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GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP OF. RAILROADS MAY RETURN

Events of Next Few Weeks or Months Will Determine Whether or Not Roads Shall Return to Government Control Says Frederick Strauss Before Interstate Commerce Commission.

By The Associated Press.

WASHINGTON, May 24-Argument on the applications of the railroads of the country for 'a general increase in freight rates to afford the six per cent revenue guaranteed by the new, transportation act began today before the interstate commerce commission with the presentation of the carriers case . .

Howard Elliott, chairman of the subcommittee of the General rate committee of the Association of Railway Executives, made the opening presentation of the roads' case, speaking for the railroads of the country as a whole. Frederick Strauss, of New York, is to follow Mr. Elliott to present financial aspects of the case and Daniel Willard, president of the Baltimore & Ohio, will make the opening argument for the eastern territorial group of roads.

Chairman Clark announced that the pailroads arguments would be heard in the order of the eastern group first, followed by the southern and western territorial divisions. By invitation of the commission, he said, three state commissioners have been invited to sit with the commission because the hearing covered intrastate as well as interstate rates. The state commissioners are J. A. Yeger, of Iowa; B. C. Dunn, of Florida, and W. D. B. Aines, of Pennsylvania.

The hearings are expected to last about two weeks.

WASHINGTON, May 24 - Events of the next few months or weeks will determine whether government ownership of railroads will come again-despite popular opposition - Frederick Strauss, of commerce commission, contending that the main thing at present is to establish a feeling of security in the minds of investors. Mr. Strauss appeared before commission in support of the rail roads' request for increased freight

Government guaranty would necessarily be followed by government ownership," Mr. Strauss declared. "But the people's aversion to government owner-ship is of no avail unless such policies are adopted as will preclude it.

* Whether government ownership shall come against the will of the people, or

(By The Associated Press)

Hitchcock, oge of Major General Leonard

Wood's campaign managers, told a sen-

ate investigating committee today that

in any state by the Wood organization

was \$15,000 in New Jersey. He added

that the next largest was \$12,500 in

Mr. Hiteliebek said that in New York,

"us in a number of other states," the

Wood supporters "financed their own

campaign' in their own way, " without

asking assistance from the Wood organ-

Hamilton Kane, republican national

comimtteeman in New Jersey, took charge

the witnes stestified, adding that all of

the money used in he state was accounted.

Mr. Hitchcock said he could not give

details as to campaign contributions as

it had been understood when he ibined

the Wood organization that he was not

to assist in the financing work. Some

individuals, he said, had sent money to

him direct, but this, he said, would not

for under the direct primary law.

Marvland.

ization.

whether a system of private ownership shall once again obtain here as it did in the days when the American transportation system was regarded as second to none in the world, will be determined by the coests of the next few months or

Low nominal rates merely are of no use to the shipper, Mr. Strauss asserted, if the traffic is not moved in sufficient quantity. What the shipper needs, he argued, is the speedy movement of his goods and there are only two ways in which it can be accomplished.

One is by an increased charge for the shipment of the goods, he said, and the other is by an appropriation out of the national treasury by a levy on tax payers to cover the deficit.

Railroads at present can offer no inducement to the investor combining safe bonds with speculative value, Mr. Strauss said. Calling attention to the meagre number of railroad stocks that sell above par Mr. Strauss pointed out that in order to have railroad stocks sell at a substantial premium the earnings of the roads must be large enough to permit the payment of dividends which will compare favorably with dividend rates on stocks of industrial and other con-

good so far as it goes," he concluded. 'The return of six per cent per annum will, I believe, turn out to be wholly inadequate, as time may demonstrate, but a beginning has been made on sound lines, and as time goes on congress will realize that the rate of return on railrond property will have to compare favorably with returns to be had in New York, today warned the inferstate other industries, or else government ownership will inevitably result."

ORDERED BY GOD, HE SAYS,

MOSS POINT, Miss., May 24.-Louie Smith, a shipyard worker, is held in prison here, fololwing his arrest Sunday afternoon on a charge of strangling his

ber father Sunday afternoon.

SCOTCH AUTHOR AND PREACHER HEARD TODAY

REV. JOHN M'NEILL, D. D.

Many Pulpits in Gaston and Mecklenburg Counties and South Carolina Filled by Commissioners Sunday —Dr. McNeill Preached Splendid Sermon on Evangelism.

(By Rev. G. R. Gillespie.

CHARLOTTE, May 24,-With the benign smile of Providence atending them in the shape of North Carolina sunshine and ideal Dixie weather, the commissioners to the sixtieth General Assembly in Charlotte buckled down to business again Monday morning at nine o'clock. After enjoying the generous and bounteous hospitality of the managements of the Presbyterian Hospital and Davidson College on Saturday, filling the pulpits of Gastonia, Charlotte, Rock Hill and many country churches, all felt refreshed and eager for the fray.

At the urgent request of the departmeat of evangelism of the Southern Assembly, Rev. Dr. John McNeill, noted author of John McNeill's Sermons and pastor of South Highland Presbyterian church of Birmingham, Ala., where he succeeded Dr. Albert Sydney Johnson, now pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Charlotte, where the Assembly is being entertained, was invited to preach on Evangelism at noon Monday. Dr. McNeill is not only a Scotch divine of pre-eminence but an evangelist of world-wide reputation and was heard with pleasure by one of the largest gatherings of the Assembly.

Commissioner Thomas L. Talbot, superintendent of Home Misisons of West Lexington Presbytery and well known to Presbyterians of Gastonia, filled the pulpit of the Presbyterian church at High Point Sunday in his usual happy veta, giving us the reason for his being there that the High Point pastor was sick in bed and could not help himself.

Rev. R. T. Gillespie, who was raised in the Piedmont section and educated at Davidson College and is now preaching in the native city of your correspondent, Lexington, Ky., filled the pulpit of the Rock Hill, S. C., Presbyterian church.

Tuesday promises to be a day full of unusual interest and during the morning. afternoon and evening sessions all phases sented by native Japanese, Negro and Indian misisonaries. Dr. Egbert Smith and Dr. Homer McMillan will formulate the program.

The Assembly opened at nine o'clock Monday morning with prayer by Rev. B. C. Bell, of Ruston, Lo. The minutes of Saturday's sessions were read and approved. Communications and reports were received. The regular order of bustness for the day was hearing of the report of Dr. A. M. Fraser as chairman of the committee on Closer Relations.

A special telegram conveying the warm greetings of love and fellowship from the Cumberland Presbyterian Assembly was received. The telegram requested that the moderator read the sixth chapter of Second Corinthians, verses one to ten, which was done.

Rev. Dr. Walter L. Lingle, moderator of the Assembly, in a conversation with The Gazette correspondent, expressed a desire to be especially remembered to the Presbyterians of Gastonia, with whom he had once been permitted to labor and of whom he cherishes such pleasant mem-

CLOSER RELATIONS.

The plan of union as revised by the committee was adopted and a telegram was sent to the U. S. A. Assembly notifying them of the action. The preamble to the revised plan of union in effect declares the conviction that the Westminster confession of faith and catechisms, the Belgic confession, the Heidelberg catechism and the canons of the Synod of Dort are in essential agreement and are different expressions of one and the same system of doctrine. This doctrinal agreement appears in the recognition, in all the symbols of of the fundamental doctrines of evangelical Christianity as held by the Reformed or Calvinistic churches and also in the use made of the Apostles Creed, the ten commandments, the Lord's prayer and the catechisms of the several churches, for the instruction of the youth of these congregations.

The basis of union is as follows: The "United Assembly" to be constituted with the title "The United Assembly of the Presbyterian and Reformed Churches in the United States of America," shall be as follows:

1. The doctrinal basis of the United Assembly shall be the Scripture of the Old and New Testaments, acknowledged as the inspired word of God and the only infallible rule of faith and practice.

2. The principles of the forms of government and the constitutions of the churches uniting shall be recognized as part of the basis of union.

3. The directories of worship of the several churches shall be a part of the basis of union to the extent that the congregations shall have freedom of worship, both as to forms and usages as hefore the union.

NE WYORK, May 24-Cotton futures opened barely steady. July 38:00; Oc-tober 35:00; December 33:87; January 32:98; March 33:48

SOCIALIST CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT



New and unusually fine photograph of Eugene V. Debs, who for the fourth time is the presidential candidate for the Socialist party. This photograph was taken at Atlanta, Ga.

EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN GETS GOOD START

Services Sunday in the Baptist Churches of Gaston, Meck-lenburg and Cabarrus Counties Were Unusually Successful — Dr. Forest Maddox Was Speaker at the Union Service, at First Baptist Church of Gastonia.

The thirty Baptist churches of Gaston, Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties, with Gastonia, Charlotte and Concord as centers, began their long expected and much advertised campaign Sunday. Each center reports an auspicious opening with prospects roseate in promise of a mighty harvest of souls in the immediate future. The get-together meetings of all co-operof foreign and home misisons will be pre- ating churches, pastors, evangelists and singers were largely attended yesterday gram and key note addresses at each of the three centers, set a pace for the revival constituency far in advance of their most sanguine expectations. The laity in general had expected a reasonably good showing from the various singers and evangelists, but were not prepared for the feast of good things that agreeably surprised them. The Gastonia team particularly laid aside all formalities, ceremonies and other perfunctory "red-tape" that might be expected to attach itself to such initial services and plunged from the store right into the work of mobilization and evangelization. The local pastors recorted this morning that they were mors than pleased with the splendid start that was made in their churches on the first day of the campaign. In addition to laying the foundation for the campaign which the evangelists say "must of necessity precede a large ingathering" several of the churches reported conversions and additions to the churches yesterday, the very first day of the campaign. At the get together meeting at the First Baptist church, which taxed the capacity of the splendid auditorium, the campaign singers rendered several musical numbers that were not only gems of beauty in themselves, but mighty vehicles of power in carrying gospel messages to the hearts of the hearers. The duet, "In Jesus," by Mr. and Mrs. Blankenship was mustcal, artful and rich in testimony. The solo, "He Also Sends the Rain," by Mr. Work was especially well received. His rich, resonant and highly cultured voice is one of the very best that Gastonians have heard in many a day. The singing of the Campaign Male Quartet, composed of Messrs. Spencer, first tenor; Miller second tenor; Blankenship, baritone, and Work, bass, was something of a revelation of the possibilities of what a male quartet can do. Their number, "Glorious Things of Thee Are Spoken," was a product of perfect voicing, blending, phrasing and enunciation. This quarter

> union service at the First Baptist church. Dr. Forrest Maddox, the director for the Gastonia group of churches, introduced the several pastors, evangelists and singers of the campaign. He then spoke briefly and with power from the theme "A Success," with the emphasis particularly on the things needful for a succesful evangelistic campaign. He made an earnest appeal for the fullest possible cooperation and support from the entire

has been heard in nearly all of the cities

of the south and will sing each day at the

MAN, WIFE, TWO BABJES AND PASSENGER KILLED

(By The Associated Press.)

ASHEVILLE, N. C., May 24 Roy Runnion, a Madison county farmer, his wife and their two babies, were killed inte yesterday near Hot Springs, when their automobile plunged over a steep embankment on a dangerous mountain

FREIGHT RATES IN ORDER TO MEET THEIR OBLIGATIONS

Howard Elliett, of General Rate Committe of Association of Railway Executives Tells Interstate Commerce Commission That Railroads Earned On Property Investments Less Than One - Fifth of One Per Cent for Year Ending October 31st.

(By The Associated Press.)

WASHINGTON, May 24-Increases in freight rates of 30,43 per cent in eastern territory, 30.95 in the southern territory and 23.91 per cent in western terpitory, "to meet the difference between the six per cent return on property investments permitted under the transportation act," were advocated here today by Howard Elliott, chairman of the subcommittee of the General Rate Committee of the Association of Railway Executives, in a statement before the interstate commerce commission.

Mr. Elliott pointed out that in the eastern territory, railroads for the year ending October 31 returned on property investments "less than one-fifth of one per cent." In the southern territory, he said, the returns were less than threefourths of one per cent and in the western territory slightly more than two per cent. For the country as a whole the return was said to have been slightly more than one per cent.

Under the conditions of private ownership and operations of railroads, "with governmental regulation, protection and encouragement," Mr. Elliott said, "the railroads must obtain carnings enough to meet all obligations and have sufficient credit to sustain them in competition with other forms of industry into which people put their time, brains, energy and money.

Under the new transportation act, he said, the two pressing questions now under discussion by the interstate commerce commission and the newly created labor board, are the requests for wage increases exceeding \$1,000,000,000 a year and an additional \$1,017,000,000 needed by the railroads to meet "the present basis of wages, costs, interest and a sum for dividends and improvements."

Mr. Elliott declared that New England and that section of the country embracing Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan were in great need of improved transportation facilities. Other sections, notably the great region south of the Ohio and east of the Mississippi, require "large additions" to keep pace with the growth of population and in-

"Now there is congestion and difficulty everywhere," said Mr. Elliott, "Fuel, building materials, and raw materials for manufacture are tied up and industry is threatened and the sluggish movement of grain and food of all kinds makes the feeding of our people more difficult and more costly. '

Mr. Elliott declared that the railroad operators were just as desirous of obtaining a fair adjustment of wages for taer: 2,000,000 or more men as they were to receive the increased revenues. He said, "there is man power, brain power, courage, common sense and vision enough in the country to succeed if all will pull together, work long and hard and eliminate selfishness, waste and extrava-

In justification of the railroads' position he said that the price of transportation had not increased nearly so nach as the cost of production.

Expenses had gone up at least 100 per ent while revenues had increased less than 40 per cent. He referred to conditions in European countries where, he said, freight rates had been raised as follows: England, 71 per cent; France, 140

per cent; Belgium, 100 per cent; Italy, 40 to 100 per cent; Holland, 70 to 140 per cent; Sweden, 200 per vent; Norway, 150 per cent.

"The new transportation act," said Mr. Elliott, "in fixing the rate of return at 5 1-2 and 6 per cent for a two year period might have been sufficient in the past, but is wholly inadequate to meet the present situation. The cost of new capttal in the United States today, as is well known, is in excess of seven per cent. The Bank of England discount rate is now seven per cent, a rate which only seven times in the history of that old institution has ever reached that level."

In xpressing the desire of the railroads to help the labor board and the interstate commerce commission in reaching fair and equitable conclusions, Mr. Elliott said that the officers of the companies "as quasi public servants realize their responsibility to do their part in adjusting rightly the two \$1,000,000,000 questions now before both bodies." They desire to obtain promptly an adjustment of rates that would meet the leter and spiri of the new law, make the railroads self-sustaining and relieve the treasury of the United States from the necessity of constant appropriations. He said that the Association of Railway Executives is ready and anxious to do its part in reaching without confusion or delay "a settlement of the major question of furnishing adequate transportation in keeping with the magnitude of the United States."

SURVEYING WEIGHT PROBLEMS.

(By The Assurance Press.

WASHINGTON, May 24,-Thirty hocal committees located at all the principal rail "gateways" were at work today surveying their individual freight problems with a view to recommending to the interstate commerce commission a policy to be followed in the future relating to prior! ties and embargoes.

In the meantime the general exchange of equipment, to commence tomorrow, is expected to ease th congestion of the roads to certain extent. Railroad officials, however, are of the opinion that weeks of co-operation between the commission, the roads and shippers would be necessary to bring about normal condi-

ANTI-SUFFS COMING TO NORTH CAROLINA

(By The Associated Press)

BALTIMORE, May 24.-To pave the way for a legislative fight against the woman suffrage amendment, which comes up in North Carolina next July, Mrs. Rufus M. Gibbs, president of the Maryland Association Opposed to Woman Suffrage; Mrs. W. P. E. Wyse, local vice president, and Mrs. Walter Lamar, of Georgia, also vice president, left last night for Raleigh.

The anti-suffragists will stay a week aiding state organization leaders to fight the measure when it comes up for ratification. Their work at present will be of "missionary" character. Mrs. Lamar has just come from New York, and has been active in fighting suffragists in the other states. William L. Marbury, legal adviser, will go to Raleigh when the legislature meets.

BAPTIST CAMPAIGN PROGRAM FOR TUESDAY

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

10:00 a. m. - SONG LEADER: Mr. S. J. Spencer. - SOLOIST: Mr. P. S. Rowland.

- DUET: Messrs. Miller and Combs.

- SELECTION: Campaign Male Quartet. - INSPIRATIONAL SERMON: Dr. T. O. Reese.

NOON HOUR: - Cotton Mills Contiguous to the co-operating Churches of the Campaign: Paster and Evangelistic Team.

ALL BAPTIST CHURCHES

of the campaign organizations have the inta. I saked to be excused from the issuing work, though after my connection with the campaign became estaban early date."

exceed \$25,000. Mr. Hitchcock identified himself as one of the managers of General Wood's campaign." "Who are the others?" Chairman Ken on asked. Proctor is the general manager," the witness replied, "while assistants in charge of various sections include Representative Norman Gould, of New York; Thomas C. Miller and Senator Moses, of New Hampshire." "This commmttee would like to know the amount of money expended in your campaign, its sources and who the contributors are," Chairman Kenyon continued. "Can you give us that?" "All that can be obtained," Mr. Hitchcock answered, "but the treasurers

lished some checks were sent to me by WASHINGTON, May 24,-Frank H. individuals, amounting to not more than \$20,000 or \$25,000, I think. All of that I turned over to the treasurers.

"All of the campaign contributions so far as he knew the largest sum spent | have been made through Snance commit tees in each state. After their receipt they have been turned over to two treas urers, Horace C. Stebins, in New oYrk, tures have been made by checks and a full record is available.

"Then, in addition, the Leonard Wood League, which has 60,000 members or so all over the United States, has had an independent fund collected in its own way. "I don't show about that at all as I have had at connection with it or its expenditure. of the Wood expenditures in that state,

> WASHINGTON, May 24.-Frank Hitchcock, manager for Major General Leonard Wood, was the first witness today before the senate comimttee investigating expenditures in the presidential nomination campaigns.

> Mr. Hitchcock told the committee he had no information regarding contributions to General Wood's campaign; that he had made it a condition upon joining the Wood forces that he would have nothing to do with gathering campaign funds.

> The witness referred the committee to the treasurer of the Wood campaign. Before Mr. Hitcheock was called, Chair-

man Kenyon explained the purposes of the inquiry. "There is no intention," he said, "to

aid or injure any of the various candidacies for the presidency in any party. The question of the source of contributions to presidential campaigns and expenditures is perfectly legitimate subject of inquiry by congress. "We appreciate that this is a busy

time for campaign managers and shall try to accommodate them in every way consistent with finishing the inquiry at

Advertise in The Daily Gazette.

"The recent remedial legislation is

TO STRANGLE OWN CHILD

four year old daughter, Lula, to death. Smith told officers that he had been ordered by God to kill his child and now that he had carried out the Lord's wish, was ready to die himself. The child was ! strangled to death while out walking with

SPENT \$15,000 IN NEW JERSEY