

TO REDUCE THE CAR SHORTAGE

Railway Commission Makes Important Ruling

INCREASE IN THE DEMURRAGE RATE From December 15 to March 31 Railways Can Charge \$2 and \$3 Demurrage per Car, Instead of \$1.

Ottawa, Dec. 2.—The Dominion Railway Commission this afternoon issued an order granting the application of the Canadian Pacific Railway, Grand Trunk Railway, Canadian Northern Railway and Michigan Central Railroad to increase their demurrage on freight cars from \$1 per day to \$2 and \$3.

It is stated that the order will be in force from December 15 to March 31 of next year. The railways asked for \$2 and \$3 for the first, second and third day respectively, after the free time allowed, but the \$4 charge was not sanctioned by the board.

While a number of reasons are given, and some important statements are made about the question of car shortage, it is in part as follows: "It cannot be denied that the shortage equal to, if not greater than that of last year is imminent, and unless some steps are taken to secure an adequate supply of cars, traffic will be seriously handicapped during the approaching winter and spring until the opening of navigation.

It is also pointed out that at least fifty per cent of what is called railway demurrage, that is the unnecessary holding of cars in terminals by the railway companies, is due to the blocking of these terminals by the unnecessary detention of cars of shippers and consignees.

"The board is fully alive to the very unsatisfactory method adopted by some of the railway companies for the handling of freight traffic. It has had its expert officials examine and report on the terminal and transportation facilities of the railway companies for some time. It has been the policy of the board to urge the railway companies and the representatives of the shippers before it and has discussed with the former the necessity of increasing the facilities and rolling stock of the railways, in order to overcome the unsatisfactory condition of affairs, the railway companies are undoubtedly making an honest effort to relieve the congested conditions of freight traffic by increasing the facilities in the way of enlarging their yards, double tracking, providing more cars, and adding to their motive power.

"I believe there is much yet for the railways to do to equip themselves to handle the business of the country properly, but as I said before, I am satisfied that they are making an honest effort to do so.

WHO FIGHTS AUSTRIA MUST FIGHT AS WELL

Sensational Statement by German Chancellor

AUSTRO-GERMAN ALLIANCE SEALED This Policy Believed to be Direct Warning to Russia -- Germany Avows Friendship for Britain.

Berlin, Dec. 2.—Germany stands firmly with Austria-Hungary in the conflict which has arisen between that country and Serbia, or for that matter, in any conflict which may be thrust upon the vital monarchy.

In a brief pointed speech in the Reichstag today, the Imperial chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, made this declaration which is taken to mean unquestionably, a warning to Russia, although Russia was not named.

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AMHERST FAIR SWING

Amherst's Annual Big Show Formally Opened

PREMIER FLEMMING AMONG SPEAKERS

Illness Kept Lieutenant Governor Wood Away -- New Brunswick has Fine Exhibit of Fruit on View at Fair.

Amherst, Dec. 2.—The Maritime Winter Fair is already in full swing with a large attendance from all parts of the maritime provinces. Col. H. Montgomery Campbell, President of the Live Stock Association, is certainly to be congratulated upon the manner in which he and his executive officers have arranged the machinery of the organization, as not a moment of time is lost. There is something about all the time.

The judging of beef cattle was begun at ten o'clock, and was followed with keen interest all day. Mr. J. O'Brien's magnificent silver cup was captured this year by R. A. Snowball of Chatham. This was for the champion animal in the short horn class.

At six o'clock this evening the commissioners entertained at dinner a large number of guests. Prominent among the number were Premier Fleming of New Brunswick; Premier Matheson of P. E. Island; Chief Justice Fitzgerald of P. E. Island; W. B. Dickson, M. P. P., for Albert; Messrs. Jones and Murray, M. P. P.'s number of other prominent public men from the three provinces. Short addresses were given at the banquet by Premiers Fleming, Matheson, Murray and others.

Much regret was expressed that the illness of Lt. Governor Wood prevented him from being present. The evening meeting was largely attended and was presided over by Col. H. Montgomery Campbell. Addresses of welcome were given by Mayor Face, Warden Purdy and C. S. Sutherland, president of the board of trade.

The addresses were responded to by the three premiers of the Maritime Provinces. Other speakers were: Chief Justice Fitzgerald of P. E. I., Hon. O. T. Daniels of N. S., and Hon. J. A. Murray, M. P. P., for Kings. There was a happy hour spent with music and optimism running through all the speeches and one and all emphasized the fact that there were better days coming for the Maritime Provinces.

WONDERFUL NEW SERUM Berlin, Dec. 2.—Dr. Friederich Franz Friedman, a Berlin physician, after a decade of experimenting has given to the world a tuberculosis cure, which such men as Prof. Schleich, of the Virchow Hospital, declares will mark one of the greatest epochs in the history of medicine.

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 2.—The conduct of the opposition in barring the way against the early introduction of the government naval bill, has developed into a scandal. The plan which is being followed under the direction of Sir Wilfrid Laurier is the simple one of obstructing the debate on the address, so that the naval bill cannot be brought down in time for the Christmas holidays.

LIBERAL'S AFRAID TO SHOW POSITION ON NAVY POLICY

Special to The Standard. Ottawa, Dec. 2.—The conduct of the opposition in barring the way against the early introduction of the government naval bill, has developed into a scandal.

The explanation is that the Liberal members are not prepared to define their position on the principle of an emergency contribution, and the orders apparently are that no vote is to be permitted, if obstruction will be prevented, until the members have a chance to learn just how far their constituents will let them go with a higher vote on the navy bill.

The list of ministerial speakers has been practically exhausted, but the opposition whips still have a big job to do. The promise of a second Liberal amendment is to be made, good or bad, as soon as the opposition speaks. The members decide to press his amendment, the House will likely dispose of it during a late session tomorrow night or the night following. This will force the hand of the opposition.

ARMISTICE IS NOT EXPECTED BEFORE TUESDAY EVENING

Sofia, Dec. 2.—The plenipotentiaries held a meeting at 8 o'clock this afternoon at Sofia. It is considered probable that if any definite conclusion regarding the armistice will be reached before Tuesday night or Wednesday. The important point of the armistice have already been settled, such as the retention by the respective armies of the positions they now occupy.

A MAN CRUSHED ON THE VALLEY RAILWAY WORK

Indian Workman Injured by Accident—Frederick Soots Observe St. Andrew's Day by "Smoker."

Lightning Strikes Mourners at Grave

completion of the armistice, it is felt here that the blame will rest with the Greeks, who for some inscrutable reason, wish to continue the war.

According to reliable information received here Great Britain and Russia as well as Germany have counselled Turkey to make peace and it is expected that negotiations to this end will begin shortly at Sofia. The Turks are proposed to hold the peace conference at Brussels and the Greeks suggested Constantinople, but the allies favor the Bulgarian capital.

King Ferdinand accompanied by the minister of finance has left Sofia for Thessalonika and this is regarded as a positive indication that the armistice is at the point of completion.

Montreal, Dec. 2.—There has been much speculation in railway circles of late as to the Canadian Northern Railway's intention in applying to the Dominion government for authorization to cross the St. Lawrence from point in the city of Montreal. No definite information can be gleaned as to what point in the city the crossing will be made. It was stated today by a Canadian Northern official that the application to the government was purely a matter of form, as it is the company's intention at some future date to connect the Intercolonial Railway and some of the leading American roads.

Should Enquire into the Morals of New Settlers

Special to The Standard. Toronto, Dec. 2.—That the morals of women entering Canada should be a matter of concern to the St. John's Standard is the feature of an address given by W. Hunter Boyd today, at an informal meeting of the temperance and moral reform board.

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