervision of the state highway departments, \$51,702,184 was allocated to counties for expenditures on local roads and \$25,274,158 was used to finance highway bond issues.

## STERILIZATION UPHELD

Idaho Attorney-General Rules Approp-  
riation Regular.

Boise, Idaho.—Idaho's sterilization law will be made effective this year, Frank L. Stephan, attorney-general, has rendered an opinion declaring the \$4500 appropriated by the last legislature to defray expenses of carrying the law into effect, regular in every way. Governor H. C. Baldrige questioned whether the law made adequate provision for disbursement.

All persons, male or female, in any state institution who are likely to become a menace to society come under the provisions of the law.

## Forest Road Funds Are Apportioned.

Washington, D. C.—Apportionments from the \$4,500,000 fund to be expended during the fiscal year 1926 on highways in or near national forests were announced by the department of agriculture Saturday. The following were included: California, \$575,000; Washington, \$415,000; Oregon, \$533,000; Colorado, \$12,000, and Utah, \$164,000. The amount in some cases included funds unexpended during the current year.

## THE MARKETS

**Portland.**  
Wheat—Big Bend bluestem, \$1.35; hard white, \$1.33; federation, soft white, western white, \$1.32; hard winter, northern spring, \$1.31; western red, \$1.28.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$18@18.50 ton; valley timothy, \$18@18.50; eastern Oregon timothy, \$21@21.50.  
Butterfat—45c.  
Eggs—Ranch, 19@24c.  
Cheese—Tillamook, triplets, 25 1/2c; loaf, 26 1/2c per lb.  
Cattle—Steers, good \$9@9.85.  
Hogs—Medium to choice, \$10@12.65.  
Sheep—Lambs, medium to choice, \$11.00@13.00.  
**Seattle.**  
Wheat—Soft white, western white, \$1.33; hard winter, \$1.32; western red, \$1.31; northern spring, \$1.35; Big Bend bluestem, Big Bend dark northern spring, \$1.37; Big Bend dark hard winter, \$1.36.  
Hay—Alfalfa, \$25; timothy P. S., \$22.  
Butter—Creamery, 45c.  
Eggs—Ranch, 27@29c.  
Hogs—Good, \$12.50@12.65.  
Cattle—Steers, choice, \$9.00@9.75.  
Cheese—Cream bricks, 25@26c; triplets, 26c; loaf, 26c.  
**Spokane.**  
Hogs—Good, \$11.55@12.  
Cattle—Steers, good, \$8.75@9.50.

## SMALL NUMBER PAY MOST OF INCOME TAX

Tax Returns Indicate an In-  
crease in the Number of  
Millionaires.

Washington, D. C.—More than 95 per cent of the individual income tax collections are paid by 29 of 1 per cent of the country's population, while 82 per cent of the people pay no income tax.

This is disclosed in an analysis of the effect of the 1926 revenue act, based on the returns for the calendar year 1925.

One of the significant features of the analysis is the singular increase in the number of persons paying taxes on incomes of more than \$1,000,000. This number jumped to 207 in 1925, comparing with 75 in the preceding year and 74 in 1923. Seven persons paid taxes on incomes of more than \$5,000,000, reaching an aggregate tax of \$61,332,863.

The number of individual returns, under the new law, dropped to 3,954,000, a falling off of 3,250,000. Of those making returns, however, a large number had no taxable income.

The total tax collection was 6 per cent greater under the 1926 law, in the face of a total net income \$4,500,000,000 less than that of the preceding year, and of lower tax rates.

Fifty per cent of the corporations in Oregon last year paid taxes totaling \$3,058,750 on an aggregate net income of \$27,312,251, according to statistics of income for 1925. Of the 5727 corporations in Oregon which have taxable status, 2868 reported last year that they had received net income during 1925, while 2859 others reported no net income and a combined deficit of \$16,348,051 instead.

The statistics for corporations in the state of Washington showed that 5158 corporations paid \$6,790,360 in taxes on net income for 1925 of \$61,326,522, while 4814 corporations reported a total deficit in 1925 of \$28,512,015.

## MEXICAN BANDITS KILL MINE ENGINEER

Washington, D. C.—Murder of Edgar M. Wilkins, American mining engineer, by Mexican bandits, at a time when the killing last September of another American, Jacob Rosenthal, still is an unsettled diplomatic case, has given a new twist to the already disturbed relations between the United States and Mexico.

Official report to the state department from Consul Dwyre at Guadalajara that Wilkins' body had been found was followed immediately by instructions to Ambassador Sheffield at Mexico City to make urgent representations concerning the murder to the foreign office.

Dwyre reported that Wilkins had been dead four days, having apparently been slain when the bandits, hard pressed by federal troops, became convinced they would not collect the 20,000 pesos ransom they demanded.

## NEW RULE FOR MEDICS

Washington Law Requires All to  
Undergo Examination

Olympia, Wash.—Leaflets containing a digest of the "basic science" law were sent out to all practitioners of the "art of healing" in the state by Charles R. Maybury, director of licenses.

The law, which becomes effective June 9, is intended to raise the standard of medical practice in Washington. It provides that all persons applying for licenses to practice medicine and surgery, osteopathy, osteopathy and surgery, chiropractic or drugless therapeutics in this state shall be examined on dates fixed by the director of licenses by a committee of five, to be appointed by the governor from the faculties of the University of Washington and Washington state college.

## Coolidge Revokes Oil Transfer Order.

Washington, D. C.—The contested order of President Harding, transferring naval oil reserves to the interior department, under which Secretary Fall made the Doherty leases, has been revoked by President Coolidge. The legality of the Harding order has been attacked in the government suits to regain from E. L. Doherty the Elk Hills reserve and in the Sinclair oil suits.

## United States Senator Norris to Quit.

Washington, D. C.—Senator Norris, republican, Nebraska, announced that he planned to retire from the senate at the expiration of his present term. The Nebraska senator, who has held public office for the last 30 years, declared he chose to round out his life in the service of his state and plans to announce as a candidate for governor when his senatorial term ends in March, 1931.

JAMES G. CARTER



James G. Carter, recently appointed United States minister to Liberia.

## AMERICAN GUARD FIRES ON SAMPAN

Washington, D. C.—An armed guard from the American gunboat Monocacy turned riot guns on Chinese sampans on the Yangtze river Saturday, Admiral Williams, commanding American forces in China, reported to the navy department.

The American bluejackets were aboard the American steamer Chinan, having been transferred to that vessel from the gunboat Monocacy to act as a guard. They were forced to fire, Admiral Williams said, to ward off the Chinese, "who were determined upon revenge because of unauthorized cargo being removed due to the fact that it was endangering the ship."

Three Chinese were wounded, one probably fatally.

Admiral Williams' dispatches gave Washington officials a picture of widespread agitation in China.

At Chungking, where the American consulate has been closed and at which point the Monocacy has been stationed, Chinese agitators planned a demonstration, he said, to protest against force having been used by Chinese authorities on March 31.

## SHORT NEWS NUGGETS

The typhoid epidemic which has been raging in Montreal since March 4 has reached a total of 1540 cases.

The Maryland legislature has adopted a joint resolution asking Governor Ritchie to announce his candidacy for the democratic presidential nomination.

The engagement of Miss Martha Harris of Memphis, Tenn., to Gilbert M. Hitchcock, ex-United States senator from Nebraska, has been announced.

Indiana's impeachment trial of a circuit court judge ended when the state senate acquitted Clarence W. Dearth of Muncie of charges of corruption and other high crime.

Perry S. Heath, known as the "father of the rural free delivery" and for years prominent as an editor and publisher, died at his home in Washington, D. C., after an illness of more than six weeks.

## 40,000 Coal Miners Are Idle.

Pittsburgh, Pa.—All parties concerned in the struggle brought about by the expiration of the Jacksonville wage scale in the soft coal fields have dug themselves in for a prolonged siege in the strategic Pittsburgh district. With some 40,000 union miners in the district idle through failure to negotiate a new wage agreement, the union concentrated its forces against the 18 non-union mines of the Pittsburgh Coal company, potentially the largest producer of soft coal in the United States.

## Ford Recovering From Auto Accident.

Detroit.—Henry Ford is making normal progress toward recovery from the injuries he received a week ago Sunday when the small coupe in which he was driving alone was forced from the road and crashed into a tree. The suspicion that there was anything pre-conceived about the accident that forced Mr. Ford's machine off the road virtually has been abandoned.

## Reduction in Rate on Cattle Refused.

Washington, D. C.—Railroad rates on livestock throughout the western half of the United States were declared by the interstate commerce commission to be not unreasonably high, and a series of complaints by the American National Livestock association and other organizations within the industry demanding reductions was dismissed.

## OREGON STATE NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Brief Resume of Happenings of  
the Week Collected for  
Our Readers.

Salem will be host to the annual encampment, Grand Army of the Republic, June 21 to 24.

Bandon is to have a new cheese factory. It will be able to handle 15,000 pounds of milk daily.

Machines in the new \$1,000,000 addition to the Oregon Pulp & Paper company's plant at Salem were put in operation last week.

J. F. Cramer, principal of the high school at Coquille, was elected to the superintendency of the Bandon schools and will take charge in September.

The state land board turned over \$118,365.06 to the state treasurer during March, according to a report by George G. Brown, clerk of the board.

Fire which destroyed the girls' dormitory building at Klamath agency last week threatened to raze a large section of the Indian reservation settlement.

Klamath was subjected to a real April fool's joke when it awoke to find four inches of snow on the ground and every indication of continued stormy weather.

Marion county growers are reported gratified as a result of contracts already executed covering their loganberry and strawberry crops for the next two seasons.

Governor Patterson, in a proclamation issued in Salem, has urged the citizens of Oregon to co-operate in observing American Forest week, April 24 to 30, inclusive.

The season's first crate of asparagus was forwarded to Portland last week by the Mid-Columbia Vegetable Growers' association. The first shipment was made March 22.

Although large crowds daily visit the Sandy river, smelt are not running heavily this year. Troutdale residents declare there are fewer fish in the stream than for many seasons.

Divorces and marriages ran a close race in Multnomah county during the month of March. One hundred and thirty-four marriage licenses were issued and 132 divorce suits filed.

Mrs. Amanda Gardiner Johnson, 94, formerly a negro slave, died in Albany last Monday at the home of her employer, Miss Maude Henderson, a direct descendant of her original owner.

With three rowboats lifted and whisked away a distance of 50 feet, and other craft turned upside down and hurled into the water, Oak Grove witnessed a miniature cyclone recently.

It is thought that children bent on having school dismissed some months ahead of time kindled two fires in the basement of school 67, five miles east of Milton. Little damage was done.

If a committee appointed by the Union County Pomona grange to canvass farmers of the valley reports favorably a producers' public market will be established in La Grande this spring.

The Willamette river closed April 1st to commercial fishing. The season will reopen November 15. Chinook salmon have been running freely, but the height of the run had not been reached.

The most rain for March since 1922 fell in Eugene last month, according to the report of the local weather observer. Precipitation was 2.87 inches, the highest since 6.28 inches fell five years ago.

Sam Laughlin, cashier of the Yamhill State bank, was appointed a member of the state industrial accident commission to succeed Dillard Elkins. Mr. Laughlin will assume his new duties May 1.

One automobile was demolished, another was damaged and Edwin Burke, an employe, narrowly escaped death when 70 tons of bundled paper crashed through the floor of Paul Tragilo's warehouse in Salem.

One man, Bert C. Pickman of Portland, sustained a fatal injury subject to the provisions of the state workmen's compensation act during the past week, according to a report issued by the state accident commission. Hickman was a barrel maker by profession. There were a total of 905 accidents reported to the commission during the week.

Mrs. E. E. Hurley of Umapine, living six miles from Freewater, was seriously burned when gasoline, which she was using for cleaning purposes, exploded. The Hurley home was burned and a baby was injured by the explosion.

La Grande's building permits for the first three months of 1927 total \$545,205, which is a larger figure than for any one year in the city's history. Permits for March also set a new record, calling for \$275,690 worth of new construction.

An increase of 209 over the first day's registration a year ago is shown in the report of the registrar regarding enrollment for the third term. This brings the total long course students for the year to 3752.

Ninety thousand dollars worth of bonds were sold last Tuesday by the city council at Ashland to provide funds for the Lithia pipe line and the reconstruction work on the water mains throughout the city.

Portland's general cargo exports for March were valued at \$798,312 and for the corresponding month in 1926 were valued at \$502,202, so it was shown in a comparative statement issued by the Merchants Exchange. February's total, however, reached \$1,415,816.

Gus Holmes, Ernest Erickson and Albert Berkmen, laborers, are in a hospital with serious injuries as a result of a dynamite explosion on the Friend extension of the Great Southern railroad, near The Dalles. The men were drilling a rock when the blast occurred.

For the first time in years the Hammond Lumber company mill at Mill City is on the verge of being compelled to shut down on account of no logs. Heavy snows in the mountains this year have prevented logging, and approximately 17,000,000 feet stored last summer has been cut up.

News has just been received in Medford from Washington, D. C., that the temporary branch office of the United States free employment bureau that has been conducted there the last year or so at the behest of the fruit growers' league of Jackson county, has been made a permanent office, effective May 1 next.

Officers elected by the Columbia county fair board for the ensuing year are: President, T. J. Graham of Marshfield; vice president, R. N. Lovelace of Rainier; treasurer, Elizabeth Murray, St. Helens; secretary, Paul C. Adams, Warren. The fair will be held September 2, 3, 4 and 5 at the county fairgrounds near Deer Island.

Hearing of the order suspending the tariff of Oregon railroads relating to intrastate livestock rates will be held in Portland May 24 in connection with a hearing of the interstate commerce commission, having to do with interstate rates. The tariff of the Oregon railroads was suspended last Thursday until June 15, at the request of the carriers.

Refusing to grant a request looking toward a referendum of the law under which county assessors are using a confidential statement sheet in fixing assessed valuations this year, Secretary of State Sam K. Kozier made a decision denying the Greater Oregon association of Portland the right to have a ballot title prepared to invoke the referendum on house bill 72 of the 1927 legislature.

Two thousand railway ticket offices of the middle west and east will display Oregon beauties before prospective tourists within the next few weeks. Illustrated four-color posters advertising Oregon, "The Summer Playground of America," have been prepared by Herbert Cuthbert, manager of the publicity department of the Portland chamber of commerce, and are ready for distribution.

Production of lumber of 74 West coast mills for the week ending March 26 aggregated 73,406,883 feet, as against the previous week's production of 76,198,502 feet, according to the figures of the West Coast Lumbermen's association. New business totaled \$1,822,526 feet for the week, while new business for the week ended March 19 amounted to 32,505,234 feet. Shipments of lumber for the week ended March 26 also exceeded the production figures, a total of 76,194,383 feet being reached, as against the previous week when shipments reached the month's record of 81,057,048 feet.

The busy season for fruit growers is on in the mid-Columbia. Spring arrived in a hurry the past week, and orchardists in all sections are busier than since last fall, when the harvest of the record apple crop was on. While it is still too early to make predictions on the 1927 apple tonnage, the crop, it is believed, will be far short of last season. Two heavy yields do not follow in succession. Conservative growers and shippers place the 1927 apple crop around 3000 cars. No damage resulted to apple fruit spurs last January, when sub-zero temperatures were experienced. Some injury, however, was suffered by pear and cherry trees. It will probably not be heavy enough, it is believed, to have any effect on the season's yield. The freeze was severe enough to practically wipe out the peach crop for the season.

A new corporation known as the Sibley-Mills Lumber company, with a capital stock of \$250,000, has been organized to operate the mill at Columbia City. The plant will begin operation in April, and between 60 and 70 men will be employed.

Half a million rainbow trout were liberated in the McKenzie river and tributaries recently. The fish have been taken from the McKenzie hatchery and differ from those that have heretofore been turned loose, in that they are from six to nine inches long.