

New Railway Commission Appointed

Mr. Alfred H. Smith, of New York, Sir George Paish, and Sir Henry Drayton, Chosen

Announcement has been made of the personnel of the commission which is to enquire into the railway situation in Canada. It will consist of Mr. Alfred H. Smith, president of the New York Central lines, chairman, and Sir Henry Drayton, chairman of the Railway Commission, and Sir George Paish.

The Railway Board of Enquiry, as it will be called, will be constituted under the Enquiries Act, and Provincial Governments have been requested to co-operate with it as well, of course, as all Government

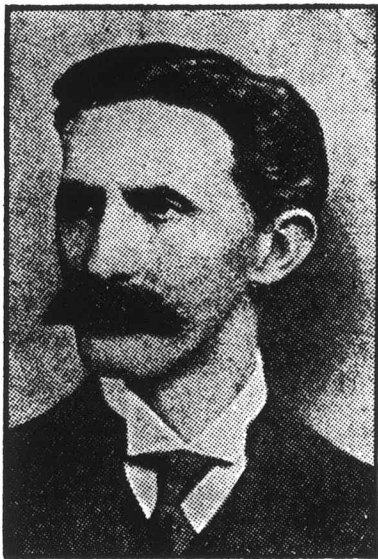
departments, including the Railway Commission and Commission of Conservation. The board is required to report without delay.

Scope of Enquiry.

The scope of the proposed enquiry is sufficiently wide to insure a full consideration of all questions which present themselves for determination by the Government. The important portions of the Order-in-Council are as follows: "The Prime Minister submits that the enquiry should have reference to the following matters: 1—The general problem of transportation in Canada. 2—The status of each of the three transcontinental railway systems, that is to say, the Canadian Pacific Railway System, the Grand Trunk Railway System (including the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway and their several branches), and the Canadian Northern Railway System, having special reference to the following considerations: (a) The territories served by each system and the service which it is capable of performing in the general scheme of transportation. (b) Physical conditions, equipment, and capacity for handling business. (c) Methods of operation. (d) Branch lines, feeders and connections in Canada. (e) Connections in the United States. (f) Steamship connections on both oceans. (g) Capitalization, fixed charges and net earnings having regard to (1) present conditions, and (2) probable future development with increase of population.

3.—The re-organization of any of the said railway systems, or the acquisition thereof by the State, and in the latter case the most effective system of operation whether in connection with the Intercolonial Railway or otherwise.

4.—Generally speaking all matters which the members of the board may consider pertinent or relevant to the general scope of the enquiry.



SIR GEORGE PAISH.

The Prominent English Financial Critic, who has been chosen as a Member of the Inquiry Board to investigate Canadian railroads.

NEW NICKEL PROCESS.

Ontario's Government May Have New Electrical Process.

What the Ontario Government believes to be an economical process of refining nickel within the province has been procured by the Government through the Nickel Commission, according to an intimation made by Premier Hearst. The Premier stated that the Government did not wish to say too much at present on the subject, as so many people had claimed to have discovered economical processes of refining the ore on a commercial basis, only to see their schemes fall through. It has become known, however, although the Hon. Mr. Hearst did not say so, that the process is an electrical one and, it is claimed, a much cheaper method than that at present in use. There seems to be no reasonable doubt of the success of the discovery, as in actual tests it has met the full expectations of the experts. The use of Hydro power would prove one of the big factors in reducing the cost.

Asked if there was any thought of compelling the nickel companies doing business in Ontario to adopt the Ontario process and refine here, Mr. Hearst stated that the Government would await more information from the Nickel Commission before taking any steps.

EXPORT PRICES FOR PROVISIONS — A COMPARISON.

The high cost of living is very clearly reflected in the prices given in Government statistics for provision exports. The year 1890 saw the following average prices for outgoing provisions:—Butter, 17½c a lb.; cheese, 10c a lb.; eggs, 14c a doz.; and lard, 7c a lb., while meats ranged from 9.3c in the case of canned meats to 5.9c for tongue. After a lapse of twenty-five years we find the following increases in prices: Butter, 35 per cent; cheese, 45 per cent; eggs, 94 per cent; lard, 56 per cent; bacon, 23 per cent; hams, 6 per cent; beef, 75 per cent; canned meats, 155 per cent; pork, 75 per cent, and tongues, 117 per cent.

THE JOINT TERMINAL ELEVATOR SCHEME.

On March 22 the committee of the Privy Council gave to the Board of Grain Commissioners for Canada authority to make inquiries into the whole conditions of handling and marketing grain in western Canada. The first meeting of the board under this new inquiry will be held in Fort William on July 18 to consider applications from the city of Fort William and the board of trade of that city in connection with a joint terminal scheme for the head of the lakes.

The text of the application is that the three transcontinental lines each own and operate their own terminal facilities, and these facilities were not built on any pre-arranged plan, with the consequence that a large amount of unnecessary expenditure has developed. The policy hitherto has been that private elevators have been connected with only one line, and the facilities have been diffused over a large space. Operators have had either to pay switching charges on grain not carried by the line connected with their elevator or make arrangements with the other elevators to accept car for car of grain without switching. This is claimed to be injurious to competition. The application states with confidence that this is one condition necessary for the success of a sample market at the head of the lakes.

The board of grain commissioners announce also that they will hold a meeting in the Grain Exchange, Winnipeg, on July 26, to renew the discussion on the above subject, which was carried over from the last meeting held in May. — Grain Trade News.

There are 26,000 motion picture theatres in the United States; the daily attendance is 25,000,000; amount invested in picture theatre property, \$360,000,000; salaries paid weekly, \$2,300,000; number of picture theatre employees, 205,000; amount invested in film plants, machines, electrical equipment and theatres, \$2,000,000,000.

Is the War Nearly Over?

(Boston News Bureau).

A goodly number of the devotees of the market place appreciate the fact that the stock market must be discounting something. For lack of more adequate explanation, many of them profess to believe that it is discounting the early ending of the war. And even large bankers have not hesitated to voice this opinion during the past few days.

While it is possible that the United States, with its war news from all fronts and with the perspective which distance creates, may have a better horizon for measuring the probable termination of the war, the opinion of Englishmen and Frenchmen who are in the thick of the turmoil is entitled to very considerable weight.

It is a known fact that the food pressure in Germany today is very intense. The 1915 crops were poor for a variety of reasons, including unskilled labor, lack of nitrates, stable manure and phosphates. But the harvesting of the new crop is now at hand. It will not be up to pre-war crops, but it will almost certainly be a better crop than that of 1915 and its harvesting will for the time being relieve the economic pressure which is leading Germany to adopt such wholesale socialism as state feeding of vast populations.

Based largely on this argument, some very good judges are not of the opinion that the war will go through another winter and will find its termination in the spring of 1917. It is believed that on the eastern front the Germans and Austrians will at some point turn on their Russian attackers and stem the tide of advance. Even in England itself the success of the Russian has been positively unexpected, and if the truth were known, the Russians must have surprised themselves.

It is believed by those in a position to know that Germany will make attempts to sound out peace at the first opportune date; it is also believed in England that resumption of submarine warfare cannot be long postponed.

But it is not stretching the truth in any degree to assert that on no possible peace terms which Germany could offer or to which she would submit would the allies make peace today. They are bent on demonstrating to Germany that her armies are not invincible and that she is not being defeated solely by economic pressure, but by the prowess of armies in the field. When this defeat is accomplished there will be talk of peace in earnest. Till then peace expresses the hope of Germany and Austria only. And there are very good grounds for believing that the allies doubt their ability to administer this decisive military defeat until the war has dragged its course through another winter.

WESTERN UNION'S HELPFUL WAYS.

We all admire the man who has an understanding of people. A host of friends are his and confidences unasked because he has the one thing most attractive to everybody. This is a certain rule for making advertising pull and those concerns which put it into practice achieve results more startling than those obtained by any other method.

Western Union has been particularly successful in increasing its sales along these lines. The old idea was that all an agent had to do was to sit in his office and take messages that came in. Now he must hustle for them, but on lines just as helpful to the customers as for the company.

There was a fire in a boys' school and the Western Union agent got up in the middle of the night and went to the principal with the following pointer: "Those boys' parents will be very much alarmed when they see the accounts in the papers and the accounts will be late and probably garbled. Would it not be kinder to wire their parents? Just make up a telegram and give me a mailing list and we'll do the rest." This brought in a hundred or more telegrams, to the benefit of everybody.

The transfer of flowers is more particularly easy; all you have to do is say and pay. Western Union will take over all details of communication for a funeral. And once, at their suggestion, a department store sent out wires to all customers saying that a festival was on in town and inviting them to make the store their headquarters during their visit. Customers came in by the score with the telegrams in their hands, pleased as punch to be individually telegraphed. Needless to say sales boomed in that store. — Wall Street Journal.