

# CONSOLIDATION OF RAIL LINES BENEFIT, SAYS

Would Result in Creation  
of Four Great Systems,  
Road Official Claims

## OPPOSE SEPARATION

Transcontinental Lines  
Must Cling Together,  
Commission Is Shown

WASHINGTON, Nov. 18.—A consolidation of the railroads in the West should result in the creation of four great systems, each having terminals on the Pacific and Gulf Coasts and in Chicago and St. Louis, President Hale Holden of the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy road declared today at a hearing of the interstate commerce commission on the suggested merger.

President Holden opposed the tentative plans of the commission for the separation of the Northern Pacific from the Great Northern.

'General consolidation of the Northern Pacific, the Great Northern and the Burlington, as authorized by the transportation act, has been planned by the commission to bring about a separation of the Great Northern from the other two lines named and its inclusion instead in a major railroad system along with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul and the iron ore carrying lines entering Duluth in northern Minnesota.

Walker D. Hines, leading off for the Hill group, most of whose chief executives were present to participate, challenged the desirability of the suggested split in present railroad associations, both from the point of view of public welfare and of financial stability of the roads themselves. The Burlington, owned by the two northern roads for many years, had been built and integrated into cooperation with them, he asserted, adding that separation would be extremely undesirable.

Hale Holden, followed and in a detailed analysis of traffic and route conditions, declared the commission's proposals unsuitable, and built up in disregard of the necessity for maintaining a north and south route through the west from the Gulf of Mexico. The intimacy of Burlington association with the Northern lines was emphasized by description of existing arrangements for joint use of tracks, terminals and yards and exchange of traffic. Commissioner Hall, presiding, prefaced the hearing by declaring that the commission plan instituted no pre-judgment of the situation but instead, an estimate of the situation and a basis for discussion.