

# Unions Appeal For Two Years Of Rail Control

## "World-Wide Bankruptcy" Predicted as Possible Result of Turning Roads Back to Private Owners

### Hint at New Labor War

#### Increase in Rates Amounting to \$1,000,000,000 a Year Also Is Forecast

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Urging that Federal operation of the railroads be continued for at least an additional two years, B. M. Jewell, acting president of the Railway Employees' department of the American Federation of Labor, in a letter to members of Congress today expressed the opinion that return of the roads to private ownership at this time would lead inevitably to their bankruptcy, which easily might result in a national panic and in turn bring "world-wide bankruptcy."

"For two years traffic has been short retarded," Mr. Jewell said, explaining his belief that the railroads cannot survive their return to private control. "It has been sent over selected routes. A great part of the mileage of the country is not earning operating expenses and fixed charges. Receiverships are inevitable if the railroads are unscrubbed and each left to shift for itself."

Mr. Jewell said he sent the letter in behalf of organizations which "represent directly 2,000,000 workers" but which believed they might "claim to reflect the wishes of the great majority of the people of the country."

#### Fourteen Unions Sign Protest

The letter of objections to the return of the roads was signed by the heads of the fourteen railroad unions, including the four big brotherhoods, who have been acting as a unit in urging, first, government ownership of the rail systems, and, second, continuation of government control as an alternative.

Calling attention to the "colossal savings, economies and efficiencies" under Federal operation, the letter said a reversion to private ownership would mean "an increase in rates of from 25 to 50 per cent, an addition of \$1,000,000,000 a year."

Among the score of specific reasons cited by the employees' representatives against return of the railroads were:

According to the reports of the Director General, the railroads operated as a unified system are on a paying basis, "or are in a fair way to earn all charges against them and possibly to accumulate a surplus."

Validation of watered securities, alleged to be the main object of those seeking return, would mean the subsidizing of the railroad industry.

#### Wasteful Operation Predicted

"The Cummins-Esch bill, with its guarantee of earnings, is an invitation to waste and extravagance."

Return of the railroads at this time is an invitation to still further industrial disturbances, which are "born of labor shortage on one hand and the high cost of living on the other."

Under Federal operation the Southern rates have had a square deal. Fairs, harbors, terminals and shipping lines have been stimulated from the Rio Grande to Baltimore but a return to the preferential treatment of New York "will kill Southern ports, Southern shipping, Southern industry."

Water transportation never can be

developed with the railroads in private hands.

"A matter of vital interest," the letter concludes, "is the enlisting of the employees, so that they will work harmoniously, willingly and efficiently. It is a colossal waste to exclude from railway operation the contributions of two million men with lifelong experience in the railway industry."

#### Subsidy Idea Condemned

"Believing that the provisions for a subsidy and for the utilization of public funds by private individuals are a betrayal of the public interest and is a betrayal of the traditions of the country; believing that the pending bills are invitation to waste; believing that the worker and the farmer will be made to pay tribute to financial exploitation and that the people will be called upon to bear an unnecessary load, measured by billions of dollars, that will be saved by governmental control; believing that the return of the railroads at this time is as calamitous a proposal as could be conceived—believing all these things, we feel justified in protesting with all the emphasis at our command against the passage of the pending railroad bill."

#### U. S. Railroad Offices Ordered Closed March 1

#### Hines Takes Second Step in Contemplation of Turning Lines Over to Companies

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Discontinuance of all regional and district offices of the railroad administration on March 1, was directed today by Director General Hines as the second step in demobilization of the Federal railroad organization.

Plans for creation of new divisions and discontinuance of others in general headquarters here, were ordered today in preparation for return of the roads and the establishment of a liquidating agency.

In its first action as to just compensation for annual rental of railroads under Federal control, the Midland Valley Railroad Company was granted \$765,679 in a decision announced today by the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

Director General Hines had offered a compensation contract carrying about \$530,000 which the company refused to accept. The company filed a claim for \$1,000,000 in compensation.

The railroad extends from Hartford, Ark. to Wichita, Kan., with several branches.

#### Merger of Burlington, Northern Pacific and Great Northern Planned

ST. PAUL, Minn., Feb. 17.—Merger of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington railroads into one great transcontinental system shortly after governmental control is relinquished this month, was forecast in high railroad circles here today. It is reported that the merger is being planned along lines conceived by the late James J. Hill.

The merger was actually completed by James J. Hill when he was in control of the roads, but it was dissolved because, it is understood, the Federal government regarded the combination as illegal. It is asserted that legislation before Congress and the present government attitude would not prohibit the merger.

The three roads have a combined mileage of 27,000. It has been stated here that one reason for the merger is to take care of \$400,000,000 in Burlington bonds which fall due in 1921.

#### Transport Crook Brings 1,200 U. S. Troops From Vladivostok

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—More than 1,200 American troops and nearly 100 other passengers sailed from Vladivostok February 15 for Manila on the army transport Crook the War Department was advised today in a cablegram from Major General William S. Graves. Most of the troops are members of the 31st Infantry and will remain permanently in the Department of the Philippines. The civilians, navy men and welfare workers aboard the transport will be sent to the United States on the first available transport.

# Senate Refuses To Investigate N.Y. Grand Jury

## Upper House at Albany Defeats Inquiry Designed to Include Swann's Office and Justice Weeks

### Denounced on Both Sides

#### Resolution Charges Bias to Almirall; Panel Drafts Data Asked by Governor

ALBANY, Feb. 17.—A resolution introduced in the Senate today by Senator George F. Thompson, Republican, of Niagara County, designed to investigate the extraordinary grand jury in New York County, District Attorney Swann and Supreme Court Justice Barlow S. Weeks, was defeated by a vote that was nearly unanimous.

Senator Thompson asserted that Raymond F. Almirall, foreman of the grand jury, was biased and not a proper person to sit on that tribunal. The resolution was attacked by Minority Leader James J. Walker, who said he could not see how the Senate could act, because so far as is known the grand jury was functioning in the ordinary manner, except that a controversy between the grand jury and the District Attorney had arisen.

Majority Leader J. Henry Walters also criticized the resolution, declaring it to be the "most unheard-of thing ever presented by a lawyer in the Senate."

The extraordinary grand jury met yesterday in the office of Mr. Almirall, 12 East Forty-sixth Street, and framed the first draft of its letter to Governor Smith, in response to his request that the jury be specific in its charges against members of District Attorney Swann's staff.

The Governor had stated that he could not supersede Mr. Swann by the Attorney General unless the jury gave him the names of members of the District Attorney's force that the panel wished to investigate and the charges against them.

It is believed that this letter contains all the information the Governor requested. It was reported that the communication would be revised today and mailed to Albany late this afternoon.

# Says He Paid \$1,700 for Water in Whisky Fraud

## Manufacturer Accuses Chauffeur of Delivering Two Barrels of Tap Fluid

### Magistrate Holds Accused for Further Examination to-morrow

A mathematician would have had a perfectly lovely time yesterday had he been in Harlem police court during the arraignment of Herman Morgenstein, twenty-nine years old, a chauffeur, of 527 West 150th Street. Morgenstein was accused by Isidor Grumet, of 2015 Clinton Avenue, the Bronx, of attempted fraud in the sale of whisky.

Grumet, who is a manufacturer of hair bags, told Magistrate Charles E. Simms that Morgenstein had offered him November 12, 1919, to sell him two barrels of whisky for \$1,700. Grumet did some lightning calculating, which proved that:

Two barrels produced 63 gallons, or 252 quarts. Each quart produces approximately twenty-two war-time-size drinks. Cheap, thought Grumet, with national prohibition only two months away.

So the manufacturer accepted the offer, he told the court, and Morgenstein took him to a vacant store at 2060 Second Avenue. Here the liquor was sampled and Grumet paid over the \$1,700, he said. He took the barrels home, and what happened when he opened one to get a drink was too sad for words.

It was filled with water, he says. The other barrel was just as uninteresting, Grumet complained, and he wants his money back.

Magistrate Simms held the accused chauffeur in \$3,000 bail for further examination to-morrow.

#### Free Flour Won't Make 5-Cent Loaf, Says Baker

#### Price Fixed for 90-Day Period on Present Basis, Senate Committee Is Told

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Increased production and distribution costs would prohibit the sale of 5-cent loaves of bread "even if the flour were furnished free," Harry T. Tipton, of Brooklyn, representing the New York State Bakers' Association, testified today before the Senate Agricultural Committee.

Opposing passage of the Senate bill which would abolish the United States Grain Corporation, Tipton said all bakers opposed a change in the basic price of flour. The price is determined for a ninety-day period he said, and any reduction would mean a loss to the baker, because of the stocks on hand.

Lewis H. Haney, representing the Southern Wholesale Grocers' Association, said enactment of the bill "would shake the entire industrial structure of the country."

# Predicts End Of Disorder in Mexico in 1921

## General Alvarado, Formerly a Supporter of Carranza, Looks for a Change After Election

### Little Anti-U. S. Feeling

#### Era of Prosperity and Reorganization Is Near, He Says on Trip Here

General Salvador Alvarado, a famous revolutionist of Mexico, just arrived here, looks to the forthcoming Mexican Presidential election for the settlement of all his country's internal and external troubles.

General Alvarado is the owner of "El Heraldillo de Mexico" and "El Heraldillo," two leading newspapers in Mexico City, and was mainly responsible for placing President Carranza in power. He has now, however, broken from his former chief and heads the young progressive element that is working for the election of General Obregon. He came here, he said, to obtain modern equipment for his newspaper and to interest a group of Wall Street bankers in an agricultural undertaking in Mexico.

"I believe that all disordered conditions in Mexico will end in 1921," he said, "because there is a powerful current of opinion prevailing all places and classes toward peace and reorganization. If the vote in the coming Presidential election is respected, the same year will witness an era of peace, and work immediately will be begun eliminating the main sources of strife between the United States and Mexico. I am optimistic in this respect because conditions point to the election of General Obregon as President." He said that the continuance of Carranza in power or the imposition by him of a "dummy" candidate would be followed by civil war and the overthrow of the government.

#### Better Understanding Sought

The promotion of friendly relations between the two countries, he said, depended broadly upon a better mutual understanding of the aspirations, needs and conceptions of each people. "No one in Mexico doubts," he said, "that the United States possesses the ma-

terial strength to occupy Mexican territory, but it will never conquer by such means the goodwill of the people. In addition to the large army of occupation necessary and the consequent waste of lives and money, the United States would face the task of assimilating 16,000,000 rebels. In this connection let me say that the idea of intervention to play any particular group of interests in power is equally repulsive to Mexicans.

The only policy for the United States to pursue is that of frank cooperation with the southern republics so that they may solve their two great fundamental problems, the organization of production to attain the best results from their natural resources and the education of the public for the uplift and conservation of human resources."

#### No Great Anti-United States Feeling

He declared there was no widespread anti-American feeling in Mexico, but that the proceedings of the Senatorial committee investigating conditions along the border were viewed by Mexicans with distrust.

Up to the present, he said, the government found it impossible to level its budgets or continue payments on its outstanding foreign obligations, and that there probably would be no change in the situation until after election. He was sure that the next government would apply for admission to the league of nations, and added that he favored such action. With respect to the oil land controversy, he declared that the government was disposed to stand and should respect the legitimate interests of the companies, but that the latter must recognize the right of the government to issue regulations pertaining thereto and to tax the industry as it sees fit.

A recent request of Salvador for a new definition of the Monroe Doctrine, he said, while tendencies in the past would seem to indicate that was his personal opinion that a new definition should not be made until the Pan-American League of Nations was constituted.

#### Latin-American Block

Asked about the report that the present Mexican government is endeavoring to unite Latin-American republics into a block to prevent domination by the United States, he said:

"It is true that the present government of Mexico has intended to strengthen its relations with Spanish-American countries, but it is not true that there is any intention to vex the United States. No practical results have been obtained, for almost all the steps have been limited to after-dinner speeches of diplomats. I do not approve of the constitution of such a block, because it seems to me an impossible task in view of the geographical and economic conditions of those countries and the food of intrigues that such a thing would loosen. How can these countries think of alliances when they are not even able to exchange mail bags directly?"

He said that the various rebellions forces now working against the government were not of great strength because of the lack of unity of the several factions and that lawlessness would disappear, entirely after the establishment of a new government.

# Return of Radio Systems Ordered

## Stations Taken Over Under War Powers to Go Back to Owners Feb. 29

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17.—Radio facilities taken over by the government under the wartime powers of the President will be returned to the owners at midnight February 29, on authority of an executive order issued today by the President. The order, made public by the Navy Department, said:

"All radio stations taken over by the Government of the United States and now held by it under authority of executive orders of April 6 and April 30, 1917, respectively, including all systems, lines and property taken possession of or received, operated, supervised, or controlled under authority of said executive orders shall, at midnight on the 29th day of February instant, be returned and delivered to the respective owners thereof."

"All restrictions placed under authority of said executive orders of April 6 and April 30, 1917, on all radio stations not necessary to the government for naval communications shall be removed, to take effect at midnight on the 29th day of February instant, from which time the control and operation of all radio stations not owned, controlled or operated by the government independently of action taken by or on behalf of the government under the aforesaid executive orders of April 6 and April 30, 1917, shall be subject to the provisions of the act to regulate radio communication approved August 13, 1912."

"The enforcement of this order is hereby delegated to the Secretary of the Navy, who is authorized and directed to take appropriate action in the premises."

#### Hines Awards Shorter Hours

Walker Hines, Director General of Railroads, notified the Brotherhood of Dining Car Conductors yesterday that they had been awarded a 240-hour working month, with time and a half for overtime. The award is retroactive from February 1. Announcement of the award was made at the headquarters of the brotherhood, 101 West Forty-second Street. All bonus payments are to be discontinued.

# Condemned Slaver Would Trade Gang Secrets for Pardon

## Appeal of Man Who Pleads Innocence Offers Revelations of Labor War in Chicago; Death Set for Friday

### CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—John O'Brien, a prisoner in the Cook County jail sentenced to be hanged on Friday for the murder of Policeman Richard Burke, appealed to Governor Lowden today that he was not guilty, and that if they would save him from death he would reveal the secrets of gangland and tell who killed the officer. This is the first instance in ten years of labor wars where a gangster was offered to tell on his "pals."

Blame for the crime to shield a relative of "Boss" Enright, "king of the gun," in a statement addressed to the Governor and the State Pardon Board O'Brien charged that he had taken the men "who was murdered three weeks ago. Enright had promised, the appeal said, to get O'Brien off with a sentence of not more than two years. Even after his conviction O'Brien says Enright insisted he could get a pardon for the condemned man. Now, with Enright dead and with his own execution imminent, O'Brien appealed to the state officials to save his life.

A Sister of Mercy carried O'Brien's appeal direct to Governor Lowden, who is in the city today. O'Brien's attorney said later that the Governor probably would grant a reprieve of thirty days for the state to investigate the appeal.

Unless the state intervenes to save O'Brien or postpone his execution, the hanging on Friday is to be attended by 300 fellow prisoners. Sheriff Peters announced that the procedure followed would be the same as in the hanging of Raffaello Durrage, about a month ago, the Sheriff said.

The mere hanging of a particular subject is not meant to punish him alone," the Sheriff said. "The real object is to punish the criminal class. If capital punishment means anything at all, it is a deterrent to further crime. The very class it is intended to reach includes those confined in the jail."

Four indictments charging murder in the first degree in the case of "Boss" Enright, were returned by the grand jury. The state will ask for the death penalty in every instance. Two of those indicted, "Big Tim" Murphy, former secretary to Congressman McCormack, and one-time member of the Illinois Legislature, and Mike Caserio are both presidents of Chicago unions. The others are Vincenzo Cosmano, charged with doing the actual shooting, Anthony Viti, confessed driver of the "murder car."

# ROTARY CLUB Activities

## Here and Hereafter

A great many business men accept check-books as their exclusive weapons here below, leaving golden harps for the hereafter. It never occurs to them that one cannot be well nourished on a single item diet; and when and overdose of checkbook ends in a twilight that makes them think of the golden harps they wonder why they did not inject a little more of the better and higher side of life into their daily activities.

Rotary is trying to do away with the impression that the Golden Rule would tarnish if exposed to the air, in business. Although the Rotary Club of New York has as members five hundred representative business men, it is not for commercial progression alone that it has its being.

The Rotary motto: "He profits most who serves best," might be mistaken for a Sunday school gem. Instead, it is the principle upon which more than forty thousand Rotarians—all American business men—conduct their business. And it has paid—not only in dollars, but also in moral satisfaction that is far above any financial estimate.

It is not the Rotary idea to go about drably dressed distributing tracts and accusing one's neighbor of all the delinquencies on the calendar. It is, rather, to make the square deal in business so attractive that those who have been given to exaggeration and misrepresentation will abandon them in disgust.

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Next Issue Mail, Feb. 25, 1920.

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### Good Morning!

### Good Morning!