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COMMISSION IS PROBING RATES

Hears Charges Of Extortion Against Express Companies

Davis Of West Virginia Declares United States Only Country Where "Transportation Parasite" Is Permitted To Exist--Figures Submitted To Commissioner Lane Show Enormous Dividends In Last Few Years--Government Ownership Advanced

New York, Nov. 23.—Frank K. Lane of the interstate commerce commission began an examination of the express business of the country, the inquiry being held at the request of 211 business organizations, which are known as the express rates conference, and whose chief complaint is that express rates are unreasonable.

Commissioner Lane said: "The purpose of the inquiry is to determine whether the rates, rules and practices of the express companies are such as should come under the regulation of the interstate commerce commission."

Congressman a Witness.
One of the witnesses, Congressman David J. Lewis of West Virginia, said that the express company does not exist outside of the United States and is a "transportation parasite." He said rates in this country are prohibitively high, being 16 times the freight rate, whereas in 10 other countries the average express charge is only five times the freight charge. He thought the parcels post plan was not practicable, as at its proposed rate of 8 cents a pound the charge per ton would be five times what the express companies ask. He thinks the government should operate the express service, and predicts the extermination of the express company.

Attorney Lyon submitted figures which he said showed that the total net operating income of the 13 leading express companies for the past three years was \$10,000,000 a year on an estimated valuation of \$27,000,000.

FRANK K. LANE
Member of the Interstate Commerce Commission.



He said the average ratio of operating income to the value of real property and equipment was 47 per cent, and that in the case of the Great Northern Express company this ratio for 1909 was 832 per cent.

CHILDREN RUN OVER AND FATALLY INJURED

Cincinnati, O., Nov. 23.—Thomas Schall, 7, and his brother Walter, 5, were fatally injured when they were run over by a fire marshal's wagon on its way to a fire which did \$150,000 damage to the plant of the J. Baum Safe and Lock company. Two hundred employees were in the building and the flames filled the exits in

such a short space of time that almost every one was forced to seek egress from the building through other channels. Seventy-five men on the fourth floor jumped to a roof of an adjoining structure, followed a cement wall for 50 feet and then climbed to a trestle of the Louisville & Nashville railroad.

SHERIFF ARRESTED

Coshocton, O., Nov. 23.—Prosecutor George Klein announced he would fight the habeas corpus proceeding at Reno, Nev., that has held Sheriff McDonald of this county there in his attempt to bring back Frank Shaffer, wanted here for family abandonment.

SAUSAGE IS FATAL

St. Clairsville, O., Nov. 23.—Henry C. Swanigan, 52, president of the Provident local United Mine Workers of America, is dead of ptomaine poisoning caused by eating sausages.

AS YOU LIKE IT
Two men were killed and four injured by the fall of an elevator at Chicopee Falls, Mass.
Siguard Hartig, formerly of Cincinnati, lighted a cigaret with a \$1,000 bill at San Francisco.
Cincinnati's city council has cut the vice mayor's salary from \$6,000 to \$3,000 a year.

Maine Wreck Shows Evidence Of an External Explosion

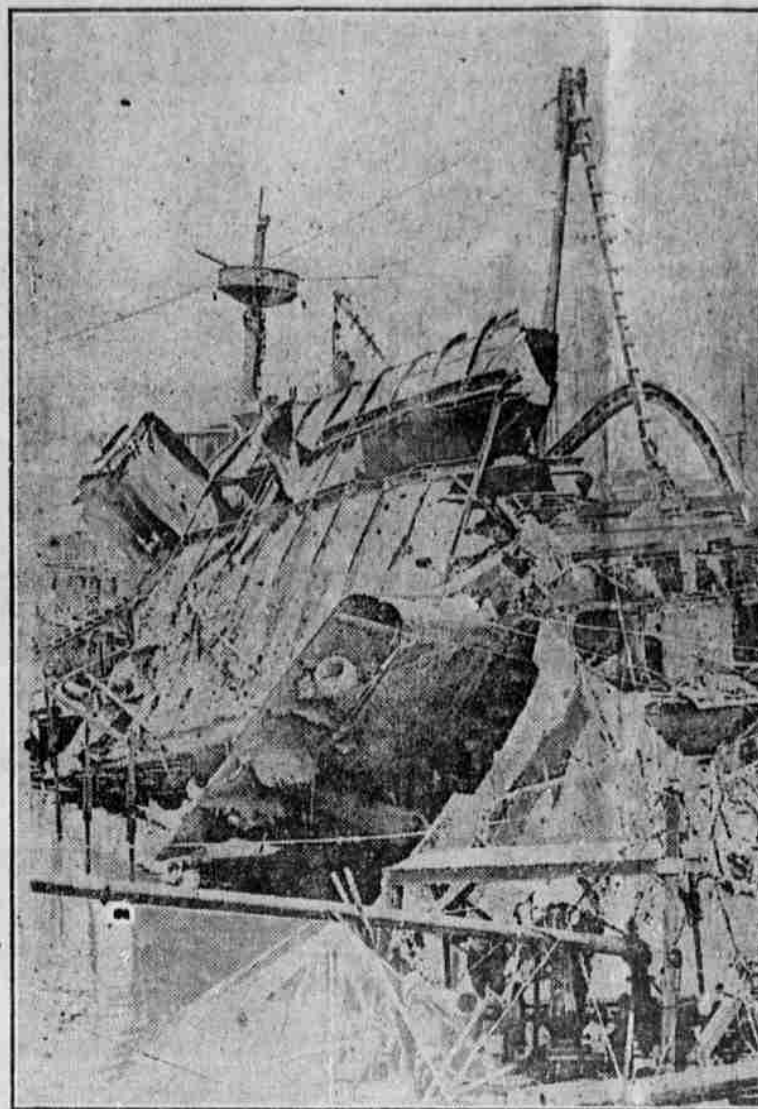


Photo by American Press Association.

WHETHER the Maine was destroyed by an internal or external explosion will be determined within the next few months with the help of the evidence made available by the uncovering of the wreck, which, thanks to the cofferdam surrounding it, is now almost dry. The photograph here reproduced, with others, affords proof, in the opinion of many naval officers, that the battleship was blown up by a mine. They point to the section of bottom which appears between the mast and the derrick as showing by its position above the other wreckage that it was forced upward by an external explosion. The personnel of the commission which will report upon the cause of the disaster after a thorough inspection of the wreck is as follows: Rear Admiral Vreeland, president; Chief Naval Constructor Richard M. Watt, Colonel William M. Black of the army engineer corps, expert on powder and explosives, and Commander Charles F. Hughes of the board for the inspection and survey of ships.

BEATTIE TAKES SACRAMENT PREPARES FOR THE END

Richmond, Va., Nov. 23.—"I am innocent," Henry Clay Beattie, Jr., condemned to die at dawn tomorrow for wife murder, announced through the Rev. Dr. J. J. Pix, one of his spiritual advisers, that he would make no confession. In a formal statement Dr. Pix told of Beattie's declaration of innocence.

"I have to die some time and it might as well be now," the prisoner exclaimed. "I reckon there is no use putting it off. It would just make it harder for the old man."

Beattie took the holy communion, administered by his two spiritual advisers. It was the first time he had taken the sacrament since he was a small boy. He is a member of the Presbyterian church.

Arrangements were completed to bury Beattie's body, following his execution tomorrow, beside the grave of his young wife, for whose brutal murder he is about to pay the extreme penalty. A special permit for the burial was obtained from the city council.

Says He Killed Mrs. Beattie.
Cleveland, O., Nov. 23.—Full "confession" of the murder of Mrs. Louise Beattie was made in a letter to The Szabadsay, a Hungarian daily. The

letter was signed simply "Rudolph" and was dated and postmarked Cleveland. The writer declares he shot Mrs. Beattie by mistake. Beattie had spoken to him roughly when he had asked for work at the Beattie home. He was on the road when Beattie's automobile passed, recognized Beattie and fired at him.

TO VOTE DEC. 14

Greenville, O., Nov. 23.—The date for the Darke county local option election has been set for Dec. 14.

Pay Death Penalty.
Santo Domingo City, Nov. 23.—Stern and drastic measures have been taken by the authorities here to punish those involved in the assassination of President Caceres. Leonte Fajera was executed as a principal in the crime and General Pientel put to death as an accessory.

KILLED BY A FALL

Cincinnati, O., Nov. 23.—James Trimp, 50, night watchman at an electric plant, fell from a ladder and died shortly after.

Fine Laces Seized.
Cleveland, O., Nov. 23.—Cleveland customs officials have seized importations of fine laces and embroidery valued at \$10,000, consigned to Max Littwitz.

M'BROOM LOST SUIT

Columbus, O., Nov. 23.—John W. McBroom of Logan has lost out in his efforts to stop the state from blowing up the dam in the abandoned Hocking canal at that place, from which he has been getting water power for his mill for many years. The circuit court of Hocking county has handed down a decision affirming rulings by two common pleas judges, holding that the state has the right to destroy the dam.

Fill your Thanksgiving Market Basket at Simons'

And you'll be thankful. We come to the front in placing at your disposal a Fresh, Clean stock of the most appetizing groceries to be found anywhere. You'll find among the following the very things that go to make your Thanksgiving dinner the success you have wished it to be.

NUTS
Brazil, Filberts, Almonds, Pecan, English Walnuts and the new imported nut, Pyramus.

RAISINS AND FIGS
Delicious because they are of a good brand and strictly fresh.

FRUITS
Most any kind you want with which to decorate your festive board. Fresh, too.

CRANBERRIES
This year we have the famous Cape Cod, especially noted for its size and goodness of flavor.

CANNED GOODS
They are of the very highest quality brands. Our specials are the Premier and Sun Beam.

FRESH VEGETABLES
Nothing adds more to the Thanksgiving dinner than fresh vegetables. We have made a special effort this year in this direction and submit the following: Carrots, Parsnips, Cucumbers, Cabbage, Radishes, Spinach, Parsley, Celery, Lettuce.

OUR TWO LEADERS
Bread and Coffee, the most important of all for your dinner. Try our SUN SHINE BREAD and HOTEL ASTOR COFFEE. Both the best in the city.

Simons' Grocery. No. 1 North Main Street

- GUARANTEE - Shoe Store

Fall Announcement:

We have one of Largest Stocks of Reliable Footwear in Central Ohio

WE GUARANTEE EACH AND EVERY PAIR OF SHOES THAT GO OUT OF THE STORE SOLID AS LEATHER CAN MAKE THEM IT COSTS YOU MORE BY THE PAIR, BUT LESS BY THE YEAR TO TRADE WITH

The Guarantee

Opposite Meyer-Lindorf's — Mt. Vernon, O.

PREFER GOING TO JAIL AND WON'T PAY FINES

London, Nov. 23.—The militant suffragets, who were arrested to the number of 223 at the demonstration in the vicinity of the parliament buildings, were brought up in Bow street police court. Those whose damage to property had been slight were fined small amounts, but the women accused of more than £5 damage were committed for trial. The fines imposed ranged from 10 shillings to £1, in addition to the varying sums of damages, in default of which a fortnight's imprisonment was made a penalty.

Many of the women sentenced to summary imprisonment or committed for trial at the London sessions are prominent in society as well as being leaders in the woman's suffrage movement. A number of them have suffered previous imprisonment owing to their activities at demonstrations. Many of the women were badly battered in their fight with the bluecoats in parliament square. Black eyes and scratched faces were numerous among them, and several declared their entire bodies were masses of bruises.

WIDOW SUES GROOM

Millersburg, O., Nov. 23.—Thomas Williams, 71, a wealthy farmer, whose first wife was killed at a railroad crossing two years ago, has been sued by Mrs. Sarah S. Fites, a widow, who charges breach of promise, and asks for \$3,000. She was formerly his housekeeper and says he promised to marry her after two years from the date of the death of his first wife. In the meantime he met another widow, Mrs. B. M. Purdy of Killbuck, and on Oct. 25 he married her.

WESTERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES
Oberlin, O., Nov. 23.—The first formal meeting ever held by the theological seminaries of the West for the purpose of exchanging views concerning the work of such institutions convened at Oberlin College today for a three days' session. The prominent preachers and educators here to address the conference include Professor Graham Taylor of the Chicago

Theological Seminary, Dr. G. Johnston Ross of Montreal, Rev. J. Ross Stevenson, D. D., of Brooklyn, John R. Mott of New York City, and Bishop P. W. McDowell of the Methodist Episcopal church.
Mr. E. C. Melock went to Columbus Thursday morning to make a short business visit.
Mr. William Shrimplin of Toledo, Ohio, is making a week's visit with relatives in Buckeye City.

GARY PLANT IS BUSY
Gary, Ind., Nov. 23.—The Gary steel plant is producing more steel than ever before in its history. There are in all departments 6,500 men on the payroll.