GREAT STRIKE MAY BE AVERTED

Firemen of Western Railroads Consent to Mediation by Washington Officials--Asked for by Managers

MEN INSISTON PROMPT PROCEEDINGS

General Managers Think Decision Means That Settlement Will Be Reached--The Points in Dispute

CHICAGO, March 15.—Danger of an immediate strike of 27,000 firemen on western railroads, and the contingent strike the coming week of more than 125,000 of other employes, was averted today through the acceptance of mediation by the federal authorities at Washington.

At the request of the general managers of the forty-seven western roads involved, Chairman Martin A. Knapp, of the inter-state commerce commission, and Commissioner of Labor Neill, telegraphed an offer of federal mediation to the union officers. This offer was accepted, W. S. Carter, president of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, stipulating, however, that the action must begin without delay. The appeal to Washington was taken as an eleventh move to prevent a walkout, which, it was declared, threatened the greatest railroad strike since that of 1894.

Thirty-seven members of the Western Federated board of the Brotherhood last midnight formally voted for a strike. The hour for striking had been set for next Monday morning, and the members were prepared to start for home, to put the strike into action when the mediation steps were taken.

The mediators will come to Chicago, and according to Mr. Carter will not arbitrate the questions in dispute, but will determine what shall be arbitrated. The questions included wages, which both sides had agreed to arbitrate, and two other technical points involving promotion and representation in the union. These latter subjects the brotherhood contends must be arbitrated, but the railroads assert that they cannot be arbitrated because they relate to internal discipline.

"If the mediation fails through the strike will go right on," said President Carter tonight.

In a statement given out tonight the general managers said: "All prospects of a strike are over. There will be none. Settlement of the whole controversy by mediation is assured."

Trainmen Appealed To.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Grand Master W. G. Lee, of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, received today a telegram from the leaders of the firemen's union in Chicago, asking if the trainmen's union would stand by the firemen in their projected strike in the West. Mr. Lee has sent no reply, but his associates said that Mr. Lee felt that the trainmen's union had their hands full in the East at present.

USES STRONG TERMS

Dr. Mary Walker Severely Attacks Advocates of Woman Suffrage Bill at Albany

ALBANY, N. Y., March 15.—Dr. Mary Walker, in what she called a "constitutional argument" before the assembly judiciary committee today, made a violent attack on the women who are advocating the woman suffrage bill. The terms "grafter" and "fool" figured liberally in her remarks. She was particularly severe in her criticism of Rev. Anna Shaw, president of the National Woman Suffrage Association, whom she designated as a preacher who does not preach, and follows woman suffrage advocacy for a living. "Why, Mrs. Belmont holds meetings at her Newport palace," exclaimed Dr. Walker, "and you can't even get in without paying $5 for the efforts of those behind this movement." The speaker insisted that all laws such as proposed are in violation of the United States constitution, which, she claims to have discovered thirty-eight years ago, contains authority for woman suffrage. "There's no use such silly rubbish as this bill," she exclaimed. "If women go to the polls in a body and demand their rights to vote the men won't dare to refuse them."

Lumber Cut to Increase.

NELSON, March 15.—W. A. Ansite, secretary of the Mountain Lumbermen's Association, back from a tour of the East, anticipates an increase of fifty per cent. in the cut this year.

Nelson Jam Factory.

NELSON, March 15.—The Kootenay Jam Co. have just let contracts for doubling their present plant, and will shortly be able to turn out five tons daily. The undertaking is a profitabel addition to the steadily growing fruit trade of the district.

Iron Works Consolidated.

NELSON, March 15.—The Rossland engineering works will be moved to Nelson on April 1 and amalgamated here with the Nelson iron works, to be known as the Consolidated Engineering Works of Nelson, Ltd. W. M. Cunliffe, of the Rossland company, joins B. A. Isaacs and B. W. Hinton, of the local company, and the works here will be considerably enlarged.

Eastern Fish Merger

HALIFAX, March 15.—The option held by the recently formed Maritime Fish Corporation, of Montreal, on the properties of Howard Anderson, David Sproule and Short and Ellis, at Digby, has been accepted by the National Securities, Ltd., the financial backers of the new fish merger. The option would expire tomorrow, but word from Montreal today brought the news, and the merger is now a certainty. Two independent fish firms remain, those of Joseph E. Snow and Syda and Cousins.

DRANK WOOD ALCOHOL

Theory Held in Connection With Death of Two Men Between Ladysmith and Chemainus

NANAIMO, March 15.—A curious occurrence, resulting in the death of two men, is reported from Ladysmith today. According to information received here, two men, one of them being named W. Redman, were engaged in building boats in a shed between Ladysmith and Chemainus. It is conjectured that they got some wood alcohol to do some finishing work on a boat and that they must have imbibed some of it. At any rate, Redman was reported dead last night and the second man died this morning. Coroner Davis left on this afternoon's train to make an investigation.

AN IMPECUNIOUS LOT

President Mellen of New Haven Road so Styles Grand Trunk in Charter Discussion

PROVIDENCE, R. I., March 15.—"An impecunious lot," was the way President Chas. S. Mellen, of the New Haven railroad, characterized the Grand Trunk railroad in opposing the latter's effort to get a charter to enter Providence before the committee on corporations today.

The plan to enter Rhode Island proposes to use a part of the New Haven road's track, a provision in the New Haven's charter making such an arrangement possible, and to this President Mellen particularly objected. President Mellen condemned any action towards giving to the new line permission to construct grade crossings.

"The promoters of the Grand Trunk come here," said President Mellen, in conclusion, "declaring that they will make a great port of Providence. They would not dare say that in Montreal. The Canadian government did not subsidize the Grand Trunk so that it might make Providence a great port."

Few new points either for or against granting the charter were brought out in the arguments of the other speakers. City Solicitor Baker, speaking for Providence, approved the bill in general.

The hearing was adjourned without date.

GERMANS SCAN PAYNE TARIFF

Conservative Party Strongly Objects to Government's Arrangements--Chancellor's Status Is Reviewed

BERLIN, March 15.—Replying to an inquiry by Professor Richard Eyckhoff, Radical-Liberal, in the Reichstag today, Foreign Secretary Von Schoen said that negotiations with the United States looking to a German-American arbitration treaty had in no sense been broken off. "Our propositions relative to such an arbitration treaty has been presented to the Federal government at Washington, which as yet has not replied," said the secretary.

Count Von Kanineta, a Conservative member, speaking on the subject of appropriations for the foreign office deplored the fact that Germany had submitted to the terms of the Payne tariff law. The balance of trade between the two countries showed, he said, nearly $200,000,000 in favor of the United States, which had exhibited no spirit or reciprocity towards Germany, the position of which was most unfavorable. He added: "The Americans first impose higher tariffs and then say that they cannot be altered because that is the law. Perhaps Germany could act similarly and introduce a higher tariff, subsequently saying: 'that is our law.' Our government, however, was in a bad position, and some sort of an agreement with the United States was necessary. Almost our entire industry recognized that we must submit to the Payne tariff. Nevertheless my party cannot dismiss the fear that our exports will suffer under the agreement reached. Other lands, like France, have not been frightened by the American tariff, and I believe that France in the new agreement with the United States will not go so far in concessions as has Germany."

Following a discussion of the appropriation for the salary of the imperial chancellor, the Reichstag adopted by a small majority the motion of a bill making the chancellor responsible to the Reichstag for his official acts, and also extending his responsibility to cover all of the acts and documents made by the Emperor, for which responsibility he shall be answerable in a court of law.

By a narrow margin the Reichstag adopted the resolution of the Alsatian member, Preiss, asking for a bill making Alsace-Lorraine a full state, with the same status as other states of the empire.

Dr. Gregore, another Alsatian member, offered an amendment, which was adopted, providing that in the event of an Alsatian parliament being formed its members should be elected by universal direct and secret ballot.

Helping Montreal Harbor

OTTAWA, March 15.—The government is to loan the Montreal harbor commissioners $6,000,000, according to a notice of motion given by Mr. Fielding last night. This is to complete existing works in the harbor and provide for additional facilities.

His Hidden Wealth

TORONTO, March 15.—In examining the effects of the late Jonathan Graham, an old man who lived retired at the residence of E. C. Sewell, on Shuter street, for the past two years, securities were found valued at between $50,000 and $60,000. A brother has been notified.

PARIS March 15.—The French aviation syndicate today brought suit for the annulment of the Wright patents on France. The petition sets up the general claim that the Wright Bros., in America and France, are trying to obtain a monopoly in mechanical flight.

ARE DISCIPLINED BY OPPOSITION

Ministers Obliged to Give Way on Matter of Passage of St. Lawrence Power Company's Bill

SITTING DRAWN OUT TO TWENTY HOURS

Hon. Messrs. Pugsley and Oliver Forced to Withdraw Offensive Remarks Offered in Debate

OTTAWA, March 15.—The government capitulated at four o'clock this afternoon, after a fight of 20 hours on the bill to incorporate the St. Lawrence Power Transmission company. The struggle had been kept up from three o'clock Monday, and was precipitated by the government backing the private bill. All night long the members of the opposition and Messrs. Emerson and Turriff objected to the bill going through or making any progress whatever, until the plans were submitted to parliament and laid on the table of the House for inspection of every member. Mr. Pugsley refused to produce these plans, and that is where the deadlock came in.

Just previous to this the minister of public works practically admitted that the government was committed to the damming of the St. Lawrence by stating that the plans had been submitted to his department and that certain conditions had been laid down respecting the conservation of Canadian rights, when Col. Sam Hughes drew attention to the fact that it was boasted by the Longue Sauf development people that they had two million dollars for promoting purposes, and he added that some of that sum must be circulating on the government benches.

Mr. Pugsley was on his feet in a moment. "That is a vile insinuation," he declared. Then the chairman ruled that the term "vile insinuation" connected with an honorable member was out of order, and Mr. Pugsley withdrew the expression.

At 3 o'clock Col. Sam Hughes moved that the committee rise and report progress. This was defeated by 34 to 32 by a count of heads. Then at 4 o'clock the end came. Mr. Fielding and Mr. Pugsley consented to letting the bill stand over until the plans were submitted to parliament. Then the opposition allowed a minor clause of the bill to go through and progress was reported.

This is the most strenuous fight which has ever taken place over a private bill. It is the longest continuous sitting since the famous fight over the production of original documents which precipitated the battle of March, 1898, lasting from Thursday until Saturday night.

Another Storm

There was a stormy scene in the house tonight, which demonstrates the nervous tension under which the jaded members are working in the continuous sitting which has lasted since three o'clock yesterday afternoon. The combination were Glen Campbell and Frank Oliver, the minister of the interior, the latter being compelled to withdraw unseemly remarks concerning Mr. Campbell, one of which was that the minister would apologize to the Doukhobors for having associated Mr. Campbell's name with them. For a time the western fur was flying in dead earnest, the trouble arising over the immigration bill, the second reading of which was moved by Mr. Oliver. When Mr. Campbell inquired if the bill proposed to permit any more Doukhobors to enter Canada, Mr. Oliver retorted: "Yes; and all the other friends of the honorable gentleman."

"What does the minister mean by that?" asked Mr. Campbell.

"I mean exactly what I say," replied Mr. Oliver.

"Does the minister mean to class me with the Doukhobors?" was the next question.

"If so, I must apologize to the Doukhobors," snapped back Mr. Oliver, very tartly.

Then there was turmoil. The chairman, Mr. McIntyre appealed for order. Mr. Campbell said that he would not permit such a slur as that cast in his teeth by the Minister to go unchallenged and he challenged the minister to make it outside the privilege of parliament, but Mr. Oliver sat tight and the Opposition held up the progress of the House peuding a retraction.

"Take it back," shouted Dr. Edwards of Frontenac.

"I will not be dictated to by any bully" remarked Mr. Oliver, and the house wasted some time more while Mr. Oliver found the necessary parliamentary language to withdraw the obnoxious expression. Mr. Staples and Mr. Crosby of Halifax absolutely refused to permit the consideration of the bill to continue until Mr. Oliver conformed to the ordinary decencies of debate. Mr. Campbell asked his friends not to urge upon a man who was not willing to retract an insult to do so because such a man, even though a minister, was beneath contempt. Then finally Mr. Oliver, after several more party jabs, stated he had meant no personal reflection on Mr. Campbell, and regretted having in any way conveyed the impression. Thus ended the stormy scene, which blew up with much of the speed of a western cyclone.

VANCOUVER WILL PLAY BASKETBALL

VANCOUVER, March 15.—On Friday, March 25th, the Vancouver Athletic club intermediate basketball team is going to Victoria for one or two games with the fastest teams in the Capital City. On Saturday, March 26, the Vancouver Athletic club boys will probably play the Victoria Y. M. C. A. in the Imperial rink of that city. Several of the other teams are anxious to play them on Friday previous to the Y. M. C. A. match. The boys will be accompanied by Physical Director Bradley and a small crowd of rooters. It is just possible that a senior team may make the trip at the same time.

Pays Fifty Cents on Dollar

LONDON, Ont., March 15.—The Southwestern Traction Co., which went into liquidation on October 20, will pay 50 cents on the dollar to shareholders on claims and bonus that have been proved. Local Master Cowen has so announced. Claims totalling $77,269.55 have been filed.

Jack Johnson's Trial.

NEW YORK, March 15.—March 23rd was set today as the date for trial of Jack Johnson, the negro pugilist, on a charge of assault in the second degree. Counsel for the negro conferred with District Attorney Whitman today and pointed out that in the ordinary run of business the case would not be reached until May. As this would interfere with the fighter's training, Judge Mulvray, of the Court of General Sessions, agreed to the advancement. Johnson is now in Milwaukee. He is accused of attacking a diminutive black in an uptown saloon.

MISFORTUNE TRAILS MARY WINKELMANN

Misses Stays and Is Beached at Tanga Tabu in the Friendly Islands

PORT TOWNSEND, March 14.—Barkentine Mary Winkelton, which sailed from here November 26, lumber laden from Mukilteo, arrived at Tanga Tabu, Friendly islands, February 1. The Winkleman attempted to sail out of this harbor but missed the stays and went ashore on the beach in front of this city, where she remained thirty-six hours before being hauled off. Capt. John Piltz, her master had his hand crushed in the cage of the donkey engine, but took his vessel to sea. This incident did not end the ill fortune of the Winkleman, according to a letter received from Capt. Piltz today.

When she passed out at the cape the mate was stricken with delirium tremens and had to be guarded night and day. Capt. Piltz in his crippled condition could not be on deck all the time, and the second mate, it is claimed, was incompetent, and by the time the vessel reached a point off San Francisco she was in a crippled condition, having had most of her sails carried away and her rigging considerably damaged. On January 28 the night watchman fell overboard and drowned. His body was recovered the next day. On her return the Winkleman will call at Apia, Samoa.

INTERPRETATION OF WATER ACT

Court of Appeals Gives Judgment Affirming County Court Jurisdiction in Cases Arising Under Old Law

VANCOUVER, March 15.—An important decision has just been given by the court of appeal, interesting to all applicants for water records, past, present and future.

For the first time the highest court in the province has passed upon the general bearing and to some extent the scope of the consolidated water act passed by the legislature a year ago. In this case the court has unanimously held that that act does not affect or alter the old procedure on applications filed and pending before that act was brought into operation in April of last year.

This has been the contention of the Northern Pacific Lumber company, as urged by its counsel, Edgar Bloomfield, who are the successful respondents in this appeal, the unsuccessful appellants being the Nichols Chemical company, represented by Sir Charles Hibbert Tupper, K. C. The argument of Sir Charles was in effect that the water act took away from the county court judge his former jurisdiction to deal even with applications filed before or pending at the time of the passage of that act. After a two days' argument the court unanimously decided against that contention and in favor of the opposite view advanced by Mr. Bloomfield, the decision being given at the close of the case.

For nearly two years this question has been before the water commissioner under the old act and two courts. Back in August, 1908, both companies made applications for water grants on two branches of a stream running through district lot 215 in the vicinity of Barnet, where the Chemical company has erected a large plant and where the Northern Pacific Lumber company is preparing to expend $400,000 on its proposed extensive mill there, to take the place of the one destroyed by fire a year ago.

When the applications came before the late C. C. Fisher, as the water commissioner under the old precedure, he allowed that of the Chemical company for five inches and gave the lumber company nothing, deciding the question of priority in favor of the former although the latter contended their application had been filed first.

Against this decision the lumber company appealed to County Judge Howay, who upheld the appeal and gave the lumber company a grant in priority to the chemical company.

Thereupon the chemical company appealed to the court of appeal seeking, in effect, an order of prohibition to prevent Judge Howay's decision from being made effective.

"I contend," argued Sir Charles, "that the new act takes away from the county court judge the jurisdiction he had in this matter and vests that power in the board of commissioners appointed under the new act."

"I contend," replied Mr. Bloomfield, "that under the circumstances of this case the new act leaves that jurisdiction where it was."

The court upheld this view, and thereupon fell the first appeal to the new court under the new act.

Rev. Dr. Robson Ill

VANCOUVER, March 15.—Rev. Dr. Robson, the aged pioneer missionary of British Columbia, is lying seriously ill at his home, having on Sunday morning sustained a paralytic stroke which caused him to lose the use of one side and also rendered him practically speechless. Enquiries this morning elicited the fact that he was somewhat better, being now able to recognize his immediate relatives and to speak. There are hopes of his recovery, as, for one of his advanced age, he has a wonderful constitution and vitality.

Tragedy Ends Career.

NEW YORK, March 15.—Eva Strangeways Fox, the English newspaper woman and one time accepted member of the higher society of New York and other cities, died today in Bellevue hospital from the effects of a drug taken with suicidal intent. She had been arrested on a charge of passing a worthless cheque, and after vainly pleading for release, swallowed several tablets from a box which she carried in her handbag. She became ill and for ten days hovered between life and death.

Funeral of Anti-Semite Leader

VIENNA, March 15.—Not since the interment of Empress Elizabeth has Vienna witnessed a funeral so imposing as that given today to Dr. Karl Lueger, the anti-Semite and Christian Socialist, and who for many years preceding his death last Thursday was the mayor of this city. Half of the population hedged the route of the procession from the cathedral to the cemetery, five miles distant. Business was suspended generally. At the church all ranks from the Emperor down were represented.

Vancouver Island Pearls.

That pearls of good size and lustre, the majority of them with just a touch of rose-pink but many of a clear and beautiful white, are found in the Vancouver Island mussel, will be news to the majority. There is, however, nothing too strange to be a fact—and this is one of them. Probably as many as five dozen such mussel pearls have been brought in to one city jeweler from the vicinity of Otter Point during the past week, and mounted in rings and other articles of feminine adornment, are truly attractive to the artistic eye.

New arrivals in Spring coats yesterday.

Campbells
THE FASHION CENTRE

New arrivals in Spring coats yesterday.

Acme of Perfection in Tailored Suits

We are frequently asked how it is our coats and costumes are so moderate in price in spite of the fact that they represent exclusive creations. Our answer is—co-operation between ourselves and customers.

Fashion, like the weather, changes, sometimes slightly, othertimes radically. The world's great fashion designers, whose styles are shown exclusively here, have given ladies' coats and suits a very marked improvement, and we must all agree, including the sedate bachelors, that the illustrations here shown are graceful indeed, there is not the slightest turn to "the extreme" either in texture or colors.

The influence we have with the principal centres of fashion, has again enabled us to offer for your perusal the most charming and exclusive suits and coats you could possibly wish to see.

As previously mentioned we anticipated the delay in freight and ordered all our goods by express, which are arriving daily.

STEELE·BRIGGS·SEEDS
GIVE·BEST·RESULTS
BECAUSE·THEY'RE·THE·BEST
TESTED FOR GERMINATION TESTED FOR PURITY
STEELE·BRIGGS·SEED Co LIMITED
Toronto, Hamilton, & Winnipeg

California Canned Goods

We have just received another shipment of these delicious Canned Fruits

PEACHES
APRICOTS
PEARS
PLUMS
Per Large tin, 25c

The Family Cash Grocery
Cor. Yates and Douglas Sts. Phone 312

Corrig College
Beacon Hill Park, VICTORIA, B.C.
Select High-Class BOARDING College for BOYS of 8 to 16 years. Refinements of well-appointed Gentleman's home in lovely BEACON HILL PARK. Number limited. Outdoor sports. Prepared for Business Life or Professional or University Examinations. Fees inclusive and strictly moderate. L. D. Phone, Victoria 748. Autumn term, Sept. 1st.
Principal, J. W. GEORGE, M. A.

Monkey Brand Soap cleans kitchen utensils, steel, iron and tinware, knives and forks, and all kinds of cutlery.

Advertise in THE COLONIST

FERRY'S SEEDS
To grow the finest flowers and most luscious vegetables, plant the best seeds. Ferry's Seeds are best because they never fail in yield or quality. The best gardeners and farmers everywhere know Ferry's seeds to be the highest standard of quality yet attained. For sale everywhere.
FERRY'S 1910 Seed Annual free on request.
D. M. FERRY & CO., WINDSOR, ONT.