



TITANIC RAIL MERGER PLAN IS APPROVED

Commission Puts O. K. on Mammoth 4-Way Com-bine Proposal.

\$9,800,000,000 INVOLVED

Eastern Lines Get Greatest Chance for Comeback Since Depression.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, July 22.—The interstate commerce commission has opened the way for a \$9,800,000,000 merger of eastern railroads believed to give the carriers their greatest opportunity for financial comeback since depression and truck competition combined against them.

The commission approved general plans for consolidation of more than 200 lines and 53,000 miles of track into four super-systems that would have a virtual monopoly on rail transportation in the richest shipping territory in the world. Great savings in operating costs would be possible.

Under the approved plan practically every railroad between Chicago and the Atlantic, between New England and the south, would be consolidated under the standards of the New York Central, the Pennsylvania, the Baltimore & Ohio and the Chesapeake & Ohio-Nickel Plate.

Put Up to Railroads

The commission's action puts the consolidation long heralded as the one practical savior of rail transportation squarely up to the railroads themselves.

The commission's approval was conditioned upon certain changes in the plan submitted by the four big systems. Most of the roads' own proposals were accepted. The commission completely withdrew from its original position that there be a fifth eastern system headed by the Wabash and Seaboard Air line.

The roads now must agree to the modified plan and then obtain the commission's approval for each of the scores of transactions required to complete the four systems. This process may take years.

200 Lines Concerned

Over 200 railroad companies are concerned in the consolidation. In brief, the four-party plan represents the commission's idea of the best possible means of building strong lines and yet retaining a maximum of competition. Every large city will be served by two or more roads, as will every port and every section.

Important effects of the plan, as modified by the commission, are:

The New York Central, through a connection with the Lackawanna, would secure a new direct route to Chicago and gain access to Lake Michigan for operation of car ferries to Wisconsin. It would get the Virginian and access to Virginia ports.

The Chesapeake & Ohio-Nickel Plate, the Van Sweringen line, would gain its long sought goal, entrance into New York and use of the Pennsylvania terminal.

Could Shorten Route

The Baltimore & Ohio would get the Western Maryland. It would be strengthened by trackage rights in the Cleveland and Toledo districts and will have access to the new Cleveland terminal. It could shorten its New York-Chicago route. Between Toledo and Detroit it would have trackage rights over the Pere Marquette. It would get the Lehigh & Hudson, a New England gateway line.

The Pennsylvania gets both the Norfolk & Western and the Wabash.

Another change concerns the Delaware & Hudson, which the four roads wanted to divide between them. The commission decided this should be left, for the time being at least, as an independent system.

The Seaboard Air Line be left out of the consolidations.

The Chicago, Indianapolis & Louisville, called the Monon, was allocated to the Baltimore & Ohio under the original plan, but the commission agreed with the present owners, the Southern and the Louisville & Nashville, that it remain a north-south line and not be merged into any east-west systems.

The commission also left the New York, Ontario & Western out of the merger.

Commissioners Eastman and McManamy dissented to the majority report.

BUILDERS GO GOLFING

Indianapolis Congress Defies Heat in Outing at Idlewood.

The heat wave was defied Thursday by members of the Indianapolis Building Congress, and the annual golf tourney of the organization was held in Idlewood park, near Pendleton.

A dinner was served following the tourney. Frederick E. Schortenmeier, former secretary of state, was master of ceremonies. Horse-shoe pitching, indoor baseball and swimming were other athletic contests on the program.

Harrison H. Dodge's recent book, "Mt. Vernon: Its Owner and Its Story," is being printed in Braille for the use of the blind.

J. B. Lippincott Company has published three mystery stories during July: "The House on the Cliff," double-barreled thriller, by Laurence W. Meynell; "The Mid-night Murder," Captain Keetch and Scotland Yard sleuthing, by Paul Herring, and "The Green Knife," four murders and Dr. Eustace Hailley, by Anthony Wynne. A recent story by Wynne, "The Silver Scale Mystery," was named by William Lyon Phelps as one of the "one hundred books of the year."

Two popular Lippincott authors celebrate their birthdays this month. On July 27 Hilare Belloc, whose "Napoleon" Lippincott will bring out in the autumn, will celebrate. On July 10 Jane Abbot, whose novel "Silver Fountain" was published recently, observed her birthday.

E. V. Lucas, internationally known author, was made a companion of honor in the recent list of King George's birthday honors. Mr. Lucas' latest volume, "Lemon Verbena," a collection of essays, will be published by J. B. Lippincott Company in the early autumn.

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Youngsters straggle at the heels of perspiring mothers. Grandmas struggle with bundles of merchandise.

Members of the crowd slow up so you stumble upon them, and cut through to spaces in vacant store-fronts. They edge near a man, who stands near a spindly-legged table and shouts:

KEEPING THE WORLD GUESSING

Greatest Magician of All Picks 'Sons' to Carry On

Through the ages the mystic art of legerdemain has intrigued all men. Out of this ancient mystery has grown a unique fellowship, the Society of American Magicians.

Today its membership are distinguished representatives of science, the professions, business and the world of affairs.

Earl Sparling has written a series of articles about these interesting men and their strange gifts, the fourth of which follows:

BY EARL SPARLING
(Copyright, 1932, by the New York World-Telegram Corporation)

THE greatest of all amateur magicians—indeed, he has been called the greatest magician living, bar none—is Samuel Cox Hooker, Ph. D., wealthy retired chemist and industrialist of 82 Remsen street, Brooklyn. Thereby, the story of a boyhood dream that did not die.

Fifty years ago as a stripling in England, where he was born, Samuel Hooker wanted nothing of the world but to mystify it.

He haunted the Egyptian hall in London, known as "England's Home of Mystery." Professional magicians were his demigods.

He dogged them, was so persistent that the famous John Nevil Maskelyne became his friend and teacher. At 16 the youth was giving benefit performances, and the road to his ambition seemed straight ahead.

Life got in his way. His family put him in the Royal College of Science, London, where he won a prize and a scholarship in chemistry. Then he was shipped away to the University of Munich, to become not a master of science but a doctor of philosophy.

And so, before long, there was no time for magic. He came to America in 1885, and there was still less time.

Honors and cares piled themselves upon him. He became a member of the American Chemical Society, the American Electro-Chemical Society, of the Franklin Institute and of similar bodies in England, France and Germany.

He became a director of the Spreckels Sugar Corporation of the Great Western Sugar Company.

In 1916, at the age of 53, he became tired. Then, suddenly, the old dream got at him again. In the rear of his fine old home in Brooklyn was a stable, unused for years.

He converted it into a comfortable two-story laboratory and began putting. The results became known in 1918, when he invited about twenty members of the Society of American Magicians to visit him at his home.

Dr. Hooker, an immense tall man with a heavy beard, said little. He ushered his visitors through the house, through a courtyard and into the converted stable.

There they found themselves in a tiny theater, complete to the last detail. Dr. Hooker excused himself and the curtain went up on him, his "Impossibilities" and an imitation bear head that was to become famous around the world as "Militiades III."

A borrowed pack of cards was placed in a glass houlette on a stand on a skeleton table. Any card the magician called for rose slowly out of the houlette, settled back in his command.

Any card the audience called for rose similarly. Any number of cards demanded would rise simultaneously.

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He summoned to his Remsen street home Dr. Shirley M. Quimby, the Columbia professor in physics, and John Mulholland, young professor. He said to them, in effect, that he was getting older (he was now 66) and that the time had come to pass his knowledge of magic on to other hands.

He pledged them they would reveal to no one else what he revealed to them until the time came when they were old, too, and must pass the knowledge on. At such a time they must exact a similar pledge.

So the tin theater came to life again, in June, 1929, during the New York national convention of the Society of American Magicians. John Mulholland took the stage in place of Dr. Hooker. Professor Quimby was his invisible assistant, behind the scenes.

Apparently there was work to do behind the scenes, which required the skill of a scientist and physicist. No clew can be gotten from



Professor Shirley M. Quimby of Columbia, who has brought to magic the invaluable aid of the scientist's laboratory.

With John Mulholland, he is joint custodian of the impenetrable secrets of Dr. Hooker, the master magician.

in the land, Harry Kellar, Harry Houdini, Howard Thurston, Fred Keating, Al Baker, Servais Le Roy, Theo Hardeen, Mine. Herman, widow of Hermann the Great, etc.

All came away mystified. There was nothing in the secret lore of magic to explain Dr. Hooker's illusions.

When all the American

magicians had witnessed his miracles the Brooklyn amateur closed his theater. It remained dark for twelve years, except for several special exhibitions requested by noted conjurers from abroad.

cians had grown up in America during the years of his "Impossibilities" were gathering dust.

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theater he learned something about physics that is written in no text-book, something of fundamental scientific importance. No one knows.

Dr. Quimby smiles, says nothing, and continues his pursuit of magic wherever he finds it. His proposed trip to Chicago to view engineer Joseph Freud's houlette illusion (which is somewhat similar to Dr. Hooker's) is typical of him.

Professor Quimby's interest in magic dates back to a day a number of years ago when a tall young Horace Mann instructor asked if he could not use Quimby's physics laboratory to make a table.

The tall young teacher was

John Mulholland, then an amateur giving magic shows in his spare time. What he was trying to make in the Columbia physics laboratory was a new "gimmick."

Quimby got interested and helped him make it; show him how to do it.

Accordingly, a world economic conference will be urged to follow as closely as possible after this one, with the United States and the other great powers in attendance.

It was Stanley Baldwin, promising to make Great Britain grant wider preferences to dominions under the mother country's new high tariff system, who pointed out that 70 per cent of the empire's trade was with foreign nations.

N. C. Havenga, South Africa,

brought out most clearly the almost general view that the empire can not be a self-contained unit under present conditions.

J. G. Coates, New Zealand, got

closest to specific facts in his speech, demanding quota restrictions on imports of meat, dairy products and fruit into England.

Russia Is Target

Prime Minister R. B. Bennett of Canada alone made even indirect reference to a particular country in his speech as well. It was Russia to which Bennett referred when he protested against England's monopoly of wheat and timber from nations which have "state-controlled standards of living, state-controlled labor, state-aided dumping dictated by high state policy."

As for the to give important preferences to Britain, naturally agreed to the United States, there were the just published trade figures for June.

Canada's exports for the month, to the United States, were \$15,751,485, an increase of \$1,562,466 over May; to the entire British empire, \$14,988,270, a decrease of \$268,712. Canada can not reduce its imports from the United States without reducing exports.

World Economic Conference Is Set as Goal of British Empire

BY WILLIAM PHILIP SIMMS
Scripps-Howard Foreign Editor

OTTAWA, Ontario, July 22.—That complete recovery is beyond the power of any single nation or group of nations, however rich or populous, is the keynote of the British empire's spokesmen, in conference here since Thursday.

Accordingly, a world economic conference will be urged to follow as closely as possible after this one, with the United States and the other great powers in attendance.

It is the expressed hope of Baldwin and others that Ottawa will blaze the trail for a world conference.

Baldwin, therefore, will battle here for lower preferential tariffs as between the dominions, rather than higher, and what, in effect, would be prohibitive duties against outside products.

The Japanese consul-general in Mukden is known to have assured western observers that the bombing of China's northern provinces, mainly of coal, oil, and timber.

This tentative policy is believed by high officials to be the wisest course just now. As far as can be seen today, there will be no immediate protest to Tokyo.

The League of Nations investigating commission, including an American member, is now in China. It is believed here that this body can make any necessary recommendations to the league.

The department's policy does not mean that the United States has lost interest in defending the "open door" doctrine and the nine-power treaty, it merely indicates that no advantage is seen in further discussions with Tokyo just now, even though officials are concerned seriously about Jehol.

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Fourth, as trade is the life-blood of nations, prohibitive tariffs spell doom. Not even the British empire, with one-fourth of the human race, profitably can shut itself off from contact with the rest of the world.

Fifth, whatever trade agreements may enter into here, the way must be left open to mutually profitable trade with other nations or groups of nations.

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