

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION GRANTS EASTERN RAILROADS INCREASE IN FREIGHT RATES

THIRTY MILLIONS INCREASE IN ANNUAL INCOME GRANTED LINES EAST OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Commission Makes Decision Upon Showing of Railroads That They Are Now Confronted With Emergency Due to European War—Permission Granted Does Not Waive Any of the Requirements of the Commission's Published Rules Relative to the Construction and Filing of Tariff Publications—Dissenting Opinion by Harlan and Clements.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Increases in freight rates, approximating 5 per cent on all the railroads between the Atlantic seaboard and the Mississippi, north of the Potomac and Ohio rivers, were granted today by the interstate commerce commission in a divided opinion, excepting upon certain heavy commodities, which comprise a large bulk of the traffic.

The increases will further apply to the railroads west of Buffalo and Pittsburg, which were granted partial advances in the decision of last August, which denied them altogether to the roads east of those points. It is estimated that advanced rates will increase the annual income of the roads about \$30,000,000.

Due to Effort of War

The commission made its decision upon the showing of the railroads that in addition to conditions from which they previously asked relief, they now are confronted with an emergency because of the war in Europe.

With Commissioners Harlan and Clements dissenting, the majority of the commission declared:

"Whatever the consequences of the war may prove to be, we must recognize the fact that it exists; the fact that it is a calamity without precedent, and the fact that by it the commerce of the world has been disarranged and thrown into confusion. The means of transportation are fundamental and indispensable agencies in our industrial life and for the common weal should be kept abreast of public requirements."

Summarizing the basis of its decision, the majority report of the commission said:

Contributing Facts

"The facts disclosed and occurrences originating subsequent to May 29, 1914, as presented at the further hearing may be summarized under three heads: First, completed returns for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, and returns for succeeding months; second, the war in Europe, and third, results of the original order.

"When these cases were originally submitted, as also when the original report was prepared, the revenue and expenditure account for June, 1914, and the property investment account for that fiscal year, were not available, the war was unforeseen and the results of our order were, of course, yet to come. Collectively, they present a new situation."

Order of Commission

The commission issued this order: "It is ordered that respondents herein be, and they are hereby authorized to publish and file, by not

less than ten days' notice to the interstate commerce commission and to the general public in the manner prescribed in section 6 of the act to regulate commerce, schedules of rates which don't exceed the limits or transgress the limitations, stated and prescribed in said report.

"It is further ordered that the permission hereby granted does not waive any of the requirements of the commission's published rules relative to the construction and filing of tariff publications nor any of the provisions of the act to regulate commerce, as amended, except as to the notice to be given."

Exceptions Allowed

The carriers are permitted to make the applied for advances in rates except the rail, lake and rail, lake and rail and lake traffic; rates on bituminous coal and coke; rates on anthracite coal and iron ore and rates that are held by unexpired orders of the commission.

After further consideration the commission permits advances to be made on cement, brick, clay and plaster. On these commodities no advances were permitted in the decision of August.

The application of the eastern roads for rehearing of the rate case was made on September 15 last, on the ground that the European war and other stated reasons had materially changed conditions since the previous decision was given.

History of Case

The petition for a rehearing stated that it was made in behalf of 112 railroad companies, comprising thirty-five railroad systems in "official classification territory." It set forth that since the commission's previous decision "facts and circumstances have arisen," warranting a rehearing on the subjects. Specifically it was stated that since the previous decision the complete income accounts for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1914, had become available.

"The unforeseen European war," the petition went on to say, "has brought about an unparalleled destruction of wealth and dislocation of credit throughout the civilized world. It is certain that the competition for capital will be keener and interest rates higher for some years to come than in any corresponding period within living memory. The emergency thus resulting is extremely serious."

Necessity Recognized

The decision says: "While we differ as to the relative importance to be attached to the various

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ALLIES FORCING GERMAN LINES SLOWLY, SURELY

Victories Here and There Along Line Claimed by French—German War Office Denies Further Ground Won by Allies—Germans Claim Destruction of Two Destroyers.

LONDON, Dec. 18.—The German armies which invaded France and Belgium are said by the allies to be yielding slowly but steadily. Today's official French statement, like its predecessors, reports victories here and there along the battle lines. It is stated that the allies have made a further advance in Belgium, although the report that they had captured Westende, near Nieuport, on the Belgian coast, was not confirmed. Several German trenches have been taken, it is stated, although the admission is made that the Germans blew up a French trench in the Argonne.

The German war office denies that further ground has been won by the allies. It stated that French attacks had been repulsed and that in the Argonne 7500 prisoners were captured.

The German statement adds little to its announcement of yesterday that a great victory had been gained over the Russians. It is said merely that the retreating Russians are being pursued.

Emden Crew Taken

The last of the venturesome crew which sailed on the German cruiser Emden have been captured by a British warship. About forty of the Germans who escaped on Cocos Island when the Emden was destroyed by the Australian cruiser Sydney, set sail in a schooner. They were reported to have seized a collier with the idea of resuming sea raiding.

Bombardment by a British squadron of Turkish fortifications in the Gulf of Saros, north of the Dardanelles is said at Athens to have routed the Turks and inflicted heavy damage.

Dispatches from Nish assert that enormous losses were inflicted on the Austrians in their recent defeat by the Serbians. It is said that "innumerable" bodies lie unburied along the line of retreat of the Austrians.

The German squadron which attacked the eastern coast of England, caused the death of about one hundred persons, is said in Berlin to have sunk two British destroyers and damaged badly a third. The British admiralty states that two warships were struck by German shells and that five men were killed and fifteen wounded, but makes no mention of the loss of any vessels.

Kaiser Improving

Emperor William is said to have improved in health sufficiently to permit of his return to the front next week. The British South African forces soon are to undertake a campaign against the neighboring German possessions. Premier Botha considers the rebellion in the Union of South Africa has been crushed definitely.

DEAD MAN FREED BY CONVICT ORDER ONLY FOUR KILLED IN NAVAL FIGHT

OLYMPIA, Wa., Dec. 18.—The state supreme court today set aside the conviction of the late Jacob Furth, chairman of the board of directors of the Seattle National Bank, in the superior court of Whatcom county, on the charge of aiding and abetting W. E. Schrieker, a banker of Laconner, Washington, to receive deposits when the latter's bank was about to fail. Furth was sentenced to pay a fine of \$10,000 and costs, Superior Judge Hardin of Bellingham, saying that on account of Furth's age he would not impose a prison sentence. The supreme court opinion, written by Justice Gose, held that the death of Furth several months ago in itself dismissed the case. The court reversed the verdict also on the ground that Furth was not owner, officer, agent or employe of the Laconner bank and therefore not liable.

BRITISH SEIZE EGYPT, SUDAN FROM TURKEY

Annexation of 14,000,000 Turkish Subjects and Over Million Square Miles Announced—Both Germans and Russians Claim Victory in Poland—Austrians Claim Victory.

PARIS, Dec. 18.—It is reliably reported here today that Great Britain will tomorrow give the Egyptians a new khedive in the person of Huss Ein Kemal, recently said to have been made governor general of Egypt.

CAIRO, Egypt, Dec. 18, via London, 5:30 p. m.—A British protectorate was formally proclaimed throughout Egypt today. In all garrison towns a salute of 101 guns was fired and the Union Jack hoisted.

Egypt has been placed under the protection of the King of England as the result of the state of war arising from the actions of Turkey. This announcement was made in London last night. The suzerainty of Turkey over Egypt is thus terminated and the British government is obligated to adopt all measures necessary for the defense of Egypt and the safety of its inhabitants and interests. Sir Arthur Henry McMahon has been appointed King Georges high commissioner for Egypt.

Egypt, while nominally firming part of the Turkish empire has in the past been virtually a dependency of England. The Khedive of Egypt, Abbas Hilmi, has sided with Turkey and now is said to be in conference at Vienna with Austrian authorities.

LONDON, Dec. 18, 12:18 p. m.—Again the Germans and the Austrians seem to be on the crest of a wave of battle as the interminable struggle in the east continues. Again Berlin is gay with flags and again Petrograd declines to concede victory to the invaders. Berlin and Vienna contend, however, that the Russians are falling back along the entire front from the Baltic to the Carpathians, with the invading center less than thirty miles from Warsaw.

Austrians Win Galicia

To the south, where a few weeks ago Russians were pouring over the Carpathians into Hungary, combined Austro-German columns have now forced them back through the passes and it is asserted have advanced two thirds of the way across Galicia and are nearing the fortress of Lemberg, occupied by the Russians early in the Galician campaign.

The Russian official announcement admits none of this. They dismiss the happenings in Galicia as engagements of no importance and class the operations to the west of Warsaw in the same category. It is claimed, however, that the extreme Russian right near Miawa has thrust

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New Year's Issue

The Mail Tribune's annual New Year's issue will be finer than ever this year. Special attention will be paid to the tourist attractions of southern Oregon, including the scenic beauties, world wonders and paved highways. The issue will be better illustrated than any of our previous New Year's issues—and that is going some. It is necessary to know in advance how many papers will be required, so place your order now. Last year the issue comprised thirty-eight pages and exceeded 10,000 copies. Help make the edition 15,000 this year. Price 5 cents per issue. Mailed to any address by the office for 10 cents.

JINGO SHRIEKS NAVY GOOD FOR COLD STORAGE

Representative Gardner Declares Warships Obsolete, Airships Useless, Submarines paltry, Few Ships Worth Anything and Those Thousands of Men Short.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Representative Gardner was the principal witness today before the house naval committee. He read a statement in support of his proposal for investigation of the national defenses by a special commission.

"I am here to ask you to appropriate for the full number of new ships recommended by the general naval board for this year's construction," he said. "I am sorry to say that Secretary Daniels in his recommendation to congress has cut the naval board's building program for this year almost exactly in two.

"Out of thirty completed battleships, do you know that twelve of them are unavailable without a long delay on account of our refusal to pay the bills for manning them?"

Eighty Ships Useless

"If we had gone to war with the rest of the first-class powers early in August, do you realize that no less than nine of our battleships would not have been ready to fight? We have fifteen cruisers, twenty-two destroyers, eighteen torpedo boats, five submarines and perhaps a dozen miscellaneous fighting ships kept in cold storage with the battleships. Eighty fighting vessels of our modest navy are not available for battle in an emergency.

"I charge that our navy is 18,000 men short and a further shortage of 40,000 men is in sight. The general board, which has actually made our war plans, estimates the enlisted force of the navy as between 30,000 and 50,000 men short for war.

Isn't It Awful

"You know that we have fifty-six submarines in all, built and building, good, bad and indifferent. Now comes Secretary Daniels and in a few soothing words recommends submarines to the paltry number of eight or so.

"We have just a dozen aeroplanes in the navy. Last year the aeroplane board recommended an appropriation of \$1,300,000. Instead of that sum, according to Captain Bristol, we let the aviation service spend only \$350,000 or \$400,000. The general naval board in its current report says that we must spend \$50,000,000 on aircraft."

AMSTERDAM, via London, Dec. 18, 8:50 a. m.—According to the Telegraf, Emperor William, who has been detained in Berlin for some time because of illness, will return to the front this week.

The emperor, the dispatch says, has just conferred the decoration of the iron cross, first class, on Chancellor von Bethmann-Hollweg.

GAME WARDEN A. S. HUBBARD MURDERED BY LORIS MARTIN IN ATTEMPTING LATTER'S ARREST

Notorious Poacher, Who Has for Years Defied Wardens, Kills Hubbard With Rifle at Close Range When Latter Attempts to Arrest Him After Search of Cabin Discloses Deer Meat—Only Witness Is Constable Irwin of Ashland, Who Flees Scene, So Badly Scared That He Refused to Return—Body of Slain Officer Left in Forest All Night.

Loris Martin, notorious game poacher, and for years defiant of game laws, slayer of Game Warden A. S. Hubbard, at his cabin nine miles east of Trail Thursday afternoon, is in the county jail, and the body of his victim lies where it fell awaiting the arrival of Coroner A. E. Kellogg of Gold Hill, en route to the scene.

Martin was brought to the county jail Friday afternoon, and has requested that Evan Reames act as his attorney, and will make a plea of self defense.

Martin surrendered to Sheriff Singler this morning, after spending the night at the home of his sister, Mrs. C. T. Skyrman.

The only eye witness to the tragedy was Constable Al Irwin of Ashland, who accompanied Hubbard on the fatal trip and who was paralyzed with fear after the encounter.

Shot at Close Range

According to Irwin's story to Sheriff Singler, Irwin and Hubbard reached the Martin cabin about noon Thursday, for which they had search warrants. Searching the cabin they found two hams of deer, and were on their way from the cabin when they met Martin coming out of the heavy timber, where he had been attending to traps. The following exchange of words followed, Irwin and Hubbard being on horseback:

"Hello, Hubbard," said Martin.

"Hello, Martin," Hubbard replied.

"What the h—l are you doing here?" came the response.

With these words, according to Irwin's account to Sheriff Singler, Hubbard dismounted, and walked towards Martin, the affair occurring in a clearing.

As the game warden advanced, Martin shouted:

"Don't come any further or I'll shoot."

Shot Within Six Feet

Hubbard in the performance of his duty, continued, and when within six feet of Martin, the latter fired with his rifle, the bullet striking in the middle of the breast, causing instant death. Irwin from his horse witnessed this drama, and says that just before the fatal shot, shouted to Hubbard to stop.

When Sheriff Singler arrived Thursday night at 9:30 o'clock at the scene of the shooting, he found Hubbard lying in the ground where he fell, with his gun on the ground

nearby, and the glove of the right hand off.

After the shooting Irwin, according to Sheriff Singler, told Martin not to shoot him, and telling the murderer to look after the body, left for help. Sheriff Singler and Deputy Wilson met Irwin at Trail Thursday evening, and asked him to return with them, which he refused to do, saying he was tired and the horses had no feed. Constable Irwin was greatly excited by the shooting, and refused to return to the scene.

Sheriff Reaches Scene

Sheriff Singler and Deputy Wilson proceeded to the scene of the crime, and spent the night guarding the body of Hubbard, expecting the arrival of the coroner and the return of Martin, who after staying with the dead man until mid-afternoon left. The dead official this morning was still lying on the lonely hillside, everything untouched, waiting for the coming of the coroner.

This morning Singler and Deputy Wilson left, the murder spot, and went to the home of the mother of Martin, asking for her son. She said she did not know his whereabouts. The two officials then proceeded down the trail, and about seven miles from his cabin met the slayer with rifle in hand.

"Is this Sheriff Singler?" was Martin's first words.

Surrenders to Sheriff

"I guess you are looking for me, and here is my gun," he continued, handing over the weapon with which he snuffed out a human. Martin told his captors it was loaded, and that it had better be unloaded. The authorities then went to their auto, and with the prisoner rushed to this city.

Martin was seen in the county jail this afternoon, thirty minutes after his arrival. He was standing by the jail stove watching a white man and negro playing "coon can." He is uneducated and a specimen of the class holding that personal right supercedes all law. He is a short, thin man with gray eyes and a week's growth of reddish stubble on his face. He wore a pair of striped trousers and black coat and a new flannel shirt. He has an unusually large nose and hand, and gold fillings in his teeth that give him a striking appearance.

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SCOTT TO REQUEST MEXICAN GENTS TO MOVE WAR

CHICAGO, Dec. 18.—Major General Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff, United States army, is making his hurried trip to Naco, to "ask the gentlemen in Mexico to move their war a little farther south, so it will not annoy the Americans there."

FIGHTING ALONG BELGIAN FRONT STILL INDECISIVE

BERLIN, Dec. 18, via London, 4:45 p. m.—The German war office this afternoon gave out an official statement as follows: "The fighting in Nieuport continues favorable, but no decision yet has been reached. "The French attacks between La Bassée and Arras and on both sides of the River Somme have resulted in failure with severe losses to the enemy. On the Somme the French lost 1200 men in prisoners and at least 1800 in dead; our own losses were two hundred. "In the Argonne forest our successful attack resulted in the capture of some 7500 prisoners in addition to war material. There have been no important developments elsewhere on the western front. "On the frontiers of East and West Prussia the situation is unchanged. "In Poland we continue to pursue the retreating enemy."

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VILLA DEFEATS CARRANZA ARMY AT PUEBLA CITY

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 17, via El Paso, Tex., Dec. 18.—Details of the fall of the city of Puebla were received here today. It was said that after evacuating the place the Carranza forces made a stand to the north, where they were defeated, losing many men. The Carranza troops retreated in disorder toward the Interoceanic railroad, with the evident intention of making their way toward Vera Cruz. The retreating forces boarded freight and passenger trains. The oil tanks in the vicinity were emptied and set on fire. Generals Zapata, Arguemedo and Almazan were in command of the Villa troops. They placed their losses at fifty killed and wounded.