

RAILROADS DENIED ADVANCE.

Commission Finds Gloomy Forecasts As To Earnings Have Not Been Borne Out. Southern Roads Permitted to Increase Coal Rates 15 Per Cent With Maximum of 15 Cents a Ton. Eastern Lines Allowed Virtually Four Per Cent Advance in Gross Revenue. Carriers Are Generally Found to be Prosperous.

The Interstate Commerce Commission on Friday denied the plea of the railroads of the United States for a horizontal increase of 15 per cent in freight rates.

In its decision the committee indicated its willingness to increase class rates in the Eastern district approximately 14 per cent. Since about one-fourth of the freight handled is moved under close rates, the decision virtually allows the Eastern lines about four per cent increase in gross freight revenue. Increases sought in rates on coal, coke and iron ore will be granted.

In the Southern district an increase of 15 per cent on coal with a maximum of 15 cents a ton was permitted. The commission found, as a result of extended hearings, that the carriers generally show a substantial and increasing financial prosperity, and that they have ample resources with which to conduct transportation.

Little sympathy was given the arguments of the roads that they were victims of war prices, the commission holding that the carriers have profited by the mobilization of troops.

The commission suspended the proposed tariffs until October 28, but it indicated that no rehearing of the case will be of value at this time and suggested cancellation of the tariffs.

The commission finds that the gloomy forecasts of jeopardized incomes seen by railroad officials early in 1917 have not been borne out by the figures available for later interests. The proceedings were brought in March, when returns from February were just being made. February was one of the worst months in railroad history. The subsequent months have shown increasing revenues, while expenses have, in many cases, failed to mount to the extent the carrier's officials feared.

The decision points out that the carrier's comparisons have been largely with those of 1916, which was the banner year in railroad earnings, and adds that the 1917 income might be considerably diminished without necessarily indicating a danger point in earnings.

The commission authorized the following raises in class rates: For points north of the Ohio, east of the Mississippi: First class, from 78.8 to 90; second class, from 68.3 to 79; third class, from 62.5 to 70; fourth class, from 36.8 to 42; fifth class, from 31.25 to 36; sixth class, from 26.3 to 30 cents per hundred pounds.

The commission found it general that the effects of the Adamson eight-hour basic day and of the increased cost of fuel, supplies and materials had not affected the Southern and Western carriers as greatly as it affected the Eastern carriers.

Cause and Prevention of Degenerative Diseases.

Many diseases are largely due to defective elimination, or chronic accumulation of toxics in our body, due to one or more of the following causes:

- 1st—Overeating, especially of meat and highly seasoned foods after middle life. As some one has aptly expressed it, we too often dig our graves with our teeth.
 - 2d—Insufficient exercise, or too much or too strenuous exercise.
 - 3d—Social diseases.
 - 4th—The use of alcoholics and the excessive use of tobacco. In fact, intemperance of any kind.
- Probably the greatest determining factor is "the strenuous life." The mad rush for the almighty dollar, and undue worry and anxiety, interfere more or less with all the normal functions of the body. Worry is ten times more disastrous than work.—The Health Bulletin.

A Clincher.

Pat O'Flaherty, very palpably not a Prohibitionist, was arrested in Arizona recently charged with selling liquor in violation of the Prohibition law. But Pat had an impregnable defense. His counsel, in addressing the jury, said:

"Your Honor, gentlemen of the jury, look at the defendant."

A dramatic pause, then:

"Now, gentlemen of the jury, do you honestly think that if the defendant had a quart of whiskey he would sell it?"

The verdict, reached in one minute, was "Not Guilty."—Everybody's.

It is easy to decide without thinking; it is easy to think and not decide; but it is hard to think fairly and to decide courageously.

THE FLAG

By Arthur Macy

Here comes the flag.
Hail it!
Who dares to drag
Or trail it?
Give it hurrahs—
Three for the stars,
Three for the bars.
Uncover your head to it!
The soldiers who tread to it
Shout at the sight of it,
The justice and right of it,
The unsullied white of it,
The blue and the red of it
And tyranny's dread of it!
Here comes the flag!
Cheer it!
Valley and crag
Shall hear it.
Fathers shall bless it,
Children caress it,
All shall maintain it.
No one shall stain it.

Cheers for the sailors that fought on the wave for it,
Cheers for the soldiers that always were brave for it,
Tears for the men that went down to the grave for it.

Here comes the flag!
—Youth's Companion.

TO HAVE BIG ARMY IN FRANCE.

It Is Estimated That Three Hundred Thousand Men Will Be At the Front in Less Than Six Months.

The following Washington dispatch to the New York Evening Sun was published last Thursday, the day after the news of the arrival of the advance guard of the American army in France:

Unbounded enthusiasm exists in Washington to-day as a result of the safe arrival on French soil of the first of the American fighting contingents.

Within a month or six weeks, it is predicted, the troops which landed yesterday "at an unnamed French port" will be in the trenches fighting in the cause of democracy.

Within six months, the authorities now feel confident an army of between 200,000 and 300,000 Americans, including several divisions of the National Guard will be at the front.

Major-Gen. Pershing is to be made a lieutenant-general as soon as Congress, in its own good time, responds to the appeal made almost daily by the War Department that it recreate that rank in order that the commander of the American expeditionary force may take place with other corps commanders in the allied battle line.

In being given this rank, Gen. Pershing will probably be placed in command not of a division, as has been popularly supposed, but of a corps consisting of three or four divisions. Subsequently it will be necessary, as the force of American fighting troops increases, to designate a general in command of "The American Army in France," which, of course, will consist of several corps at least.

It rests with Pershing to win for himself that larger command, though there are few officers here who doubt that it will fall to the "man of the iron face" to be the Haig or the Petain of the American force.

Greece Breaks With Germany.

At last Greece is to be ruled by the Greeks themselves. After months and years of dilly-dallying Greece has broken off diplomatic relations with Germany and the other Teutonic powers. Greece's new course began with the abdication of King Constantine on June 12th. The dethronement of Constantine was brought about by the Entente powers. Venizelos, who has been the friend of the Allies all the time, has been called to head the new Cabinet and the time is near at hand when Greece will be able to give aid to England, France and Serbia. Serbia has always stood by Greece and the action of the Grecian king in permitting the overthrow of her little neighbors at a time when her help would have counted for much has lost the once noted kingdom many sympathizers.

Safe Light.

Gelatin-coated glasses, such as can be obtained by fixing out undeveloped plates, or by removing the image from developed negatives with ferricyanide and hypo, can be made the basis of very efficient safe-light screens both for orthochromatic and for nonorthochromatic plates. Equal numbers of the glasses should be stained by immersing them in solutions of naphthol yellow and of methyl violet respectively, and one of each should be bound up together, film to film. If a diffused light is required a sheet of tissue paper, or of papier mineral, may be interposed.

The Higher Law.

"Your case would have been stronger, Mr. McGuire," said the lawyer, "if you had acted only on the defensive. But you struck first. If you had let him strike you first you would have had the law on your side."

"Yes," said McGuire. "O'ld have had the law on my side, but O'ld have had him on me stomach."—Chicago Daily News.

Love is to marriage what coal is to coke.

CALIFORNIA JAY
(*Apelocoma californica*)



Length 12 inches. Distinguished from other jays within its range by its decidedly whitish underparts and brown patch on the back.

Range: Resident in California, north to southern Washington, and south to southern Lower California.

Habits and economic status: This jay has the same general traits of character as the eastern blue jay. He is the same noisy, rollicking fellow and occupies a corresponding position in bird society. Robbing the nests of smaller birds is a favorite pastime, and he is a persistent spy upon domestic fowls and well knows the meaning of the cackle of a hen. Not only does he steal eggs but he kills young chicks. The insect food of this jay constitutes about one-tenth of its annual sustenance. The inclusion of grasshoppers and caterpillars makes this part of the bird's food in its favor. But the remainder of its animal diet includes altogether too large a proportion of beneficial birds and their eggs, and in this respect it appears to be worse than its eastern relative, the blue jay. While its vegetable food is composed largely of mast, at times its liking for cultivated fruit and grain makes it a most unwelcome visitor to the orchard and farm. In conclusion it may be said that over much of its range this jay is too abundant for the best interests of agriculture and horticulture.

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