

Russia Said Outstripping U.S. Rails; Industry Seen in Precarious Position

By JAMES L. SILGALLEN
By United Press International
New York — (UPI) — The head of the nation's largest railroad pointed out today that Soviet Russia is building up its railroad system at a time when America's railroad industry is on the decline and in a precarious position.

James M. Symes, president of the Pennsylvania Railroad made this chilling statement in an exclusive interview with United Press International.

In the event of a national emergency this situation obviously would be of vital importance, he said.

"Really Going To Town"

Symes, a veteran of 42 years in the railroad industry and recognized as one of the country's most able transportation executives, said Russia is "really going to town" in expanding its railroad network and the tonnage handled over it.

"For example," Symes declared, "Russia in 1940 had 66,000 miles of railroad but by 1956 it had increased to 75,000 miles."

"On the other hand, the United States in 1940 had 234,000 miles and in 1956 this had fallen off to 240,000 miles of railroad."

"This contrast is illuminating and significant."

"If our railroad industry is in a precarious position, and it is, it follows that the country is, too — because the railroads are an absolute necessity to our future growing economy and defense protection."

Average Russian carloadings per day have been stepped up from 24,007 in 1928 to 169,400 in 1955.

"While we have been shrinking our mileage, Russia has been expanding theirs," said Symes. "They are not dumb."

"Take 1945. In that year 86 per cent of the ton miles (tonnage multiplied by miles hauled) were hauled by the railroads in Russia. And in 1955 it was 83 1/2 per cent."

"In 1945 in the United States it was 67 per cent of ton miles by rail. In 1956 the figure was only 49 per cent."

"Emphasizing the importance of our railroads in the national defense picture, Symes pointed out that in World War II the railroads hauled 90 per cent of the military material and 97 per cent of the military personnel movements."

This remarkable achievement, he said, resulted in an enormous saving in manpower and war materials.

For the purpose of illustration, Symes took as an example the moving of 100,000 tons of freight from New York to San Francisco.

"If done by rail," said Symes, "it can be done with 832,000 gallons of fuel oil. If it moves by highway it takes four times that amount. If it moves by waterway through the Panama Canal it takes five times that amount. And if it moves by airfreight takes 25 times that amount — in gallons of oil."

"I'm sure that if we had to call on the railroads to move men and material in World War II we'd have to do it again in the event of a similar national emergency."

"Moving such traffic by railroads would mean a tremendous saving in manpower and in the transportation of essential war material."

"For the railroads to move that 100,000 tons of material across the nation from New York to San Francisco, it would take 3,220 man days. If moved by highway 13 1/2 times that amount. If moved by water 3 1/2 times and if moved by air 11 1/2 times as long in man days."

"My contention is that the two most essential things in war time are manpower and fuel. It seems to me this is a situation which they (the government) should do something about so we could handle the job expeditiously and economically in the next war, if one comes."

Sums Up Problem

Symes said that never in his 42-year association with railroads has he seen the outlook for the American railroad industry as alarming as it is now.

A number of Eastern lines have been operating at little or no profit despite lay-offs of personnel in efforts to economize. On the Pennsylvania employment has been reduced by more than 11,000. The situation in the South and West is not as bad although he says "the makings of it are there."

The real railroad problem, according to Symes, can be stated in a dozen ways but basically "the trouble begins

Quotes From the News

By UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL

Washington—Chairman Francis E. Walter (D-Pa.) of the House Un-American Activities committee, accusing Cleveland industrialist Cyrus Eaton of trying "to usurp the powers of the State department" in his recent contacts with Russia: "I can't understand how any citizen has this right."

Cleveland, Ohio—Cyrus Eaton, contending that his activities toward world peace have been "in harmony" with President Eisenhower's call for America citizens to make contacts with people behind the Iron Curtain: "Any man who loves his country would be concerned with the danger of nuclear war and would take steps to prevent it."

Moscow—The Communist Party Central committee, lumping Georgi Malenkov and Vyacheslav Molotov with executed traitor Lavrenti Beria for having allegedly influenced Stalin against famous Russian composers: "As is well known, Molotov, Malenkov and Beria exercised extremely negative influence on Stalin in the decision of these questions."

Greencastle, Ind.—British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, calling for interdependence among nations of the world to fight Communism: "Interdependence is already a reality. In the field of defense it is becoming more and more effective."

Washington—Republican National Chairman Meade Allen, criticizing Democratic leaders in Congress for what he called their failure to back the president's anti-recession and other legislative programs: "In these times of national challenge, flexible and responsive cooperation is vital in the Congress. The 35 per cent support the President is getting from the Democrats this year just isn't enough."

81st Graduation Set for U. of O. Sunday, June 15

Eugene (Special) — The University will graduate its eighty-first senior class during commencement exercises here Sunday afternoon, June 15.

Nearly 1500 undergraduate and graduate students are candidates for degrees this year. Those who successfully complete the requirements will have them conferred at the open-air service on Hayward field at 2:30 p.m. President O. Meredith Wilson will deliver the main address, "Charge to the Graduates."

Sunday's Commencement exercises will climax a graduation weekend which opens Friday, June 13 with the Pauline Potter Homer memorial tea. Alumni day is Saturday, June 14. At this time the alumni luncheon, the senior breakfast, a special dedication service of a gift to the university, and the president's reception will be held. Saturday evening will feature reunion dinners.

Activities on Sunday start with the commissioning exercises held by the university's military department. The traditional flower and fern procession will be at 1 p.m., preceding commencement.

Candidates who are expected to receive degrees on Sunday include 1109 for baccalaureate degrees, 323 for masters degrees, 24 for doctor of philosophy degrees, 18 for doctor of education degrees, and 17 for professional law degrees.

Pacific Power Declares Quarterly Dividend

Portland — (UPI) — Pacific Power and Light company declared a quarterly dividend of 40 cents per share of common stock and the regular quarterly payments on the outstanding shares of preferred stock Friday, payable July 10 to stockholders of record June 30.

Payments on the preferred shares will range from \$1.13 per share to \$1.54.

by government — federal, state and local government — treating the railroad industry as if it were still the wealthy monopoly it was generations ago."

ROGUE RIVER Rooster Crow Event Set

By MRS. MYRTLE WHIPPLE
Rogue River—On June 21 the National Rooster Crowing contest will take place in the Community park, preceded by a parade at 10 a.m. The contest begins at 12 noon.

During the next 30 minutes the judges count the crows of each rooster. The record stands at 109 crows in 30 minutes. Rogue River Boosters sponsors the annual event.

Mrs. Glen Wood of Redway, Calif., who is family historian for the Jacob and Sarah Neathamer descendants has been visiting in Josephine and Jackson counties making preparations for the next family reunion which will be the first Saturday in August. While here Mrs. Wood visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Magerle, and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Smith left Friday morning for a motor trip into Montana, where they will visit Mr. Smith's mother and sister, and Mrs. Smith's brother and other relatives. The Smiths plan to be gone a month.

Mrs. Hattie Harris and granddaughter, Maxine Harris, of Lewiston, Ida., arrived Monday for a few week's visit with Mrs. Harris' sisters, Mrs. James Wiley and Mrs. Jim Whipple and husband.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Whipple received an invitation to attend the graduation of their great grandson, Robert Juola, a senior at Willamette High school at Eugene. Robert has received a \$900 tuition grant-in-aid at California Institute of Technology. He plans to enter this fall and major in mathematics. The graduation will be held June 12.

Dr. Edward Chance attended a national post-graduate convention on clinical endocrinology and treatment of metabolic disturbances. The convention was held at Dallas, Tex.

Mrs. Zorah Wiley returned May 25 from a visit of several weeks with her son, Clinton Wiley and family at McCloud, Calif.

Mr. and Mrs. Wiley motored up to bring her home, returning the same day.

Mrs. Earl Young and Mrs. Ed Lenderman both have re-

turned to their homes from a rest home in Medford. Mrs. Lenderman is recovering from a major operation.

Mrs. Myrtle Breeding of Brookings has been a visitor in this community, where she has two daughters, Mrs. Edna Shultz and Mrs. Morris Jones and families.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Collins are the new operators of the Riverside cafe on Highway 99 north. The former Los Angeles couple purchased the cafe and Wimer ranch from Walt Mose and Jerry Walker.

Recent visitors at the Lloyd Smith home were Mr. and Mrs. William Smith of Longview, Wash. While here they motored to Yreka, Calif.

Lt. and Mrs. David Hammett and son, Mark, of Dyess Air Force base, Abilene, Tex., spent his furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Orion Hammett and grandparents.

Morgan Denies Firm Immediate Increase

Salem — (UPI) — Public Utility Commissioner Howard Morgan has denied West Coast Telephone Company immediate rate relief.

Edward Graham, West Coast attorney, first asked that proposed \$825,000 increases be made effective immediately. Morgan denied this motion.

The company then moved for "interim partial rate increases" pending conclusion of further public hearings, but this move was also denied.

Morgan had earlier suspended the increases pending hearings on the matter.

The hearing was limited to company exhibits designed to show that the rate increase would be in the public interest.

Opponents of the increase will get a chance to protest later. Morgan said.

Northern Africa's Sahara desert is the largest arid region in the world.

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Mr. and Mrs. Carl Christenson of Highway 99 south.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Seaman, who have been visiting Mr. Seaman's sister, Mrs. Carl Magerle and husband, returned Thursday to Tacoma, Wash., to settle up their business there before returning to Medford, where they have purchased an apartment house. The Seamans were former Medford residents.

John Harr filled the pulpit at the Presbyterian church last Sunday in the absence of the Rev. Barnett, who was called to preach the sermon for the 70th anniversary of

the First Presbyterian church at El Monte, Calif. Mrs. Barnett accompanied her husband to California and will visit her mother there.

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