

COMMISSION FINDING ON EXPRESS RATES

The Summary of Report Which Concludes With The Order That The Rates Be Reduced—The Purpose of the Inquiry.

The following is the summary of the finding of the Railway Commission, regarding the express companies giving details not included in the earlier dispatches from Ottawa.

Tariff Toll

Dealing with the question of tariff toll, the judgment says that the matter has been dealt with solely with a view of trying to ascertain whether these tolls, upon the whole, are reasonable. "They might," says the judgment, "upon the whole produce reasonable returns to carriers, and yet some classes of traffic might be unduly burdened other classes be carried for less than reasonable charges, so that it would be unfair to individual shippers, but at the moment that is not a point for consideration. Do they, in the result, produce a fair and reasonable return to railway companies or from financial results and generally reasonable conclusions and inferences from the foregoing should not some general reductions be made? Railway companies have small, almost negligible portions of capital invested in these express agencies, and these latter, being common carriers, performing quasi-public functions, are accountable to the public and to the government, and with which interpretation we entirely agree, imposes upon these carriers the onus of satisfying the board that their tolls are fair and reasonable. Has this burden been discharged? We feel that it has not been, and in so ruling we are not interpreting the meaning of this onus in a narrow sense. It should not be so dealt with. A carrier is entitled to much latitude in framing these tariffs. There are many elements of loss and danger that must be provided for, but after making every allowance for all contingencies we can think of we are impressed with the fact that the earnings of the railway companies upon express traffic are upon the whole excessive and should be reduced. Arriving, after most serious consideration, at this conclusion it follows that the application of the companies to allow their tariffs, as they stand, cannot succeed and must be refused. In this result it will be necessary to prepare new tariffs, and in framing them regard must be had to certain outlines that follow:

Delivery Limits

In connection with this phase of the matter, the judgment says that express rates in Canada are practically the same as those in the United States, where the companies are independent of the railway. The judgment then quotes at length various rulings of the board in respect to different phases of the matter considered. The question of delivery limits is one of the most important of these. It is directed that companies must propose to the board some reasonable basis for express traffic to move to delivery limit points, which, if no reasonable way of working out the problem of delivery points is found, delivery limits will have to be abolished.

The board does not feel that it is necessary at the present time to give direction to the express companies as to the exact mileage which should constitute each mileage group westward from Lake Superior, and that there will be advantages in general uniformity so that, for example, any two or more of the western groups should be equivalent to and included in the corresponding eastern group included in the present. Express companies should, within three months, re-arrange their standard mileage territories from Lake Superior to the westward, inclusive. In accordance with this direction the board directs:

- (1) Four standard mileage basing scales, namely:
 - (a) "On all lines east and including Windsor and Sudbury, excluding the line of the T and O north of and including Sudbury to and including Sault Ste. Marie, Crow's Nest, Cammore and Thornton, Alta., also north of and including North Bay."
 - (b) "On all lines west of and including Crow's Nest, Cammore and Thornton to the Pacific coast, and to Vancouver transfer points."
 - (c) "On all lines west of and including Crow's Nest, Cammore and Thornton to the Pacific coast, and to Vancouver transfer points."
 - (d) "On all lines west of and including Crow's Nest, Cammore and Thornton to the Pacific coast, and to Vancouver transfer points."
- (2) That mileage groupings of (b) (c), and (d) be assimilated to those of (a) so that there shall be no overlapping.
- (3) That "that of (a) do not exceed \$2.00, (b) \$5.00, (c) \$6.00, and (d) \$7.00, the 900-1000-mile group, on Vancouver Island groupings are to be harmonized without any increase in rates."
- (4) In the interest of uniformity of practice and to lessen burden of rates on inter-divisional traffic, which is not subject to Sudbury inter-basing schedule, higher or highest standard mileage scale applied to through mileage should govern in either direction.
- (5) Between points east of Sudbury and points west thereof the Sudbury-basing scale may be continued provided that through rates are less in all cases than the sum of the tariff rates to and from Sudbury, and are not greater than the higher standard tariff applied to through mileage from the point of origin to destination. Tariffs between points east of Sudbury and points west thereof may, however, be continued.

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Sudbury and points west thereof must show these specific through rates. The board expresses the view that the Sudbury basing method may be reasonably applied to inter-divisional traffic via North Bay. As to through rates the board has come to the conclusion that the express companies in Canada must establish joint through rates on express freight traffic which shall be less than the sum of their local. A reasonable basis for joint per hundred pound rates should be constructed on the basis of a reduction of at least ten per cent. from the lowest combination of "merchandise" rate between same points.

Dealing with the question of contract forms the board says it is difficult to understand why express companies have for years required such forms to be signed by shippers. After quoting numerous provisions of contract forms the judgment says: "They are all unreasonable. When the tariffs of the express companies are before us we were told that charges were, to some extent, based upon the great responsibility assumed by the company, and when the form of contract comes to be investigated it appears that studied attempts have been made to prevent the shipper from recovering compensation in the event of his goods being destroyed or lost while in possession of the company."

The board orders that the forms at present in use should be abandoned. In dealing with the proposed of the joint through rates for all lines, the board orders that the forms at present in use should be abandoned.

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RAILWAYS MUST TAKE GREATER PRECAUTIONS

Legislation Recommended to Government by Conservation Commission—Much Information on Last Summer's Prairie Fires.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—Apprehension has been expressed by railway officials at the proposed legislation regarding fires set by locomotives which was fore-shadowed by Hon. Clifford Sifton, chairman of the Commission of Conservation in an address recently delivered before the Ottawa Canadian Club. An interview given by a leading railway official subsequently appeared in the press questioning the reliability of the statistics of railway fires compiled by the commission of conservation and attacking the proposed legislation.

When confronted with this interview today M. J. Pattison, acting secretary of commission on conservation, said:

Not Informed of Facts. "The railroad man who gave that interview was not informed of the facts in regard to the statistics respecting fires set by railways as given by Mr. Sifton in his recent address. When it was known that the statistics were true, the railroad man would not have been so ready to attack the proposed legislation."

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There is a most inexcusable ignorance displayed regarding the legislation the commission is asking the government to pass. The statement that the enactment of the legislation recommended would hold the railways responsible for all fires adjacent to their lines is not true. Nothing of the kind has ever been proposed. What the commission did propose was that the railways should be liable to a penalty for all fires actually caused by sparks from their locomotives and for all fires which were allowed to spread from their locomotives to the land.

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STRIKE SITUATION IS LITTLE CHANGED

Winnipeg Street Railway Company Claim to Be Operating Full Service and Strikers Declare They Will Win—Magistrate Hands Out Ship Sentence.

Winnipeg, Dec. 28.—The street car situation drags on wearily. The company claim to be operating a full service, and, with the exception of one or two lines which are not operating at all, the strikers still operate. Certainly they are operating plenty of cars, but their schedule are totally disrupted, owing to the inexperienced crew being used. Accidents are being run, and the strikers are being run, and the strikers are being run, and the strikers are being run.

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GREY WILL START FROM EDMONTON

GOVERNOR-GENERAL TO LEAVE THIS CITY IN EARLY SPRING FOR ARCTIC.

Ottawa, Dec. 28.—If the plans for Earl Grey's trip down the Mackenzie River to the Arctic are carried out, His Excellency will be met at the mouth of the Mackenzie by the cruise of the Canadian navy now stationed on the Pacific Coast as a training ship. It is proposed that Earl Grey shall make his start from Edmonton in the early summer. As in the case of the trip to Hudson Bay, His Excellency will be escorted by a detachment of the Northwest Mounted Police.

It is estimated that it will take not less than three months to make the journey down the Mackenzie. The journey by steamboat from the mouth of the Mackenzie to Victoria will be taken as to navigation. The details of the trip are now being considered and unless something unforeseen happens, it will be made.

Two Million for Dry Dock. A subsidy on an expenditure of two million dollars will be given to the G.T.P. for its dry dock at Prince Rupert. A report containing this recommendation has been made to the Minister of Public Works and will be submitted to the council and no doubt approved. Plans will be to build a second-class dry dock at that point.

Reciprocity Negotiations. It is impossible to obtain any definite statement here as to the resumption of the reciprocity negotiations but there is every reason to believe that the original programme will be adhered to and that Mr. Fielding and perhaps Mr. Patterson will go down to Washington about Jan. 12.

The Minister of Finance has returned to Ottawa feeling much better and will devote his time between now and the resumption of his duties to "clearing the slate." One of the important questions to be settled is that of an appropriation for the Winnipeg Railway Commission.

At present there is no intention for the delivery of budget speech before the House of Commons on Saturday, that Mr. Fielding will, it is hoped, be in a position to deliver the speech himself and to make a detailed announcement as to the result of reciprocity negotiations.

Renovating Printing Dept. Numerous changes are being made in the printing department of the Government Printing Bureau and the work of the officials assigned is calculated to prevent a recurrence of the charges of extravagance and dishonesty which have been established.

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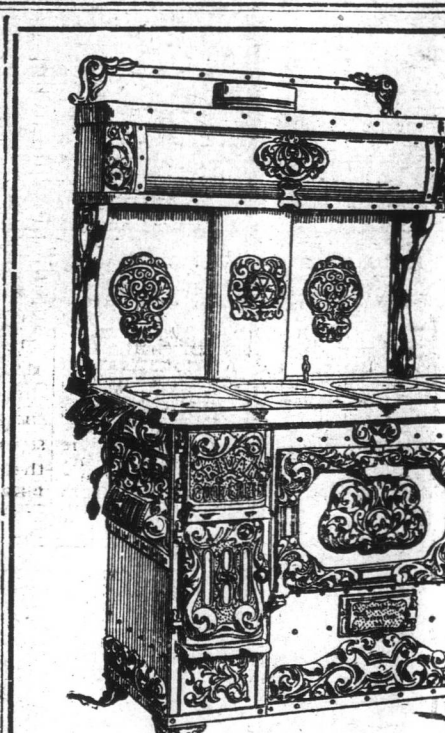
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ROSS BROS., LIMITED

Corner Fraser and Jasper PHONE 1825

Don't Wait Till Spring

Have you decided yet whether you will get a new heater or change your range? Don't keep putting off changing your range till spring for you will burn more coal and then not get the best of your fuel with your old range. We can fit your kitchen with a

"GOOD CHEER" RANGE

that will give the heat in your kitchen, save your fuel and make your cooking a pleasure. Here are a few of our specialties:

The Wascana Steel Range, with four number nine lids, handsomely finished, the ideal range for a small family.

Price, square with high closet, \$39.00. With copper reservoir, \$41.00. With hot water connection, \$43.50.

The Sillar Steel Range, full size kitchen range, six number nine lids, 18-in. oven. Price \$32.00, or fitted with reservoir or hot water connection, \$35.00.

The Alberta Oak Heater, guaranteed to be the strongest and best made oak heater on the market, cast from bottom and handsome nickel trimmings, in five sizes.

No. 11, \$40.00; No. 13, \$7.50; No. 15, \$10.00; No. 17, \$12.00; No. 19, \$16.50.

Men's fleece lined underwear at \$1.75 and \$2.00, now 90c.

Men's wool lined underwear at, per suit, \$1.00, now 80c.

Men's wool socks, regular, 45c, now 4 pairs for \$1.00.

Good wool Ties, 45c, 50c, and 75c, now 3 for \$1.00.

Wool's line lined Caps, \$1 and \$1.50, now 50c.

Good warm lined Gloves, \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.00, now 90c.

Wool Mitts, 25c, 35c, and 50c, now 20c.

MEN'S AND BOYS' SUITS

20 Men's Suits, \$15, \$18, \$20, now \$12.

25 Men's Suits, \$22, now \$14.00.

35 Boys' Suits, \$3.50, \$4.50, and \$6.50, now 2 for \$10.00.

Bear in mind our stock is to be cleared and this is your opportunity to save your hard earned money on the line of merchandise we carry, and further, we stand back of our goods, because if you are not satisfied, you get your money back.

Mayer's Clothing Store

123 JASPER AVENUE EAST, EDMONTON

CONFERENCE ON THE CONTROL OF RAILWAYS

Chairman Mabee, of Canada, and Governor-General in Conference at Washington—The Need of a Board of Control for Two Countries.

Washington, Dec. 28.—As a result of a long series of conferences between Judge Martin A. Knapp, chairman of the inter-state commerce commission, and the Hon. J. P. Mabee, chief of the railway commission of Canada, an agreement has been reached to recommend to the Governments of the United States and Canada the creation of an international railway commission which shall have supervisory authority over the railway rates in both countries.

Mr. Mabee arrived in Washington from Ottawa last night to discuss the details of the proposed agreement. He will be here for several days, and will be accompanied by Judge Knapp.

The report will be completed in a few days, and will be presented to the President of the United States and the Governor-General of Canada.

Whether the commission is to be created by treaty or joint legislation cannot be announced at this time. For a considerable period it has been realized that the increasing traffic between the United States and Canada was likely to render control over rates in the future a difficult task.

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DISTRICT

Bulletin News Service

The fall term of school was brought to a close Thursday afternoon, and a number of the leading events of the year were held. The teacher Miss Strong, of the school, was the guest of honor.

A groom was cast in the wedding of the year-old boy and girl, who were married in the school. The bride was Miss Strong, of the school.

Mr. Thompson, an actor, was the guest of honor at the Christmas party. He was the guest of honor at the Christmas party.

The Christmas party was a grand success. The school was the guest of honor at the Christmas party.

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