

# BIG JUMP IN TRAIN UNDERWRITERS PRAISE DEPARTMENT AS EFFICIENT

## RATES

Ticket to New York Under Increase Granted Will Cost \$2.16 While the Fare to New Haven Will Be 66 Cents—Over a Dollar Increase to Boston.

The increased rate of passenger fares granted by the Interstate Commerce Commission will make quite a hole in the Bridgetport pocketbook if the same number of people travel as take the trains now. The increase is about 20 per cent. and the rate per mile is advanced from three cents to three and six-tenths cents.

The following table will give an idea of what the Bridgetport travellers must pay when the new fare goes into effect:

	Old.	New
New York	\$1.80	\$2.16
Stamford	.75	.88
Norwalk	.48	.58
Milford	.24	.29
New Haven	.55	.66
Hartford	1.74	2.09
Springfield	2.56	3.08
Worcester	4.31	5.18
New London	2.20	2.64
Providence	2.21	2.65
Boston	6.64	7.97

## MARKET UP ON BUYING ORDERS FOR RAILROADS

New York, Aug. 2.—Speculative and investment sentiment was hopefully disposed at the outset of business on the stock exchange as a result of the sweeping advances in railroad passenger and freight rates granted by the I. C. C.

The news brought in a large volume of buying orders from all over the country which imparted considerable activity to the initial New York market. Substantial improvement in all quarters of the list. Railroad shares of all descriptions were absorbed on a steadily rising scale with the advances ranging from 1 to 3 1/2 points.

Representative dividend paying stocks such as New York Central, Northern Pacific, Reading, Great Northern preferred, Southern Pacific and Union Pacific made the most headway but there were numerous gains approximating two points in the list. There were also gains in railroad shares such as New Haven, Pittsburgh and Western, Rock Island and St. Louis Southwestern preferred. Bear operators showed little desire to contest the advance and bought hastily to retire their commitments. The rise also reached formidable proportions in many of the popular specialties, including the motors, paper, steel, oil and food shares.

## CHARTER OAK STAKE RUN ON SEPTEMBER 9

Hartford, Conn., Aug. 2.—The Connecticut Fair Association today announced the program for the Grand Circuit races at Charter Oak Park the week of Labor Day, September 6 to 10 inclusive. The program includes the \$10,000 Charter Oak Stake for 2:12 trotters, to be decided Thursday, September 9, aggregate \$39,000. There are twenty races on the program, four events for each day of the meeting. Entries will close August 23.

## VICTIMS OF AUTO CRASH IMPROVING

Putnam, Conn., Aug. 2.—Martin Wholoban, who was brought to the hospital here yesterday, in a motor car, following a collision with an automobile at a locomotive at the Devil's Den crossing in Sterling, was resting well today. Doubt is still held as to his recovery. He has a fractured skull and broken bones. Henry Emliger of Norwichtown, another patient, is not considered seriously hurt although his injuries are very painful. Mrs. Emliger died last night. The others who were in the accident were Mrs. Martin Wholoban and son Walter, aged seven, of Taftville.

## LITCHFIELD HAS A BIG PARADE

Litchfield, Conn., Aug. 2.—This town, gay with color and observing the second day of its bi-centennial, gave itself over to enjoyment of a military parade in the forenoon, and additional historical and civic exercises in the afternoon.

## Interesting Figures and Comments is Report Made on Bridgeport's Fire Protection.

Some interesting facts concerning Bridgeport and its fire department are contained in the report recently issued by the National Board of Fire Underwriters. In drawing up the summary the report states that the water supply is adequate and reliable; that the flow is sufficient for the congested value district and most high value districts; the fire department is well equipped and efficient and the fire alarm system mainly reliable and adequate.

In speaking of the water supply which is owned by the Bridgeport Hydraulic Company the following conclusions are made in the report: CONCLUSIONS.

## Organization.

The works, privately owned, are ably managed by competent employees of an efficient and progressive company. Franchise requirements bearing on fire protection are vague. Records are reliable, complete and mostly in line.

## Emergency Fire Service.

The failure to respond to alarms would be the cause of considerable delay in rendering assistance in case of emergency.

## Supply Works.

Sources develop and provide for a safe daily draft from gravity sources in excess of the present requirements and additional supply is proposed. The works are well constructed and maintained.

## Pressure.

Pressure range from good to low and are fairly well maintained; the minimum occurring almost daily is adequate for reliable automatic sprinkler supply in buildings of moderate height.

## Protection.

Reasonable protection for the congested value district requires a fire flow in excess of the maximum domestic consumption of at least 10,000 gallons per minute; the total quantity includes an allowance for losses through broken connections and hydrants left open incidental to large fires, and the distribution system should be capable of delivering the quantity required in the district about any block or group of buildings of moderate height.

## Distribution System.

The arterial feeders are of ample capacity and well arranged for concentration of supply in the congested value district, and supply a well-arranged system of secondary feeders covering, except in a few instances, all closely built sections. Minor distributors are in general well gridironed and supported. Although considerable progress has been made in the replacement of small mains, there are several important sections where the gridiron is of 4 and 6-inch mains, and in some extremely long blocks mains are of these smaller sizes; a number of dead ends exist which could be readily eliminated.

## Pipe.

The cast-iron pipe is of ample strength, properly tested before laid, carefully installed and in good state of preservation; carrying capacity is high, as all not recently laid, except some of the smaller sizes, have been cleaned; some do not have sufficient protecting cover.

with the hose wagon was done in the repair shop. Money is available to replace a pump engine, a pump engine and a hose wagon to be placed in reserve, the purchase of 6,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose is ordered and \$8,000 is to be spent for minor equipment. The chief has recommended the purchase of a ladder and a pumping engine and a hose wagon to be placed in reserve, the purchase of 6,000 feet of 2 1/2-inch hose, and increasing the manual strength of outlying companies. The city is content with the existing motor apparatus, a pair set up in the vicinity of Engine 1 to handle the repairs of all city equipment, to be under the control of the fire department.

## Improvements already made.

Improvements already made comply with Recommendations 1 and 17 and partly with Recommendations 12 and 18 of the 1912 report.

## Conclusions.

The fire department is a well-organized, strong and efficient force, under supervision of a bi-partisan board of fire commissioners and directed by experienced officers. Financial support is liberal. Appointments and promotions are properly probationary for six months, but entrance requirements are not sufficiently restrictive and are not based on a pension fund is provided, but there is no compulsory age limit for retirement. The manual strength of the department has been increased, mainly on account of the installation of the motor apparatus, and the two-platoon system; day strength is ample and night strength is only slightly deficient. Discipline is generally good. Company drills are regularly held, but no drill tower has been provided and there is systematic course of drills. Distribution of companies is good, having been improved in all sections by motorization.

In outlying districts by the additional engine and ladder companies; chemical protection is excellent, being mostly new and in good condition. Engine capacity is ample, and crews are generally efficient. The supply of 2 1/2 inch hose is ample, well cared for and regularly tested; no 6-inch hose is provided. Provisions for providing fuel at stations and at fires are fairly good. Minor equipment is fairly complete but heavy stream appliances are slightly inadequate. The repair shop is well equipped and efficiently managed, but the quarters are cramped.

The response to box alarms is well arranged and strong in most cases; but the response to telephone alarms is not adequate. Telephone apparatus is fair. Fire methods are mainly good and the prevention of water damage is well understood; more use could be made of heavy stream appliances on serious fires. Inspections of buildings are made by the fire department and fire prevention bureau and reports and records are complete and kept in convenient form.

The Firemen's Relief Fund is supported by donations, a 2 per cent. of the fire department fund, and from the city treasury if needed to make up any deficiency. Members contracting sickness or injury in the service receive full pay. Widows and dependent members of families also receive pensions. The state compensation act provides that \$100 shall be paid toward the funeral expenses of deceased members, and the widow or dependent mother shall receive from \$5 to \$10 weekly for 412 weeks; the continuous pension for 12 months during this period. Twenty-two men are between 50 and 55 years of age, 7 between 55 and 60 and one is over 60 years of age.

There are 10 engines, 2 ladders, 2 chemical, 1 combined ladder and chemical and 2 combined engine and ladder companies in service, at 13 stations. See Table 5. Each company has a captain and a lieutenant, and an engine company has an assistant engineer. Eight of the engine companies have automobile hose wagons in addition to the pumping engine carrying hose.

The fire force, including the assistant chiefs, is divided into two equal platoons. The platoons work 10 and 14 hours, changing twice a month, at which time one platoon works 24 hours. The platoon off duty may be called when needed, must report in 15 minutes and may be called and give 1 day each month for inspection purposes; the off platoon is called by whistles. During this inspection a heavy fall of snow made traffic conditions severe; both platoons were in quarters for several days and the response of the second platoon at a second alarm fire was 90 per cent of full strength. Strength of companies is low at night. No vacancies are given under this system. Men of equal rank are held to vacancies in the relieving platoon. Men must secure the permission of the chief to leave town, and only a limited number from any company or district may be absent at one time.

## Distribution.

Two engine, one ladder and one chemical company are located within the congested value district; three additional engines are within the 1-2 mile and the entire department is within 2 miles of the district. The southwestern manufacturing district is within 1 mile of four engine, one chemical and two ladder companies. Important sections have an engine company within 1/2 mile and a ladder company within 3/4 mile. Residential districts are within 3/4 mile of an engine company and 1 1/4 miles of a ladder company; chemical protection is good in all sections. Distribution has been improved since the last report by establishing 3 additional engine and 2 ladder companies in outlying districts and by equipping all companies with motor apparatus.

## The following is a part of a detailed explanation of the fire alarm system:

Organization. The following is a part of a detailed explanation of the fire alarm system: The fire alarm system is a part of the fire department under the supervision of the fire commissioners and is in charge of the Superintendent of Fire Alarm and Police Signaling Systems, A. E. Platt, who joined the fire department in 1900, was made a lieutenant in 1905, assistant superintendent in 1913, and superintendent in 1916. The fire alarm force consists of an assistant superintendent, two lieutenants, six operators and one repair man, an increase of five since the 1912 report; all men are mem-

bers of the uniformed force and appointed in the same manner as other members of the fire department.

On the third floor of fire department headquarters, a three-story building erected in 1906 and reconstructed in 1913, is a fire department headquarters. It is exposed by adjoining brick and metal-clad buildings and by a garage and warehouse across a 50-foot street. The exposed windows of the operating room have wired glass in trap frames and the windows of the battery room have non-standard metal-clad shutters. The doors to the operating room are of metal, but are of little value as fire stops; there are several open stairways and light locations in the building. Chemical extinguishers and sand buckets are provided in the operating room and the battery room.

## Conclusions.

The system is of proper type, with ample provision for growth and with generally well arranged and installed central office equipment. The city is commended for installing a system which includes devices looking toward adequacy and reliability, including duplicate circuits to fire stations and the replacement of many unsatisfactory features. The headquarters building is fire-resistant, but contains the usual hazards of a fire station with automobile apparatus, and the operating room is not properly protected by fire-resistive partitions and duplicate alarm circuits are not properly connected and full use is not made of the duplicate equipment. Batteries are of good type and generally well cared for, but are in need of further attention, due probably to impure acid.

Boxes are in good condition; two-thirds are of satisfactory type and the others have been rebuilt or improved. Box distribution in important districts is good, and the main line elsewhere; a few groups of houses recently constructed are without fire alarm service. Boxes are fairly conspicuous by day; red lights have been provided in some important districts in the congested value district. The circuits have been rebuilt and two-thirds of the total is underground, but much of the over head wiring is on poles with high voltage lines. The telephone department telegraph system is adequate, but not installed, but the telephone company does not co-operate fully in handling alarms and telephone alarms are not properly followed by notice over the alarm telegraph system.

The building department, an important part of the fire department, handles and supervises construction work and the use of all inflammables, also electricity.

## Organization.—General.

The city charter creates a Board of Building Commissioners, consisting of three members, are appointed by the Mayor for a three-year term. The board has charge of building construction, plumbing and examination of plumbers. It must convene at least weekly, examine all plans and specifications, grant permits and supervise the construction of buildings, and the building inspector is appointed by this board for a three-year term; no qualifications are prescribed. An assistant building inspector is appointed by the Board of Building Commissioners and must be a competent mason.

## Personnel.

The present board consists of Wm. Martin, President; Chas. H. Botsford and Wm. McLennan, all of whom are building contractors. Daniel M. Rowley, a contractor, formerly car-penter and builder, was appointed in 1917; he is not experienced in modern methods of construction. There are also an assistant building inspector, a plumbing inspector and two clerks. An automobile is provided for inspection purpose.

## Conclusions.

The building laws have been much improved since the previous report, but are still deficient and indefinite in the congested value district, especially bearing on fire prevention, leaving much to the discretion of the authorities in control. The fireproof limits are of mainly satisfactory extent, but the main or outer fire limits fail to include the most valuable and manufacturing sections, and the requirement in both are still waived by the council. Construction from a fire prevention standpoint is very deficient and the improvement expected under the building code is further strengthened and impartially enforced by a competent inspector.

## Conclusions.

The storage, handling and sale of explosives and inflammable substances are only partly covered by the ordinances, and the council has reserved powers to grant exceptions, which powers are freely exercised to the endangerment of neighboring property. The fire department fire prevention bureau make frequent inspections, but, owing to lack of public interest and proper understanding of many common hazards, conditions are far from satisfactory.

The city up to the present time, has exercised no control over inside wiring, and the inspections by the underwriters are ineffective and of slight extent. Much of the old and new inside wiring is in dangerous condition and the need of competent supervision with frequent re-inspections is very apparent. The appointment of the electrical inspector and the proposed ordinance is a commendable feature and the strict enforcement of the National Electrical Code should, in time, bring about betterment of conditions; the electrical inspector has had limited experience. Wires are partly underground in the congested value district, but there are many serious and dangerous conditions elsewhere. Serious conditions occur, but there are many wires on buildings.

## Conclusions.

In the congested value district, the general inferior construction, many large to excessive areas and several conflagration breeders make serious fires possible in nearly every block. The increased number of sprinkler equipments, strong fire department and ample water supply materially

reduce the probability hazard, but owing to narrow streets and the foregoing adverse features to conflagration hazard must still be rated as severe.

Manufacturing districts, the larger plants are mainly detached, there are numerous automatic sprinkler equipments and much private protection, and the general hazard is slight. In minor mercantile areas are mainly small buildings and heights low and only group fires are probable. There are three congested centers in tenement districts where the conflagration hazard is high and increasing, especially in the lower East Side district. Residential districts consist of brick and frame dwellings, largely with shingle roofs and presenting the usual flying-brand hazard.

The adoption of the following recommendations is urged: That a drill tower and school be established, where all members of the department, including probationers, shall be trained in the use of tools and appliances, the quick handling of hose, salvage work and life saving; That a drill tower and school be established, where all members of the department, including probationers, shall be trained in the use of tools and appliances, the quick handling of hose, salvage work and life saving; That a drill tower and school be established, where all members of the department, including probationers, shall be trained in the use of tools and appliances, the quick handling of hose, salvage work and life saving.

That telephone alarms be verified over the alarm system by sending out the nearest box number after the closest company has been notified by telephone. That the building code be amended to conform to modern requirements for construction and fire prevention as given in the National Board building code, especially as to improved types of construction, limitations of sections of all inside and outside walls, and protection to openings in roofs, floors and external and internal walls. That more rigid inspections be made by the members of the fire department and the view of correcting present hazardous conditions as to rubbish, bonfires and storage of inflammable substances.

That the National Electrical Code be made a part of the proposed ordinance as the standard for all electric work; that the proposed electrical department be placed under the supervision of a suitably qualified electrician, with sufficient help to make inspections of all inside and outside work; that a complete inspection of old equipments be made at an early date, defects corrected and thereafter re-inspections made at regular intervals. That owners of existing defectively constructed buildings, which are so located as to form conflagration areas, be required to suitably protect roof, party wall and exposed window openings.

That automatic sprinkler equipments, with outside siamese hose connections and controlling valve near the street, be required by the department, by reason of their size, construction or occupancy, singly or combined, might act as conflagration breeders. Prevention.

Much can be accomplished toward the protection of persons who come in contact with Rhus vines, and also in preventing or lessening the disastrous effects following exposure. Toxic insects, usually be handled with impunity if rubber gloves are worn, provided none of the dust or irritating material comes in contact with the body.

One of the surest and best methods of individual prophylaxis is the use of soap and hot water. It has been found that the Rhus poison after being deposited upon the skin requires a certain time for penetration, and if this penetration can be prevented, irritating and the resulting eruption will not occur. Hot water and soap act mechanically, and if judiciously used constitute by far not only the most serviceable preventive agent which we at present possess, but also the best curative agent which we at present possess.

The method to be followed by bathing with salt water or a solution made by dissolving one teaspoonful of boric acid in a glass of hot water, applying when it is cool. A paste made from bicarbonate of soda and water will often alleviate the trouble. As previously mentioned, the soap-and-water treatment is distinctively curative in those cases where all of the poison has not penetrated.

Methods of eradication. (1) The most rapid and effective method of dealing with isolated clumps of poison ivy is simply to grub them out, taking care to remove thoroughly in the running rootstocks, which if left in the ground will soon produce another crop of plants. (2) Kerosene has been recommended by the U. S. Forest Service to be used where injury to other plants is of no consequence. It should not be used near other valuable vegetation. The use of kerosene on the soil so treated is not long impaired and other plants grow again within a year after the soil is treated with kerosene.

(3) Arsenite of soda can also be used but it is poisonous and has the disadvantage of being injurious to small trees and vegetation and may render land useless for a prolonged period. One or two pounds of sodium arsenite in 10 gallons of water is the solution used. A hot brine solution is also effective, using 3 pounds of salt per gallon of water. This must be repeated several times during the summer.

## CONSTRUCT PART OF SEA BOTTOM

New York, July 31.—A two-inch section of sea-bottom with its tiny animal and plant life magnified 15,000 times, have been reproduced in glass and wax at the American Museum of Natural History here.

It is called the Bryozoa group, taking its name from the minute sea-animals popularly called sea-mats and sea-mosses, that it depicts. The animals are encrusted on seaweeds, pebbles and the shell of larger animals, and are said to be extremely beautiful in their intricate form and coloring. The "plumed worm" with its gay colors and other strange microscopic creatures, of which the average person seldom dreams, complete the group.

## Takes Jurisdiction Over Postal Company

Washington, Aug. 2.—By an order issued today the Interstate Commerce Commission assumed jurisdiction over the Mackay Companies, known as the Postal Companies, and the Commercial Cable Company, and ordered them to file annual reports beginning with 1917 and to make full statements of their books and records. The Mackay Companies had previously refused to make reports to the commission or to furnish their records for inspection.

## MADE 25 MILLION IN RAW MATERIAL

London, Aug. 2.—Lord Inverforth, formerly Surveyor General of Supplies in the British War Office, by world-wide purchases of raw materials on behalf of the government was able to turn into the British treasury on March 31 last \$25,000,000 representing profits on all transactions since 1914, according to his report recently made to the Ministry of Munitions.

While the profits were large, Sir Arthur Goldfinch, Director General of raw materials points out that the economic benefits were far greater. The raw materials obtained were largely used in the manufacture of military equipment was a direct saving estimated at more than \$500,000,000. The purchases were made in hides, leather, flax, hemp and similar materials.

Insurance, generously taken out, served to more than make up losses from submarine warfare. It was estimated that Lord Inverforth's activities is in contrast with results obtained by similar departments in other Allied countries. Among the purchases were nearly 24,000,000 pounds of American sole leather and \$2,000,000 feet of American upper leather.

Included in the chief items of textile and leather equipment for the army and navy, air force and other branches of the public service and for the Allies from August 4, 1914 to March 31, 1919 were: 61,899,626 pairs of boots; 81,538,000 yards of cotton drill; 60,917,000 yards of khaki; 16,459,000 ground sheets; 1,155,000,000 sand bags; 49,508,669 blankets; 23,776,345 jackets; 164,314,787 pairs of socks and 20,190,810 pairs of woolen gloves.

Contracts made with British manufacturers for the goods afforded them a larger profit than they made for similar work in pre-war days. It was said, and served to speed up production.

## K. OF C, CONVENTION OPENS AT NEW YORK

New York, Aug. 2.—Delegates arrived in large numbers today to attend the opening session tomorrow of the 88th annual convention of the Knights of Columbus. Representatives from 14 states were already here.

The supreme board of directors today considered a request of Joseph T. Doyle of Shanghai that the work of the order be extended to China. Business sessions will begin tomorrow morning after celebration of solemn pontifical mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral by Archbishop Ponzano, papal delegate to Washington.

## Eucharistic League in Five-Year Meet

Philadelphia, Aug. 2.—More than 500 bishops, missionaries and priests are in Philadelphia today attending the 18th annual convention of the Eucharistic League, a society of Catholic clergy, whose purpose is to promote devotion to Jesus Christ and the Holy Eucharist. The clergyman are from all the dioceses east of the Mississippi.

In keeping with the purpose of the league, the sessions will be confined strictly to religious matters. They will continue all of this week. Every fifth year a national congress is held.

## NEXT PRESIDENT TO GET \$25,000 LESS

Washington, July 31.—The next President of the United States stands to lose more than one-third of his \$75,000 salary by the payment of an income tax.

When the existing Revenue Act was made effective the President, Justice of the Supreme Court and all other Federal judges were required to pay the regular income tax just like ordinary citizens. The rate in the case of a \$75,000 salary was fixed at 36 per cent, and the amount would run just above \$27,000. Much doubt was expressed at the time regarding the constitutionality of this provision, and the feature relating to Federal officials was eliminated.

When the Supreme Court passed its opinion on the constitutionality of this provision, the salary of no President or Federal judge could be included in his taxable income. The interpretation of the highest court's conclusions was passed along to the Attorney-General, and Acting Attorney General Frierson construes the decision of the Supreme Court to mean that only a President and Federal judges holding office prior to the enactment of the Revenue Law are exempt. Notice was given yesterday by the Internal Revenue Bureau that by the opinion of the Attorney General will be followed in the collection of income taxes.

## DEMANDING MONEY OF PONZI

Statement by His Publicity Agent That He Was Hopelessly Insolvent Causes Another Run.

Boston, Aug. 2.—The Securities Exchange company headed by Charles Ponzi, whose alleged operations in foreign exchange are being investigated by U. S. Attorney Daniel J. Callahan, an Attorney General J. Weston Allen of Massachusetts, continued today, the payment of notes to those investors who presented their claims. The line of claimants awaiting attention was still in evidence with no indication of a sudden renewal of the desire to cash the notes Ponzi had issued.

While his clerks were meeting these demands Ponzi issued a statement denying a published article by William H. McMasters, his former publicity agent, in which McMasters asserted Ponzi was hopelessly insolvent and was paying out money to some depositors at the expense of others.

"I have twice as much money as will be needed," said Ponzi, "to meet any obligations that may be presented to me," and added that McMasters never was in a position to learn his employer's financial standing or methods of operating his business.

## ARMY FINANCE DIRECTOR GONE

Chicago, Aug. 2.—Lieut. James Donald Nolan, Director of Finance of the Central department of the United States army, has mysteriously disappeared and auditors who are checking his accounts have found a discrepancy amounting to \$4,000, according to an announcement. The shortage may amount to many thousands of dollars.

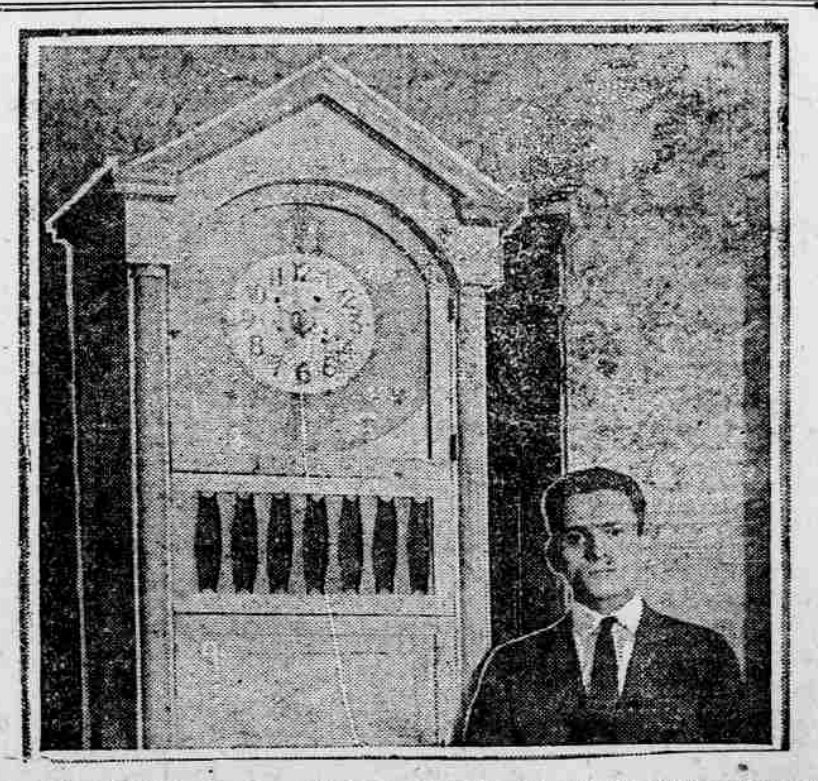
## WHOLESALE PRICES OF BEEF DROPPING

Chicago, Aug. 2.—The wholesale price of beef declined throughout the East an average of 10 to 15 per cent. between June 26 and July 24, the American Institute of Meat Packers announced today. The decline in the cheaper cuts was greater than in the better grades, due to a heavy demand for choice meats.

## RUMANIA GIVES REDS ULTIMATUM

Vienna, Aug. 2.—(By the A. P.)—Rumania has served an ultimatum upon Soviet Russia, giving the Soviets three days to withdraw their troops from Rumanian territory, according to a Belgrade despatch received here today.

## TALKING CLOCK AND ITS INVENTOR



Philadelphia's famous "Talking Clock" with Joseph Pinto, who with his father, Vincente Pinto, invented it. The clock can strike the hours but turning a handle causes it to speak. A photograph of the clock makes this possible. At 6 a. m. it calls: "Time to get up. It's six o'clock" and at 11 p. m. a stern voice announces: "Time to go home, young man. It's 11 o'clock," and messages can be delivered at any hour of the day.