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REDUCTION IN JULY FOR FREIGHT RATES

AMOUNTS EQUAL TEN PER CENT OF PRESENT LEVELS UNDER DECISION OF INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

Washington, May 24.—Railroad freight rates will be reduced on July 1 by amounts equal to 10 per cent of their present levels under a decision of the interstate commerce commission announced today. Practically all classes and commodities of traffic are affected by the reduction which marked the conclusion of the investigation begun last autumn by the commission on its own initiative into the reasonableness of existing freight levels.

Agricultural products in all sections of the country outside of New England, live stock and Western grain and grain products are the chief commodities excluded from the reduction, these comprising the freight classifications upon which reductions have been recently put into effect. Passenger charges and Pullman fares also are left unchanged.

The commission announced also its determination of 5.75 per cent. as the reasonable annual return which carriers in the future will be entitled to earn on their capital investment. This compares with 6 per cent. the reasonable return level fixed under the transportation act for the period expiring March 1.

Railroads were requested to signify to the commission before May 31 whether they would voluntarily make new schedules complying with the decision, or require the commission to issue its formal and detailed order for the alteration.

On the statement of the commission that all freight revenues in 1921 approximated \$400,000,000, 000 today's decision will reduce the national freight bill by \$400,000,000 per year.

As stated in technical language to the railroads the commission said that after July 1 it would hold unreasonable rates "including more than the following percentage of increase over the rates in effect immediately prior to August 26 1920" and set up the territorial schedules as follows:

"In the Eastern group, also between points in Illinois territory, and between Illinois territory and the Eastern group, 25 per cent instead of the 40 per cent authorized in the decisions last cited. (Increased rates of 1920.)

"In the Western group and between the Western group and Illinois territory, 21.5 per cent instead of the 35 per cent so authorized.

"In the Southern and mountain Pacific groups, 12.5 per cent. instead of the 25 per cent so authorized.

"In inter-territorial traffic except as otherwise provided herein, 20 per cent instead of the 33 1-3 per cent, so authorized. The commission, after reviewing the arguments for and against rate reductions as made before it by shippers, railroads and representatives of geographical areas of the country, declared that as rates had been pushed up by horizontal percentage increases "a similar process should be followed" in bringing them down to meet lowered expense of operation." This coincided with the arguments which President Harding advanced before executives at a dinner conference last week.

It was chiefly on this point that supplemental and dissenting opinions were filed. Chairman McCord and Commissioners Lewis and Cox advocated sharper commodity reductions, rather than the horizontal cuts decided upon by the majority. McCord likewise dissented from the 5.75 per cent. fair return provision while Commissioner Pot-

MAJORITY PLANS TO SEEK CLOTURE

TARIFF FIGHT MAY GROW MORE INTERESTING.—UNDERWOOD SERVES NOTICE FROM MINORITY SIDE THAT SPIRITED CONTEST WILL DEVELOP.

Washington, May 25.—Cloture as a means of cutting down debate on the tariff was proposed today at a conference of Republican senators and was discussed later in the senate. Opposition to the suggestion developed on both sides of the chamber, Democrats giving formal warning that any effort by the majority to put over a "gag" rule would be resisted to the utmost.

The proposal will be discussed further at a second majority conference Saturday.

As drafted the rule would apply not alone to the pending tariff bill, but to all revenue and appropriations measures. It will not apply to any other legislation and would leave senators free to discuss any other general legislation.

Under the rule after a revenue appropriation bill has been before the senate five days, 16 senators could present a motion for cloture and, if sustained by a majority, vote the time of each senator desiring to speak would be limited to one hour on the bill and two minutes on any amendment, with the requirement that the debate be confined to the subject matters before the senate.

Many of the leaders on the Republican side heretofore have opposed cloture and today a number of majority senators expressed doubt as to the advisability of injecting a cloture contest into the tariff situation believing that it would delay rather than expedite action on the bill. Advocates of the cloture rule contended, however, that time would be saved in the end.

RETURN TO NEW YORK

Mr. and Mrs. Kerr Belcher and son, David, returned today to their home in New York City after a stay of one month in Abbeville with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Belcher have enjoyed their visit South, and the people of Abbeville were delighted to have them here. Mr. Belcher spent his boyhood in Abbeville and as the years passed he longed for the boyhood scenes and haunts of other days.

About five years ago he married Miss Margaret Jeanne in the St. Matthews Cathedral at Dallas, Texas. They have one son, David, who returns to New York and will be able to tell his young friends how his father behaved when he was a boy, such as untying the horses hitched to racks on the public square on Saturday afternoons and running off out to the Gilliams and following the "thresher" about the country, when threshers made pilgrimages from farm to farm and took toll from each farmer for wheat threshed. The pity is that David will never know the joys of lying in a straw pile while the sun beats down and hearing the negroes talk and work and laugh.

REV. LOUIS J. BRISTOW

Rev. Louis J. Bristow left today for his home in Selma, Ala., after a pleasant visit to relatives and his friend, Mr. C. D. Brown.

ter suggested also reductions in passenger rates.

"Practically all agree that stability of freight is highly desirable," and majority opinion declared "and that normal traffic may not well be expected until the present widespread expectation of rate is realized or dispelled. To assume that rates can or should be stabilized on the present high basis is futile."

ALABAMA POWER CO. CONTRACT ILLEGAL

POWER CO. CONTRACT BURDENSOME FOR GOVERNMENT IN THAT IT GAVE IT EXCLUSIVE RIGHT TO PURCHASE

Washington, May 25.—An opinion by Attorney General Daugherty submitted to Secretary Weeks and forwarded today to the house military committee holds that the contract executed by the government with the Alabama Power company is "invalid" with respect to the provision which power company official contend gives them the right of exclusive purchase of the government's interests in the steam power plant at Gorgas, Alabama.

The opinion was presented to the committee by Chairman Kahn immediately upon its receipt from the war department, the committee having been called to consider the document in connection with the investigation of proposals made by Henry Ford and other private interests to develop the government's power and nitrate projects at Muscle Shoals.

Members of the committee who favored the Ford proposal said the opinion was of the greatest importance with respect to the ultimate action upon the proposal in congress. Mr. Ford proposed to purchase the nitrate plant and, under his offer would receive clear title to the power station at Gorgas.

Vice President Hammett of the Air Nitrates corporation, and Thomas Martin, president of the Alabama Power company both had served notice to the committee that the interest they represented confidently expected the government to live up to the terms of the respective contracts and in the event of failure on the part of the government would institute court proceedings to prevent the delivery of the properties to other private interests.

The power company, pursuant to the terms of the contract with the war department recently made offer to Secretary Weeks of \$2,500,000 for the government's interest in the Gorgas plant, the railroad and transmission line to Muscle Shoals.

TALK TWO BILLION LOAN FOR GERMANY

Morgan and Other World Financiers Discuss the Matter in Paris.

Paris, May 25.—Leading bankers from many nations, with J. P. Morgan as the American representative were in Paris today to discuss financial means for the settlement of the European situation, with a loan to Germany considered as one of the first measures necessary. Informal discussions among the financiers preliminary to the meeting indicated that a loan to Germany must be of considerable magnitude to bring about a real settlement and assure that a fresh crisis will not spring up within a few months.

The figures mentioned ranged from \$500,000,000 to \$2,000,000,000, the latter apparently meeting with the most favor. Such a loan, however, would be contingent, it is understood upon a decisive revision downward in the cash reparation payments demanded from Germany.

MR. ASHLEY LOSES GIN HOUSE.

While attending the funeral of his uncle Mr. E. W. Ashley at Keowee, Joe M. H. Ashley of Honea Path lost his gin house and machinery on last Thursday night the 18th. A loss of \$20,000 was sustained, which was partly covered by insurance. The origin of the fire is unknown.

Dr. Jack Pressly went to Anderson today on business.

DEATH FOR FOUR IN EXPLOSION

SOLDIERS KILLED AT CAMP BRAGG—SHRAPNEL PROJECTILE FALLS SHORT IN RANGE, STRIKES TREE AND EXPLODES

Fayetteville, N. C., May 25.—A board of inquiry consisting of several officers has been approved by Gen. A. J. Bowley, commandant at Camp Bragg near here, to inquire into the explosion of a shrapnel projectile which fell short in range at Camp Bragg this morning, killing four enlisted men and wounding three men and one officer. The board will make its report to the war department.

The accident occurred about 10 o'clock this morning while the Fifth field artillery was doing some firing for the field officers' artillery school conducted at the camp. A shrapnel projectile which officers believe was defective was fired from a 75 millimeter gun and fell short in range, struck a tree and then ricocheted on the ground and exploded.

Privates Thomas L. Wood of Salisbury, N. C., Walter C. Ammons of Milton, Fla., and George L. McClelland of Noble, Ill., were instantly killed and Private Alonzo Morgan of Blantyre received wounds from which he died later and Private William Owl of Lumberton, W. Va., and Sergt. Donnet Smith of Fulton, N. Y., all members of Battery E, Fifth field artillery, were seriously injured.

Capt. M. A. Dawson was struck in the foot by a piece of shell but his injuries are not considered serious. Sergeant Smith was operated on late today and officials at the camp reported that he came through the operation successfully and is now resting easily. Private Owl was reported resting comfortably tonight and it is believed he will recover.

Many narrow escapes from the explosion were reported. There were a large number of officers and men in close proximity to the scene of the explosion and when the shell burst fragments were scattered for many yards in every direction.

32 INJURED WHEN TRAIN HIT TROLLEY

Confusions of Signals At Crossing Caused the Accident At Woodlawn

Birmingham, May 25.—Thirty-two persons were injured several seriously, when a Tidewater car, on lines of the Birmingham Railway, Light and Power Company was struck by a freight train today on the Alabama Great Southern railroad at Woodlawn station, a suburb.

Confusion in following signals of a crossing flagman was said to have caused the accident.

The trolley car, of heavy interurban type was broken in two. The engine drawing 45 empty cars was derailed by the impact and ran on the tires nearly 300 feet before coming to a stop.

The car was inbound and was crowded with suburbanites on their way to work.

ATTEND PAGEANT AT LANDER

Among those from Abbeville who attended the great historical pageant in Greenwood last evening given by members of the faculty and all the students of Lander College were: Mr. and Mrs. Jas. S. Cochran, Miss Hannah Cochran, W. E. Hill and William Hill. The pageant gives a history of Lander College from its beginning fifty years ago at Williamston up to the present day. The pageant was greatly enjoyed by those who attended from here.

STATE CAMPAIGN OPENS IN COLUMBIA

FULL ITINERARY ANNOUNCED BY SUBCOMMITTEE.—CLOSING DATE FOR SPEAKERS FIXED FOR SPARTANBURG.—IN ABBEVILLE AUGUST 17.

Candidates for states offices and congress from the Seventh district will fire their opening guns in Columbia this summer, according to the campaign itinerary announced Wednesday by a subcommittee of the state Democratic executive committee. This committee, composed of Gen. Willie Jones, George Bell Timmerman and H. N. Edmunds, was named at the executive committee meeting in connection with the state convention and instructed to map out an itinerary.

June 20 is the opening day and August 25 is the closing date. The last meeting being in Spartanburg. From Columbia the campaigners jump in order named to Lexington, Saluda, Edgefield and Aiken during the first week. From July 8 to July 17 rest is provided for and again from August 5 to August 14 a rest period is in the itinerary. The schedule includes congressional speakers.

Full Itinerary.

The full itinerary as announced by the subcommittee is as follows: Columbia, Tuesday, June 20. Lexington, Wednesday, June 21. Saluda, Thursday, June 22. Edgefield, Friday, June 23. Aiken, Saturday, June 24. Barnwell, Monday, June 26. Allendale, Tuesday, June 27. Hamptos, Wednesday, June 28. Beaufort, Thursday, June 29. Ridgeland, Friday, June 30. Walterboro, Saturday, July 1. Moncks Corner, Monday, July 3. Charleston, Tuesday, July 4. St. George, Wednesday, July 5. Bamberg, Thursday, July 6. St. Matthews, Friday, July 7. Orangeburg, Saturday, July 8.

Rest Eight Days.

Sumter, Monday, July 17. Bishopville, Tuesday, July 18. Darlington, Wednesday, July 19. Bennettsville, Thursday, July 20. Chesterfield, Friday, July 21. Florence, Saturday, July 22. Conway, Monday, July 24. Marion, Tuesday, July 25. Dillon, Wednesday, July 26. Kinstree, Thursday, July 27. Georgetown, Friday, July 28. Manning, Saturday, July 29. Camden, Monday, July 31. Lancaster, Tuesday, August 1. York, Wednesday, August 2. Winnboro, Thursday, August 3. Chester, Friday, August 4. Union, Saturday, August 5.

Another Rest.

Newberry, Monday, August 14. Greenwood, Tuesday, August 15. Laurens, Wednesday, August 16. Abbeville, Thursday, August 17. McCormick, Friday, August 18. Anderson, Saturday, August 19. Walhalla, Monday, August 21. Pickens, Tuesday, August 22. Greenville, Wednesday, August 23. Gaffney, Thursday, August 24. Spartanburg, Friday, August 25.

KNIGHTS RETURN.

Dr. G. A. Neuffer and Mr. C. D. Brown have returned from Spartanburg where they attended the meeting of the grand lodge of South Carolina Knights of Pythias. Aiken is to be the next meeting place. The following new officers were elected:

James H. Craig of Anderson, grand vice chancellor; John M. Hemphill, Chester, grand prelate; C. D. Brown, Abbeville, grand keeper of records and seal; Governor Wilson G. Harvey, grand master of exchequer; E. D. Lemacks, Walterboro, grand master at arms; W. D. Murphy, Spartanburg, grand inner guard; Abe Brill, Spartanburg, grand outer guard. Grand Chancellor Guilds who held the office of Grand Vice Chancellor, succeeds Henry C. Tillman of Greenwood.

FINANCE COMMITTEE WINS TARIFF CLASH

FIGHT OVER DUTIES ON GRAPHITE SPLITS BOTH REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC RANKS BEFORE DECISION IS REACHED.—ROLL CALLS FOLLOW.

Washington, May 24.—Practically all of the daylight hours today were spent by the senate in a fight over the tariff duties on graphite, which split both the Republican and Democratic ranks, but left the finance committee majority victorious. Assault after assault was made on the committee proposals, with roll call following roll call, but each was repulsed, the duties being approved as recommended—10 per cent. ad valorem on amorphous graphite, 20 per cent. on crystalline lump and two cent a pound on crystalline flakes. After a six hour struggle over this one item the senate settled down to its tenth night session since the tariff bill was called up nearly five weeks ago.

Attention of majority senators continued to be unsatisfactory to Republican leaders, who issued a call for a party conference tomorrow, at which Republicans again will be urged to stay on the job so as to get the tariff bill out of the way. The split among the Democrats over graphite was made the subject of discussion by several speakers on the Republican side and brought out a statement from Senator Borah of Idaho that there wasn't such a wide difference between the two parties on the tariff question, the Democrats favoring protection for products of their states. This was disputed by Senator Stanley (Democrat) of Kentucky, who declared he never would vote to use the taxing power of the government to subsidize industry.

Senator Gooding of Idaho, chairman of the Republican agricultural tariff bloc, expressed the hope that the division of the minority presaged the day when the two parties would come together on the questions with protection to all industry. The Idaho senator expressed the belief that the American people would sanction duties as high as 400 or 500 per cent. on farm products if that should prove necessary to protect American industries.

The tariff bloc chairman took occasions to deny statements made in debate that the bloc had entered into any agreement of trade with other senators in order to get protection for agricultural products. Such a statement, he said, "was without foundation and without any proof at all."

Exhibiting pound cans of finished graphite such as is sold to automobile owners, Senator Nicholson told the senate these retailed for from 75 cents to \$1.50 each, while the cost of the raw material to the manufacturers was from two to five cents a pound.

"If the federal trade commission were attending to its business this imposition on the American consumers would not be possible," the Colorado senator declared.

COTTON MARKET

Cotton brought 20 1-4 cents on the local market today. Futures closed

July	20.85
October	20.47
December	20.29
January	20.15
Futures closed yesterday	
July	20.38
October	20.08
December	19.96
January	19.84

FIRST GRADE HAVE PICNIC

Miss Lilla Ketchin gave the first grade a picnic on Thursday at Calvert's pasture. All of the good things were furnished, including ice cream cones, for the pleasure of the little ones.