

**HARD COAL RATES REDUCED.**

**COMMERCE COMMISSION FINDS ILLEGAL TRANSACTIONS.**

**Carriers Ordered to Abandon Plan of Granting Special Favors to Some Companies—Former Rates Too High**

Washington, Aug. 12.—Sweeping reductions in anthracite freight rates of railroads handling 80 per cent. of the country's anthracite production commerce commission in a decision were ordered today by the interstate commerce commission in a decision which held the carriers guilty of giving illegal preferential treatment to allied coal companies. In addition to prescribing generally lower rates called reasonable, the commission required the railroads to establish through routes and publish joint through rates to be paid by all shippers.

Commissioner Harlan, who dissented, contended that while modification of many coal rates was justified, today's action was inconsistent in view of the recent rate increase for virtually all other traffic.

The decision comes after a long investigation of rates and practices governing the transportation of coal from Pennsylvania anthracite fields ordered June 10, 1912. As summed up by the commission the decision held:

"That anthracite coal rates in carloads from the Pennsylvania fields to tidewater ports and certain interior ports are unreasonable.

"That the respondents by means of track arrangements and free transportation to junction points have extended the advantage of inter-line transportation to their coal companies to the prejudice of other coal shippers to whom inter-line transportation at joint rates has been denied. Respondents are required to establish through routes and to publish joint rates applicable thereto.

"That anthracite coal is transported in vast quantities and that this tends toward lower operating costs, that concessions and offsets granted by respondents to their allied coal companies in interest charges, royalty earnings, the use of valuable property at inadequate rentals, the free use of the carriers' funds and credit, or by other means are as pernicious as direct cash rebates. Such concessions and offsets are unlawful.

"That lateral allowances paid to a coal shipper in accordance with an agreement alleged to be additional compensation for the use of a facility furnished by the shipper, are unlawful rebates."

Lines to which the decision directly applies are the Central Railroad of New Jersey, Philadelphia & Reading, Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, Lehigh Valley, Erie, Wilkesbarre & Eastern, New York, Susquehanna & Western, New York, Ontario & Western, the Pennsylvania, the Northern Central and the Delaware & Hudson company.

**YOUNG MAN ELECTROCUTED.**

**John Peter Hillhouse Meets Death at Anderson—Junior at Georgia Tech.**

Anderson, Aug. 11.—John Peter Hillhouse, 21, eldest son of Mrs. Lula McFall Hillhouse, was electrocuted while working on electric wires in the new switch house of the Southern Public Utilities company today. He was standing on a board on the top of the electrical equipment which controls the electric current of the Southern Power company and three local plants when his leg brushed against a bar charged with 11,000 volts. His hand was resting on a riveted weatherboarding which made the circuit complete sending the current through his body. He had presence of mind enough to call to fellow workers to throw the switches which was done but he was burned so badly that death came a few moments later. Hillhouse's father was killed by a Seaboard train in the railroad yards at Abbeville a dozen years ago where he was employed as yardmaster. Young Hillhouse was a member of the junior class at Georgia Tech and was an unusually bright young man. The funeral will be tomorrow.

**KILLED BY LIGHTNING.**

**Honea Path Child Meets Sudden Death.**

Anderson, Aug. 11.—The six-year-old son of John Phillips, a farmer of the Honea Path section, was killed and his four-year-old daughter was shocked when a bolt of lightning struck the chimney of Phillips' house this afternoon. The house caught fire but Mrs. Phillips extinguished the flames before they made much headway. Mrs. Phillips and four little children were in the house when the lightning came.

**POWDER FOR RUSSIA.**

**DuPont Powder Company Receives Order for \$70,000,000.**

Wilmington, Aug. 13.—The DuPont Powder Co., has received a seventy million dollar powder order, mostly for Russia.

**WOULD STOP COTTON TRADE.**

**UNDER SECRETARY OF ENGLAND SAYS IT MAY BE NECESSARY TO MAKE STAPLE CONTRABAND.**

**British Government, He Says, is Anxious to Work as Little Hardship as Possible to Neutrals.**

London, Aug. 13.—Lord Robert Cecil, parliamentary under secretary for foreign affairs, in a formal interview today defining the British government's attitude in the cotton situation, made this statement:

"The allies must by all lawful means prevent cotton reaching their enemies; it may be considered necessary to make cotton contraband."

At the same time Lord Cecil refrained from any hint that the commodity would be removed from the free list at any specific date, or that the government had evolved any solution to meet the demand of American cotton growers and neutral consumers. He said explicitly, however, that if cotton were made contraband England would consider the act legal and internationally justified.

The statement, being the first in behalf of the government outside of parliament, relative to cotton, and coming at a time when the public is clamoring for drastic action to shut off the supply from Germany, is taken in some quarters to presage this step in the near future. Lord Cecil's statement, which is prefaced with the explanation that it describes the government's position concerning cotton "so far as it is at the moment possible to define it," says:

"The British government is giving the cotton situation its continuous and most earnest consideration. We fully understand that upon a satisfactory adjustment of the matter depends to a considerable degree the welfare of nearly a quarter of the population of the United States. The welfare of the whole population of Great Britain, however, also is involved, as well as that of all Great Britain's allies, for whom the British government is acting in these and other matters concerning contraband and trade.

"The fundamentals of the situation are quite clear. The allies must by all lawful means prevent cotton reaching their enemies. That is a vital military necessity which all the world will recognize.

"At the same time, and equally important, consideration must be given to a great cotton producing country like America and to consuming countries like Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Holland. A policy must be devised which will respect the legitimate rights of neutrals and yet safeguard the legitimate interests of the allies and inflict as much damage as possible upon our enemies.

"Cotton has not yet been declared contraband, but under our blockade all cotton which is believed to be destined for Germany is stopped. It may be considered necessary to make cotton contraband. There is a demand in the allied countries that this should be done. There is assuredly ample justification for the action if it is deemed necessary.

"Cotton is a very important, an essential ingredient in fact, of propulsion explosives. Copper is contraband by all the laws of the nations and yet in the present war cotton has been shown to be more important than copper. There may be a substitute for copper in making munitions of war. For cotton there is no known substitute. If American cotton goes through to Germany the Germans use it to kill allied soldiers. Therefore, cotton must not go to Germany.

"Making cotton contraband would be a distinctly legal action and can be internationally justified beyond protest. So far as American cotton is concerned, however, the problem of marketing cotton on this side would undergo little change. American cotton destined for Germany is now stopped. If the product were made contraband, it would be stopped in the same manner. The principal difficulty would be that if cotton were contraband, shipments from America, which were suspected of being for Germany, would be seized and would be liable to confiscation by prize court procedure, if proof were obtainable of German destination, whereas now the cotton is seized, but not necessarily confiscated.

"In any case, whether cotton is contraband or not, the allies must permit neutral trading in this product. American growers must be given their market in neutral countries, even if they are adjacent to Germany. How to permit this supply to move forward and yet safeguard the allies' interests by making sure that none of it will go to the enemy constitutes a complicated problem of great dimensions.

"We are interested only in keeping cotton out of Germany. We not only do not object to its going to neutral countries but we, in fact, are anxious that it should go in order that there shall be minimum inconven-

**COULD RAISE VOLUNTEER ARMY**

**AMERICA COULD SECURE FORCE OF 1,250,000.**

**Officers Main Need in Volunteer Force—Wood, Former Chief of Staff, Talks of Support of Potential Soldiers.**

Plattsburg, N. Y., Aug. 14.—The United States has plenty of material for a volunteer army of 1,250,000 and all that is needed is a plan for utilizing it, Maj. Gen. Leonard Wood said here today in a statement on the nation's preparedness for war. The chief need, he declared, was officers. He advocated training college students in their junior and senior years along the same lines as now are being used at the military camp of instruction here.

Gen. Wood said the country has three sources from which to draw officers from private life. First of these, he asserted, were men who had been in the regular service or militia. Second, he would obtain officers from a list of men kept by the war department who have qualified by examinations. The third source would be from schools or institutions in which some military training is given.

For an army of 1,250,000, Gen. Wood said, the nation would need 40,000 officers. From these, 1,500 should be chosen each year for special grades of the service. These men eventually would have become the officers for volunteers.

Referring to military service Gen. Wood said:

"No one has a right to consider his discharge of duty as a soldier as voluntary. This duty is an obligation binding upon all who mentally and physically are fit, and within certain age limits. A man has no more right to speak of volunteering to discharge his duties to the nation as a soldier than he has to talk of volunteering to obey any moral law or pay his just debts."

Gen. Wood also took a strong stand against waiting until time of war to organize a volunteer army. He asserted such a plan would be about as effective as waiting until a fire broke out to organize a volunteer fire company. Soldiers enlisted at such times, he said, would not know what was expected of them.

**MINERS MEET TO PROTEST.**

**Disatisfied at Delay in Completing New Agreement, May Hold Conference.**

London, Aug. 15.—South Wales coal miners met at various places yesterday and adopted resolutions expressing dissatisfaction at the delay in completing a new wage agreement and recommending that unless a settlement is reached soon another conference be held to consider the renewal of the strike.

The strike was supposedly settled July 21 by David Lloyd-George, minister of munitions. It was announced then that the terms of settlement granted a substantial wage increase and involved concessions considered tantamount to an admission to most of the miners' claims.

**MARVELOUS INVENTION ANNOUNCED.**

**North Carolinian Claims to Have Perfected Protection Against Torpedoes.**

Norfolk, Aug. 16.—An invention to protect any ship from torpedo attack has been perfected by William Dixon, of Oriental, N. C. He claims he can explode or make a torpedo useless fifty feet from the vessel at which it is aimed. Dixon has been summoned to Washington to confer with the naval authorities.

**BIG DAMAGE TO SUGAR CANE.**

**Plantations Suffer Ten Million Loss by Hurricane.**

Kingston, Aug. 13.—Ten millions of dollars damage has been done the banana and sugar plantations of the West Indies by a hurricane which swept over Jamaica.

ferences to the neutrals concerned.

"It is obvious what the loss of German and Austrian markets will mean to American cotton growers. We fully realize that if there is no German and Austrian outlet prices may go down and that Americans will suffer unless some means are devised for compensation. Proposals in that direction have been made and are receiving careful consideration. What will come of them I cannot say at this time. Certainly I am not at liberty to imply that favorable action will be taken, nor will I say that it will not.

"All Americans must be fully aware of the complicated and gigantic character of any scheme of this sort and the study it will require before being put into operation. I hope America will not be impatient, but will rest assured that the governments of the allies will give every consideration to the legitimate interests of all neutrals."

**APPEAL TO MEXICAN PEOPLE**

**NO INTIMATION OF ARMED INTERVENTION IN NOTE TO DEMORALIZED COUNTRY.**

**Patriotism of Men of Nation Appealed to by Pan-American Note—Ask That Steps be Taken for a Constitutional Reconstruction of Country—Request for Harmony Among Chiefs.**

Washington, Aug. 14.—The Pan-American appeal to Mexico, now being delivered to the chiefs of factions and governors of States, was made public tonight by the state department. Without even an intimation of armed intervention, it calls upon the leaders to meet somewhere in Mexico on neutralized ground, in a conference "to adopt the first steps necessary to the constitutional reconstruction of the country" and to issue a call for immediate elections. The services of the United States or any of the other Pan-American conferees are offered as intermediaries to arrange the meeting.

The appeal, although addressed to the political and military leaders, takes the form of an announcement to the Mexican people themselves. As made public by the department the document is prefaced by this announcement:

"The Mexican people are informed that the following communication has been sent to many prominent persons in Mexico who possess authority or military power within the republic."

Then follows this appeal, dated at Washington, August 11:

"The undersigned, the secretary of state of the United States, the ambassadors extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Brazil, Chile and Argentina, and the envoys extraordinary and ministers plenipotentiary of Bolivia, Uruguay and Guatemala, accredited to the government of the United States of America, acting severally and independently, unanimously send to you the following communication: "Inspired by the most sincere spirit of American fraternity, and convinced that they rightly interpret the earnest wish of the entire continent, have met informally at the suggestion of the secretary of State of the United States to consider the Mexican situation and to ascertain whether their friendly and disinterested help could be successfully employed to re-establish peace and constitutional order in our sister republic.

"In the heat of the frightful struggle which for so long has steeped in blood the Mexican soil, doubtless all may well have lost sight of the dissolving effects of the strife upon the most vital conditions of the national existence, not only upon the life and liberty of the inhabitants, but upon the prestige and security of the country. We can not doubt, however—no one can doubt—that in the presence of a sympathetic appeal from their brothers of America, recalling to them these disastrous effects, asking them to save their motherland from an abyss—no one can doubt, we repeat, that the patriotism of the men who lead or aid in any way the bloody strife will not remain unmoved; no one can doubt that each and every one of them, measuring in his own conscience his share in the responsibilities of past misfortune and looking forward to his share in the glory of the pacification and reconstruction of the country, will respond nobly and resolutely to this friendly appeal and give their best efforts to opening the way to some saving action.

"We, the undersigned, believe that if the men directing the armed movements in Mexico—whether political or military chiefs—should agree to meet, either in person or by delegates, far from the sound of cannon, and with no other inspiration save the thought of their afflicted land, there to exchange ideas and to determine the fate of their country from such action would result in a strong and unending agreement for the creation of a provisional government which can adopt the first steps necessary to the constitutional reconstruction of the country—and to issue the first and most essential of them all, the immediate call to general elections.

"An adequate place within the Mexican frontiers, which for the purpose might be neutralized, should serve as the seat of the conference; and in order to bring about a conference of the nature desired, the undersigned will act as intermediaries to arrange the time, place and other details of such conference if this action can in any way aid the Mexican people.

"The undersigned expect a reply to this communication within a reasonable time, and consider that such a time would be ten days after the communication is delivered, subject to prorogation for cause.

Robert Lansing, Secretary of State of the United States.

D. Da. Gama, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Brazil.

Edo. Saurez-Mujica, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Chile.

R. S. Naon, Ambassador Extraordi-

**RESPITE FOR JOE MULLOY.**

**CASE TO GO TO BOARD OF PARDONS FOR REVIEW.**

**Gov. Manning Stays Sentence so That Contents of Affidavits Can be Investigated—Negro Convicted of Murder of Two Small Boys.**

Columbia, Aug. 16.—Gov. Manning today respited the death sentence on Joe Malloy, a negro, from August 18 to September 29, so that the case can be heard by the board of pardons. Malloy was convicted from Marlboro county during the July, 1915, term of court for the murder of Prentiss Moore and Rogers on Thanksgiving day, 1910. He has had two trials and his case has been reviewed by the State and federal supreme courts.

Sensational affidavits have been filed with Gov. Manning implicating two white men in the murder which, if true, absolves Malloy from guilt. The contents of these affidavits were such that Gov. Manning thought that the death sentence should be stayed until their contents could be rigidly investigated. Copies have been forwarded to Solicitor Spears.

**CANDIDATE FOR HIGH HONORS.**

**Winthrop President May Head National Educational Association. Convenes Today.**

San Francisco, Aug. 15.—The National Educational association will convene here tomorrow with 8,000 to 10,000 delegates present. Dr. Joseph Swain, president of Swarthmore, will call the convention to order.

Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of the association, will address the convention tomorrow on the "Teacher and War." Elmer Ellsworth Brown, canceller of New York university, will speak on "Educational Progress of Fifteen Years" and Mrs. Philip Snowden of England will talk on "Women and War."

A lively campaign for the election of the next president of the National Educational association was in full swing today.

Dr. David Bancroft Johnson, president of Winthrop college, South Carolina, and Miss Grace O. Strachan, district superintendent of schools of New York, seemed the leading candidates. Dr. Johnson withdrew from the race for the office last year in favor of Dr. David Starr Jordan.

**OKUMA RETAINS PREMIERSHIP.**

**Japanese Statesman Weathers Crisis and Retains Power.**

Tokio, Aug. 16.—Count Okuma, the premier of Japan, who has led the government through another crisis announced today that he will retain the premiership and carry out his program. He declined to say whether or not Japan would take a more active part in the war or what new steps will be taken in regard to China.

**Explosion Kills Five.**

Emporium, Penn., Aug. 16.—Five persons were killed in a mysterious explosion at the Aetna Explosive Company which is working on war orders.

nary and Plenipotentiary of Argentina.

"L. Calderon, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Bolivia.

"Carlos Maria de Pena, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Uruguay.

"Joaquin Mendez, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of Guatemala."

The appeal went forward today to Carranza and Villa and to more than a score of other military and political leaders throughout Mexico. As replies are asked for within ten days after the appeal is received, no further meeting of the Pan-American conference is planned until they have been received or it may be apparent that some of the Mexicans addressed do not propose to reply.

The conferees confidently expect within a reasonable time enough favorable replies to warrant them in extending their aid to arrange for the proposed peace congress.

Carranza's attitude still is a matter of speculation here. Although his position thus far has been regarded as defiant, it is hoped the friendly tone of the appeal may lead him to open negotiations with the conferees. It generally is believed he will reply by making counterproposals of some sort.

Should Carranza make no reply whatever, it is expected the conferees will accept the invitation of other factions to arrange details for a peace conference without his participation.

In support of a government not representing all of the factions probably it would become necessary to extend the plans of the Pan-American conference. An embargo on arms against forces which might oppose the new government probably would be the first step.

**BIG BUILDING BURNED.**

**SHAW MOTOR COMPANY AND SUMTER TRANSFER COMPANY BURNED OUT THIS MORNING.**

**New Ford Car and Several Old Cars Destroyed—Four Mules and Jack Burned—Fire Said to Have Started in Side of Building Occupied by Sumter Transfer Company—Firemen Do Fine Work in Saving Other Buildings.**

From the Daily Item, Aug. 16.

The large wooden structure occupied by the Shaw Motor Company and the Sumter Transfer Company was destroyed by fire this morning about 3 o'clock.

The damage done was as follows: L. D. Jennings, building occupied by Sumter Transfer Co., valued at \$3,500 and insured for \$2,500; L. D. Jennings, private stables and barn, valued at \$700, with insurance of \$300; building owned by Dr. E. S. Booth, occupied by Shaw Motor Co., valued at \$3,500 (same as part owned by L. D. Jennings), insured for \$2,300; Shaw Motor Co., new Ford car, several old cars, buggies, wagons and other vehicles, Ford car parts, tools, office fixtures and other supplies, valued at between \$8,000 and \$9,000 with insurance of about two-thirds value; Sumter Transfer Co., four mules and jack, feed, vehicles and tools, valued at not less than \$3,500, with insurance of \$2,000; L. B. H. Darr, \$75 damage on household furniture, with insurance to cover loss; and damage to house not known, but insured, making a total of \$20,275 loss with \$13,375 insurance. The Sumter Transfer Co. was owned by a stock company in which L. D. Jennings was the chief stockholder and Eugene Stansill was manager. D. C. Shaw was owner of the Shaw Motor Co.

The fire alarm was given by Zach Darr this morning at fifteen minutes to 3 o'clock, Darr having been sleeping in a room adjacent to the stables, which were all ablaze when he discovered the fire. About the same time roomers at the Y. M. C. A. discovered the fire, being awakened by the blaze and heat, and fired a pistol to give the alarm. At this time the part of the building occupied by the Sumter Transfer Co., according to their report was ready to fall in and the other part was in a blaze. The firemen did excellent work on their arrival in saving adjacent buildings. The house occupied by L. B. H. Darr was on fire and was extinguished and saved from further damage. By their hard work the blaze was confined to the buildings already burning, and other structures, besides being scorched by the heat were uninjured. Six streams were played on the fire and used in preventing its spread.

So far had the fire spread when the alarm was given in that it was impossible for policeman, who arrived a few minutes later, to save any of the stock of the stables, or get out any of the stuff from the Shaw Motor Company quarters. Mr. Plowden managed to get into the office of the Shaw Motor Company and save a batch of notes which he had taken out of the safe on Saturday to deposit in the bank, but had later left in a drawer in the office. Fireman Ryan White on request of Mr. Shaw managed to save Mr. Shaw's desk, but all of his correspondence and mail for the past week was burned. Efforts were made to save a new Ford car in the building and it might have been saved, but for the fact that the hose was in danger of burning and when it was removed to a safe place, it was too late to save the car.

The building was an old one and burned with great rapidity. It was dry and hay filled the loft on one side and the oils and paints used in the Shaw Motor Company made the whole place like tinder. The heat was intense and the firemen had this to contend with in fighting the fire. The steamer was not put into operation until late, when the fire was most over and the worst was over. The Y. M. C. A. suffered a large number of cracked window panes from the heat, but otherwise was uninjured.

What caused the fire is not known. There were various reports as to which side it caught in, but the statements of those rooming at the Y. M. C. A., to the effect that the side occupied by the Sumter Transfer Company was ready to fall in when they first saw the fire, would indicate that it started in this side. It was stated by policemen this morning that several gentlemen had been in the side occupied by the Shaw Motor Company at a few minutes before 1 o'clock this morning, these being the last persons seen around the premises.

**CABINET MEETING CANCELLED.**

**Called off by President as No Concerted Action is Desired.**

Washington, Aug. 16.—President Wilson has called off tomorrow's cabinet meeting as there is nothing on which he desired concerted counsel, but he will hold conferences with individual members of the cabinet.