

Washington Department

known as the "Border Project Construction" and had the good fortune to personally assist in obtaining funds for this work last Spring. The total amount expended was nearly \$4,000,000.00, of which sum over one million dollars was expended at Fort Bliss, El Paso, Ysleta, Fabens, San Elizario, etc. At present I have the matter before the Department, of endeavoring to obtain funds for the construction of barracks and quarters for the Motor Transport Corps at Fort Bliss and hope to be able to make a favorable report in the near future.

Fort Bliss has the status of a "Regimental Post" with additional units stationed there as a temporary measure. Our efforts should be to make it a permanent Brigade Post as it is in fact at present; to endeavor to have it a Military Center for all activities between Del Rio and Nogales permanently, and not to stop work until it is.

Mexican Affairs

I received the resolutions of our Board endorsing the Association for the Protection of American rights in Mexico, and presented them to Senator Sheppard and Senator Fall, as well as to Congressman Hudspeth. Senator Sheppard had them inserted in the Congressional Record.

I had several interviews with Ambassador Fletcher in regard to the movement of Mexican troops through Texas and as a result of protests from your Board and many others, this permission was withheld. I have had a great deal of correspondence with General Manager Roberts in regard to Mexican matters and only regret that they are still in the unsettled and unsatisfactory condition they now are.

Immigration

One of the most important matters that I gave a great deal of time to, was the question of Mexican Immigration. Hearings on bills were held before the Senate and House Committees before which I appeared and represented our city and trade territory. These bills were to permit the introduction of alien laborers from Mexico waiving the literacy test and head tax for temporary work for agricultural purposes, under such rules and regulations as were prescribed by the Secretary of Labor. We received a great deal of encouragement in the Senate, but the House Committee tabled the Hudspeth Bill and proposed amendment to the same. Mr. Hudspeth, W. H. Knox, representing the Arizona Cotton Growers Association, and I, had a number of conferences and finally agreed to work for an extension of the time to allow these laborers to come in under certain conditions.

Jointly and individually we saw a large number of Senators and Congressmen and finally had a hearing before the Secretary of Labor. Senator Colt, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Immigration, presented our case so ably that before we left, the Secretary advised us that he would issue orders allowing alien laborers to come in to relieve the present labor shortage. This has since been done. However, this action is only temporary and we are continuing our active work for permanent legislation along these lines.

Had we not obtained relief at this time, it

would have meant a large increase in wages for Mexican laborers at El Paso, for the demand in the cotton fields, sugar beet fields and orchards and truck gardens would have drained us of all of our floating supply and our farmers would be "up against it." I consider our action in this case to be one of the most important undertaken for the interests of El Paso and its Trade Territory.

Traffic Bureau

Since the establishment of this office I have had a great deal of correspondence with Traffic Manager A. U. Tadlock, and have endeavored to bring all matters called to my attention that affect El Paso or its Trade Territory, to the proper officials of the Railroad Administration and the Interstate Commerce Commission, sometimes successfully and sometimes not. A number of questions now pending before the Railroad Administration will have to be handled before the Interstate Commerce Commission and Texas State Commission after the return of the roads to private control. I have always received from Mr. Tadlock every courtesy and help he could give me. He will probably give in his report the details of the work accomplished.

Legislative Matters

Many legislative matters of interest to our people were looked after by me during the past eight months among one of the most important being the so-called Kenyon Bill for the regulation of the Packing House Industry. I am informed that the Senate Committee expects to report a bill along the lines of the Kenyon Bill within the very near future and I believe it will receive favorable consideration by Congress.

The matter of increase in pay of Army Officers upon which our Board passed favorable resolutions, I am happy to state, is likely to be enacted into a law in the very near future. The increased pay bill has passed the Senate and I believe will be accepted by the House within a very short time.

In the matter of the railroad bill agreed on in Conference, but not yet enacted into a law, I had a number of interviews with members of the House Committee having this bill in charge, and gave them general information of our needs in this proposed legislation. I have forwarded to Mr. Tadlock, our Traffic Manager, a copy of the Conference Report and he is better able to give you detailed information as to the bill, than I am.

I attended hearings and made representations as to maintaining an efficient border patrol by the Immigration authorities along the lines of the Hudspeth resolution thereon, and while as yet no definite action has been taken the indications are that legislation along these lines will be enacted in the near future.

The Oil Leasing Bill has finally been agreed upon and is now in the hands of the President for his approval or disapproval. I have heretofore sent copies of this bill to you as well as explanations as to how it will effect the territory adjoining our state. It should be a great help in developing the resources of New Mexico and Arizona.

I made every effort possible to assist in getting a repeal of the so-called "Luxury Tax" and for a while it looked favorable to success

but the Ways and Means Committee finally decided that the Government "needed the revenue" and deferred action for this Session of Congress. I regret that I was not able to do more in this matter.

As to legislation in regard to alcohol in patent medicines, I took this up a number of times and our Senator Sheppard was largely responsible for legislation that will not work a hardship on our people in this line.

The Secretary of the Treasury has requested an appropriation of \$50,000.00, to overhaul our Federal Building in El Paso, but I do not think it will be included in the appropriations for this year on account of the condition of the Federal Treasury. Neither do I think we will get appropriations for the construction of an Immigration Station or a Free Bridge to Juarez at this session of Congress.

In regard to the Federal Government assuming the expenses of fumigating cars from Mexico, the Department of Agriculture is in favor of this; Congressman Hudspeth has introduced a bill for the same and it is now before the Committee.

I took up with the Senate Committee the matter of amending the law wherein deposits of non-resident foreigners are taxed in the United States, and I think legislation to cure this evil will eventually pass.

As your representative, I attended the Mississippi River Congress, National Rivers and Harbors Congress, Interallied Trade Conference and Pan-American Union, and did my best to creditably represent you at these conventions. I also attended the Reception to General Pershing, as one of El Paso's delegates and was able to obtain cards of admission to most of the important affairs as well as tickets for a few to the boat that met him at Hoboken.

I have had a number of conferences with the officials of the American Mining Congress and recently gave them the formal invitation of our Board for them to hold their next Convention in El Paso. I hope for favorable action in this matter. At present it looks like it would be held either at El Paso or Chicago.

In connection with Mr. H. H. Brooks I attended several conferences on our proposed high-line canal which is now before the Reclamation Service; and also in company with our Congressman Hudspeth, had a long conference with the Secretary of the Interior who showed himself favorable to our project by direct statement; he also approved the bill for funds to complete our Texas-New Mexico Irrigation project, which is still in the Committee on Irrigation.

I have conferred with the Bureau of Public Roads, Bureau of Passport Control, Navy Recruiting Service, Surplus Property Division, as well as every Department of the Government, at different times, in the interest of El Paso and matters affecting us; some times the results were favorable and some times not, but as a whole with good successes.

In the matter of endeavoring to obtain relief during the sugar shortage I was not successful but I am informed, General Manager Roberts, was at the El Paso end.

I have handled a great many matters brought to my attention by individuals—members of our organization—before the different