

WORST IN HISTORY

CAR SHORTAGE IN THE EAST IS UNPRECEDENTED IN RAILROAD ANNALS

MANY MILLS FORCED TO CLOSE

No Cars to Move the Finished Product and No Relief in Sight - Other Railroad News.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 24.-The car shortage in the Pittsburgh district is worse than ever before, and as a result many mills are shut down or only in partial operation. All of the mills along the Allegheny Valley road, including the Carnegie City mills, have suspended, and it is probable that the big Carnegie company plants at Homestead and other places will be unable to operate for a week or more after the Christmas holiday shut down. President Schwab during his recent visit here said \$3,000,000 worth of finished products are piled up in the yards of these two concerns with no present prospect of removal.

ARKANSAS COMMISSION REPORTS.

Annual Statement is Filed With Gov. Davis.

LITTLE ROCK, Ark., Dec. 24.-The Arkansas railroad commission filed its annual report with Gov. Davis Saturday. Relative to railroad building it says: "During the year covered by this report encouraging progress has been made in the construction and extension of railroads, running into practically every undeveloped section of the state. The White River railroad, a branch of the Missouri Pacific system, is being built from a point north of Batesville up the White river in the direction of the zinc fields of Northeast Arkansas. The St. Louis and North Arkansas railroad has been extended from Eureka Springs to Harrison, a distance of some forty-five miles, and the construction is being pushed, with Marshall as the present objective point.

The Great and Cherokee Central railway, the Fort Smith Western railway, the Arkansas and Choctaw railway and the South Missouri and Arkansas railway have also made considerable progress in construction. On the whole, the conditions seem to have been reasonably favorable to railroad building, and costly improvements are constantly being made in the tracks and equipment of the long lines.

"We have seen no good reason to recede from the policy of the commission, and with reference to additional legislation needed to make the producing the results for which it was created. With this end in view appropriate bills were drafted and introduced in both houses of the legislature, but failed of passage. We feel that no useful purpose would be subserved by bringing these bills upon the record at this time. This, however, will be done in a subsequent report.

DOUBLE TRACK ON S. P.

General Manager Says Work Will Be Begun at Once.

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 24.-J. Kruttschnitt, general manager and assistant to the president of the Southern Pacific company, has just returned from a conference with President E. H. Harriman, in New York, and brings news of contemplated improvements on the coast line and the Central Pacific in Nevada and Utah. "The double tracking of the coast line to San Francisco will be rushed through to completion as quickly as possible, and at the same time we will get ready to begin work on the double tracking of the Bay Shore cut-off. As for the reconstruction work on the line of the Central Pacific, it is the present plan of the company to do an item by item reconstruction of the entire work is completed. These construction plans embrace eighteen different surveys for as many different pieces of work. The building of a cut-off from Lodi to Ogden will be started at once, and the cutting down of grades is embraced in the general scheme of improvement."

GRAIN TRAFFIC LIGHT.

Milwaukee Got Bulk of Business Last Week.

CHICAGO, Dec. 24.-Grain traffic of the Western roads was lighter last week than in any week during the past six months. The total amount of grain shipped here during the week was 672,000 bushels, a decrease of 1,703,000 bushels from the corresponding week of last year. The decrease is attributed to the very cold weather, which checked the delivery of grain at country stations and prevented engines from hauling as large trains as usual. The St. Paul railroad had 28 per cent of the grain traffic last week, the North Western 21 per cent, the Burlington 10 per cent, the Rock Island 9 per cent, the "Three I's" 9 per cent, the Illinois Central 8 per cent, and the Santa Fe 2 per cent. East-bound trains were heavier last week were 2,107,000 bushels, an increase of 13,000 bushels over the previous week, and of 788,000 bushels over the corresponding week of last year. Flour shipments were 10,000 barrels, a decrease from the preceding week of 14,175 barrels. Provision shipments—packing house products—amounted to 25,300 tons, a decrease of 849 tons from the shipment of the preceding week, but a gain of 2,731 tons over the same week of last year.

NEW ROCK ISLAND DEPOT.

Move to the Grand Central Station in Chicago.

CHICAGO-Dec. 21.-General offices of the Rock Island are now established in the Grand Central station at Fifth avenue and Harrison street. Moving yesterday were the Rock Island, and all day a gang of men with teams was busy transferring the books and records of the company and its effects into the new quarters. The work required handling the effects of 100 offices, employees and clerks, in addition to the records, and was no small task. On Monday next the work of tearing down the old depot will begin, and in a very short time one of the landmarks of the city will be gone. The new depot, which will be vacated Saturday, so that everything will be free for the work of demolition, to be followed by work on the foundation of the new depot, which will be the finest building of its kind in the West. Sunday next the building of the new depot will begin to enter and leave being the suburban trains will run into the old terminal, but will be stopped at Harrison street.

MILWAUKEE MAKES RATES.

Fare Reduced to Three Cents in South Dakota.

Orders were issued yesterday by the passenger department of the St. Paul system for a reduction in passenger rates of one cent on the line from St. Paul to all points in South Dakota east of the Missouri river. This will make the fare from St. Paul to all points in South Dakota and intermediate points to South Dakota and points beyond. The St. Paul company has 125 miles of track in South Dakota, much more than any other line.

BURLINGTON MEN PROMOTED.

Several men on the Burlington received promotion yesterday. Among them is W. L. Barnes, chief dispatcher at Galena, who was appointed superintendent of car and freight service to succeed E. W. Farnham, resigned. The position of industrial commissioner, which also was held by Mr. Farnham, has not been filled. Hereafter the positions will

LET POLITICS ALONE

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT GIVES FEDERAL OFFICE HOLDERS A SIGNIFICANT TIP

MUST ATTEND TO BUSINESS

Government Does Not Pay Them to Run the Political Campaigns of the Men to Whom They Owe Appointments.

FROM THE GLOBE BUREAU, Washington, D. C.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.-Trouble is ahead for federal office holders desiring to devote too much attention to politics. If reports that reach the capital may be relied upon, men in the government employ in several states that are close politically are treading near the danger line. No one believes the president is taking special pains to learn what federal officers are doing, but it is well understood that he will consider promptly and take action on any case of "pernicious activity" that is properly brought before him. He had made it clear several times within the last six weeks that he wishes the representatives of the government in the numerous branches of the service to devote themselves to their official duties and not to politics.

The subject of "pernicious activity" has been revived by the fact that in many of the states political parties are to be reorganized next month and the general ground work laid for the state campaigns is to be conducted next fall. Since Grover Cleveland left the White house federal office holders—even those in the classified service—have not felt that there was any embargo against taking an active part in political affairs. Year by year the bars have been let down lower and lower until the employes of the government have become bold enough to be political managers and servants of the government in important capacities at the same time. The result of this has been, it is averred, that in looking for persons to recommend for office, public men have sought for good politicians rather than capable public servants. However, this may be, it is a notorious fact that with few exceptions senators and representatives have come to trust their political affairs largely to their appointees to federal offices. In some of the states, it is said, members of congress are in the habit of commanding their postmasters with as much freedom as the head of a commercial concern would command the clerks in his employ. Indiana is not the only state in which postmasters met in convention this year at the request of men who get their jobs and decided to do certain things in politics. Political organizations among postmasters have sprung up in at least half a dozen states, and until the word went out that the president would not tolerate this sort of thing the organizations were busy with political manipulations. In most of the states the United States district attorneys, United States marshals, revenue collectors, and customs and pension agents, have, it is asserted, engaged in active politics with out the least thought of being called down.

Will Build Steel Bridges.

PITTSBURG, Pa., Dec. 24.-The American Bridge company has secured the contract for the construction of the Wabash railroad's big cantilever bridge over the Ohio river at Milport, Ind. The contract is for a bridge over 2,000 feet long, and the stipulation is made that the work shall be completed before Jan. 1, 1902. The whole cost of the bridge will be \$1,000,000. Only two bridges of the kind in the world are greater than this, the one at the mouth of the Ohio river, which is the largest, and the Wabash company's bridge over the Monongahela river at Pittsburgh, now under construction.

Omaha's Christmas Menu.

The Omaha will make the hearts of its passengers glad today with an excellent dinner on all the dining cars on the line. The menu card itself is a work of art, and the Omaha has a special dinner with Christmas and New Year's greetings. The bill of fare contains a number of items which are hard to find elsewhere in any hotel in the country.

SAVED BY THEIR VOICES.

Many years since, when traveling with some friends in Mexico, Charles Santley was captured by half-breed bandits, and, being unable to pay the large ransom demanded, carried off to the mountains. Over supper the singer, by no means weighed down by his mishap, chanced to break into song, which so delighted the brigand chief that he demanded an encore. Santley saw his chance and expressed his willingness to comply on condition that he and his companions were granted their release. The suggestion was accepted, and for over two hours the singer's voice was raised in such exquisite melody, that the bandits, true to their word, allowed him and those with him to depart.

The late Joseph Maas had a somewhat similar experience. Years back, when with a companion buffalo hunting on the American prairies he was captured by Indians and carried to their camp. When at his wits' end how to extricate himself from the dilemma his friend suggested the power of song. Fortwith he commenced an operatic selection that so delighted his captors that they loosened his bonds and urged him—at the point of their spears!—to continue.

Luckily his voice had a soporific effect upon the Indians, who one by one dropped asleep until, just as he was on the point of stopping from exhaustion, the last passed into the realms of dreams. Then he and his companions quietly stole away.

This wonderful voice on one occasion placed the great tenor Mario in a somewhat invidious position. When traveling with some companions in Spain he fell into the hands of a party of marauding rascals who demanded a heavy ransom. Mario, tickled at the situation, answered their request in impromptu song, which he delivered with such exquisite melody that the captors, with unanimous acclamation elected him captain of their band. The singer diplomatically acquiesced in their decision, but in the course of the following day contrived to make his escape with his friends.

On another occasion in Madrid the same singer, who he was returning late one night from the theater where he was engaged, was arrested by the police in mistake for a political discontent. In vain he asserted his identity; he was carried before their chief, who likewise smiled incredulously at the captive's assertions. Greatly angered, Mario vehemently demanded that his friends should be forthwith communicated with, but the official shook his head and remarked that if indeed he were the great tenor he possessed in his voice a sure means of proving the truth of his words. Ten minutes later Mario was bowed out with many regrets and profuse apologies.

When traveling to Paris with some other ladies, Madame Grisi had a thrilling adventure. At a small wayside station a man entered the train, and soon became evident, from his threatening gestures and eccentric behavior, that he was a dangerous lunatic. Though her companions were panic-stricken, Madame Grisi retained complete presence of mind, and with the utmost composure began to sing. At once the man became quiet—his whole attention was riveted on that magnificent voice, and he remained the most appreciative of listeners until the train reached the next station, where he was secured. It transpired subsequently that he was a maniac with homicidal tendencies who had escaped from an asylum.

An amusing story is told of Lablanche, the celebrated bass singer. One day as he was strolling leisurely through a French fair a cry was suddenly raised that a bear had escaped from the menagerie. The crowd fled in every direction—all save the singer, whose massive proportions precluded the idea of rapid motion. Amid the general commotion he amongst them stood unmoved, calmly feeling the extent of the crowd, and then, with a suddenness that surprised the bear, which sure enough came slouching rapidly towards him. When within a few feet he halted as though to gather itself together for a final rush, when Lablanche, with a gasp, stepped forward and, with a French fair a cry was suddenly raised that a bear had escaped from the menagerie. The crowd fled in every direction—all save the singer, whose massive proportions precluded the idea of rapid motion. 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