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U. S. RAILROAD ADMINISTRATION

By John Snure.

Washington, May 26.—The shadow of another enormous increase in railroad rates hangs over the public. Consumers already overburdened by taxes and the high cost of living, are confronted with the necessity of making a contribution in one form or another to meet the huge deficit which the Railroad Administration has succeeded in bringing upon the railroads of the United States.

A recent statement of Director General of Railroads Walker D. Hines, relative to the financial condition of the roads discloses that in 1918 the net deficit through operation was \$225,000,000. The deficit for 1919 promises to be far greater. For the first three months of the year, the railroads ran behind to the extent of \$192,000,000. If this rate of net loss to the government were to be kept up throughout the year the total loss for the twelve month period would be \$768,000,000, or a little more than three quarters of a billion. While it is not expected it will be that large, it will nevertheless reach a heavy total.

Thus far Mr. Hines has not announced that higher rates will be demanded. There is no escape, however, from the fact that an enormous deficit is being created and that the public, in one way or another, is going to have to meet it. It will either have to be met by increasing railroad rates or by the Treasury paying the amount of shortage and then collecting it out of the public, either through bonds or taxes or both. Whatever method is chosen, the average citizen will have to pay the fiddler.

"Jones Pays the Freight."

In all probability it will be found impossible, or at least impracticable, to keep on piling up the deficit, to meet it simply by paying the money out of the Treasury and then to turn about and demand more public revenue. An increase in rates, at least in freight rates, and perhaps in passenger rates, appears therefore to be unavoidable.

This is no surprise to Senators and members of the House, to shippers and others who have been following the developments in railroad matters with close attention for months past. As a matter of fact predictions were made last winter that it would only be a short time until additional increases in rates would be sought. The best informed members of the Senate and House Interstate Commerce Committee have been predicting for months that rates would go higher, although onerous increases in freight and passenger rates were made some months ago.

The effects of this prospective increase in railroad rates are easily discernable. In the first place, testimony has been reaching Washington from every part of the United States for many months telling of deep-seated dissatisfaction on the part of the public with the manner in which the railroads are administered. The complaint extends both to service and to high rates.

Dissatisfaction May Become Bitter.

If, now, the rates are still further increased, as it is generally believed they must be, it is hardly necessary to point out the situation which will be produced. Little question exists that the widespread dissatisfaction which has prevailed for months will become so intense as to result in a storm of angry protest. Not only will shippers complain that they are unduly overburdened and seriously handicapped by all lines of business will share in the protest. The general public, which will find the prices of necessities still further enhanced, will not accept the increases in any kindly spirit.

Leaders in Congress have for some time been planning to endeavor to enact permanent railroad legislation at the extra session of Congress or, if this were found impossible, to get a measure so fully under way that it could be put on the statute books next winter. From all directions there arises evidences that the public wants the railroad question settled.

Present Crisis Was Forecast.

If, as expected, rates are still further increased the demand for action by the House and Senate will, of course, be intensified. Under the stress of growing public demand the House and Senate, without a doubt, will make a special effort to expedite the railroad measure and to put it through at the extra session if any way can be found to do it.

The spectacle presented by the

(Continued on Page Ten.)

Elks to Put on Big Stunt.

Heppner Lodge of Elks, who are sponsors for the drive for funds in this county being put on by the Salvation Army, will announce a big stunt in these columns next week. Look out for it and be assured that something is coming worth while. In the big drives last year for funds for the war work enterprises, the Elks raised among themselves from the lodges in this county, over \$6,000,000, and they promised to help the Salvation Army when they were ready to put on their campaign. They are asking this country now for \$13,000,000, and their drive will be on from June 22 to 30. The quota for Morrow county is \$1200, and the Heppner Lodge of Elks will take charge of putting the job over.

MEETING OF MORROW COUNTY FARM BUREAU

After an interruption of several months, due largely to the absence of a county agent, the Morrow County farm bureau resumed its regular sessions.

The Executive Committee met in the Agricultural Agent's office with County Agent L. A. Hunt to discuss various matters of interest to the farmers of Morrow county.

It was definitely decided to send a good delegation of farmers to visit Sherman county wheat farms and attend the farmers' picnic to be held at the Government Experiment Station at Moro, June 14th, where leading wheat farmers of Sherman county will discuss farm practices under their directions. The Bureau hopes that all of the farmers possible will avail themselves of this opportunity.

Upon motion of C. E. Jones it was decided to elect a committee of three to work with the County Agent and a committee from the Farmers' Union to arrange a farmers' picnic at some suitable place in Morrow county for about June 21st, at which time the farmers visiting Sherman county would report upon their trip. President Anderson, Oscar Keithley and C. E. Jones were accordingly elected.

It was the unanimously expressed opinion that the Farm Bureau get behind the County Fair and make it the greatest possible success, and that if possible at least one car load of registered stock be offered for sale at that time.

The County Agent was instructed to proceed with plans for a grain grading school and secure one for Morrow county if possible.

After some further discussion of the completion of the final organization of the Morrow County Farm Bureau this fall the meeting adjourned, to meet at the same place June 28th.

L. A. HUNT, County Agent.

County Agent to Cooperate.

The county agent wishes to announce that his office will endeavor to cooperate with the farmers in handling the labor situation as well as well done by Mr. Brown acting as county agent last year. He has several men listed now looking for work.

He hopes to arrange for permanent office help very shortly, so that his office will be open at all hours of the day.

R. L. Bengé and family will leave Heppner Sunday for the Willamette Valley, their destination being Salem at the present. Mrs. Bengé and the children will go by train and Mr. Bengé will drive through in his car. They do not expect to be located at any one place very long and will visit different points in the Valley and later go to the Coast for the summer and then on to California, where they may decide to remain for the winter. Mr. Bengé states that they will be back to Heppner again for he is not content to live anywhere else than Morrow county.

Some scarlet fever cases are reported in Heppner and the homes of R. J. Howard and Tom Boyd have been placed under quarantine. Jack is the only member of the Howard family to take down with the disease and he is now getting along all right. The young son of Mr. Boyd has gotten over the attack and Mr. Thornton, operator at the depot is now down with the disease at the Boyd home.

Miss Sibyl Caon departed for Portland Wednesday to join Miss Ocea B. Norris, formerly Miss Cason's teacher at Heppner, and together they will tour California and then take a trip across to Honolulu and enjoy the sights and pleasures of the Hawaiian Islands for a time, a goodly portion of the summer being spent in this recreation.



Memorial Day Services

Decoration day will be fittingly observed in Heppner tomorrow, May 30, services beginning at 10:00 a. m. at the Federated church. Francis A. McMennamin will deliver the memorial address and there will be suitable music. The committee having the arrangements in charge request that everybody bring flowers with them to the church, and after the service there will join in going to the cemetery, where the graves of all the soldier dead will be decorated. Those having autos are also requested to donate their machines for the trip to the cemetery, and business houses are asked to close from 9:30 until noon.

PROPOSED NEW HOSPITAL FOR HEPPNER

Public Please Take Notice

The establishment of a new and commodious hospital for Heppner is proposed, and the idea is meeting with enthusiastic support as far as those who have been approached on the subject are concerned. In order to get this proposition fully before the people, a meeting is called to be held at the Fair Pavilion on next Tuesday at 2:00 p. m., and the people of Morrow county are invited to be present. At this meeting addresses will be made by leading speakers, and the putting up of a first class hospital at Heppner will be fully discussed and such further steps taken as will be necessary to get the matter under way.

The need of such an institution in this city is recognized by all. Do not fail to attend the meeting Tuesday afternoon and get in touch with this forward movement.

The baccalaureate address to the lone High school graduating class will be given on Sunday evening, June 1st in the Congregational church. Dr. H. L. Bates of Forest Grove will be the speaker. The graduates of lone High this year are Eldred Corson, Joseph Lowell, Chas. Cochran and Edison Morgan.

NEW SLOGAN IS "KEEP THE DOLLARS GROWING"

Savings Divisions, United States Treasury Department, wishes to thank the boys and girls who carried home the April Fifteenth and May Fifteenth Treasury message and the re-investment of Liberty Bond interest in War Savings Stamps. Here is the new message for the school and home: "June Fifteenth is again pay-day in U. S. A. Thirty-six million six hundred fifty eight dollars in interest on the first Liberty Loan will be paid bond holders. These interest coupons can be exchanged at post-offices or banks for War Savings Stamps."

This pay-day is, "Keep the Dollars Growing." We ask the young people of the schools to make a poster to illustrate this slogan and show the homes of America with posters and slogans.

The poster may be a simple drawing showing the planting of the dollar tree or, better still, it may be a bright idea all your own. It may be drawn, painted or made of cut outs. The slogan should appear on it in large lettering and also the June Fifteenth message above.

C. S. JACKSON, State Director.

Meet me at the Races Comdon June 11, 12, 13 and 14.



SELECT PICTURES

Eight Grade Examinations.

We are requested to announce that the Eighth Grade examinations will take place in the various districts of the county on the 12th and 13th of June. Supt. Shurte also calls attention to the fact that it is the duty of the chairman of each school board in the districts holding the examination, to preside, and also to appoint a competent person to conduct the examination.

Adam Knoblock is confined at the Heppner Sanitarium just at present, suffering a slight attack of pneumonia.

HEPPNER HIGH GRADUATES LARGE CLASS

Heppner High School awarded diplomas to the largest class in its history on last Friday evening, when 22 of our young people received this evidence that they had acquired the necessary markings to entitle them to this honor at the hands of the school board and faculty.

Three of the number, Edgar Copenhaver, Paul Gemmill and Troy L. McCraw, because of their enlistment in the United States Navy, were allowed to make their graduation and received their diplomas, though McCraw and Copenhaver are yet in the service.

The commencement exercises were carried out in accordance with the program, and the principal feature was the address to the class by President Carl Doney of Willamette University. Dr. Doney makes no pretensions of being in the class of noted orators, yet he has a style of delivery and a command of language that makes him a very fascinating speaker. He announced to the people that he had no set subject on which to talk and therefore would not be circumscribed in his remarks, and then proceeded with an address that was full to the brim with the best of advice and wholesome instruction to the graduates, not overlooking to say a lot that was greatly appreciated by the entire audience.

The presentation of diplomas was made by Hon. C. E. Woodson member of the school board, who handled his part well, and then Miss Ruth VanVactor, president of the venter class, in a choice little speech presented to the high school a beautiful painting of Multnomah Falls that will occupy a prominent place in the auditorium hereafter. Good music, both instrumental and vocal, interspersed the program, and the chorus singing by the pupils was greatly appreciated. The entire program was in harmony with the occasion and was fittingly closed by the class receiving the hearty congratulations of the entire audience.

Those receiving their diplomas were: Edgar Copenhaver, Paul M. Gemmill, Nean Nancy Hampton, Lorraine C. Groshens, Helen E. Barratt, Cecile E. DeVore, Jeannette Noyes, Cordie E. Stevens, Alma G. Akers, Annie C. McDevitt, Ethel Copenhaver, Loye L. DeVore, Detha E. Devin, Opal Hall, Lola June Hayes, Edward A. Crawford, Emory Gentry, Jasper V. Crawford, Ruth VanVactor, Tary L. McCraw, Sibyl Lorena Cason, and Dale Watkins.

Engineers Report Arrives.

The report of Burns & McDonald, civil engineers of Kansas City, who were employed several months ago to make a survey and report on the plant of the Heppner Light & Water Co., and also on the feasibility of constructing a gravity system of water works and bringing the supply from the mountains, having handed in their report to the city council. The report arrived on Tuesday and was gone over by the mayor and council. It is very complete in every detail and contains a full inventory of the water plant, as well as numerous drawings, diagrams and photographs.

Estimates are complete on the costs of installing a gravity system of water from the mountains, with the exception of the survey desired by the city covering the taking of water from Ditch creek and turning into Willow ditch a sufficient supply to care for what the city would use from the latter stream on account of the city supply taken therefrom. The engineer of the company is now making his survey of this and the report will come a little later.

The city council is well pleased with the report, so we are informed, and they now express the opinion that all adjustments between the city and Mr. Gates should be promptly made and everything put in shape at an early date for securing the new water system. It looks very favorable to the council at this time, and they hope to be able to get everything moving in that direction so that by the coming spring, at the farthest, work may be commenced.

OREGON SHOULD CONTINUE TO LEAD

By B. L. Eddy.

Oregon has a great opportunity in the election on June 3 to keep in the first rank of forward moving states.

The reconstruction measures in the ballot are worthy of support. They mean safe guarding the future and providing for the steady employment of labor. They mean the creation of new taxable wealth and not the raising of taxation.

Oregon has kept in the first rank of patriotic states. The reconstruction measures were placed on the ballot at the request of the statesmen of the nation and after careful consideration by the legislature.

The \$5,000,000 reconstruction bonding bill provides:

1. \$2,000,000 for reclamation of arid, swamp and logged off lands, provided the Federal Government allots Oregon an equal amount. This money will be spent in development of Oregon. The expenditure of \$4,000,000 will create at least \$20,000,000 of new taxable wealth. It will create new values to help bear taxation instead of raising taxes, since every dollar, principal and interest will be repaid by the settlers. Soldiers, sailors and marines will be given preferential rights under Secretary of the Interior Lane's bill. The purpose of the constitutional amendment and the accompanying measure is to enable Oregon to get its share of the Federal appropriation if the Lane bill passes.

2. \$647,500 for the Land Settlement Commission. This money will be spent in developing new farm homes in all parts of the state which will be sold to settlers, the primary idea being to provide farms for returning soldiers. These will not be given away but will be paid for on long time, both principal and interest.

3. \$2,352,000 for much needed public buildings throughout the state, not to exceed the following: New penitentiary.....\$500,000 Reconstruction hospital..... 350,000 Oregon Agricultural College buildings..... 500,000 University of Oregon buildings..... 500,000 State Normal School..... 100,000 State Insane Hospital..... 150,000 Armories..... 207,500 State Soldiers Home..... 25,000 State Institute of Feeble Minded..... 20,000

The Governor and State Board of Control have promised that these buildings will not be erected when a labor shortage exists, and that the money will be expended only when conditions as to unemployment exist, making it advisable to proceed with the work in order to give employment to labor.

Thus it will be seen that \$2,647,500 of the proposed fund is a permanent investment fund to be repaid with principal and interest and that the proposed building depends upon the necessity arising for employing surplus labor.

The six per cent indebtedness for permanent roads amendment will permit Oregon counties to go ahead with their road building programs. It is a local option measure. Counties will be able to vote road building bonds up to six per cent of their assessed valuations.

The industrial and reconstruction hospital amendment will permit the location of the proposed reconstruction hospital at Portland.

The state bond payment of irrigation and drainage interest for the period of five years is designed to make irrigation and drainage district bonds salable at par instead of at various discounts. The state will be protected with liens on the land benefited. This measure will mean the investment of over \$20,000,000 in Oregon within the next five years. The state assures the payment of the interest on the settlers notes for five years enabling them to borrow money at better terms. The principal is not guaranteed. This measure means development and the creation of more farm homes and additional taxable property.

The Roosevelt Coast Military Highway bill provides \$2,500,000 for a state and national highway along the Coast, provided the Federal Government appropriates \$2,500,000. This highway also means the opening up of a large territory to development and taxation. No money would be spent unless the state appropriation was matched by the Federal Government. The building of this highway would be equivalent to building another railroad in the state of Oregon.

The soldiers, sailors and marines

(Continued on Page Ten.)