

RAILROADS TRY RELIEF METHOD

Drastic Regulations Are Put Into Effect to Prevent Car Congestion

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—Drastic regulations adopted by the railroads went into effect today with the approval of the interstate commerce commission as emergency measures to relieve the shortage of freight cars...

Rental Rate Raised. Another order increases the daily rental paid by railroads to each other for cars from 45 to 75 cents per car or about 70 per cent.

Foreign cars on congested roads are said to have come almost wholly from southern and western roads.

The rise in the price of coal is attributed almost wholly to the car shortage and by the alleged activities of speculators.

In respect to foodstuffs the same situation is said to have applied, although it was less acute.

Further consideration of the problems presented by the shortage of cars is the subject of a conference here today of officials of eastern roads.

ELDON

The G. G. T. dancing club gave their regular dance at the Moose hall, Thursday night with music furnished by Mrs. Dorris Appleby and Glen Brooks.

Mrs. Chas Sheffer and daughter, Mrs. Joe, were Ottumwa visitors on Thursday.

George McKay and Frank Millard left for Davenport to take a degree in the Mystic Shrine.

Miss Lora Hinkle of Selma was in the city Thursday.

On account of the cold weather the laborers on the bank building went to their home in Centerville.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Schreckengost of Valley Junction passed through here on route to Fairfield to visit friends.

Wm. Bray was a Centerville visitor this week.

Mrs. G. Bohle of Indianapolis arrived Thursday for a visit with friends here.

Miss Ann Hazlewood of this city attended "The Birth of a Nation" at Bloomfield.

Mrs. Louise Earhart celebrated her 83rd birthday and A. V. Smith his 81st birthday.

The Sunday school convention held at the North Union Baptist church in Davis county December 14th and 15th was a success in attendance and interest.

The Ladies Aid of the Baptist church cleared \$25 at a dinner held at the H. P. Campbell home.

Miss Ann Hazlewood of this city attended "The Birth of a Nation" at Bloomfield.

RAIL PROBLEM TO BE SETTLED SOON

HEADS OF ROADS AND OF UNIONS MAY GET TOGETHER BEFORE COURT RULES.

Chicago, Dec. 16.—Hale Holden, president of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, who was chairman of the committee of railroad executives which met with President Wilson and the brotherhood officials in Washington last summer, when a railroad strike was threatened, confirmed today that informal conferences had been held by railroad representatives with brotherhood officials concerning a settlement out of court of the controversy between the railroads and their employees.

W. G. Lee, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, also announced at Evansville, Ind., last night that negotiations are under way between leaders of the four brotherhoods and operating officials of several railroads looking to a settlement of the entire controversy before January 1, when the Adamson law is to go into effect.

Both Mr. Lee and Mr. Holden said, however, that the discussions had not progressed far enough even to suggest a basis for a permanent settlement.

"I don't feel that I can say much more than that the conferences have been held between the brotherhood men and the railroad officials," said Mr. Holden. "The meetings have been of a purely informal nature and to date there has been no suggestion for an ultimate adjustment."

ASK MORE TIME.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—Extension of the life of the joint congressional committee investigating railroad problems until January 1, 1918, sought in a resolution prepared for introduction in the house today by Representative Adamson, vice chairman of the committee.

Senator Newlands, chairman of the committee, said he believes an extra session of congress should be held if the railroad legislation is not enacted at this session.

FAIR WEATHER IN SIGHT; THEN SNOW

Washington, D. C., Dec. 16.—Forecasts for the week beginning Sunday were announced by the weather bureau today as follows:

Lake regions: Overcast weather with occasional snows. Temperatures below seasonal normal, although somewhat warmer weather is probable during middle of week.

Plains states and upper and middle Mississippi valleys: Fair until Wednesday or Thursday when local snows are probable in northern and rains or snow in southern portions.

He told the sheriff that since he was released from jail he had been working at the Morrell packing plant but investigation of this tale showed that he had worked there but two days.

BIG CONCESSION IS MADE BY GERMANY

EMBASSY INTIMATES THAT PARTIAL DISARMAMENT WILL FOLLOW PEACE.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 15.—The authorized statement at the German embassy that consideration of at least partial disarmament would be one of the things taken up at a peace conference attracted the widest attention among government officials and diplomats.

Disarmament formed practically the whole basis of the Russian circular note of August 12, 1916, proposing the first Hague conference.

Attention was called to the resulting economic crisis, the continual danger lurking in big military and naval forces, their crushing burden and the fact that they must inevitably lead to the very cataclysm it was designed to prevent.

The first conference adopting the suggestion of a sub-committee decided "the restriction of military charges is extremely desirable for the increase of the moral and material welfare of mankind."

Nevertheless, owing to the attitude of some of the powers and the difficulty of agreeing on an international plan, the matter was left to the various nations without direct suggestion.

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MUNLEY DIES; ARREST THREE

Their Arraignment, Though, Will Await Outcome of Coroner's Inquest

Martin Munley, who was held up and shot Tuesday night in St. Joseph's hospital at 6:15 o'clock this morning, and Charles Higdon, Lawrence Yates and Tom Reese, are in the county jail held in connection with his death.

Higdon, a south side teamster, was arrested Wednesday evening; Reese, who works at the gas company, was taken into custody Thursday night and at 9 o'clock Friday night Yates, who was released from jail a month ago today, was arrested. City Officer Alva Fiedler took all three in charge.

Holding Inquest.

Coroner L. A. Hammer began the inquest at 4 o'clock this afternoon in the small court room at the county building. Mrs. Higdon, wife of one of the prisoners, will be among the witnesses before the hearing is finished.

It is probable that the coroner will open the inquest to swear in the jurors and then adjourn until Mrs. Higdon arrives. This will allow the undertaker to remove Mr. Munley's body to his home, 413 North Sheridan avenue.

Robbery Not Merited?

County Attorney Daugherty, who has been busy in court with another case since Munley was shot, assumed active charge of the investigation today.

Mr. Daugherty does not think that robbery was the motive which prompted the person who shot Mr. Munley. What the motive was he is unable to say aside from the suggestion that it may have been the outcome of an ill feeling of long standing.

Yates is Nervous.

Of the three men, who are being held in jail, Yates is the most nervous. He paces the floor and appears ill at ease all of the time.

When arrested he and his brother, Leslie Yates, were in the vicinity of the pool hall and soft drink parlor which Munley ran at 304 Church street.

He told the sheriff that since he was released from jail he had been working at the Morrell packing plant but investigation of this tale showed that he had worked there but two days.

Yates and his brother were in jail all summer awaiting action by the grand jury on the charge of stealing a horse in Green township last May. They were indicted and received thirty days as their sentence.

Nothing in Statement. County Attorney Daugherty, in commenting on the statement Munley made Thursday night to Mr. Daugherty's assistant, J. L. Chapman, said that he did not consider that it contained anything of any great importance.

Mr. Munley gave a description of the man who attacked him but Mr. Daugherty says it might fit anyone of a thousand men in a city of this size. The injured man was not able at that time to tell anything about his assailant's voice other than that he had heard it before.

Arraignment of the three prisoners will probably await the result of the coroner's inquest.

Mr. Daugherty said today that their appearance before Justice Nosler would depend entirely on the inquest. He intimated that they might not reach even so preliminary a stage in the proceedings as an arraignment.

Higdon is held on a charge of assault and the other two on a vagrancy charge.

Funeral Monday.

Funeral services for Mr. Munley will be held at 9 o'clock Monday morning in St. Patrick's church with Rev. Father Henry Moran in charge. Interment will follow at Calvary cemetery. He is survived by his wife, Honor, a sister, Mrs. Joseph Genocchio; two brothers, William of Ottumwa and Michael of South Carolina. He was born in Canada, April 15, 1885, and lived here most of his life.

SHORT COURSE CLOS.

Chariton, Dec. 16.—The Lucas county short course which has been held in Chariton this week has proved to be a great success. The attendance throughout has been good but will be much larger when another one is held here and it is known that great benefits are to be derived from the lectures and demonstrations.

The corps of instructors who have conducted the various classes included Mr. Hart and Mr. Houser, who dealt with the beef and dairy cattle and sheep; Mr. Churchill and Mr. Douglas, who handled the grain; and Miss Campbell and Miss Dana, who took care of the home economics.

On Wednesday evening Prof. Geo. F. Kay, of the state university, state geologist, delivered an illustrated lecture on The Soils of Iowa. On Thursday evening there was a musical entertainment and a spelling contest, which closed the course.

FRANK SMITH FOUND GUILTY BY COURT JURY

Verdict of Second Degree Murder Is Returned for Mrs. Gerlach's Slayer

MOVE FOR NEW TRIAL TO BE MADE MONDAY

Centerville, Dec. 16. (Special)—The jury in the case of Frank Smith charged with the murder of Mrs. Alice Gerlach on the streets of Unionville, May 9, returned a verdict of guilty of second degree murder at 12:45 a. m. today after being out for six hours and twenty-five minutes.

Twenty-one ballots were necessary to reach the verdict, the first resulting in four for first degree murder, four for second degree and four for manslaughter. In the later balloting as many as four votes for acquittal were cast but these are said to have been with the object of reaching some compromise rather than because of any sentiment for acquittal.

Very little consideration was given the insanity plea of the defendant because of the part the alleged threats of Mrs. Gerlach played in the trial. The sentiment among the crowds attending the case was for a first degree murder verdict.

Smith made no expression in the court room regarding the verdict but on his way back he made the following statement to the officer: "My father fought for this country. He was brave man. I am proud of him. I fought for my wife and children. I am glad of it and would do it again."

The time for passing judgment was not fixed by the court today but is expected to be some time next week. The counsel for the defense will make a motion for a new trial Monday.

The court record of the case is the largest ever taken by a court reporter in Appanoose county and Adolph Springer of Ottumwa, court reporter for Judge Seneca Cornell, also of Ottumwa, has 1,357 pages of shorthand notes in the case. If an appeal should be taken to the supreme court, the cost of transcribing the record would be \$1,000.

JUDGE READS INSTRUCTIONS.

With intense quiet in the court room, crowded as it has not been since the Junkin trial, the county attorney, W. B. Hayes, completed his plea to the jury and Judge Seneca Cornell of Ottumwa read the instructions Friday evening, the jury walking out of the room at 6:30 o'clock. This was the close of the twenty-third day of the Frank Smith murder trial that has had so many peculiar phases connected with it and that has enlisted about 200 witnesses in the furnishing of testimony on which the jury was to decide whether the accused was guilty of the murder of his cousin, Mrs. Alice Gerlach, May 9, on Unionville's main street.

The jury gave particularly close attention to the reading of the instructions which required about thirty-five minutes. Frank Smith sat throughout the reading of the instructions in the section on one side or the other, led to the shooting at Unionville, near here, of Mrs. Alice Gerlach, by her cousin, Frank Smith, known throughout Appanoose county as the "feudist of the Soap creek hills."

Preceding the shooting, according to testimony given by witnesses for both sides at the trial, a series of misfortune incidents occurred which, since Smith's arrest, have assumed an ill-omened significance and have been cited alternately by the prosecution and defense in an effort to prove on one hand that the shooting of Mrs. Gerlach was a deliberate, premeditated murder, and on the other that the defendant was insane when the shooting occurred and that he has no distinct recollection of the occurrence.

The incidents included various and frequent visits to the Smith home of a "bird of ill omen," the burning of several homes and a school house, the sending of anonymous and threatening letters written in blood, wire fence cuttings and the deaths of three of Smith's immediate family.

Since boyhood Frank Smith, the defendant, has had a reputation in and about Unionville and in the hills where his family dominated weaker neighbors after the feudal plan of the middle ages, for recklessness. He caused trouble in school, later broke up revival meetings—sometimes going to the mourners' bench himself—and engaged in half a dozen gun fights, none of which, however, terminated fatally. Near his father's home in the Soap creek hills lived another branch of the Smith family, the two elder Smiths being brothers. Sapp Smith, the father of Frank, and Dick Smith, Mrs. Gerlach's father, lived on adjoining farms within a mile and a half of each other, and as far as can be learned from old settlers, dominated the district.

The trouble between Frank and his cousin Alice started about two years ago following the burning of a house in the neighborhood out of which a family distasteful to a brother of Mrs. Gerlach was to move. The brother was arrested and charged with arson. At his trial Mrs. Gerlach testified for the prosecution. Frank Smith, on the other hand, stood by his cousin throughout the trial and even took the stand for the defense. Following Smith's conviction Frank Smith upbraided his cousin for what he termed "treachery to her brother," especially since at that time Mrs. Gerlach and her two sons, 8 and 10 years old, were living at the brother's home.

After Walter Smith had been sent to the penitentiary fire began to be discovered at intervals in the "Poker Hill" school house near Mrs. Gerlach's home. Witnesses testified in the present trial that there were rumors circulated that Frank Smith was setting the fires and endeavoring to throw the blame on Mrs. Gerlach in an effort to revenge himself on her for testifying against her brother.

Shortly after Smith began to receive and reported the receipt of threatening letters, some unsigned and some signed with the letter "G." Frank accused Mrs. Gerlach of sending the letters but the prosecution in the present trial contended that Frank wrote and sent the letters to himself in order to cause trouble for his cousin. One of these letters, written, it is said, in blood, was found on Frank Smith's person when he was arrested following the shooting of Mrs. Gerlach.

Following the threatening letters some unknown individual began cutting large pieces out of Frank Smith's barbed wire fences, and the same rumors circulated about the fence cutting "atrocities" as had been whispered through the hills with regard to the fires and threatening letters.

A little later began the series of misfortune which played such a large part in the trial. Frank Smith's eldest boy, Emory, was a favorite with his grandfather and spent much of the time at the old man's home. One day the lad and his grandfather started on a hunting trip. An hour later the old man returned bearing the child in his arms; dying from a gunshot wound from a gun which had been accidentally discharged while the grandfather was crossing a trench.

The defendant and his mother testified that this occurrence, had been a "strange bird" as also that morning Smith had been discovered trying to get into one of the windows in the Smith home. A short time later Smith's baby fell ill, and the bird appeared again. This time Frank shot it. Half an hour later his father came to see the sick child and fell dead beside the bed.

Meantime the threatening letters had been resumed and Smith's wife, according to her story told on the witness stand, had twice been shot at by Mrs. Gerlach as the latter was driving past the farm. Regarding this incident Smith told the jurors that on one occasion he had been forced to flee into his house because Mrs. Gerlach flourished a revolver at him as she drove past.

On the day of the shooting, according to the testimony, Smith met Mrs. Gerlach in Unionville and charged her with writing him the threatening letters. He testified that he saw her reach into her buggy and feared she was searching for a revolver. He told the court that when he saw her put her hand under the cushion on the buggy seat, he "had an explosion in his head," and remembered nothing further until he found himself in jail, charged with murder. Smith, according to witnesses, shot Mrs. Gerlach twice with a shotgun, killing her instantly.

During the trial the state contended that Smith's alleged "queer" actions were due to generation-old superstitions of the families, the fact that the defendant was known to have been a heavy drinker. The defense claimed that the fact that these superstitions existed showed a strain of insanity or a trend in that direction in the family and that the old superstitions had undergone a premonition of insanity and resulted in the shooting. Mrs. Smith, the defendant's mother, testified on the witness stand that prior to her son's birth she had been subject to hallucinations, brought on by the death of a 5-year-old daughter and that she believed her daughter's death was due to some sin committed by herself. Smith himself has been subject to emotional outbreaks throughout the course of the trial, the most startling being when he shouted from the witness stand that he would "call Mrs. Gerlach's soul from before the great white throne to testify to his innocence."

The trial itself brought hundreds of people to Centerville. Each session crowded the little court room to the doors and hundreds made hotel reservations in order to remain here to the end. Much of the interest is attributed to the fact that at one time or another nearly every resident of the Soap creek hills district has been more or less embroiled in the family difficulties of the Smiths.

IOWA GUARDSMEN FIGURE IN WRECK

TRAIN BRINGING ARTILLERYMEN HOME FROM THE BORDER, RUNS OFF RAILS.

Grapeland, Tex., Dec. 16.—Eight troopers of the Iowa field artillery were injured when two tourist cars of a special troop train carrying batteries A and C from Brownsville to their mustering out station, left the track one mile north of this place today.

The injured were taken to a hospital at Palestine. It is believed all will recover.

The accident occurred a few minutes after the mixed train of twenty nine coaches had left this place on its northward trip. There were 326 soldiers aboard and they, under command of their officers, helped clear the wreckage.

The Iowa troops left Brownsville yesterday via Houston to be mustered out on their arrival at the demobilization station.

The cause of the accident had not been determined several hours after it occurred.

Palestine, Tex., Dec. 16.—Two train men and eight soldiers of the Iowa field artillery, who were injured when they were brought here for treatment in a railroad hospital, Conductor Albright and Brakeman Davis were the most seriously injured but all will recover, doctors said.

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Smith himself has been subject to emotional outbreaks throughout the course of the trial, the most startling being when he shouted from the witness stand that he would "call Mrs. Gerlach's soul from before the great white throne to testify to his innocence."

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The Biggest Value Store M. Barmash

422, 424 East Main Street Just Out of the High Rent District

Hello! Santa Claus' Message Shop at M. Barmash, "The Biggest Value Store," and buy useful Christmas gifts that will be most appreciated. You can save money on your holiday needs by buying here.

\$1.00 ladies' felt slippers with wool felt sole - pair 65c Ladies' felt slippers, fur or ribbon head trimmed, good wearing, pliable leather soles - all colors - the famous Daniel Green Comfy brand 98c

\$1.50 and \$2 ladies' fancy felt slippers, soft elk soles, at \$1.15 - \$1.35 \$1.75 men's house slippers, black or tan, good leather soles \$1.25 \$1.00 men's house slippers, dark chocolate color, special 65c

For Men or Boys \$20 men's hand tailored all wool shape retaining coat fronts, London shrunk suits \$11.95 \$15 men's plain or the popular pinch-back overcoats \$9.95 \$12 men's overcoats \$7.95 \$7 men's mackinaws, good weight and nice patterns \$4.95 \$8.50 men's mackinaws \$6.50 \$10 men's mackinaws, extra quality, with best tailoring \$7.75 \$6 boys' heavy wool mackinaws, all new colors - see the new combination pocket style, useful for carrying school books, etc. - priced at \$4.25 \$7 boys' mackinaws \$4.98 \$5 boys' gray chinchilla overcoats in the new pinch-back style, sizes 2 1/2 to 10 at \$2.98 Boys' heavy and well made duck coats at \$1.15 and \$1.25 Boys' corduroy pants 50c Boys' best corduroy pants 98c Boys' cassimere pants 50c

Our Ladies' Dept Late Arrivals in Ladies' Skirts for the Holiday Trade \$6 new box pleat skirts \$3.98 \$5.50 all wool plaid skirts \$3.75 \$6 ladies' newest style skirts of "Sol" satin, warranted five years, in the new flare style \$3.98

Waists \$1.50 ladies' black waists 98c \$1.50 French flannel waists 98c New crepe de chene waists \$1.98 New dark taffeta waists \$1.98 Ladies' bath robes - the better kind - well tailored \$3.98 \$2 extra quality flannelette kimonos, nice colors \$1.25

Get Away This Winter! Pack your grip, tell the folks goodbye, go down to the depot, buy a ticket to California—that great out-of-doors land, which rears the weary and refreshes the weak—via the Burlington Route (the moving picture way through scenic Colorado and Salt Lake in daylight). Climb aboard, lean back, relax and watch America roll past your window.

Getting away from the cold, bad weather, business responsibilities, care and worry, and out into the glorious sunshine and semi-tropical atmosphere of California where you can rest, change and rejuvenate, will do you a world of good.

You'll be surprised when you compare the cost with the cost of remaining at home. Think what this will mean to you, when you remember that a life which isn't pleasantly spent isn't well spent. Before completing your plans let me explain how you may join a Burlington Personally Conducted Excursion (costs no more - just a part of Burlington Service) and send you a folder telling all about the trip - worth reading even if you don't go.

J. H. Robinson, Ticket Agent Ottumwa, Iowa

I still heat my office with a coal stove. When you come to Ottumwa this winter come in here and get warm. I sell farm implements, wagons, pumps, oils, greases, gasoline and "Repairs for Everything." I will send you the Wallace Farmer, 52 weeks for 75c. Leave your subscription or renewal for this best farm paper with me.

JAS. H. SHEPHERD "New Shepherd's Rancho" 209, 211 W. Main St., Ottumwa, Iowa

Bell Phone 664

FINDS CATTLE IN BIG STRAW STACK Hamburg, Dec. 16.—Three weeks ago W. S. James, living on a farm near here, lost a steer and a cow. He believed they had been stolen. Ralph James, a son, while hunting, walked upon a big pile of straw that had been dumped into a ravine to stop the water from washing the banks. He suddenly found himself twenty feet beneath the top of the pile and upon the lost steer. By its side was the cow. They were alive but greatly emaciated and when dug out were able, with assistance, to reach the barn. They had been without water three weeks but subsisted on the straw.

WATSON WILL BE SPEAKER OF HOUSE Jefferson City, Mo., Dec. 16.—Drake Watson will be elected speaker of the house of the forty-ninth general assembly. His election was assured when he received a telegram from J. F. Phillips of Ripley county announcing he would not be a candidate. Watson says he has received pledges from more than sixty of the democratic members of the house.

CORNELL GETS RECOGNITION. Mt. Vernon, Dec. 16.—Cornell college has been accorded a place in the group of American institutions whose bachelors' degrees are accepted by the German universities as fulfilling their conditions of matriculation.

MINE SINKS VESSEL. Christiania, via London, Dec. 16.—The Swedish steamer Vala has been destroyed by a mine. The fourteen members of her crew are safe.

FILTRATION PLANT ALMOST FINISHED Trenton, Mo., Dec. 16.—Trenton's new water filtration plant, which was recently voted by the citizens at a cost of \$30,000 is nearing completion. The plant is being constructed by a Kansas City contracting firm and city officials declare it will be ready for use by January 1.