

### 392,550 Idle Cars Cited in Rail Wage Cut

#### Pennsylvania Announces 29 Per Cent Drop in Freight Business in Four Months; Demands Readjustment

#### Same Situation Elsewhere

#### New Haven Tells of Deficit of Three Million in 1920; 1916 Balance, 26 Million

The Pennsylvania and the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad companies made public some figures yesterday purporting to show some of the reasons why the proposed reduction in wage scales was necessary at this time. The Pennsylvania Railroad, pointing out that the average number of freight cars dispatched daily by the system was one of the best indications of railroad business, presented figures showing that from last October to February, inclusive, the average number of cars sent out daily on the system dropped more than 29 per cent, the falling off in business on the line shown as follows: In October, 143,074 cars were dispatched; November, 136,699; December, 130,677; January, 115,907; February, 107,000.

More than a third of the freight car equipment of the road, say its officials, which ought to be earning revenue, is not earning a cent. On last February 28 there were \$2,854,000 in losses on the system. Since last December the idle cars piled up as follows: December 15, 14,068; December 31, 30,680; January 15, 49,216; January 31, 56,252; February 15, 78,730, and February 29, 89,258.

The Pennsylvania Railroad is not the only railroad affected by present conditions," says the statement. "All the railroads of the country are feeling the pinch of world-wide business depression. The latest reports show that there are 392,550 idle freight cars in the country not earning any revenue on the railroads that own them. Facing facts such as these, the readjustment of expenses proposed on this railroad is an earnest effort to return to a sound business basis in the face of continuing the prosperity of all concerned."

#### Two Dead, 4 Missing in \$2,500,000 Elevator Fire

Employees Unaccounted For in Chicago Explosion May Be Buried Under Tons of Grain

CHICAGO, March 20.—Two persons are known to be dead and four others missing in an explosion of grain dust which rocked South Chicago last night and wrecked one of the world's largest grain elevators. One body was removed from the debris a few hours after the blast and the second was found today.

#### Pastor's Home Dynamited After Fight on Resorts

#### Wife of Pennsylvania Minister Suffers Shock; Believed Revenged for Vice War

SCRANTON, Pa., March 20.—The home of the Rev. R. S. Nichols, in Old Forge, was greatly damaged early today by a charge of dynamite exploded under one corner.

#### British Manager Slain In Chilean Labor Riot

#### Roger Straus Returns From Latin State With Report of Bolshevik Outbreak

Roger W. Straus, son of Oscar S. Straus, who went to Chile and Peru two months ago on a business trip, returned last night from Valparaiso on the steamship Ebro, of the Pacific Line. He said that commercial conditions in both countries were bad, and that the nitrate industry of Chile was at a standstill because it had no market. Workers in a British owned company turned Bolshevik, he said, and demanded that the deposits of the company be turned over to a committee of workmen who desired to operate the plant. The demand met with resistance, and in an uprising of the workmen which followed the British manager was killed. Chilean troops, he said, quelled the insurrection.

#### Another traveler on the vessel was Juan Belmonte, Spanish matador, who went down the coast to show what he could do with the bull. His efforts, he said, netted him 100,000 pesos.

Months others on board were Señor Mariamón Cornejo, Peruvian Ambassador to France; Courant Cordier, Robert T. Logie and Mr. and Mrs. Marcus Coolidge.

#### Rail Owners Want U. S. to Direct Roads

Congress, with power to organize committees from each group to bring about the coordination and economies in railroads, and service now or hereafter necessary and essential.

The National Railway Service Corporation, superseded by the National Railway Service, which was organized by the association of security owners under state laws, has sold trust certificates and, supplemented by loans made to the corporation by the government, is supplying equipment to railroads and operating without profit. The excess earnings created under transportation act are to be used in connection with the sale of trust certificates of the National Railway Service to provide for the purchase of freight cars and equipment for the railroads under the plans proposed.

Equipment will be leased by the service to the roads, and seasonal requirements, and thus used at different times on different railroads.

Congress is asked to provide that in the event of default by a carrier purchasing equipment the receiver be required to carry out the contract made by the defaulting carrier and continue operations. It is stated that this will place the equipment obligations of the National Railway Service on an investment basis of pronounced safety and various employees from 7 1/2 to 21 1/2 per cent.

The increase of 7 1/2 per cent during the four years refers to the pay of general officers of the road. During this period the compensation of the officers of the road had fallen, according to the statement, from 1.73 per cent of the total pay roll to 0.99 per cent at the present time. Efforts to further economize it was pointed out that the company had reduced its five vice-presidents in 1916 to three in 1920. The average pay of a vice-president is about \$20,000 a year.

#### U. S. Woman Robbed of \$10,000 on Italian Train

#### Miss Kennedy Leaves Satchel Containing Cash While Dining and It Vanishes

MILAN, Italy, March 20.—An American woman, who said she was Miss Mary Kennedy, was robbed today of \$10,000 in cash on a railroad express train, between Milan and Genoa. Miss Kennedy left her satchel, containing the money, in her first class compartment while she went to the dining car. When she returned to her compartment, both satchel and money were gone.

#### Mexican Railway Strikers Slowly Returning to Work

MEXICO CITY, March 20.—A gradual return to work of the railroad strikers, following a settlement Friday night of their differences with the authorities, was recorded today by Excelsior, which asserted that 8,000 of the men resumed their duties today. There still appears to be some doubt among the newspapers as to the durability of the agreement entered into, inasmuch as in several small cities the strikers are persisting in holding out.

#### Carmel Court Calendar Light

CARMEI, N. Y., March 20.—Justice Arthur S. Tompkins will find little to do when he calls the Supreme Court to order here to-morrow, and the men summoned as talesmen will find little to do. The six cases on the civil calendar are suits in equity which will not require juries, and in the only criminal case pending a plea of guilty is expected.

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