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RAILROAD MERGER MUST COME TO TIME

Northern Roads Plead With Shippers--At Request of J. C. Eden Committee Holds Meeting Yesterday but Flatly Refuses any Concessions--Willing to Treat With the Companies but in the Meantime Work Goes on--Railroad Representatives Make Offers.

"We will be glad at any time to meet the traffic men of the railroads entering Spokane, if they come together, but pending such a meeting, the work of signing up the shippers of Spokane will continue."

Such was the substance of a resolution adopted yesterday by the executive committee of the Spokane Shippers' association, which has in charge the fight being waged against the merger railroads.

The meeting was called at the request of the railroad men and the resolution was the only reply to the demands for delay on the part of the railroad officials.

Called at Eden's Request.

The meeting of the executive committee was called by two of the members--L. F. Boothe of Booth & McClintock company and John W. Graham--at the request of J. C. Eden, western traffic manager of the Great Northern at Seattle. The meeting was at the Crane Shoe company's business place and almost every member of the committee was present.

Eden, in company with H. A. Jackson, local Hill representative, had been calling upon shippers throughout the day. Eden's argument was that the local men had been hasty, that the Chicago meeting was not necessary and that there was no occasion for such radical action at this time.

Eden Willing to Help.

In the afternoon Messrs. Boothe and Graham were persuaded by Eden to get the committee together and say for him that if they would calm down and desist from their organized efforts he would either go east or through eastern influence work to secure a change of the Spokane rate.

He said he would go so far as to try to have the Chicago freight meeting reconvened with the special purpose of considering the Spokane situation. These statements Messrs. Boothe and Graham laid before the committee for its consideration.

Without a dissenting voice the committee passed the resolution, the substance of which is stated above, and which shows that the shippers are ready to consider any bona fide proposition presented by the roads in union, but that they want no fooling and that in the meanwhile the work will go ahead.

A copy of those resolutions were conveyed to Mr. Eden by L. F. Boothe. The members of the committee agreed to give out nothing concerning this meeting yesterday afternoon but the facts were secured from one of the members.

New Signers.

The committee was unable to do any work yesterday owing to the absence of engagements of its members, but several names were sent in, among them the Stone-Paine company, the Spokane, Extract and Spice company and the Inland Cracker company. Secretary Birmingham expressed the wish today that shippers would send in their names whether called upon or not, as it would facilitate the committee's labors, also that all the shippers in town should attend the meeting at the Hotel Spokane Saturday afternoon.

The list of shippers who have signed now represents over \$1,250,000 in freight charges. All the farming and mining machinery companies in the city have signed except the J. I. Case company, and Manager Lewellen has written east for instruction and has no doubt authority will be granted to sign. The lumber interests will have a special meeting of their association to consider freight matters and their signatures in a body are expected.

Frank T. Miles of the Simon Piano company left this morning for the east to buy for his house. He goes by way of the O. B. & N. and the Union Pacific system and has instructions to ship all goods this way.

Patterson Talks.

R. B. Patterson of the Spokane Dry Goods company, whose concern yesterday signed the resolutions of the shippers' association, today gave to The Press the following statement of his idea of the situation:

"We believe that the action of the Spokane Shippers' association will quickly bring about an adjustment of Spokane rates. Mr. Eden, general western traffic manager of the Great Northern, and Mr. Fulton of the Northern Pacific are both here and they each insist that the action taken was hasty and ill advised--and that it was based to some extent upon misinformation. If it can be shown that we have made an error in the premises, there are means at our command whereby the same may be corrected. On the other hand, if there are differences of opinion among railroad interests as to methods of adjustment of the Spokane situation, the present course of the shippers will doubtless reveal the relative position of such contending interests."

BURNED TO A CRISP

YOUNG GIRL AND UNKNOWN MAN BURNED TO DEATH IN LODGING HOUSE FIRE AT COLORADO SPRINGS.

(Scripps News Association.) COLORADO SPRINGS, Feb. 25.--A 15-year-old girl and an unknown man were burned to death in a lodging house on Cascade street early this morning. The dead girl is Lola Smith. The house was a wooden structure that burned with great fierceness. The two victims had no chance to escape. Their bodies burned to a crisp were found in the ruins.

TREATY SIGNED

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT PUTS HIS SIGNATURE TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY--HE HAS COMPLETED HIS SLATE FOR THE CANAL COMMISSION.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.--At 11:40 this morning President Roosevelt signed the Panama treaty. Senator Kittredge of South Dakota was present and was given the pen used by the president.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.--President Roosevelt this morning completed his selection of members of the Panama canal commission by determining upon C. Edward Grunsky of San Francisco as the seventh member. Grunsky is a well known hydraulic engineer, who has been identified with many large enterprises on the Pacific coast. Senator Perkins has assured the president that Grunsky will accept.

Other members slated now are Admiral Walker, General Davis, Frank Hecker of Detroit, Professor Burr of the Columbian university, William Parsons an engineer of New York, and H. Harwood of New Orleans. All that now remains to be done is to place the construction of the canal actually in the hands of the president in the formal exchange of ratifications between Secretary Hay and Minister Bunau-Varilla of Panama, which will take place tomorrow at the state department.

George J. Hurley, state senator from Republic, is in the city today and leaves tonight for Seattle. Mr. Hurley says Republic is showing signs of renewed business activity.

MANY GREAT CHANGES IN JAPAN

New Methods of Transportation is one of the Many things That Show Development.

TOKIO, Feb. 25.--Some authorities dispute the almost universal belief that the Ainu, now living in the Kurile islands and Hokkaido, were the aborigines of Japan. The remains of dwarfs who dwelt in caves and pits have been found in all parts of the kingdom. Who they were has never been settled positively. It is certain that the Ainu were once numerous and extended throughout the islands, but were gradually forced northward. They are slowly dying out in their frigid habitat. Although the public classes the Japs as Mongolian race, they assert that they are members of the "Golden race," and are superior to the Caucasians, who belong to the "Silver race."

MAMIE TAYCE QUILTS SPOKANE

The case against Hendrickson, who, along with Mamie Tayce, was charged with procuring, will be dismissed. The prosecuting attorney's office does not think it can secure a conviction because the woman has been found not guilty. The verdict came as a surprise to all parties, as a conviction or a disagreement was looked for. Mamie Tayce left last night for Montana on the first train. She says she has had enough of Spokane to last her some time.

The Social Dancing club will give a masquerade ball this evening in Swedish hall on East Riverside. Four prizes will be given.

Miss Agabelle Steele, of Butte, Mont., a well known society girl of that city, is the guest of Mrs. M. B. Brownlee, on Eighth avenue. She is receiving many social attentions.

ANOTHER BIG FIGHT IS ON

Brave Little Japs, Undaunted by Yesterday's Setback, Have Again Attacked Forts and Warships at Port Arthur--Russians Claim Temporary Victory.

London, Feb. 25 (Bulletin)--It is believed that instead of a Russian victory at Port Arthur, another successful feat was accomplished by Japanese in partially bottling up what is left of the Russian fleet and that the Russians did for the Japanese what the Japanese intended doing themselves, by sinking the four merchant ships at the mouth of the harbor.

A COSSACK CALVARY CHARGE.



News wires under today's date that four foreign warships were seen at 10 o'clock this morning near the horizon. After remaining in the vicinity an hour they disappeared in the fog. This fleet may prove to be the Japanese preparing an attack on Vladivostok.

STEAMED AWAY.

(Scripps News Association.) PORT ARTHUR, Feb. 25.--At 9 o'clock this morning a Japanese squadron of considerable size approached Port Arthur. The Bagarin and Novik were ordered to face the Japanese ships, which, however, did not open fire, and afterward steamed away in the direction of Dalny. The cruiser Pallada has entered the dock here.

JAPS REJOICED.

(Scripps News Association.) SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25.--The steamer Doric arrived this morning from Japan. When the Doric sailed out of Yokohama, 15 days ago, news had just been received of the victory of the Japanese in the first engagement at Port Arthur. The town was wildly excited and the people gave themselves up to a general holiday. The Japanese papers contained long apologies for the action of their government in precipitating hostilities.

STEAMERS STILL BURNING.

(Scripps News Association.) LONDON, Feb. 25.--A dispatch from Port Arthur states that one of the Japanese steamers sunk in the attempt to enter the harbor now lies behind Golden Hill fortress. Another lies near the Retzikan, while the third and fourth are between the channel entrance and Liaotshan. Two are still afloat.

ESTABLISH PRESS BUREAU.

(Scripps News Association.) ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 25.--Minister of the Interior Plehve has established a press bureau for supplying war news to correspondents.

NO SERIOUS DAMAGE.

(Scripps News Association.) LONDON, Feb. 25.--In the absence of further definite details regarding the naval engagements of Tuesday it is believed by experts here that following the daring attempt of the Japanese to blockade the entrance to Port Arthur, Russian cruisers probably came out a short distance to reconnoiter. The Japanese then fired at long range and the Russians retreated back into the harbor. This is in a measure confirmed by private advices.

The advices received here from St. Petersburg indicate that the Japanese loss consisted of only four steamers, with which they were attempting to blockade the harbor. The torpedo boats and destroyers which joined in the attack seemed to have escaped after the steamers were sunk. No Japanese battleships or cruisers seem to have been even damaged in the fight.

This is considered no great loss to the Japanese, as they evidently expected to lose the steamers. They failed, however, in accomplishing the object of the attack, that of bottling the Russians up in the harbor and attacking them under cover of the burning steamers.

The steamers were filled with inflammable material and it is supposed that it was expected that they would explode and do damage to the Russian vessels.

CABINET MEETS

(Scripps News Association.) LONDON, Feb. 25.--The cabinet met this morning with President Balfour presiding. French Minister Cambon had a long conference with Foreign Minister Lansdowne, who declines to give out anything concerning the interview.

WEDDING BELLS

The following marriage licenses were granted today and last yesterday afternoon: F. B. Mitchell and Grace Smith; Fred L. Petherly and Florence Wright; W. C. Nicodemus and Marie Kempf; Paul Hotman and Olive Terdash; John Carlson and Sarah Maurgan. All the parties are from Spokane.

ATTACK IMPENDING.

(Scripps News Association.) LONDON, Feb. 25.--The Vladivostok correspondent of the Central

Corbin-Turner Line and Canadian Pacific Show Their Hand and Promise Greater Relief to the Spokane Merchants Than Can Be Secured in any Other Way--Ask Shippers not to Bind Themselves to any Railroad--Will Be in Spokane Next Year.

WILL BUILD APARTMENTS

L. B. Whitten, owner of the Whitten block and of several pieces of property in other parts of the town, has obtained a building permit from the board of public works for the erection of a one-story brick building to be erected on lot 1, block 4, Railroad addition.

PAYING FINES TODAY

The old custom of fining the women of the tenderloin was started again this morning. A tip has gone out that unless the women pay up the delinquent fines for February, which were due the first of the year, a general raid will be made.

The women who left the city at commencement of the crusade are said to be gradually returning. The police have a list of the women who have neglected to pay. These women have been notified and are dropping into the station by twos and threes to settle the delinquent amount.

CITY SUES

The city has today started an action in the superior court against the City Street Improvement company of San Francisco to recover damages to the amount of \$1083.50.

When Riverside avenue was paved the San Francisco company agreed to keep the pavement in repair. This the city says the company has failed to do, and last summer the city was compelled to make repairs at its own expense, the amount of which it will attempt to recover from the paving concern by process of law.

STOPS WORK

A clash occurred this morning between the city commissioners and the Spokane Traction company over the work which the company is doing at the Washington street subway. The company started work this morning to put in this subway but was stopped by Commissioner Root, who says the grade is not being made according to the direction of the city.

NO ICE CUT AFLOAT

"If Spokane is not treated to just one more long spell of cold weather the city will be forced to face a dire ice famine," said Ed Bowers of the Corolla Ice company this morning.

"Our company now has but 2000 or 3000 tons of ice in the sheds and as it will require about 20,000 tons to carry Spokane through the hot weather the chances seem good that ice will have to be shipped into the city from a colder zone and at a heavy expense. No ice has been cut this year."

Such a calamity as an ice famine may be avoided, however, by the completion of the plans of the Diamond Ice & Fuel Co. for an artificial ice plant which it is hoped will be in operation by June 15. The building will cost about \$10,000 and the plant \$40,000.

FATAL EXPLOSION

BELLAIR, O., Feb. 25.--A keg of powder exploded in the Empire mine house this morning and seven houses were destroyed. Mrs. Michael Teclia died later from burns. Two men were fatally burned, five seriously. All were slaves.

MUST WEAR HAT AND GOWN

MARTINELLI SUGGESTS NEW RULES FOR AMERICAN PRIESTS IN ORDER TO UPHOLD THE DIGNITY OF THE CHURCH.

(Scripps News Association.) ROME, Feb. 25.--Sig. Martinelli this morning advised the pope that he believed the best restrictive regulations for the American priests would be a rule obliging them to always wear the gown, the three-cornered hat and tonsure, in order to uphold the dignity of the church.

For many years Spokane merchants and jobbers have looked with longing eyes toward the independent Canadian Pacific road, which it is believed will give Spokane merchants the long hoped for rates whenever it secures a connection in the city.

It is now stated on reliable authority that D. C. Corbin, whose name has long been connected locally with this new move of the Canadian Pacific, is in the east at this time making arrangements to finance the road.

Senator Turner left for the east a few days ago, ostensibly to try a case before the supreme court. It was stated at the time he left that he would be gone for a month or two. It is now learned that after his business is completed in Washington city, he will join Mr. Corbin in New York and together they will push financial arrangements for the new line from Spokane through the Kootenai country of northern Idaho to a British Columbia connection with the Canadian Pacific.

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ETERNAL CITY

Hall Caine's "The Eternal City" with the full musical setting written for it by Mascagni, composer of "Cavalleria Rusticana," is an attraction booked for performance at the Spokane theater Friday and Saturday nights. Edward J. Morgan heads the company in the role of David Rossi. He has a part which gives him even greater opportunities than did John Storm in "The Christian."

As Donna Roma Volonina, will be seen Sarah Truax, whose splendid three years' work as leading woman at the Grand opera house, Pittsburgh, is well known. The handsome production is the same which attracted so much attention at the Victoria theater in New York for five months last season.

THE JAPO-RUSSIAN WAR IS DEGENERATING INTO A GAME OF BLUSTER.

