

Increased Freight Rates

Demands for Higher Wages Will Boost Rail Charges

Wage increases have been made on the western railroads which amount to \$27,000,000 annually, under the operation of the present national Railway Labor Act, passed May 20, 1926. In addition to these large increases already granted, the western roads are now confronted with wage demands from their trainmen and engineers which amount to more than \$23,000,000 a year. So stated Kenneth F. Burgess, who is general solicitor of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, in representing the railways in Western Trunk Line territory in the present case.

"In 1927, the net earnings of western lines showed a decline of \$42,000,000, or of almost eleven per cent, below the 1926 level," said Mr. Burgess. "One of the largest contributing causes to this decline has been the great increase in wages which the western roads have been compelled to pay their employees, through mediation and arbitration. The present wage levels either closely approximate or exceed the post-war peak wage scales which were fixed by the United States Railroad Labor Board in 1920."

"As wages are one of the largest items of railway cost, constituting more than fifty per cent of the total, it is apparent that these great increases in the annual wage bill cannot be overlooked. The carriers opposed the wage demands of their employees before the various arbitration boards. Further, they presented evidence showing that these wage increases, if granted, must be followed by increases in freight rates, if the railroads are to continue to furnish adequate transportation. The employees contended that increases in wages would result in general prosperity, and in the ability of the shipping public to pay higher freight rates."

"In Western Trunk Line territory alone, net earnings in 1927 showed a drop of almost \$9,000,000 below 1926; the wage increases which these same roads have been required to make amount to \$6,000,000 annually. The case of the Chicago & North

Western illustrates vividly just what this means to the individual roads. In 1927, that company suffered a reduction of about two million dollars in net earnings; this amount is almost exactly the same as the annual wage increases secured by its employees in that year. Further, the North Western is now facing wage demands from its employees for additional wage increases totaling eight million dollars yearly.

"Even more startling than this is the situation relating to the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, which has just emerged from receivership. The net earnings of this company in 1927 were \$14,000,000, a decline of \$4,000,000 from the year before. Since the passage of the new Railway Labor Act, the wages of the employees of this company have been increased to the extent of more than two million dollars annually, while at the present time this road has pending additional wage demands of other employees aggregating more than twelve million dollars a year."

"Then, too, the taxes of the western lines have been increasing in alarming proportions. In 1926, the latest year for which full information is now available, the taxes of the western railroads showed an increase of almost \$28,000,000 over the corresponding total for 1921. These two factors of increased wages and higher taxes must largely determine the future level of freight rates in western territory, if the public is to continue to receive adequate railroad transportation."

Chinese Student Will Attend U. of O. in 1929

Chen Yon Yun, a student in the national university at Peking, China, will not be able to enter the University of Oregon until 1929, but in the meantime he "wishes everybody at the University the best of health." This wish was contained in a polite, well written letter to Earl M. Pallett, registrar, in which the youth explained that he had planned to come here last fall, but was unable to pass the required English test before embarking. He will now graduate from the university there and come here for advanced study.

Dr. Clarke in Moro Thursday, February 16th, at Hotel Moro.

Parcel Post Marketing

Survey by Federal Bureau Reveals Benefits and Limitations

The benefits and limitations of parcel post marketing of farm products as disclosed in a study of the operation of this form of selling over a period of fourteen years are set forth by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in a publication, "Marketing Farm Products by Parcel Post," just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture.

When the parcel post law went into effect in 1913, says the author, Lewis B. Flohr, there were many and varied ideas as to the part it might play in marketing farm products. Some persons declared that it would solve the farm marketing problem. There has been a continued and slowly increasing volume of marketing by this method, he says, but the quantity of farm products passing through the postal service has not reached the proportions expected by the enthusiasts and is a relatively small part of the total marketings of farm products.

The department's new bulletin includes information on the parcel post regulations and requirements, the ways and means of making contact between producers and customers, the necessary business attitude and management of the business, and the factors limiting parcel post marketing. The possibility of parcel post marketing are discussed in detail for a long list of commodities, including fruits and vegetables, poultry, eggs, meats, butter, cheese, cream and milk, mushrooms, nuts and nut meats, syrups, honey, plants, and other farm products.

Copies of the publication, which is designated as Farmers' Bulletin No. 1551 may be obtained from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

Straw Enriches Fields

Heavy red or clay soils may be improved by the use of straw. In Oregon many straw piles are left to rot, or as in many cases, are burned. This straw is what the fields need as it supplies plant food and humus to the soil as well as making existing unavailable plant food available. Packing will be reduced so that the roots will have greater penetration. As the packing is reduced the ease of working the land is also enhanced, thereby improving the productivity.

By a method just perfected straw may also be used to some extent in parts of the state where rainfall is too light to break down a raw organic substance of this kind. For each ton of dry straw 50, 100, and 5 pounds respectively of ammonium sulfate, lime, and sulfur is added to insure proper incorporation in the soil for favorable plant growth. Details of this process may be had by writing to the soils department at the state college at Corvallis.

Some farmers will allow their straw piles to rot while they spend money for commercial fertilizers for the orchard. Naturally straw does not contain all the elements necessary for plant growth which might be found in several commercial fertilizers, but if the available straw is used there is much less need for the former.

Reading of advertising is worth while.

Rufus Local News

Bruce Millard toured to town Friday on horseback.

Arnold Brady was a visitor in Gilliam county Thursday.

The traffic on the highway, in accordance with the roads, seems to be very heavy.

Frank Bartholemew and Herbert Hill, were supposed to have motored to Portland today.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Davis, and son Rupert are visiting relatives in Prineville over the weekend.

Herman Brackett, son Fay, Mrs. Addington and daughter Edna, were Dalles visitors Thursday evening.

Claud Coats and family were visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Millard, Thursday evening.

Solomon Coats is now visiting his sister Mrs. Bourland, in Dufur, and is carpentering there, where he will remain until spring.

Mr. and Mrs. Elliott and Mr. and Mrs. Addington enjoyed themselves playing cards, at the home of the latter Sunday evening.

A new Ford sport roadster was being demonstrated here Friday afternoon. Several speedy trips were made up and down the Rufus hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis and son Rupert were visitors in The Dalles Thursday evening. Rupert is taking music lessons from one of The Dalles instructors.

We are glad to say that Nicholas H. Coats, brother of S. L. Coats, who has been visiting relatives in Weiser, Idaho, for the past few months, has arrived home.

A last report, recently heard: the high waters are again raging at full pitch down over the hillsides and gullies, tearing the county roads as well as highways into great ditches and disabling traffic.

Sheriff Hugh Chrisman was a visitor in Rufus Thursday evening. He rescued an insane man from the Rufus hotel taking him to Moro. The highway crew say he stopped where they were working and asked for a match, they noticed he acted queer, but thought nothing of it at the time. He left them and was next seen at the Hotel here, where he was taken by the sheriff.

A number of the farmers who came into town early this morning are now unable to return home with their cars. Saddle horses were sent for and will no doubt arrive soon, to prepare a way for them to go home. Numbered among the stranded ones are Hugh Herin, Herman Brackett, Mr. Cross, Mr. and Mrs. Kypers, and Mr. and Mrs. McNab. Thus: the Brock school bus will again be unable to transport its students unless a remedy is quickly attended to.

A group of young folks assembled themselves together in the Rufus hotel Saturday evening, where they were entertained, with dancing, singing and games. Among those present were, Owen Elliott, Miss Ruth McBain, Ted Elliott, Mildred Chase, Russel Chase, Lois Fowle, Norman Fleck, Edna Addington, Robert Hill, Brady, Opal Addington, Mrs. Francis Foster, and Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey, who arrived Saturday evening to spend the weekend with Mrs. Ramsey's parents.

SCHOOL NEWS

R. H. S.

The Oregon State College, wishes me to say that the honor system of the college, in its sixth year as a constitutional measure, is increasing in popularity and establishing itself as a tradition with the students.

Students are placed on their own honor to a great extent to develop personal honor and individual responsibility for the honor of the college. Some who begin to slip into dishonesty are stopped by a verbal warning by other students, thus preventing a serious violation.

If violations do occur, however, the offenders are reported to the honor council, an organization of ten upper-classmen chosen from a wide range of departments, whose duty is to consider the reports of any action tending to tear down the morale of the college and to act upon the evidence. All decisions are subject to the approval of President Kerr.

The respect with which decisions of the council are held is evidenced by cases of two students who tried to leave the institution without trial.

Students coming to college here realize more and more the necessity for making their own way in classes and for doing their part in upholding the honor code, which is the basis of Beaver spirit.

R. H. S.

The third student body meeting of the year, was held Friday, at 1:00 p. m. to elect delegates, to represent the school at Corvallis February 17 and 18. The two elected were both junior girls, Nell Langford and Lois Fowle.

R. H. S.

The basket ball game between the Rufus and Moro boys and girls teams were both disastrous for the visiting teams.

R. H. S.

We wish to thank the Moro basket ball teams for their kindness towards

Livestock Conditions On Farm Significant

Increased numbers of hogs on farms with prospects of a reduction in market supplies next winter, some increase in market receipts of lambs as compared with last year, and a gradual upward trend in beef cattle production are regarded as outstanding features of the agricultural situation by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture, in its February 1 report on farm conditions.

There are more sheep and hogs, but fewer cattle and horses, than a year ago, according to the report. Computed on the basis of equivalent units, it appears there are about the same total number of animal units in the country as last year but the total value of livestock is about \$500,000,000 higher.

"Favorable prices two and three years ago stimulated hog production," says the report, "so that last year 6 to 8 per cent more pigs were raised than in 1926. A slump in the foreign pork market early last season contributed to depress prices. The swine industry thus opens this year with about 4,500,000 head more on farms than a year ago, with prices relatively low, and with little likelihood of a reduction in slaughtering until the present crop of pigs is worked off. The December survey suggested the probability of a pig crop in the Corn Belt about 10 per cent smaller this spring than last. This would mean a substantial reduction in market supplies by next winter."

"The number of sheep and lambs in the country was 2,700,000 greater at the beginning of this year than last and was the largest in 16 years. About 10 per cent more lambs were reported on feed. Prospects indicate a lamb crop this spring somewhat larger than last, assuming average weather conditions."

Thus there will be apparently more lambs coming to the market both in the first half and in the latter half of this year than was the case last year. The wool situation, however, appears favorable to producers, with light supplies abroad and fairly firm markets.

"The beef cattle industry has been curtailing production. The total number of cattle in the country January 1 was 1,176,000 head or 2 per cent fewer than a year ago. That is 15,500,000 or 22 per cent below the high point of 1918. It seems probable that the cattle industry is at or near the low point of a production cycle. These cycles usually extend over a period of 14 to 16 years. Previous low points in production occurred in 1898 and 1912. The expectation is that the improvement in cattle prices will stimulate the restocking of farms and ranges and that the trend of production will soon be gradually upward and for several years to come."

"The dairy industry appears to be in strong position, with some slight tendency to increase its young stock. There were about 3 per cent more yearling dairy heifers on farms January 1 than a year ago. The steadily shrinking number of horses reflects a transition perhaps without parallel in history. It has gone far enough, however, to stimulate horse prices, with the presumption that good draft-type colts will grow into money for some years to come."

The bureau's index of purchasing power of farm products in terms of other commodities is placed at 86 for the past year, compared with 85 for 1926, and 89 for the year 1925. The best preceding year was 1919 when the purchasing power figure was 105, the 1909-14 five-year average being used as a base of 100.

Viewing the entire agricultural situation, the bureau says that "so far as concerns the production plans of farmers, the probability appears to be that the domestic market for this year's output will be equal to that at present, with the possibility of some improvement."

us, and for the amount we received from admission fees Wednesday night which amounted to \$19.25, making us a sum of \$42.35 in the student body treasury at this time.

R. H. S.

Our boys have started practicing baseball. "Boys work hard, let's win."

R. H. S.

The basket ball girls here may play Grass Valley next week, but we are not yet certain, so the game is doubtful.

R. H. S.

L. W. Rakes visited us Thursday afternoon and talked to us on many interesting subjects which we gratefully enjoyed.

R. H. S.

We are sorry we are unable to practice with Wasco, for we need it greatly, according to our tally scores with Moro in the last two games.



PERHAPS SHE DID
Reggie: Do you like boneless fish, Miss Sharpe?
Miss S.: I don't think I have ever shown you any unfriendliness, Mr. Sapp.

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In the concrete, fully equipped, roomy garage of Walther-Williams Company. Competent workmen always ready to help you in any way they can at least expense to you. For any service rendered the charge will always be reasonable.

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Of course, Moro Confectionery Candies need no introduction for their quality is ever the best. Valentine's Day calls for the perfect love token—and a delightful message sweetened by Moro Confectionery Candies convey the most thoughtful message of the heart.

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