

HUGE IMPROVEMENT IN C.N.R. EARNINGS

The Net Operating Surplus is \$15,020,163 Greater Than in 1924.

A despatch from Montreal says:—Final figures showing the complete statement of operating results during 1925 are announced by the Canadian National Railways. These figures show that the net earnings of the system during the last year were \$32,264,414.79, as compared with \$17,244,251.48 in 1924, or a net increase of \$15,020,163.31.

During the twelve months ending Dec. 31, 1925, the operating ratio was 84.88 per cent, as compared with 92.68 per cent in 1924, and 91.92 per cent in 1923.

The final figures for 1925 as compared with 1924 are: Operating revenues—1925, \$244,971,202.61; 1924, \$235,583,182.55. Increase, \$9,388,020.06. Operating expenses—1925, \$212,706,787.32; 1924, \$218,348,931.07. Decrease, \$5,637,143.25.

Net earnings: 1925, \$32,264,414.79; 1924, \$17,244,251.48. Increase, \$15,020,163.31.

The progress made by the National System under its present administration is shown by the following comparative figures: Operating revenues—1922, \$234,059,025.05; 1923, \$253,135,487.81; 1924, \$235,583,182.55; 1925, \$244,971,202.61.

Net earnings—1922, \$2,886,711.55; 1923, \$20,430,649.06; 1924, \$17,244,251.48; 1925, \$32,264,414.79.

Operating ratio—1922, 98.77; 1923, 91.92; 1924, 92.08; 1925, 84.88.

That the improvement in Canadian National Railways' results is continuing is shown by the detailed figures also issued, covering the months of December, 1925, and January, 1926.

In December, 1925, the gross earnings were \$22,851,670.61, an increase of \$4,534,934.06, as compared with Dec. 1924. Net earnings for the month of Dec. 1925, amounted to \$5,348,209.95, an increase of \$2,587,926.50, as compared with Dec. 1924. The operating ratio during Dec. 1925, was 77.58 per cent, as compared with 85.71 per cent during the corresponding period of 1924.

For January, 1926, the operating results were: Operating revenues—1926, \$18,096,921; 1925, \$16,716,458. Increase, \$1,379,463.

Operating expenses—1926, \$16,428,297.35; 1925, \$16,448,665.25. Decrease, \$15,367.90.

Net earnings—1926, \$1,668,624.65; 1925, \$272,802.76. Increase, \$1,395,821.89.

Operating ratio—1926, 92.33; 1925, 92.33.

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RETURNS TO AID CAUSE OF WOMEN VOTERS

Mrs. Pankhurst Back in England to Urge Change in Franchise Age Limit.

A despatch from London says:—Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, the militant leader of the "votes for women" cause before the World War, has returned to the suffrage battleground after passing the last eight years abroad.

She has come back to England to take part in the campaign—more peaceful than those which she led years ago—to extend the franchise so that British women may vote at twenty-one, instead of waiting until they are thirty years old. "Women's Week," to be marked by oratory and processions throughout the country, will, early in June, push the demand for this extension of the suffrage.

Mrs. Pankhurst, who has been in France, Bermuda, Canada and other parts of the world since she left England in 1917, believes that women have not done badly in politics and otherwise, considering their difficulties. "Now that we have gained the vote," she said soon after her return, "we still have to prove ourselves worthy of it. Our campaign now must be to redeem our promises and to teach the world that women are quite as capable of government as men."

Although in her seventy-first year Mrs. Pankhurst is as enthusiastic in the cause of women as ever. She intends now to give special attention to industrial peace, housing and electrification, while promoting the interests of women in general.



Vice-Admiral E. S. A. Sinclair, commander-in-chief of the British forces in China, who finds it necessary to keep a close watch all the time, for British interests are large and many in that part of the world.

Indian Princes Entertained at Gold Plate Banquet

A despatch from Jammu, Kashmir, says:—Rarely has India, with all the riches of its princes, witnessed such splendor as was displayed when the new Maharajah of Jammu and Kashmir, Sir Hari Singh, entertained 150 guests at a state banquet in honor of the ruling princes and chiefs of the native Indian States who are here from all parts of the country for his coronation.

The princes were served on gold plate, and the members of their staffs on solid silver.

The native rulers were attired in their princely state robes, and the great ornate banquet hall of the royal residence blazed with the lights from jeweled chandeliers whose value was estimated at a total of several million pounds.

The following day the new Maharajah proceeded to his coronation at the head of a state procession of elephants.

The new ruler of Kashmir is probably better known to the world, at least in the West, as the victim of the famous Robinson blackmail case which was tried in the London courts a year ago.

World's End Expected in Few Billion Years

A despatch from Chicago says:—Prof. F. R. Moulton, of the University of Chicago, has fixed the date of the end of the world. But there is no immediate cause for alarm. You may figure it out yourself, he said, like this:

The earth is two thousand million years old. The average life of such a planet is a thousand times a million times a million years or 1,000,000,000,000,000 (one quadrillion) years.

So it will go on whirling on its orbit for another 500,000 times as long as it has already whirled.

And when that time comes the sun will get too close to this planet and puff—that will be all. Just like the snuffing out of a candle it will melt and be destroyed.

Another Attempt to Conquer Everest This Summer

A despatch from London says:—A Calcutta despatch to the Daily Express says that Brigadier-General Charles G. Bruce, who led the Mount Everest Expedition of 1922, proposed to make another attempt to conquer the mountain this summer. He is now in Delhi discussing the project with the Government, but the despatch adds, he reports that the attitude of the Tibet Government is not at all encouraging.



HUGE SILVER NUGGET PUT ON DISPLAY Above is shown the huge silver nugget which has been mounted in the front corridor of the parliament buildings for visitors to see. It is a product of the Keeley Mine and has just been returned from Wembley, where it was on display as the largest and most valuable single piece of silver ever produced in the British Empire. It weighs 4,402 pounds. When the government bought it, the purchase price, at 64½ cents per ounce for silver, was \$15,616.

THEIR MAJESTIES MOVE INTO OWN HOME

King and Queen Occupy Sandringham, Willed by Queen Alexandra.

A despatch from London says:—King George and Queen Mary have just moved into Sandringham House, the Norfolk estate of the Windsor family, which has become the personal property of the sovereign by the will of Queen Alexandra.

Sandringham is now the only one of the many properties visited each year by their majesties which is owned by the King and not by the state. King Edward bought the country mansion when he was Prince of Wales and willed it to his Queen.

Sandringham was the favorite residence of King Edward and Queen Alexandra, as it is with the present sovereigns. At Buckingham Palace, Holywood Palace, Balmoral and Windsor castles, the royal family must host their standard above the roof and live in the luxury which the state provides, but at Sandringham they live like the family of a country gentleman, with only the cares and freedom of country folk.

York cottage, also on the Sandringham estate, now has been left vacant but at Sandringham will be allotted to the Duke and Duchess of York, as at first supposed, because of the possible marriage of the Prince of Wales, who by precedent becomes the householder at the cottage.

Sandringham House was entirely redecorated under the supervision of Queen Mary before the royal couple moved in. The heavy Victorian draperies and red plush carpets were taken out and modern improvements built in. This makes the royal home the envy of the richer subjects who live in the neighborhood.

Billion in Gold Francs Hidden in French Socks

A despatch from Paris says:—At least one billion francs in gold coin are still hidden away in the proverbial woolen stocking of the thrifty Frenchman, according to authoritative calculations made in connection with numerous recent arrests for buying gold coins and melting them down for sale.

Groups of men are traveling through the country and paying as high as seventy or eighty paper francs for twenty-franc gold pieces. In persuading the holders to sell they frequently use the argument that the gold coins are sure to be demagnetized before the country gets back to a normal gold basis. The agents say that even at the price of eighty paper francs the twenty-franc gold pieces can be melted and sold at a profit.

Surgeon Gives Sight to Boy After 19 Years

A despatch from Huntingdon, W. Va., says:—Blind from birth, Howard Cook, 19, opened his eyes, following an operation by Dr. C. M. Hawes. Previously the surgeon had given sight to two other members of the family, Fay and Mayme Cook, sisters, and another blind sister, Cordie, now is undergoing treatment in the hope that she also may see.

All four were afflicted with cataracts at birth. Young Cook's first impression of vision was that it seemed as though he had been behind a sheet which was suddenly swept away.

THE WEEK'S MARKETS

TORONTO.
Man. wheat—No. 1 North, \$1.66½; No. 2 North, \$1.60½; No. 3 North, \$1.58½.
Man. oats—No. 2 CW, nominal; No. 3, not quoted; No. 1 feed, 47½c; No. 2 feed, 45½c; Western grain quotations on c.i.f., bay ports.
Am. corn, track, Toronto—No. 2, yellow, 87½c; No. 3 yellow, 86c.
Milfed—Dal. Montreal freight, bags included: Bran, per ton, \$30.25 to \$31.25; shorts, per ton, \$32.25 to \$33.25; middlings, \$39.25 to \$40.25; good feed flour, 3r bag, \$2.30.
Ont. oats—40 to 42c, f.o.b. shipping points.
Ont. good milling wheat—\$1.51 to \$1.33, f.o.b. shipping points, according to freight.
Barley—Malting, 63 to 65c.
Buckwheat—No. 3, 63c.
Rye—No. 2, 85c.
Man. flour—First pat., \$3.90. Toronto, do, second pat., \$3.40.
Ont. flour—Toronto, 90 per cent, \$5.90; seaboard, in bulk, \$5.90.
Straw—Carlots, per ton, \$9 to \$9.50.
Screenings—Standard, re-cleaned, f. o.b. bay ports, per ton, \$22.50.
Cheese—New, large, 22c; twins, 22½c; triplets, 23c; Stiltons, 24c. Old, large, 28 to 30c; twins, 29 to 31c; triplets, 30 to 32c.
Butter—Finest creamery prints, 48c; No. 1 creamery, 46 to 47c; No. 2, 45 to 46c. Dairy prints, 41 to 42c.
Eggs—Fresh extras, in cartons, 41 to 42c; fresh firsts, 36 to 37c; storage extras, 28c; storage firsts, 25c; storage seconds, 21 to 22c.
Dressed poultry—Chickens, spring lb., 32 to 35c; hens, over 4 to 5 lbs., 30c; do, 3 to 4 lbs., 25c; roosters, 22c; ducklings, 5 lbs. and up 30 to 32c; turkeys, 35c.
Beans—Can. hand-picked, lb., 6c; primes, 5 to 5½c.
Maple produce—Syrup, per imp. gal., \$2.40; per 5-gal. tin, \$2.30 per gal.; maple sugar, lb., 25 to 26c.
Honey—50-lb. tins, 11½ to 12c per lb.; 10-lb. tins, 11½ to 12c; 5-lb. tins, 11 to 12½c; 2½-lb. tins, 14 to 14½c.
Smoked meats—Hams, med., 20 to 31c; cooked hams, 43 to 45c; smoked

NOTED INDUSTRIALIST PASSES AT HAMILTON

Robert Hobson, President of Steel Company of Canada, Built Big Organization.

A despatch from Hamilton says:—Robert Hobson, President of the Steel Company of Canada and a national figure in Canadian industry, died on Thursday at his home, 56 West Charlton Avenue. He was 65 years of age.

Mr. Hobson played an active part in the development of the Canadian steel industry. He was a former president of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association, and had many other activities. He had a commanding presence and a most genial personality. Thousands of workmen held him in warm affection. He was widely known throughout Canada and the United States and in Great Britain.

His father constructed the St. Clair Tunnel under the river bottom from Sarnia to Port Huron.

Robert Hobson was born in Kitchener (then Berlin) on Aug. 13, 1861. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Hobson. His father was a noted engineer, and among other of the latter's engineering achievements was the construction of the Jubilee bridge at Montreal. Robert Hobson also became an engineer after he completed his education, and worked with his father, chiefly at pioneer railway construction. For 20 years father and son constructed miles of lines for the Great Western Railway and the Grand Trunk Railway.

During the war Robert Hobson strove ceaselessly on behalf of the men who went overseas to fight. He was one of those who was instrumental in having the then Federal Government establish munition factories in Canada.

In this connection he gave his country valuable service as a member of the Munitions Resources Commission. He took an active part in the formation of the Canadian Patriotic Fund, and was Chairman of the Finance Committee of the local organization all during the war.

Bad Teeth Prove Greatest Foes of Toilers in Britain

Chronic rheumatism is the worst enemy of the working men and women of the United Kingdom.

It is responsible for one-sixth of all industrial invalidity, and causes the loss of three million weeks' work annually among the insured working population alone. Seventy per cent of these cases are caused by bad teeth and gums.

Wells Writing Novel 250,000 Words Long

A despatch from London says:—H. G. Wells is working on a novel, which, it is reported, will contain a quarter of a million words. This work, which will probably be completed in the late spring, is said to be somewhat in the style of his novel, "The New Machine."

Although Mr. Wells denied it, the general opinion was that many of the characters in that novel were thinly-veiled sketches of celebrities, including Lord Balfour.

British Columbia and Chile Converse Via Ether Waves

A despatch from Vancouver says:—Earle Chang, owner and operator of amateur radio station C6GO, of this city, has added new laurels to the crown of amateur radio in this part of Canada through confirmation of a recent two-way contact between 5GO and ch-2LD, the amateur radio station of Luis M. Desmaras, of Santiago, Chile. Mr. Chang has also recorded authentic reception of bz2AB, the station of Justino, Sao Paulo, Brazil.

165 Head of Canadian Cattle Die on Board Ship

A despatch from London says:—The British steamer The Manchester Producer has arrived at France in tow of a Dutch tug after having been buffeted in mid-Atlantic for a fortnight with a damaged rudder. Of the 418 head of Canadian cattle with which she left Halifax only 253 head are still alive. On Feb. 11 a message from the captain of the Producer said that 70 head of cattle had been lost and that the remainder had been placed on limited food rations. Ninety-five seem to have died since.

Toothbrushes have increased greatly in popularity since 1913, according to official statistics.

Maharajah to Feed Holy Fire With Butter at Coronation

A despatch from Jammu, Kashmir, says:—At the religious observances at the coronation of Sir Hari Singh, the new Maharajah of Jammu and Kashmir, he will stand, dressed in a plain mauve garment, beside the family priest, who will recite the Hindu scriptures while the Maharajah feeds the holy fire with butter and sprinkles upon it water from several of the rivers of India.

A large number of saffron-robed priests, especially invited from Benares, will chant continually before the fire, under a canopy on which is displayed a picture of the goddess of wealth.

Experimental Farms for Hudson Bay Route

A despatch from Ottawa says:—An important move in connection with the completion of the Hudson Bay Railway is announced by the Dept. of Agriculture: that three farms have been purchased along the route of that road, and that these farms will be used as experimental stations to test the possibility from a farming standpoint of the land along that railway.

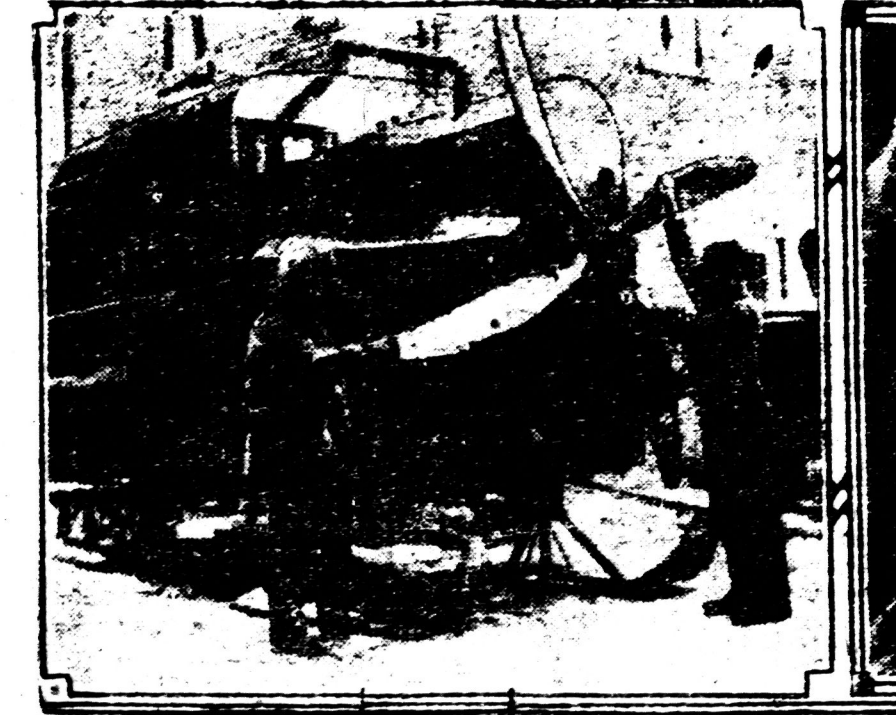
Operations on these farms are likely to be begun this summer, and the ultimate result will either prove or disprove the contention that the railway can be made valuable from a colonization viewpoint.

Serious Blaze at Timmins Causes Damage of \$20,000

A despatch from Timmins says:—One of the worst fires which have visited Timmins for several years occurred Thursday night, when the top floor of the Ostrousser Block, one of the oldest buildings in the business section of the town, was completely gutted and the contents destroyed. The lower part of the building, occupied by the owner, Dayton Ostrousser, as a men's clothing store, was also partly damaged and considerable loss is entailed to stock from water. The total loss has been conservatively estimated at upward of \$20,000.

Death of Nova Scotia Upper Chamber Fixed for May 1

A despatch from Halifax says:—The Legislative Council, the upper Chamber of the Nova Scotia Legislature, will cease to function on May 1, 1926, if a bill introduced in the Legislative Assembly recently becomes law. Hon. E. N. Rhodes, Premier of Nova Scotia, introduced the bill, which is entitled "An act abolishing the Legislative Council and amending the Constitution of the Province."



TO TACKLE RED LAKE TRAFFIC BY MOTOR SLED. Above are shown Johnny Jones, the well-known explorer, prospector and northern traveler, of Toronto, and his aeroplane engine driven motor sled which he hopes to put on the Red Lake trail in the near future.



Captain Dudley North, who is always close to the heir to the British throne and who accompanied him on his recent trip to South Africa and South America. Captain North commanded the battle cruiser New Zealand in the battle of Heligoland.

THRILLING RESCUE FROM BUSH FIRES

Hemmed in Six Hours, 150 People Saved at King Lake, Australia.

A despatch from Melbourne, Australia, says:—One hundred and fifty men, women and children, who took refuge in the post-office building at King Lake while the remainder of the town was swept by a great bush fire, have been rescued after being surrounded by the flames for six hours.

The story of the rescue is among the most thrilling in the annals of Australia. Hemmed up by the flaming bush, the outlying buildings in the little town caught like tinder and the inhabitants fled to the post-office, the most substantial structure in the place.

News of their plight reached Queensland, and a rescue party made a wild dash in automobiles over burning bridges and along fire-wreathed roads partially blocked by fallen trees.

Through this inferno the rescuers reached the imprisoned company and brought them all out to safety, without the loss of a single life.

Despite the gallantry of the rescue, there was no more heroic figure in the episode than the postmistress of King Lake, whose name is missing from the press despatches thus far received.

Throughout the long hours while the town was burning about her, she stuck to her post, telephoning to the outside world, telling of the progress of the flames and giving directions for the fire fighters and rescuers.

Finally the wires were burned away, after which she turned her energies to the task of cheering up and sustaining the courage of those who had taken refuge in the building.

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