

Hope Not Yet Abandoned For Lower Freight Rates

Suggestion Of President Coolidge That Railroads Grant Concessions On Wheat For Export And Coal May Be Heeded, Despite Impression To Contrary

By DAVID LAWRENCE

Washington, October 31—Hope that the railroads may yet be able to make a voluntary reduction in the freight rates on grain for exports has not been abandoned by Government officials, notwithstanding the published reports from New York that the railroad executives were drafting an unfavorable reply to the request of President Coolidge for a downward revision.

The general belief here among members of Congress from the Northwestern states is that the Eastern railroads are well able to make the reduction, but that they have been persuaded by their Western colleagues not to do so because the Western roads are doubtful of their ability to stand the decrease.

President Coolidge first talked about the grain rate reduction with Howard Elliott, of the Northern Pacific and then asked Samuel R. Rea, president of the Pennsylvania railroad if he, too, would give the matter personal consideration. Besides a cheaper rate for export on grain, Mr. Coolidge asked that the freight rate on coal for domestic transportation should be reduced to equal that which the railroads now give for coal destined for export.

Details of the refusal of the roads to grant the President's plea have not yet been received here but the administration hopes something can yet be worked out. What the railroads fear, it is said, is that if they agree to voluntary reductions on grain and coal, the shippers will demand decreases all along the line. Were it possible for the administration to give assurance against such a contingency, a different face might be put on the whole situation.

But the railroads are confronted with an even more serious set of circumstances if they do nothing for the relief of the farmer.

When Congress returns and the farm bloc and radicals take the reins, discussion will unquestionably be renewed for the repeal of the so-called "guarantee" clause of the Esch-Cummins transportation act, a clause which has been a thorn in the side of the farmers for some time.

Probably no piece of legislation has been more generally misunderstood. It isn't a guarantee clause at all. It is simply a provision in the law which says it is the duty of the Interstate Commerce Commission to fix rates so that the railroads as a whole, or in any particular rate group, will be able to earn as nearly as may be a fair return upon the value of their property devoted to transportation purposes.

This does not mean that the railroads are guaranteed anything by the Government. As a matter of fact, Congress said that for a period of two years a return of 6 per cent would be a fair return, but since March, 1920, when it took effect, the railroads as a whole claim they have not earned that rate in any single year. In 1921 they earned a little over three per cent and in 1922 less than four per cent on their combined value.

The champions of the farmer have, however, insisted that the rates which the roads are permitted to earn are too high. The rate at present is five and three-quarters per cent but it is known that many railroads are not able to earn that much.

Agitation for the repeal of the clause is based on the idea that the Interstate Commerce Commission will be freed from restraint and will be able to order reductions in freight rates upon their own judgment irrespective of what the law has fixed as a fair return on prop-

NOT MATES.



America's shortest and tallest Boy Scouts are members of the St. Petersburg, Fla., "Sunshine City Council." They are George Prestman, age 14, who stands six feet four in his stocking feet, and Jimmy Rimes, age 12, who is three feet seven inches.

Chase Mosquitoes From Phillipines

Manila, November 1—The Philippines department of health and the Rockefeller Foundation will soon start a campaign to rid the islands of mosquitoes which have become numerous and because of their continued presence in many homes, dangerous.

The department of health has issued a warning to the people to fight the "residential" mosquito as they would a bitter enemy. The insect is blamed for the frequent recurrence of dengue fever.

WHOOPING COUGH MAY CLOSE HARBINGER SCHOOL

Powells Point, Nov. 1—The school at Harbinger may have to be closed on account of an epidemic of whooping cough that is raging in that locality.

FOSTER-VOLIVA

Powells Point, Nov. 1—The marriage of Miss Susan Voliva of Harbinger to Mr. Orlando Foster of Powells Point was solemnized Wednesday evening at 7 p. m. at the home of the bride, Rev. J. L. Waldrep officiating.

The bride is the pretty daughter of Mrs. Lillie Melson and the bridegroom is the son of the late Mitchell Foster, prominent Currituck County seaman.

NOTICE OF SALE OF Valuable Real Estate

Be it remembered that the undersigned, as executor of the last will and testament of the late J. W. ...

and recorded in the Register of Deeds Office of ...

ATTENTION LADIES Turn over to page two. Something very interesting.

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SAVED SICK SPELLS

Black-Draught Found Valuable by a Texas Farmer, Who Has Known Its Usefulness Over 30 Years.

Naples, Texas.—"I have used Thedford's Black-Draught for years—I can safely say for more than 30 years," declares Mr. H. H. Cromer, a substantial, well-known farmer, residing out from here on Route 3.

"I am 43 years old, and when a small boy I had indigestion and was puny and my folks gave me a liver regulator. Then Black-Draught was advertised and we heard of it.

"I began to take Black-Draught, and have used it, when needed, ever since. I use Black-Draught now in my home, and certainly recommend it for any liver trouble.

"I have given it a thorough trial, and after thirty years can say Black-Draught is my stand-by. It has saved me many sick spells."

Mr. Cromer writes that he is "never out of Black-Draught," and says several of his neighbors prefer it to any other liver medicine. "I always recommend Black-Draught to my friends," he adds.

This valuable, old, powdered liver medicine is prepared from medicinal roots and herbs, and has none of the bad effects so often observed from the use of calomel, or other powerful mineral drugs. Be sure to get the genuine, Thedford's. NC-145

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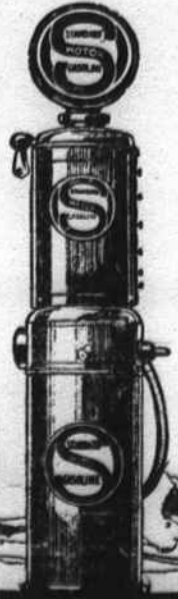
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