

FREIGHT TRAFFIC BADLY CONGESTED

Foreign Bound Transportation Gets More Attention Than Domestic Cars.

NEW YORK, March 24.—"We are confronted with a horrible calamity," said a freight man today. "No less word can describe the confusion, wasted energy and lack of system throughout the country's railroad lines."

The transportation systems are overwhelmed. Every terminal here is surfeited, every pier is overtaxed, ships cannot find places to load, shippers cry for accommodations, shipments are lost or delayed months over time, the east lids against the west in a grand wrangle for freight cars, and the railroad lines fall by a long way to get the benefits they should out of the present tremendous urge of industry.

Foreign governments compete with American manufacturers and merchants. The railroads are accused of favoring war supplies while American business men can get neither raw materials nor deliveries of their products; the foreign agents at the same time tear their hair because shells and powder do not go forward fast enough.

A new crisis has been caused by the action of the British government in ordering the Cunard ships to refuse all freight except that consigned to the British government, and in commandeering almost all the cargo space on the other vessels under the Union Jack. This means the tying up of export freight in the yards of all the great railroad lines which reach the seacoast here.

Branded Cars. If you see a car branded "For Government Use," you may know it contains supplies for the allies. Such shipments now have freight right of way on most railroads. But this does not mean very much. For instance, the Superior Steel company loaded eight cars at Carnegie, Pa., on Jan. 8. Under ordinary conditions these cars would have been in Jersey City within three days. The first car of the eight did not arrive until March 7, and the other seven cars are missing.

Companies have declared that ships have been compelled to leave here only two-thirds loaded because it was impossible for the railroads to deliver the freight for which room had been engaged on the vessels.

There is a lamentable lack of system or sense in everything connected with the situation. The railroad men blame the steamship people and the steamship people blame the railroads.

Apparently no one connected with the railroad or shipping business appreciated what a volume of stuff was to be shipped abroad, or had any conception of what an impetus the war was to give to American business. No preparations were made and when freight began to increase the railroad men were not sure whether it was a temporary spurt or the beginning of a big movement. They determined to wait and see. The longer they waited the more they saw it swell. Soon they had their hands full. By the time they realized that the biggest rush in the history of American railroads was under way, they were so burdened with the work of handling what was pouring in upon them that they had no time for planning or preparation.

If only foreign-bound freight was affected it would not be so bad, but local, or rather, domestic traffic suffers more than does that bound for Europe. The whole country is embarrassed. Manufacturers in New England, the middle states, the middle west and the west find it as hard to get cars as does the Atlantic seaboard.

Formerly it took not more than 30 days to ship cotton from a Texas point to a New England mill. Now it takes three months or more. Cotton which started from Texas last December has not arrived at Fall River. Where it is marooned en route neither consigner nor consignee knows. Shipments of salmon from Oregon and Washington have been wandering over the country so long that dealers in the east have given up hope. Dried fruits from California and fresh fruit from the Gulf districts, which started long ago, are missing.

There is a pronounced shortage of cars west of the Mississippi. The western railroads have begged and protested and at last they went to the length of threatening to refuse to deliver any more cars to the eastern lines. The eastern traffic men explained how cars were tied up or en route to the Atlantic ports and asked the western line to be patient. The western people were patient so long as they could, but when patience ceased to be a virtue the eastern lines agreed to a measure of relief. Now the eastern lines are doing their best to deliver three cars to the west for every two cars taken from the western roads and this agreement will continue until the west has enough of its rolling stock restored to permit it to conduct business in something near the usual form.

Railroads Begging. The railroads are begging the railroad equipment companies to hurry deliveries of new cars ordered. The equipment men answer with a request to the railroads to get from the steel mills material long overdue. Shipbuilders, pressed by shipping men for greater speed in the turning out of vessels, say they cannot get steel ordered from the mills. The steel men, when demands are made on them for deliveries, declare they are hampered by failure of the railroads to furnish supplies as needed.



Extra Special for Saturday

2,000 MILAN HEMP AND LISERE HATS

In 25 different shapes; all the very latest. In black, white, new gray, blue, brown, purple. Some slightly soiled in shipping. Come early for best selection **\$1.49**

THE STORE FOR EVERY WOMAN—ECONOMY DEPTS.

SOUTH BEND'S GREATEST BARGAIN GIVERS

ECONOMY DEPARTMENTS

219-221 SO. MICHIGAN ST.

ABOVE INDEPENDENT 5c, 10c, 25c STORE.

1,000 white lingerie, voiles, China silks and striped

Waists

Values to \$1.50.

Saturday

85c

300 crepe de chine, pussy willow taffetas and striped

Tub Silks

Values to \$3.00.

Saturday

\$1.89

ECONOMY DAY SATURDAY

The Climax In Value Giving Is Reached Tomorrow

The Newer Styles at Special Prices

Prices 1/2 to 1/3 Lower Than Other Stores Ask

WHY!

The main reason is we are on the second floor and do not have the high rents, the fancy window displays that other stores have and therefore we can save you from 1/3 to 1/2 on every purchase you make tomorrow in our store.

Come In Tomorrow and Pick Out Your Easter Outfit



\$3, \$4 and \$5 Sample Trimmed Hats at \$1.55

Only one and two of a kind. All the newest styles, beautifully trimmed with ribbons and imported flowers in a good selection of colors. The biggest Trimmed Hat bargain in the country at only

\$1.55

TRIMMED DRESS HATS \$5 and \$6 values.

About 100 in this lot to choose from. A hat that you will pay \$5 and \$6 for in any other store. Here Saturday at

2.55

BEAUTIFUL PATTERN HATS \$2.50 and \$10 values.

Copies of high class patterns that "shops" charge \$25 for. You can get the same kind of a hat here Saturday for the small price of

4.44

Our Untrimmed Section Offers Wonderful Bargains Saturday

From 8 A. M. to 12 Noon Saturday
1,000 SATIN AND HEMP HATS
Worth from \$1 to \$3.

15 different styles and all good colors, including black Skinner's satin and genuine Hemp Hats, at the ridiculous low price of only

29c

HEMP AND MILAN HEMP HATS \$2.50 and \$3 values.

In black, white and every imaginable color. All the very latest styles. A hat well worth \$2.50 or \$3.00 of anybody's money. Your unrestricted choice Saturday at only

98c

MILAN HEMP SAILORS \$3.50 Values.

Black, white, navy, sand, purple and brown; large and medium shapes. Saturday only ...

\$1.98



HATS TRIMMED FREE.

NEW GRAY HATS Values to \$5.00.

All the rage now. The new Gray Hats in all the new shapes. Choice only

\$2.25

Children's and Misses' Shapes \$2.50 values.

In white, black, navy and brown. Your choice Saturday

39c

EXTRA SPECIAL SATURDAY



A pair of Steel Roller Skates absolutely Free with every Child's Hat at \$1.98 or more Saturday. Bring the kiddies her Saturday.

Children's Hats Values to \$2.75

All good colors and shapes, beautifully trimmed with flowers, ribbons. Choice Saturday only

98c

AMERICAN BEAUTIES, SILK ROSES, PANSIES AND LILACS

In a wonderful variety of colors and effects. Every color of the rainbow. Flowers in this collection worth from 50c to \$1.50. Saturday only

39c

GENUINE PARADISE \$5 values

In black and natural. Saturday

\$2.75

QUILS 75c values

In black, blue, rose and other good colors. Saturday

25c

IMITATION GOURA Values to \$1.00

All the rage now for trimming. Saturday only.

69c

GUARANTEED OSTRICH PLUMES \$4 values

Black, white and all good colors. Saturday

\$1.49

SUITS

LOT 1—75 Suits in this lot, in poplins, gabardines and shepherd checks, all newest spring styles. Special Saturday

\$8.98

LOT 2—50 Suits in this lot, in poplins, gabardines and taffetas; all colors; suits that retail in any store for \$25.00. Our Price Saturday

\$10.98

LOT 3—35 Sample Suits, one of a kind, in chiffon taffetas, serge and taffeta combination, embroidered suits; values to \$35.00. Suits that are individual in styles; all colors. Saturday

\$14.98



DRESSES

LOT 1—100 silk poplin and serge Dresses; all colors and sizes; all new spring models; values to \$10.00. Saturday

\$3.98

LOT 2—50 silk taffeta and chiffon Dresses that you will be delighted with at the prices. Dresses that retail in any store in South Bend for \$20. Saturday ...

\$7.98



COATS

250 Spring Coats in serges, poplins, corduroys, black and white checks and white chinchillas; values to \$12.00. Saturday

\$3.98

75 Coats in full lined serges, poplins, black and white striped fancy mixtures, full flare backs and belted styles; values to \$20.00. Saturday

\$8.98

SKIRTS

150 Skirts in blue and black serge, black and white checks, full circular skirts; all sizes; values to \$4.00. Special Saturday

\$1.50

300 Taffeta Skirts, in all colors and styles; \$7.00 values. Saturday

\$4.50



SPECIAL—9 TO 11 O'CLOCK

1,000 House Dresses, in all colors, Amoskeag, Gingham and Percales; all sizes, with aprons attached. Special Saturday, 9 to 11 o'clock

85c

EXTRA SPECIAL 8 TO 9 O'CLOCK

500 Waists, in lingenies and Voiles; all prettily embroidered; all sizes. Special, 8 to 9 o'clock, 3 for

\$1.00