

# CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE BEGINS RAILWAY INQUIRY

Proposed by President to Better Condition of Carriers.

MAY CHANGE PRESENT SYSTEM

Officials of Roads Prepared to Advocate Federal Incorporation, Supervision of Securities and Extension of Authority of Interstate Commerce Commission.

Washington, Nov. 20.—Ten members of Congress, five Senators and five members of the House of Representatives, began here today an inquiry into the subject of public control and supervision of railroads that may lead to the revolutionizing of the whole scheme of governmental regulation of the country's transportation lines. Incidentally the committee is to look into the question of government ownership of railroads, telephone and telegraph lines and express companies.

The members of the committee which will conduct this important investigation are Senator Newlands of Nevada, chairman; Senators Robinson of Arkansas, Underwood of Alabama, Cummins of Iowa and Brandegee of Connecticut, and Representatives Adanson of Georgia, Sims of Tennessee, Cullip of Indiana, Esch of Wisconsin and Hamilton of Michigan. The inquiry was recommended by President Wilson in his message to Congress in December of last year. He described as its purpose to determine what could be done "for bettering the conditions under which the railroads are operated and for making them more useful servants of the country as a whole."

**Prominent Men as Witnesses.**  
In order to obtain the views of all interests affected by the operations of the transportation lines the committee has invited prominent shippers, bankers, representatives of commercial organizations, railway executives, economists and others to appear before them.

The first to be heard are railroad commissioners of various states who began their evidence today. Their testimony is directed chiefly to opposing any enlargement of the federal authority over commerce that would detract from the powers now exercised by state bodies. They will be followed shortly by officials of railway labor organizations who are expected to register their opposition to the increase of governmental authority over wages and conditions of labor.

Chief interest in the hearings centers in the proposals that will be put forward by representatives of the railroads, for it is reported that they will advocate an extension of federal authority over rates and securities to the practical exclusion of state control of these matters. It is understood also that they will go on record in favor of federal incorporation of all railroad lines.

**Legislative Program of Railroads.**  
From an authoritative source is obtained the following outline of the legislative program which the railroads will ask the committee to consider in its investigation: They will endeavor to demonstrate to the commission that one of the principal defects in the present system of railroad regulation is the lack of coordination resulting from the simultaneous and conflicting regulation by the federal government and by the 48 states. They will, therefore, ask that entire governmental control of the rates and practices of interstate carriers, except purely local matters, be placed in the hands of a federal body so that interstate traffic may be regulated without reference to state lines, leaving to the state commissions jurisdiction only over local matters and local public utilities. As a part of this plan, a compulsory system of federal incorporation is to be recommended, accompanied by federal supervision of railroad stock and bond issues.

A reorganization of the Interstate Commerce Commission will be asked, in order to enable the commission properly to exercise its increased powers. It is also proposed that the preparation and prosecution of cases against the railroads shall be delegated to some other agency of the government, possibly the Department of Justice, so that the commission may devote its energies to its administrative functions.

With the commission thus relieved of some of its present duties and equipped to handle its business more promptly, the railroads will urge that the period during which the commission may now suspend proposed increases in rates be reduced from ten months to 90 days, with provision for reparation to be paid to the shippers if the advance shall be declared unreasonable.

They will also ask that the commission be given the power to prescribe minimum as well as maximum rates so that in meeting complaints of discrimination the commission may order the advance of a rate which it considers too low.

One of the most important recommendations for which the railroads will ask favorable consideration is that the commission be specifically authorized to take into account in rate regulation the effect of rates upon total earnings in the light of expenses.

While the Newlands Committee is required, under the resolution creating it, to submit a report by January 2 next, it is not anticipated that the committee will have come anywhere near completing its labors then.

Centre Reporter, \$1.50 per year.

## LOCALS.

**Cap. G. M. Boal** spent a few days last week with his daughter, Mrs. Charles Meyer, at Reedsville.

Work on wiring the residence of C. M. Arney for electric light was begun on Wednesday by W. C. Boozer.

Don't fail to see the pretty things on sale at the ladies' bazaar, in the Bartholomew storeroom, Saturday.

D. Ross Bushman made a trip to Harrisburg, Gettysburg, Carlisle, and other points, from Friday until Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Milford Luse, and daughter Margaret have moved to State College and for the winter will be located at 248 S. Burrows street.

Misses Esther and Ruth Parsons, of Burnham, were guests at the homes of H. E. Homan and Clyde Bradford, respectively, over Sunday.

Word has come from Philadelphia that Miss Bertha Wolf, formerly of Centre Hall, is very ill, her condition being such that her recovery is doubtful.

Within the past week three globes on the electric street lights have been shattered, presumably by town boys. It's an evil practice and potent of direful results.

Miss Grace Ripke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Ripke, has fully recovered from a six weeks' illness, the greater part of which time she was confined to bed.

Druggist H. L. Kline left on Wednesday for Pittsburgh where he will remain for a week. He expects witnessing the State-Pitt football game on Thanksgiving day.

Rev. and Mrs. S. C. Stover, of Boalsburg, motored to Centre Hall on Thursday and were guests of Rev. and Mrs. R. R. Jones, at the Reformed parsonage, for the day.

Because we had such delightful weather through October and November, it makes it all the harder to become reconciled to the fact that cold wintry weather is due almost any day.

Mr. Mary Fortney is seriously ill at the home of her niece, Mr. James B. Spangler, near Tusseyville. She is now eighty-nine years of age, and until last Friday was able to get about as usual.

Pennsylvania's army sallies forth to-morrow (Friday) and for two weeks will put in a strenuous campaign, during which time everything having horns is liable to get it in the neck.

While we need it right now, we may need that additional water to be pumped from the well recently drilled a mighty sight worse in the near future, so why not hurry up the pumping outfit?

Charles D. Frazier, who farms the George Homan farm, at Aaronburg, was in town last Thursday and favored this office with a call. He reported the water situation as a serious one in his community.

Dr. H. H. Longwell is sporting a new Ford coupe, which will permit the making of trips over the country roads this winter with a greater degree of comfort. The car was purchased from the Boozer & Smith agency.

A party of Greensburg hunters motored to the Walter Garity place, in the Seven mountains, on Tuesday, awaiting the opening of deer season. The party includes Messrs. H. J. Baker, Roy R. Rugh, Edgar Miller, John Keppie, John Alwine, and Lloyd Miller.

Harry E. Bible, the efficient clerk in the John Meiss store, Bellefonte, passed through his former home territory—Centre Hill—on Friday in search of turkey, and succeeded in purchasing a flock of ten from Frank Bogdan. The price paid was twenty-five cents a pound, live weight.

After you have subscribed for The Centre Reporter for your son or daughter or friend who is away from home, buy as many additional Christmas gifts as your purse will allow but keep in mind that the Reporter will bring to your friend fifty cheers—one a week—and every one will be a reminder that the folks at home have an interest in those who have gone out to battle for life.

Korman Spiecher came up from Philadelphia on Monday morning to get ready for the opening of the deer season. Mr. Spiecher prefers taking his annual vacation away from his duties as mail carrier in the City of Brotherly Love, in the picturesque Seven Mountains, which stand close to his birthplace. He is a member of the Bradford hunting club this year. The few days preceding the 1st of December he spent with his uncle, Michael Spiecher, at Pleasant Gap.

The borough council met in "regular" session on Friday night, at which time the matter of purchasing an electric pump, to be installed at the reservoir, was discussed. A representative of the Myers' Pump Company met with the council and presented a proposition. After a clear understanding of the local conditions and needs the agent advised referring the matter of the size of electric motor required to their company's expert, in order that the most economical purchase might be made. It is thought that a pump, complete with electric motor attachment, may be purchased for \$400.00.

## Aaronburg.

Calvin Moyer, of Freeburg, is visiting his sister, Mrs. Kathryn Phillips. Mrs. Amanda Mueser is visiting relatives at Woodward and Fiedler.

Mr. and Mrs. George Snyder, on an auto trip from the east, stopped for a brief call at the C. G. Bright home. On Saturday the William Balm property was sold to A. S. Stover for \$807.00.

A number of people from here attended the funeral of W. H. Corman, at Rebersburg, on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Haines, from Smithtown, were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Haines.

Mrs. Anna Stover will accompany her niece, Mr. Fred Cranston, to Philadelphia and New Jersey for a few weeks.

W. A. Guisewite and A. Bower are scheduled for butchering every day until Christmas. There are a lot of heavy porkers on the list.

Mrs. James Wert is caring for her daughter, Mrs. Bohn, who was brought home from the Bellefonte hospital.

The re-opening services at the U. Ev. church will be held on Sunday. Rev. Brown, the pastor, and Rev. Bowerox, of Chintondale, will take part in the service.

The sale of real estate of Mrs. Lydia Myers, on Friday, was well attended. Warren Bower purchased two lots for \$600.00, while Ammon Stover bought the tracts of land in town. Consideration \$1500.00.

## DEATHS.

John T. Ruhl, of Tylersville, died on Monday morning after an illness of about one week. Had he lived until Thanksgiving day he would have been seventy years old.

He was born at Rebersburg, but lived nearly all his life in Sugar Valley where he accumulated wealth. He was a member of the Lutheran church at Tylersville.

He is survived by his wife and four children.

## Transfers of Real Estate.

Oliver H. Wolf's heirs to Harry C. Ziegler, tract of land in Miles Twp. \$660.

F. J. Weaver, Exr., to George W. Keister, tract of land in Haines Twp. \$800.

Geo. W. Keister to W. T. Winkler, tract of land in Haines Twp. \$50.

Hannah Smith's heirs to Jeremiah Smith, tract of land in Potter Twp. \$700.

Sarah C. Alexander et al to Frederick A. Auman, tract of land in Potter Twp. \$400.

Elizabeth M. Crownover et al to David F. Kapp, tract of land in Harris Twp. \$1.00.

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The old family remedy—in tablet form—safe, sure, easy to take. No opiates—no unpleasant after-effects. Cures colds in 24 hours—Grip in 3 days. Money back if it fails. Get the genuine box with Red Top and Mr. Hill's picture on it—25 cents. At Any Drug Store.

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## New Fall and Winter Goods

SWEATERS.—Cotton, part wool, and all wool, 50c to \$7.25.

COTTON AND WOOL UNDERWEAR for men, women and children.

HEAVY HOSE—Wool or cotton; Fine hose for children.

CAPS AND SCARFS for Misses and children.

WORK SHIRTS, Blouses and Overalls for men.

BED BLANKETS in wool, wool and cotton and cotton.

HORSE BLANKETS and Stable blankets.

FRESH CAKES AND CRACKERS.

SUNBURY BREAD, fresh every day. Still 5 and 10 cent loaves.

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## THE MARKETS.

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Oats	.60
Barley	.60
Rye	.60
PRODUCE AT STORES	
Butter	.22
Eggs	.27

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