

ESPEE MERGER IS FAVORED IF HILL LINES CONSOLIDATE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 3.—The Southern Pacific and Union Pacific systems should be consolidated if the old Hill rail lines in the northwest are united as proposed to the interstate commerce commission by Hale Holden, president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy. Judge Robert S. Lovett, chairman of the Union Pacific declared at a hearing on consolidations held here today before Henry C. Hall, a member of the commission.

Judge Lovett declared that the consolidation of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington as proposed by Mr. Holden in his "four system" plan for consolidating western railroads, would set up a system far overshadowing the competitors provided by that project. There was an apparent recognition of this, he declared, in the plans on "jumbling" of other lines with the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific in order that there should be other systems equal in mileage and investment to the Hill combination, however unequal in solidarity.

Criticizing the Holden plan in detail, he asserted it sent both the Union Pacific and Southern Pacific "far afield into territories where they have never been and where there is apparently no reason for them to go." And added "the Hill lines are treated very conservatively in this respect."

Judge Holden said the Holden plan weakened the old Harriman lines by loading them down with lines for which they had no natural affiliation and by making them competitors of their natural allies.

The Union Pacific head also disagreed with Mr. Holden's view that each Pacific coast road should have a line extending to the Gulf of Mexico, asserting that the east and west traffic was the important and controlling factor with transcontinental lines and that the Holden plan would

disarrange long existing export grain arrangements through Atlantic ports by favoring Gulf ports.

On the general matter of consolidation Judge Lovett said the commission's own plan, providing for seven systems instead of the four proposed by Mr. Holden, should be departed from only with great caution. He stated that the attitude of his organization as acceptance of the principal of consolidation as a government policy added: "It is our purpose to cooperate to the greatest extent we can consistently with what we regard as our duty to our stockholders and employees and the communities and traffic we serve."

Judge Lovett said conditions imposed by the commission on the Southern Pacific application for permission to retain control of the Central Pacific protected his road with reasonable adequacy and that he had no objection to the Southern Pacific continuing in control under them.

Judge Lovett declared the Holden plan was kinder to the Atchafalaya, Topeka and Santa Fe system than to his own, by giving it connections into the St. Paul region and the Spokane region now relied upon by the Union Pacific for traffic and by turning over to the Santa Fe the Chicago and Northwestern, which he said was a principal gateway for westbound traffic out of Chicago in competition with the Santa Fe itself.

Judge Lovett made it plain that he had no objection to the commission's authorizing a consolidation of the Hill lines, but insisted that if this were done the commission should also authorize the reconstitution of the Harriman group to meet the strong combination that would be effected by the Hill consolidation. He said the Holden plan would also run counter to the legislation under which the Union Pacific and Central Pacific were constructed as one continuous line by assigning the Southern Pacific a half interest in the Denver and Rio Grande Western and Denver and Salt Lake, which with other conditions would make it to the interest of the proposed Southern Pacific group to tear down instead of build up the Ogden route of the Union and Central Pacific.

He continued: "The Union Pacific is sent down into Tennessee, Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Arkansas and Oklahoma with lines to New Orleans, Laredo on the Mexican border, and to El Paso and again into Northern Michigan. The Hill lines' only new territory is from Fort Worth to Houston, Texas and over the Kansas City Southern and another short line to New Orleans."

Judge Lovett said Mr. Holden's substitution of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul for the Chicago and Northwestern for consolidation with the Union Pacific would not only disrupt existing channels of trade, but would lessen competition because the St. Paul road is the competitor of the Union Pacific while the Northwestern is a connection.

Summarizing this portion of his testimony, Judge Lovett said:

"The consolidation of the Hill lines with their subsidiaries into a single system would so far overshadow its competitors and any other railroad system proposed in the United States in size and financial strength and possibilities that one might infer a desire to meet this objection had something to do with the jumbling of the International and Great Northern, Texas and Pacific and St. Louis-San Francisco systems with the Union Pacific and of Missouri Pacific, Toledo, Peoria and Western and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas and various other lines with the Southern Pacific, in order that there should be other systems equal in mileage and investment to the Hill combination, however unequal in financial strength, solidarity and prospects and in traffic and operating relationships."

Judge Lovett praised the manner in which Professor Ripley (Harvard economist who aided the commission in formulating its plan) had worked out a scheme for consolidation of American railroads. He said, he doubted whether railroad men themselves could have formulated a plan so fair and workable.

Judge Lovett opposed the suggestion that all lines in western territory should be consolidated into four systems.

BULGARIANS FEEL GREEK WRATH

SOFIA, Bulgaria, April 3.—(By the Associated Press.)—A new reign of terror exists in western Thrace, where the Greek army is driving out the Bulgarian population, it is asserted in statements issued by the Bulgarian government, which has sent a note of protest to the allies. The note claims protection for the minority population of the district under the terms of the treaty of Neuilly—the Bulgarian peace treaty.

PUGILIST SLAIN BY GIRLS' KIN

MEMPHIS, Tenn., April 3.—Frank Jones, 23, who is in jail here charged with murder in connection with the killing yesterday of "Keystone Jack" Britton, middleweight boxer, told officers he had sought Britton continuously since Friday when his 17-year-old sister told him that the pugilist had wronged her, until he fired two loads from a shotgun into the man's body, when he drove up to their home yesterday.

The stories told officers by young Jones and his sister were similar, but the authorities have ordered a full investigation of all facts connected with the case, which may furnish more light.

Britton was regarded as only a second rate boxer here.

JURY TAMPERING IN BOOZE CASE

PHILADELPHIA, April 3.—Because of alleged tampering with the foreman, Judge J. Whitaker Thompson in the United States district court today discharged the jury trying the case of 29 men charged with conspiracy illegally with law and sell liquor. Terrance O'Loughlin, the foreman, was held in \$5,000 bail on a charge of contempt of court. He will have a hearing Thursday. Judge Thompson directed that a new panel be assembled April 23.

REPUBLICANS WIN IN MICHIGAN

DETROIT, Mich., April 3.—Republican voters of Michigan "swung back into line," Burt D. Cady, chairman of the state republican central committee declared today in discussing yesterday's election in which the entire republican ticket of minor state officials was victorious.

The republican candidates for state offices early today continued to lead their democratic opponents by approximately three to one.

PORTLAND PHYSICIAN TO EXPLORE PACIFIC

SEATTLE, April 3.—To carry out a lifelong ambition to go adventuring in command of his own vessel, Dr. Robert H. Ellis, a Portland physician, was to leave here this morning on the Admiral Oriental liner President Jefferson.

Dr. Ellis is taking with him a party. They are to go cruising in out-of-the-way places of the Orient on a boat 104 feet long that he has bought and that is waiting for them at Hong Kong. He expects to navigate her to Java and Formosa and then across the Pacific ocean into the Columbia river. Next year he plans to explore the coasts of Mexico and Alaska in his craft.

NEW HOCH RECIPE INVENTED BY INDIANS

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Certain Indian tribes have evolved a recipe for "hoch" which would be invaluable to the urban bootlegger, according to reports filed in the interior department. Manufactured from the dried flowers of a cactus plant which grows profusely in most western states, the beverage known as peyote is declared to have the kick of triple distilled moonshine.

News Summary of Last Night

NEW YORK—Fear and suspicion, to be removed only by some form of an association of nations, are the forces between France and Germany preventing the settlement of the reparations problem, Lord Robert Cecil declared.

ESSEN—Two Germans wounded by French soldiers at the Krupp plant last Saturday died, bringing the total dead to 11.

MADRID—An unconfirmed rumor has it that the Spanish cabinet has resigned.

NEW YORK—Miss Cathleen Vanderbilt, granddaughter of the late Cornelius Vanderbilt, was announced to be engaged to Harry C. Cushing, III.

Innes Found Guilty.
ATLANTA, Ga., April 3.—Victor E. Innes was found guilty in United States district court here today on the charge of using the mails to defraud. He was sentenced to five years in the penitentiary and to pay a fine of \$1,000.

Turkey Goes Dry.
CONSTANTINOPLE, April 3.—The authorities put into effect today the prohibition order in response to instructions from Ankara.

CONFERENCE HELD IN COAL STRIKE

SEATTLE, April 3.—Preliminary plans were being made today for a conference to be held here tomorrow between Washington coal operators and officials of district ten, United Mine Workers of America, to negotiate a new wage agreement to apply in the unionized field of the Roalyn-Cle Elum district and at Tono in Thurston county. Miners of the field quit work Saturday midnight at the expiration of a temporary agreement signed last summer.

Martin J. Flyzik, district president of the miners' union, and John H. Wallace, commissioner for the Washington coal operators' association, will participate in tomorrow's conference. Both appeared recently before the coal fact-finding commission in Washington, D. C., and were told that any settlement reached must be local in this district.

Both operators and miners' representatives reiterated today their opinion that a settlement would be reached shortly.

'LOST' SOLDIER OF YAKIMA LOST

YAKIMA, Wash., April 3.—No trace has been found of Harry Gorman, the "lost" veteran who has been enjoying Yakima's hospitality for the past week and who yesterday went A. W. O. L. Descriptions have been sent to police officers in the towns between Yakima and Spokane, as it is believed he will try to beat his way to the latter city. He had no money with him at the time he evaded the Red Cross official who was with him while he was trying to put through a telephone call to an assumed uncle. For six days the man insisted he could not remember his name.

ANTI-TRUST LAW TO BE ENFORCED

SPOKANE, April 3.—Possibility of federal anti-trust law prosecutions in eastern Washington was indicated today by United States District Attorney Frank Jeffrey, who said he had conferred here yesterday with William E. Humphrey and Henry Guiler, special assistants to the attorney general in charge of anti-trust prosecutions.

Mr. Jeffrey said they had inquired into conditions and alleged violations of the anti-trust laws in this district with a view to federal action.

WHITMAN GRID STAR INJURED

LA GRANDE, Ore., April 3.—Earl Tilton of Spokane, a member of the Whitman football team, is recovering at the sanitarium at Hot Lake, Ore., from an operation for removal of shot from his right knee, following the accidental discharge of a gun in an automobile in which he was riding at Cove, 13 miles east of La Grande, Saturday. Tilton was spending his Easter vacation at Cove.

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