

BALL RAIL SALE REVEALS PERIL, FLYNN ASSERTS

Holding Companies Escape Public Responsibility, He Declares.

By JOHN T. FLYNN, Special Writer

NEW YORK, May 1.—The Van Sweringen "empire" has been sold again. This latest transfer reduces finally to utter absurdity the monstrous holding company system which has come into use in every department of American business.

It is a good thing to pause to remember just what this popularly called "Van Sweringen "empire" is.

As a matter of fact, it is a collection of institutions which are essential to the prosperity, even the existence, of large sections of this country. There are great railroads like the Chesapeake & Ohio, the Pere Marquette, the Erie, the Milwaukee-Peoria, the Nickel Plate and a number of smaller roads. Together they span the nation and include some 28,000 miles of track—the largest integrated system in the country. The value of these railroad properties is about two billion dollars.

Responsibility Stressed

Then there are a whole series of other properties—coal companies, ship companies, hotels, street railways, office buildings, real estate companies, building companies. These are supposed to be worth about a billion dollars.

Now we have heard a good deal about property of late and property rights. The thing that is generally overlooked is that while there are property rights there are also property responsibilities. The property owner owes certain responsibilities to the community. And the more important the property, the more severe are his responsibilities.

Ownership of a great railroad is a serious matter and carries with it grave public responsibilities. In simpler times, every business—railroad distributorship—had an owner, a recognizable owner, who could be held up before the public to moral as well as legal responsibility.

Identity Obscured

Now the ownership of the railroad is sunk in the corporation. This was bad enough. But soon adventurous promoters learned how to take the control of the railroad even out of the hands of those who owned the corporation by getting possession through a holding company of enough shares to control the corporation. Then the identity and responsibility of that holding company was further obscured by having its shares controlled by still another holding company.

The Prospect Coal Co. belongs to the Pittston Coal Co. But the Pittston belongs to the Virginia Transportation Corp. and that in turn belongs to the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway Co. That company belongs to the Chesapeake Corp. and the control of that rests in the Midamerica Corp.

Through these financial maneuvers it was possible last week for George Ball, a Muncie glass maker, to peddle around the country the control of these three billion dollars of property and to sell a couple of unknown stock brokers and others, the control of a vast railroad and industrial structure worth three billion dollars for perhaps a few million dollars.

When we are going to get around to dealing with this holding company monstrosity?

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SEVEN ARE HURT IN MINOR CAR MISHAPS

14 Face Karabell in Safety Drive.

MARION COUNTY TRAFFIC TOLL TO DATE

1937 54

1936 49

April 30 8

Accidents 8

Injured 2

TRAFFIC ARRESTS

Speeding 1

Running red light 1

Running preference street 1

Drunk driving 1

Reckless driving 1

Improper parking 2

Others 2

Seven persons were recovering in their homes today from slight injuries received in traffic accidents overnight.

Fourteen motorists were to face Judge Charles Karabell in Municipal Court today on traffic violations.

Lawrence McPherson, 38, of 302 N. DeQuincey St., was charged with drunkenness and drunken driving after police said the car he was driving collided with an ambulance at Randal and Raymond Sts. No one was injured in the crash.

Clyde Houston, 27, of 164 Bright St. was arrested on a reckless driving charge when car he was driving skidded into a switch engine at the Vermont St. crossing of the Big Four Railroad. He was treated at City Hospital for minor cuts and bruises.

STATE RANKS 16TH ON BENEFITS LIST

Indiana ranks 16th in the number of employees applying for Social Security cards under the old-age benefits section, it was reported today.

With an estimated 1936 population of 3,450,000 persons, the state has 719,499 employees who have applied for account numbers, or 20.8 per cent.

Rhode Island heads the list with a percentage of 32, or 225,021 employees with cards, out of a population of 681,000.

Stars Face Problem in Movie Strike



Bing Crosby



Marlene Dietrich



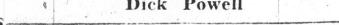
Joan Crawford



Ginger Rogers



Robert Montgomery



Dick Powell

Trucks Rush Film Workers Through Thin Lines of Pickets

(Continued from Page One)

difficulty in reaching a compromise on wage demands.

Prime Minister Maurice Duplessis of Quebec ordered arrest of two production at Warner Brothers-First National.

RKO was filming four, including Ginger Rogers in "Vivacious Lady." Twentieth Century-Fox was producing the film debut of Gypsy Rose Lee, New York "strip-teaser."

United Artists had Barbara Stanwyck at work on "Stella Dallas." Columbia was filming five, with Jack Holt, Richard Dix and Douglas Montgomery before the cameras.

"West Coast Limited," starring Lyle Talbot, was just starting production at Universal. Republic and Grand National studios each were filming two.

It was uncertain, however, if the movie stars would pass the picket lines at Paramount, R. K. O., Columbia and other studios. Their guild left the matter up to the unions, despite the strike called by three unions last night. Pickets made no effort to molest those running their lines.

There were 18 pickets at the main gate of the Paramount lot. There were 10 each at Columbia and R. K. O.

Despite the quiet start of the strike, radio police departments and the Hollywood and Los Angeles departments exercised precautions. The Hollywood department assigned a "flying squadron" to make the rounds of the smaller independent lots.

The strike caught 50 pictures in production.

Studios which maintain their own private police forces were guarded against violence. The Paramount, fifth largest body of police men in California, was doubled.

Work was impeded in most studios at least temporarily and the various movie colony unions, including the Screen Actors Guild, to which most high-salaried players belong, called meetings to formulate their policy in the strike.

Directors of the Screen Actors Guild ended a four-hour conference early today without reaching a decision, and called a mass meeting of players for tomorrow night at 8 o'clock to consider the issue.

Montgomery Presides

Robert Montgomery presided over the meeting and such stars as Franchot Tone and Joan Crawford attended. A spokesman said:

"It's up to the individual film players whether they want to pass through the picket lines. The executive board of the Guild can't advise them. Likewise, it is up to the individual stars and players whether, with the makeup men on strike, they want to make themselves up."

Involved in the strike were 2500 painters, scenic artists and makeup men. They walked out at 6 p.m. yesterday when their representatives failed to reach an agreement with producers at a decisive conference.

Movie executives ordered the studios evacuated before the deadline for the strike. All workers except the guards were dismissed for the night and the powerful illuminating systems lighted the grounds.

Extra Guards Hired

Extra guards also were engaged at 20th Century Fox, RKO, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer, Warner Brothers and other famous lots.

There were a few exceptions to the night shut-down. On the Paramount "Artists and Models" set, 100 extra girls were rushed through their scenes in an effort to finish production before they were locked out by the strike.

The trouble came when Hollywood was working more pictures than in any year for the last four years. Paramount had 15 underway. Marlene Dietrich was before the cameras in "Angel," Gary Cooper in "Souls at Sea," Bing Crosby in "Double or Nothing."

Greta Garbo was two months along with her work in "Madame Walewska," at M-G-M, which had six pictures under way. Among them was "Sarafoga" starring Clark Gable and Jean Harlow.

Paul Muni was at work on "The

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Kreisler Bros. DENTISTS

Ave. died Wednesday in Detroit. He was 59.

He was a native of Pittsburgh and a graduate of the Pittsburgh Dental College. Dr. Armstrong had demonstrated dental supplies and equipment before college classes throughout the Middle West many years. He was a member of the Sahara Grotto, Raper Commandery, Calvin Prather Lodge, F. & A. M., and the Presbyterian Church.

Survivors besides the wife, Mrs. Myrtle G. Armstrong, are a daughter, Ruth Elizabeth Armstrong, Indianapolis, and a son, Hyett Armstrong, Buffalo, N. Y.

EMMETT ROY PRUITT, 2350 College Ave., a photoengraver and Indianapolis resident many years, died yesterday in a heart attack in the home of his cousin, Mrs. Elizabeth Havey, 117 2nd St. He was 52.

Funeral services are to be held at 2 p.m. Monday in the Hisey and Titus Funeral Home. Burial is to be in Crown Hill.

Mr. Pruitt, an employee of the Indianapolis Engraving Co., was born in Morgan County, and had lived in Indianapolis since he was 5. He was married to Miss Jessie Weber in 1910. He was a member of the Capitol City Lodge, F. & A. M., Scottish Rite, the Shrine and Local 11 of the International Photo-Engravers' Union.

Survivors besides the wife are a daughter, Miss Mabel Pruitt, and her father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Pruitt, Indianapolis.

MRS. ELIZABETH MORBACH, a native of Germany, died yesterday after a long illness. She was 84.

Funeral services are to be held at 8:30 a.m. Monday in the Hermann Funeral Home and at 9 a.m. in the SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral. Burial is to be in St. Joseph Cemetery.

Mrs. Morbach was the widow of Samuel Morbach and with her husband had operated a grocery store at Merrill and Delaware Sts. more than 60 years. She had lived in Indianapolis since childhood and was a member of SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

At the age of 15, Mr. She was an employee of Kingard & Co., where he worked many years and became a buyer. Mr. She was the father of six children. In 1903 he was married to Miss Emma Heier, who died three years later.

D. C. P. ARMSTRONG was to be buried in Washington Park Cemetery today following funeral services at 1:30 p.m. in the Shifley Brothers Central Chapel, Indianapolis, strong, who lived at 4612 Guilford.

Survivors besides the husband are five sons, Omar, Charles and Harry Robb, all of Indianapolis, and Vernon and George Robb, Chicago; two daughters, Mrs. Haroldine and Mrs. Mabel Buehmeier, all of Indianapolis.

WILLIAM T. MCALPIN, former Marion County chief of police and county road commissioner, died Wednesday.

Survivors besides the husband are five sons, Omar, Charles and Harry Robb, all of Indianapolis, and Vernon and George Robb, Chicago; two daughters, Mrs. Haroldine and Mrs. Mabel Buehmeier, all of Indianapolis.

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