FREIGHT JAM UP TO INTERSTATE BOARD

Railroads and Exporters to Argue To-day on Reduced Storage Time.

CONGESTION IS GROWING

Following the weekly meeting of the traffic experts representing the trunk line railroads running into New York at the Trunk Line Association yesterday, Chairman C. C. McCain issued a statement reviewing the condition of freight congestion on Eastern roads. He then left for Washington, where he will lay the railroads' side of the reduction of free storage time before the Interstate Commerce Commission. The Merchants Association's traffic bureau will protest against the fifteen day cut ordered by the railroads effective January 1.

Freight congestion here is growing steadily on a majority of the roads. Additional embargoes have been announced and the number of loaded cars standing idle has increased again to 50,000 in the last week. No relief seems to be in sight.

More Embargoes Ordered.

In his statement Chairman McCain said:

"Owing to the continued congestion and the large accumulation of freight the following additional embargoes have been announced by the trunk lines leading to New York:

Pennsylvania—All carload and less than carload freight, including traffic switched from connecting lines when consigned, reconsigned or to be reconsigned to New York lighterage, whether for export, coastwise or domestic deliveries, except dressed meats and other perishable freight, flour and other food products, extended to include shipments originating at all points on the Pennsylvania Railroad, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad and West Jersey and Seashore Railroad. Also all carload and less than carload freight, including traffic switched from connecting lines, originating at all points when consigned, reconsigned or to be reconsigned to Waverly transfer, including Newark and points east and for connecting lines via junction points east of Waverly transfer, extended to include shipments originating at all points on the Pennsylvania Railroad, Philadelphia, Baltimore and Washington Railroad and West Jersey and Seashore Railroad.

New York Central—Additional embargo on rails and fastenings, billets, sheets and bars, wire, locomotive parts and car parts, pipe, &c., in carloads, consigned to or to be reconsigned to New York for export. Also all carload freight consigned or to be reconsigned to New York for export or coastwise shipment or for lighterage delivery at New York, except live stock, grain, fresh meats, provisions and munitions and covering shipments of acids and liquors.

Lehigh Valley—All eastbound traffic from all connecting lines destined to points on or via the Lehigh Valley Railroad except the following: Flour and grain products, high explosives, live stock, provisions, dressed beef, perishable freight, coal and coke and fuel oil.

"A review of the general situation as to the cars on the lines of the trunk lines or at terminals disclosed that the conditions as to the total number of such cars has not been materially reduced, notwithstanding the former embargoes. Some of the roads reported some decline in the number of cars, while others showed an increase. The former figures that had been stated, namely, 45,000 cars, as representing the number on the line and at terminals, were mainly package freight and did not include all cars of bulk grain. If the grain which is in elevators or afloat awaiting transshipment is included it is found that there are approximately 50,000 cars on line or at terminals destined for delivery through New York harbor points."

Applies to Other Ports Too.

On behalf of the Merchants Association J. C. Lincoln, manager of its traffic bureau, will present before the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington to-day an argument against enforcement of the reduced free time on export freight at New York. The rule applies to Boston, Baltimore and other Eastern ports as well as to New York.

In its petition the Merchants Association protests against the rule on the ground that it would be a restraint of trade; that it would place an unreasonable burden upon foreign commerce and would embarrass the governmental policy of developing foreign trade. The petition asserts that the congestion of freight at New York is due largely to the inadequacy of the service rendered by the carriers, and that it began in August and September, when there was a strike on the railroads. The closing of the Panama Canal, preventing the export of freight intended to pass through that waterway, and inadequate lighterage facilities have tended to increase the congestion.

The petition also asserts that the transport of export freight from the interior is uncertain, so that shippers are compelled to forward their merchandise in time to allow for delays and should not be penalized when the merchandise happens to be forwarded promptly. The petition criticises the lighterage service as inadequate, causing delays through no fault of shippers, and it points out that the present allowance of thirty days on export freight has long been established and that its abrogation should not be permitted without good reason.

For Children on the Island.

A collection of toys for the 450 children in the sanitarium on Blackwell's Island is being made by Saul Cohen of 33 West 111th street. Persons who care to cooperate with him are asked to send playthings to Blackwell's Island today or to-morrow morning at the latest. Clothing also will be welcomed. The distribution to the children will be made Christmas morning. Many of the children are crippled and some are bedridden.

Consolidated Exchange.

American Smelting and Refining sold on the Consolidated Stock Exchange yesterday as high as 105, which was 2¾ points above its closing quotation on Monday. This was the best price touched by the stock in Wall Street. It opened at 102⅝, reacting to 102¼ before again starting upward. Its closing price was 104¾, practically at the top, on a turnover for the day of 18,800 shares.

American Beet Sugar was dealt in at 65⅝ to 68⅞ and back again to 69⅝, the only market for that stock in Wall Street. So far as the fluctuation of the general market was concerned, there was moderate firmness displayed early, with some reaction later on. United States Steel common opened at 85⅝, an overnight improvement of ⅛ of a point, but afterward receded to 85⅛, with its closing price 85⅝. Anaconda opened at 56⅝, up ⅜ of a point from Monday's closing, early sold at 56⅞ and then softened to 55⅞, but closed at 56⅛. Mexican Petroleum was accorded attention in the trading, opening at 99⅝, up ½ of a point, touching 99⅞ and then receding to 97⅞. It closed, however, at 98⅝.

Sales of all stocks were 37,250 shares.

NEW JERSEY'S VALUES ARE $2,583,953,595

Governor Gets Report on Real and Personal Property for Taxation.

TRENTON, Dec. 21.—The net valuation of real and personal property in New Jersey subject to taxation at local rates amounts to $2,583,953,595, as shown by the first report of the new State Board of Taxes and Assessment submitted today to Gov. Fielder. This will be taxed at an average rate of $2.11 per $100 of valuation, an increase of nine points over the average rate last year.

As shown by the report the total valuation of real estate is $2,158,045,893. Of this $946,753,277 is represented by land values and $1,211,292,616 by improvements. The total valuation shows an increase of $102,348,556 over that of 1914.

The tax levied on bank stock for the year under the act of 1914 amounts to $663,189 and represents a valuation of $88,425,306. The tax shows a decrease of $42,197 from last year.

As returned by county boards property exempt from taxation amounts to $243,946,009. Particular attention is called in the report to the laxity in appraising exempt property, many assessors regarding this as unimportant because no tax is collected from it. The board contends that exempt property should be carefully listed in order that the taxpayer may know to what extent his own burden is increased by the exemption.

The amount to be raised for State school taxes this year is $6,724,661, an increase of $207,141 from last year. The amount appropriated for county taxes is $12,287,838, an increase of $900,964, and the amount for local taxes $37,550,000, an increase of $4,602,574.

STERLING AT NEW HIGH LEVEL.

Strongest Since Great Summer Decline—Marks Weak.

Sterling exchange sold up to a new high figure yesterday on its advance from the big decline of last summer. Demand sterling closed at 4.72¾, with cables at 4.73½. This compares with 4.72⅝ for demand and 4.73⅛ for cables on Monday. Francs were easier, sliding down to 5.83½ for checks and 5.82½ for cables, against a previous close of 5.83 and 5.82½ respectively. Italian lire rallied from 6.56½ to 6.56, while rubles advanced from 31⅛ to 31½.

Marks were weak, closing at 77 for sight drafts and 77 1-16 for cables. The previous close was 77⅝ for drafts and 77½ for cables. Austrian kronen dropped from 13.35 to 13.28.

CUSTOMS DECISIONS.

Sealyham dogs and fox terriers imported here from S. Warburton of Bradford, Eng., land, were the subject of a reappraisement decision handed down yesterday by Judge Waite of the Board of United States General Appraisers. The general appraiser finds that all of the dogs were correctly entered at 45 each.

A. Rastor & Bros. will have to pay duty at the rate of 30 per cent. ad valorem under paragraph 360 of the tariff act of 1913 as manufactures of leather on pieces of leather from nine to eighteen inches in length and one to two inches in width designed to be fastened to small wheels to form a polishing surface for cutlery, according to another ruling handed down yesterday by the general appraisers. In affirming the Collector's assessment at the 30 per cent. ad valorem rate the board denies a claim of the importers for free entry as leather not specially provided for under paragraph 520.

Orchil liquor is held to be free of duty under paragraph 564 in a decision sustaining protests of A. Poucher and Innis, Speiden & Co. This decision reverses the Collector's assessment of duty on this merchandise at the rate of three-eighths of 1 per cent. per pound under paragraph 30 as a "vegetable extract suitable for dyeing, coloring or staining."

A claim of Fritzsche Bros. that merchandise invoiced as "eucalyptol" was improperly classified by the customs appraiser as an essential oil is sustained by the general appraisers. Duty was collected at the rate of 25 per cent. ad valorem under paragraph 46 of the tariff act of 1913 and the importers claimed a tariff tax of but 15 per cent. ad valorem under paragraph 5. The board holds that eucalyptol, not being an essential oil and concededly being a chemical compound, is properly dutiable under paragraph 5 at the 15 per cent. ad valorem rate.

Dr. Berry, a chemist in the laboratory of the United States Appraisers' office, called by the Government, testified that eucalyptol is not an essential oil. By consent at the close of the hearing a sample was sent to the laboratory for analysis and the report thereon was as follows: "This substance is eucalyptol; not oil of eucalyptus." The contention of the protestants showed that eucalyptol oil is an essential oil distilled from the branches or limbs of the eucalyptus tree, while eucalyptol is not such an oil, but is in fact an isolation product of the oil of eucalyptol and is used to some extent for medicinal purposes with a vehicle or mixed with other substances, but more largely for technical purposes.

In a reappraisement decision handed down yesterday, Board 3 finds that wool dress goods imported from Brieg Neumann & Co. of Bradford, England, were entered at New York at the correct foreign market values. This decision by the appeal board affirms a recent ruling by Judge Brown sustaining the importer's contention that these goods were not undervalued. Judge Brown then held that the invoices at a higher price relied on by the Government seemed to be jobbers' prices and not manufacturers' prices. The goods were exported on April 21 and June 22, 1915, and entered at New York on May 4 and July 6, 1915.

Merchandise described on the invoice as "anti-corrosive composition," imported by tmA. C. Horn & Co., was the subject of a ruling rendered in favor of the importers. Duty was assessed on this merchandise at the rate of 20 per cent. ad valorem under the provisions of paragraph 56 of the tariff act of 1909. The importers claimed classification under paragraph 15 with duty at the rate of but 15 per cent. ad valorem. The Government analyst expressed the opinion that a sample of the article in question was not a paint, and Judge McClelland holds that, if not a paint, it is evident that it is a preparation of coal tar not specially provided for. The importers' protest making this claim is sustained accordingly.

The Collector's action in assessing duty at the rate of 10 per cent. ad valorem on "chair canes manufactured from rattan," imported by M. A. Graser Rothe, under paragraph 173 of the tariff act of 1913, is upheld in a decision by Judge McClelland. The importers claimed free entry under paragraph 648. The General Appraiser finds that the assessment of duty appears to be in harmony with the decision in Rattan and Cane Company vs. United States (T. D. 32247).

In a decision sustaining a protest of Moos & Co. Judge Brown writes: "The merchandise is shown by the appraiser's report, which is incorporated by consent of counsel, to consist of fish in tins, in oil, properly dutiable at 2½ cents per tin under paragraph 270, act of 1909. It was classified as fish in tins at 30 per cent under the same paragraph. The protest claiming the merchandise dutiable as fish in oil at 2½ cents per tin is therefore sustained."

Merchandise invoiced as "Distefat" and "Palm kernel oil soap stock" was the subject of a test case decided yesterday in the name of William A. Brown & Co. and the American Express Company. Classification was made by Appraiser Sugg as an acid not specially provided for under paragraph 1, tariff act of 1913, and duty was assessed by the Collector at the rate of 15 per cent. ad valorem. The importers claimed free entry under paragraph 498, providing for "Grease, fats, vegetable tallow and oils (excepting fish oils), not chemically compounded, such as are commonly used in soap making."

Several witnesses testified at the hearing to the effect that the merchandise in question is used for soap making and that it is never used for any other purpose. The testimony further showed that the entire importation covered by the protest of the American Express Company was sold to the Beaver Soap Company. Judge Brown, who writes the board's opinion admitting the goods in question free of duty, says:

"We think the evidence satisfactorily established that the oil in question is commonly used for soap making. While there was some effort on the part of the Government to show that it contains fish oil, the record does not show that such is the fact. Although there is no positive evidence as to its origin and method of production, it does not appear to be chemically compounded. We therefore find on this record that the merchandise is a fat or grease commonly used in soap making and hold it free under paragraph 498 as claimed."

SECOND AVE. ROAD TO DROP RECEIVER

First Step Toward Reorganization Taken in Application to Settle Claims.

LINE FAILED 8 YEARS AGO

Steps for the reorganization of the Second Avenue Railroad Company, which has been in the hands of a receiver for eight years, were taken yesterday when Supreme Court Justice Whitaker signed an order permitting John Beavers, recently appointed receiver in place of George W. Linch, now dead, to settle claims against the old Metropolitan Street Railway and New York City Railway companies.

The Second avenue is the last of the New York surface lines that collapsed in 1907 to extricate itself from receivership. The order under which the claims of the Second avenue are to be settled provides that the New York City Railways Company, which is the reorganization of the Metropolitan and New York City Railway companies, is to pay $548,354 to the Second avenue receiver. The money will then be paid for the Second avenue road's debts under supervision of the Supreme Court.

The largest claim held by the Second avenue was against the Metropolitan for breaking the lease held by that road. The Federal court has found that the amount due on this claim is $1,289,328 less deductions of $171,950, but the payment will amount to only 10 per cent. of the total, or $111,737. The payment of a claim of $594,727 against the New York City Railway Company will amount to $267,627, or 45 per cent. These payments are based on the rate paid on all allowed claims against these roads. A further payment of $168,988 will be made as the amount due the Second avenue from the "inter-receivership account."

The petition of the Second avenue receiver, which was signed by George W. Linch just before he died on December 15, stated that the Second avenue property was turned over to him in such a dilapidated condition that the road didn't begin paying a profit until the year ended June 30, 1913. The receiver reduced the judgments for personal injuries to $66,000.

REBUFF TO McADOO SEEN.

Wall Street Thinks Moving of Reserve Bank Is Jab at Secretary.

The announcement of the Federal Reserve Bank that it has leased new quarters in the Equitable Building and that it will abandon its present quarters in the building of Harvey Fisk & Sons so as to have more room for expansion brought a tart reply yesterday from the banking firm, whose old quarters they now occupy. The statement issued by Harvey Fisk & Sons follows:

"The firm had no criticism to make of the proposed move. Decided objection, however, is taken to the statement that the building does not contain the vault and other special accommodations suited to the requirements of the bank.

"Such facilities do not now exist in the Equitable Building, but must be created.

"In Harvey Fisk & Sons Building the bank has a beautiful banking room and there is ample room for enlargement. Good vaults exist and are in use. These can be readily added to.

"The change in location therefore, it is claimed, cannot be attributed to any inferiority of the present accommodations but must be attributed to other considerations, which doubtless were the controlling factors."

Wall Street recalled that when the Harvey Fisk & Sons Building was chosen as the location for the Federal Reserve Bank of New York the selection was made by the organization committee of the Federal reserve system, which was made up of Secretary of the Treasury McAdoo, Comptroller of the Currency John Skelton Williams and W. P. G. Harding. It was remembered that much of the financing of Secretary McAdoo's schemes when he was a private citizen was done by Harvey Fisk & Sons and that his friendship for members of the firm was always very deep. The abandonment of the quarters selected by Secretary McAdoo and his colleagues on the organization committee was considered in Wall Street as somewhat of a rebuff to the Secretary of the Treasury and the Comptroller of the Currency.

RAILROAD APPRAISAL FOUGHT.

Jersey Central Asks State Assessors to Explain Methods.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 21.—Acting upon a recent decision of the Courts of Errors and Appeals holding that the State Board of Assessors must submit for examination the methods employed in appraising railroad property, George Holmes, representing the Central Railroad, to-day made a demand for the formula under which the board arrived at the conclusion that the franchise of the railroad is worth $5,674,000.

Mr. Holmes contended that the new tax board had simply accepted the valuation fixed by the old State Board of Assessors. He contended that conditions had changed since the assessment was first made, and that the franchise is now without value as a basis for taxation. The board adjourned the hearing on the appeal in order to afford Mr. Holmes opportunity to examine the engineers who made the appraisal.

Record Wool Cargo Here To-day.

The largest cargo of wool ever shipped from Australia is due to arrive to-day over the Erie Railroad. It is consigned to New England manufacturers by W. R. Grace & Co. of San Francisco. The shipment consisted originally of 13,800 bales, valued at $1,500,000, and it left the Pacific coast in a train of 125 cars, the largest ever moved out of a Pacific terminal. This cargo is the clip of 500,000 sheep and is equal to about one-half the production of the entire State of Nevada.

Canadian Mining Distribution.

The Guaranty Trust Company has started to distribute $2,500,000 cash pro rata to the shareholders of the Canadian Mining and Exploration Company as a part of the dissolution of the mining company. The Canadian Mining and Exploration was capitalized at $5,000,000, of which $2,500,000 was issued at a par value of $5,000. Within a short time a final distribution of possibly 20 per cent. of the outstanding capitalization will be made.

Fishes Enter Exchange Firm.

The Stock Exchange firm of Van Antwerp, Bishop & Co. will become Van Antwerp, Bishop & Fish on January 1 through the admission to the company of Albert R. Fish as a special partner and Harold L. Fish as a general partner. The company will occupy about one-half of the offices formerly held by J. P. Morgan & Co. on the second floor of the Mills Building.

Gold Imports, $4,000,000.

Imported gold amounting to $4,000,000 was received at the Assay Office yesterday. The gold was in sovereigns and was brought in by J. P. Morgan & Co.

WHITMAN SWAMPED WITH PARDON APPEALS

Little Hope for Florence Burns—Brooklyn Man Gets His Freedom.

ALBANY, Dec. 21.—The Governor is swamped with appeals for pardon for convicts. Many of the applications considered to-day were from friends of men he had "sent up" when District Attorney of New York. Many of these were promptly turned down.

The Governor gave courteous consideration to the appeal of Mrs. Frederick Burns of New York, mother of Florence Burns, who is serving a sentence of seven years and five months in Auburn for extortion. She was convicted in New York under the name of Florence W. Wildrick in 1910, some time after she had been acquitted of the charge of killing Walter Brooks.

Gov. Whitman said he would give the case further consideration, but intimated there was little hope for the release of the prisoner at this time.

Daniel Quinn of the Municipal Magistrate's Court of Long Island appeared in behalf of Thomas W. Robinson, former plain clothes man of Brooklyn, sentenced to not more than ten and not less than six years in Sing Sing for extortion. He has served two years. The Governor appeared emphatic in his intention not to interfere with the court's result.

Assemblyman Frederick Milligan of Brooklyn was the only successful applicant. He secured the pardon of Russell Stimson of Brooklyn, who was serving a seven year sentence for carrying concealed weapons.

The Governor announced that yesterday he had granted a respite of two weeks to Anton Ponton, the Porto Rican who while a student at the Albany Law School stabbed his sweetheart to death in Schenectady. Ponton was to have been electrocuted at Sing Sing this week. Ex-Assistant District Attorney Le Barbier told the Governor he has discovered new evidence.

MADE LOAN BOND REGISTRAR.

Bankers Trust Co. to Handle 4½ Per Cent. Issue.

Announcement was made yesterday that the Bankers Trust Company had been appointed "bond registrar" for the issue of 4½ per cent. bonds of the Anglo-French loan into which the $500,000,000 worth of 5 per cent. bonds are convertible. The trust company will further receive and safeguard the original issue of 4½ per cent. bonds in both coupon and registered form; delivering 4½ per cent. bonds in exchange for the 5 per cent. bonds; registering as to principal the coupon 4½ per cent. bonds and transferring them; transferring the fully registered 4½ per cent. bonds; exchanging coupon bonds for fully registered bonds and vice versa; exchanging registered coupon bonds of one denomination for those of another and keeping records of the issue of all 4½ per cent. bonds.

The investors will not be charged for any exchange of 5 per cent. bonds into 4½ per cent. bonds.

PLAN SOON FOR ORIENT LINE.

Directors Here From Kansas City to See Banker King.

Judge D. J. Haff of Kansas City and James Couzens of Detroit, who are directors of the Kansas City, Mexico and Orient Railroad Company, arrived in New York recently and have been in conference with Willard V. King, president of the Columbia Trust Company and chairman of the bondholders' committee of the railroad company. It is reported that the King committee will in the near future announce a plan for the reorganization of the road.

J. B. Braithwaite, representative of the English members of the bondholders' reorganization committee of the railroad and the Union Construction Company, will join the board of directors of the railroad upon consummation of the reorganization plan. Mr. Braithwaite is the senior member of the firm of Foster & Braithwaite, members of the London Stock Exchange.

BIG GAINS FOR CANADIAN BANK

Earns $2,352,035 in Year—Deposits, $194,523,078.

The statement of the Canadian Bank of Commerce for the year ended November 30, 1915, shows that the bank at that date had total deposits of $194,523,078. The balance of credit of profit and loss brought forward from the preceding year amounted to $1,117,763 and the net profits for the year, after providing for all bad and doubtful debts, amounted to $2,352,035.

During the year dividends amounting to $1,500,000 were paid and there were two bonuses of $150,000 each disbursed. A subscription of $5,000 was made to the British Red Cross society.

Two Central Trust Dividends.

The Central Trust Company has declared the regular quarterly dividend of 10 per cent. and in addition an extra 10 per cent. dividend. Both disbursements will be payable January 3 to stockholders of record December 22. The company is distributing a Christmas bonus to its employees of 50 per cent. of yearly salaries.

Big Extra Bliss Dividend.

An extra dividend of 11¼ per cent. has been declared by the E. W. Bliss Company on its common stock in addition to the regular common stock dividend of 1¼ per cent. With this declaration the company during the past year has paid 20 per cent on the common stock. At the same time the regular 2 per cent. dividend on the preferred was declared.

IMPORT NOTES.

An interesting test case was heard before the Board of United States General Appraisers yesterday, involving the correct classification, under the existing tariff laws, of imported "audiphones," or "dentaphones," designed for use by people who have difficulty in hearing. Appraiser Sague classified these articles as fans and duty was assessed at the rate of 50 per cent. ad valorem under paragraph 249 of the tariff act. Ernest F. Place of Brooks & Brooks, counsel for the importers, Wagner Bros. & Co. of this city, argued before the board for classification of these articles as manufactures of hard rubber under paragraph 369, with duty at the rate of 25 per cent. ad valorem. The board reserved decision.

The reason that the appraiser classified these audiphones as "fans" is due to the fact that the articles are made of hard rubber in the form of a fan so as to disguise their real use. This enables sensitive people to use them without embarrassment. These imitation fans are provided with cords which can be drawn so as to give the articles a concave shape. The top of the fan is intended to be placed between the teeth of the person using same; the sound waves striking the fan and being transmitted through the jaw bone enables the person to hear.

The Treasury Department has granted drawback allowances on the exportation of shoes manufactured by the Regal Shoe Company of Philadelphia, with the use of imported corkscrew worsted cloth or similar imported cloth; on preserved butter manufactured by Bartram Bros. of New York with the use of imported butter; on oil of nutmeg, manufactured by W. J. Bush & Co. of New York, from imported nutmegs; on refined chicle produced by the William Wrigley, Jr., Company of Chicago, from imported crude chicle and on Panama hats manufactured by Gus Van Ler of New York from imported crude Panama hat bodies.

New Men in Exchange Committee.

Announcement has been made that the following have been appointed as the nominating committee of the Stock Exchange for the coming year: I. Chauncey McKeever, Howard F. Whitney, Fuller Potter, William B. Reilly and George B. Thurnauer.

Customs Receipts Yesterday.

The total receipts for duties at the Custom House yesterday were $537,425.87, of which $134,421.49 was for merchandise withdrawn from bonded warehouses and $403,004.40 for recent importations.

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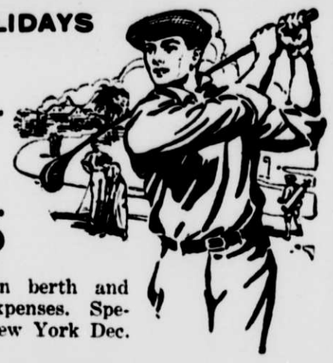

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New Haven Line, strs. lv. Pier 28, R. R., ft. Cathline St., week days only, 2:45 P. M.; Pier 70, ft. E. 22d St., 3:00 P. M.
Bridgeport Line, week days only, strs. lv. Pier 27, E. R., 11:00 A. M.; Pier 70, ft. E. 22d St., 11:15 A. M.

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