Nevada Losing Its Railroads

(Nevada Tax Review)

No state is more vitally concerned in the prosperity of i ts railroads than Nevada. For many years the railroads have provided nearly onehalf of the tax revenues of the state. The loss of that revenue or of any considerable portion of it would be a serious matter for the state and the counties. Such a loss is not only threatened by the conditions which now face the railroads, but in some measure has already taken place in the state. The unfortunate condition of the roads at the present time is attributed in a general way to the depression which affects all business; but that is not the whole story. Trafife has fallen off in a very serious measure, but the roads could still get by if expenses had decreased in like degree, or had even remained stationary, but on the contrary they have increased.

An official statement issued by the railroads shows that since 1932, the low point of the depression, the supplies which the roads are obliged to purchase have increased in price by approximately 25 per cent, and wages by 18 per cent. In the face of an aggregate net increase of \$664,-789,000 in annual operating costs there has been a constant decline in freight and passenger revenues. Nearly 100 railroads were in the hands of receivers at the end of last year, representing over 28 per cent of the total railroad mileage of the country. More receiverships are threatened and will doubtless come. The distressing plight of the roads is everywhere recognized: what to do about it is one of the most perplexing problems before the people today. Various plans for relief are being discussed in congress, among them loans guaranteed by the government, increased traffic rates, consolidation into one great railroad system, and, in the offing, government ownership. Receiverships, one big system, under government control, as it would have to be, or government ownership would constitute a menace to the tax structure of Nevada, the effects of which it would be impossible to compute.

Already the state and some of the counties are realizing the effects of loss in assessed valuation due to the closing down of several shortline roads. During the past few years the following roads have ceased operation and their operating property has been stricken from the tax rolls:

Las Vegas and Tonopah211.	06
Bullfrog and Goldfield 88.	12
Nevada Central 95	
Southern Pacific, narrow guage 45.	
Silver Peak, branch19.	00
Atchinson, Topeka and	
Santa Fe, branch12.	57
In addition, two other railroa	
are preparing to cease operatio	ns
in the near future:	
Virginia and Truckee 85.	07
Eureka-Nevada90	
The combined assessed valuati	

of the discontinued roads when in active operation was \$2,774,000. The resulting loss in taxable property to the state is considerable; to some of the counties it is serious. In addition to such loss is the still more serious loss in wages paid and the general decrease in busi-

Shriners Plan Visit To Ely

The Boulder-Vegas Shrine Club dinner at the Marine Room of the Apache Hotel Wednesday evening, was presided over by Vice-President Howell Garrison, in the absence of President Ferguson who was absent on a trip to Mexico.

Plans were made for the attendance of a considerable number of Nobles of the Mystic Shrine from this section at the ceremonial to be put on by Kerak Temple at Ely, Saturday May 28.

The matter of attendance at the National Convention of Shriners at Los Angeles in June was also given consideration

The matter of entertaining the thousands of Shriners who are planning to stop over in Las Vegas and Boulder City on their way to or from the Los Angeles convention was discussed. Because of the great expense of even the simplest entertainment for such a large number it was decided to attempt no organized plan but to leave each local Shriner obligated to do whatever he could personally to make pleasant the stay of those he may

MYSTIC SHRINE TO

MEET IN LOS ANGELES The Ancient Arabic Order Nobles of the Mystic Shrine will holds its 1938 convention at Los Angeles, Calif., on June 7, 8, and 9, 1938. More than 100,000 Nobles are expected to make the trip and will arrive by special trains, motor caravans, airplanes, buses, and intercoastal steamships.

Perhaps the greatest event of this convention will be a mammoth Motion Picture Pageant in Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which seats 105,000. This event will be under the direction of Mr. Harold Lloyd, prominent motion picture star and Chief Rabban of Al Malaikah Temple, Los Angeles. The general manager will be Mr. Jack L. Warner head of Warner Brothers-First National Studios. Two afternoon and one night performanc will be staged in the Coliseum, reviving the days of the Golden West and will be entitled "Cavalcade of California." In addition there will be spectacular day and night parades of the uniformed organizations. bands, chanters and patrols.

LAS VEGAS WEATHER

Following are the maximum and minmum temperatures as registered by the thermometers of the United States cooperative weather station in Las Vegas for the dates shown:

	Max.	Min
April 29	. 84	56
April 30	. 69	49
May 1	. 82	48
May 2	. 72	47
May 3		47
May 4	. 84	53
May 5	. 78	52
C, P,	SQUI	RES
Cooprativ	e Ob	server

For the welfare of the state it is greatly to be hoped that plans will be devised that will allow the remaining railroads to remain intact, in private owenrship, and to receive a net revenue that will keep them fairly prosperous. Any other outcome would prove disastrous to Nevada.

LAS VEGAS PROFESSIONAL CARDS

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