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MAY START SUITS ON WESTERN ELECTRIC

Attorney for Eastland Victims to Reopen Question
Whether Employes Were Forced to Go on
Picnic by Foremen.

The whole story of how the Western Electric Co. handled its working people before the Eastland sunk and killed 800 of its wage-earners is going to come out in public hearings from the looks of things now.

Claims to be filed before industrial board and suits in circuit court are expected to bring out the full facts on these allegations:

Western Electric foremen had charge of selling tickets to the Eastland excursion and when a foreman asked an employe to buy a ticket it was the same as saying: "Come

across or you don't keep your job here."

The company is an auxiliary of American Telephone & Telegraph Co. and wanted a big crowd on the boat and in parades to boost Bell telephone publicity.

The company has capital stock of \$25,000,000, profits ranges around \$5,000,000 a year and it can pay all claims and hardly miss the money.

The St. Joseph-Chicago Steamship Co., owner, and Indiana Transportation Co., lessee of the Eastland at the time the coffin boat went down, are