

REDUCE PASSENGER RATES IS RAIL PLAN

Report from Washington Says Several Roads to Adopt Two-Cent Fares

The nation's railroads are on the verge of declaring a rate war on the motorbus and airplane, their more modern competitors which in the last decade have annexed 42 per cent of passenger rail business, says a United Press report from Washington.

The campaign, finally decided upon by the railroads after years of patiently watching invasion of the transportation field, in the end probably will benefit no one but the public. This is the opinion of one old railroad man here, who claims to have witnessed innumerable rate slashing fights.

With passenger fares being cut drastically, in some cases becoming the lowest in a quarter-century, a great opportunity will be afforded persons of moderate means to see the country cheaply.

Western Lines Start

The first move in the forthcoming general passenger rate slashing was made by the St. Louis-San Francisco which reduced its rates to a two-cent permile basis. Other western carriers will follow suit, according to C. J. McGuire, director of the western passenger association, the general passenger agent for lines west of the Mississippi river. This is expected to be followed by reductions on eastern and southern lines.

Deny Rate War

Railroad men in Washington vigorously denied that fare reductions were a "rate war." Rather, they said, it constitutes an attempt on the railroad's part to regain the tremendous volume of passenger traffic lost to the buses and airplanes in the past 10 years.

"The new reduced rates will be placed in effect in an effort to bring back to the railroads the huge amount of passenger business lost to them through bus, airplane and private automobile competition," said one prominent railroad man here who requested his name be withheld.

Airplanes Cut in

"Railroad passenger traffic has declined steadily since 1920, the peak year. In 10 years the carriers have lost 42 per cent of their passenger business. They have now apparently decided to go out and make a determined effort to regain that business by cutting passenger fares."

St. Paul Co. Acts

The Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific railroad announced today a reduction of passenger rates to two cents a mile on four minor divisions, says a United Press dispatch from Chicago.

The new rate is an experiment to compete against motor bus lines and if successful may be extended to the main lines, H. E. Pierpont, vice president in charge of traffic announces today.

The four sections on which the reduced fares will be effective are the Wisconsin Valley, Racine, Southern Minnesota and Des Moines divisions.

Passengers will be carried on day coaches only for the new fare. The former rate was 3.6 cents a mile.

Principia College of St. Louis Buys Large Tract in Jersey County

With 43 universities, colleges and normal schools, the State of Illinois is to have yet another institution of higher education with the establishment near Elsah in Jersey county of the senior College of the Principia, St. Louis Christian Science educational institution, says an Associated Press report. The high school and elementary departments of the institution are to remain in St. Louis.

The Principia has announced the purchase of a 1,300-acre tract of land on the Mississippi river bluffs between Elsah and Piasa Chautauqua. It plans to start the construction of a \$3,500,000 plant on the site next spring.

The land purchased by the Principia is located in an area rich in scenic beauty and tradition. Standing on the bluffs overlooking the Father of Waters, the confluence of the Illinois and the Mississippi at Grafton, far to the north, can be seen. The muddy Missouri, to the west and south, can, on a clear day, be seen churning its way to its confluence with the Mississippi to the south.

The Palisades line the river to the north and south of the Principia's new campus. The poet Sylvester alluded to the beauties of the neighborhood in many of his written works and used scenes in the neighborhood in a number of his paintings.

But a short distance to the north is Piasa Chautauqua, in its early days a Methodist camp meeting grounds. Today it is a summer resort. In the valley wherein is now located the Chautauqua, once dwelt the prehistoric tribe which painted the Piasa bird, noted by Pere Marquette in his journal.


Carved Rhinoceros Horn Is Exhibited in Field Museum, Is Unique Item

A unique carved rhinoceros-horn from China has been added to the collections in the department of anthropology at Field Museum of Natural history as the result of a gift from the American Friends of China, Chicago. According to Dr. Berthold Laufer, curator of anthropology, the carving is a product of the Ming dynasty, fifteenth century, when many live specimens of rhinoceroses, giraffes and other exotic animals were being imported to China from East Africa. The carving on the horn, which is a large one, portrays 17 such animals in high relief, artistically portrayed.

"The Chinese in ancient times attributed magical and medicinal qualities to rhinoceros horn," says Dr. Laufer. "The rhinoceros was believed to eat various poisonous substances with its food, and as it survived, it was thought that cups made from its horn could be used both as a detector of poison and an antidote for it."

Contrary to general belief, rhinoceros horn is not a bony substance, but an epidermal formation composed of a solid mass of agglutinated hairs or bristles.

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