

THE JOURNAL

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COMPETITION AND RAILROAD RATES Mr. Hill tells us in his Fargo speech that competition is not necessary to reduce rates; that they are reduced faster without it.

The Journal publishes to-day an article analyzing the question of rates and competition in the northwest, taking the figures from the tariff sheets of the different railroads and showing that in no direction from this city are rates as high for a corresponding distance as they are in the direction of Fargo and the Red River valley.

It appears, also, from the reports of shipments, that this is not due to a smaller volume of traffic, but simply to the fact that Mr. Hill has not yet seen fit to make rates in that direction, where there is no competition, which he and other people are compelled to make in other directions where there is competition.

Nor does it appear that the railroads are suffering on account of this competition. The Minneapolis & St. Louis, the "Soo" and the Milwaukee, over which rates are quoted, are highly prosperous roads, and it is well understood that all the railroads are thriving under the present favorable conditions of business.

Those who point to the demoralized condition of railroads in '96 and attribute it to competition, ask us to forget that every other line of business was demoralized at the same time, and that demoralization was due not so much to competition as to other causes, for it is apparent that under substantially the same conditions of competition, with generally improved business, the railroads have generally come up to a prosperous and profitable condition.

But the purpose of our inquiry was to show that Mr. Hill's theory that competition did not contribute to low rates does not accord with the facts, and that the people of the Red River Valley and the northwest generally want as low rates as are accorded other sections of that trade territory of which Minneapolis is the commercial center, they must expect to get them under conditions of competition and not under conditions of monopoly.

An extra session of the legislature never has any horrors for St. Paul. The thrifty hotel keepers and store keepers of that town are now figuring on the division of the \$1,400 a day it is estimated the legislature will disburse in St. Paul. St. Paul would like to have the law mills run the year around.

AUTOMOBILE PROGRESS The automobile has become so common and is so steadily making its way that its achievements no longer attract the public attention that they did two years ago. Ritchie B. Betts, in January Outlook, graphically and concisely tells us what the automobile is doing.

With hundreds and thousands of these speedy traveling machines, the slowest of which are good for fifteen miles an hour, the question of regulation of speed has become a very grave one. A mayor of a French provincial town has declared that the speed of an automobile must not exceed that of a horse walking.

ers of horses at the present, there will be little more to fear from automobiles than from fractious horses. But the desire for the greatest possible speed may lead to the building of special roads for automobiles, with overhead crossings of walks for pedestrians and roads for horse carriages, if there be any left, when the day of special roads for automobiles arrives.

It is notable that the automobile, especially in France, is getting away from the horseless carriage pattern. It is being designed as an independent, not as a derived vehicle. Consequently its shape is becoming more distinctive and pleasing. The evolution is similar to that of the development of the railway coach, which was at first nothing but a slightly modified stage coach.

If some way could be found to prevent the lawmaker with a freak bill from receiving so much free advertising there would be fewer such bills as that offered in the New York legislature prohibiting firing. After the world is 10,000 years older there will still be lawmakers so blind to the lessons of history as to continue to introduce farcical legislation of this kind.

AN UNFORTUNATE DECISION Dr. D. L. Kiehle's discussion in another column of the question, "Is Public Education a State Charity?" is deserving of careful reading and consideration.

Dr. Kiehle has handled the subject felicitously, showing how utterly un-American and antiquated is the idea that public education is a charity. That it is such our supreme court has held, for if the normal schools are charities there is no escape from the conclusion that the public schools are.

There is no occasion to go here over the ground Dr. Kiehle has so well covered, but it is desirable to emphasize the deplorable effect on the public mind of the supreme court's unfortunate decision. Just when we have got well away from the ancient and cruel fallacy that public education is a charity, a fallacy that neutralized the early efforts towards public education in this democratic country, the supreme court of Minnesota, a western and progressive state with a potential school endowment of \$30,000,000, harks back to the times of Queen Elizabeth of England to sustain itself in a finding that the normal schools are charities. The question presented to the court in the dispute between the normal school board and the board of education was one of common sense not of four-century-old legal dogma of a foreign country.

Yet, for fear of possible consequences of the court's decision, and to wipe out the stigma, it would be well to adopt Dr. Kiehle's suggestion and have the legislature authoritatively to class the public educational system that it will not be left to a court to dub as a charity what is emphatically not a charity.

It is becoming more and more evident that the Emperor of Germany has adopted a policy of friendship for the United States. It was only a year ago that he was talking European opposition to the American peril, but the increasing friction with England, the continued hostility of France and the continuation of the Franco-Russian alliance have, perhaps, led him to think that it would be well to come to an understanding with the United States. What extraordinary motive he can have for this cordiality to the United States is hard to determine. The historic American policy of keeping out of entangling alliances is still in force, and it is hard to conceive of an international emergency in which we could be of any use to Germany.

DEMOCRATIC FINANCIERS

The democratic members of the house committee on coinage weights and measures have agreed upon a minority report against the bill providing for maintaining the legal tender silver dollar at parity with gold. They contend that only the notes and bonds are payable in gold or silver at the holder's option.

The opposition of the democrats to this measure reveals the democratic tendency to a phantom silver currency. They are yet afflicted with the disease of silverism. Under the act of March 14, 1900, the secretary of the treasury is redeeming silver certificates with gold. The act forbids the treasury to issue silver certificates of higher denominations than \$10, and when certificates of larger size are received for redemption, smaller ones have to be issued in their place, and the supply being deficient, the treasury redeems with gold certificates. During the past year large amounts of silver certificates have been thus redeemed with gold.

The democratic mind of Bryanite caliber still objects to the term "gold redemption," more or less. The objection is useless, for this nation has had such an experience with silver and has suffered so much from the assaults upon the public credit that there will be no recession from the present attitude on national finance. There is much to do yet in the way of financial reformation and the tendency is in the right direction.

high premiums by the government, these bonds having been deposited with the government as basis of circulation and their withdrawal as security decreasing the currency issued against them and put in circulation.

General Chaffee discusses the continuation of the guerrilla war in the Philippines and speaks of the difficulty of stamping it out. The chief reason is the old one that the native is at the same moment amicus in aspect and enemy in fact.

The local paper controversy between Phillips and George is over the trouble with George's "little red" that he took aboard "a little red."

Perhaps the Pan-American congress might be able to pass a canal bill. They can raise anything in Texas—even derricks.

Chicago patrons of the street cars are kicking about the quality of the straps which they hang.

A Neighborhood Fuss. Society on Railway row is gossiping about the scrapping tendency of these two factions in the railway quarter resulted some time ago in a council of war in the railway district.

Particulars of the fuss are hard to get. George Gould is said to have thrown a tea party at his home in Orange Grove Park, and the Harriman, whether brick bats were exchanged after this, is not known, but George Gould and Harriman accused each other of cutting and running.

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AMUSEMENTS Foyer Chat. What Jefferson De Angelis doesn't know about comic opera is known by few. He has been in it for nearly twenty-five years, and for the past four or five years very much in it.

NOT A CHARITY Is Public Education a State Charity? Dr. Kiehle's Answer. In a recent majority decision of the supreme court of the state of Minnesota, it was held that the law which incorporated the schools are charitable institutions, and accordingly are included under the law which provides that a state board of control shall have the right to direct the management of the charitable, reformatory and penal institutions of the state.

OTHER PEOPLE'S NOTIONS The Chippewa Lands. From an open letter to J. W. Cooper of the Jobbers union of St. Paul from the president of the Woman's Federation of Clubs I see that the state of Minnesota has a large tract of land in the northwestern part of the state, known as the Chippewa lands.

The European Idea. The governing classes of Europe have always refused to unite the destiny of the "masses" with themselves, and neither in Germany nor England is the school free from the taint of class distinction.

A GREAT LAWYER'S INCOME London Chronicle. How much does a great advocate make at the bar? The question is often asked, and all sorts of rumors pass current.

The Nonpareil Man

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CHERRY RIPE

BY W. BERT FOSTER

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But Minervy would correct him now and then, and 'twas just beautiful to see how she played him when he was hooked. She'd corner him on the veranda and get him talking about the east and about college and bugs and minerals. She wasn't so slouch on education herself, Minervy wasn't, and she wasn't letting on to Barron. He must have judged her calmer from seeing her.

Indiana, says Dr. Hinsdale, was the first state (1810) to throw its arms around public school laws, as it was to ordain that the legislature, as soon as circumstances would permit should provide by law for a general system of education.

Best informed politicians pick Governor Van Sant for an easy winner in the coming state convention. They predict that the opposition will stand there, and that the governor will be nominated for another term by acclamation.

There will be anti-Van Sant delegates in the state convention. They will come for the most part from the old sixth district, where Van Sant has never been strong. They will be very much in a minority, however, and will consequently keep still.

The country districts are apparently solid for Van Sant, except in a few disaffected spots. Barron's name is not mentioned in his own district, and it is a serious block to the movement he has started.

Editor Joubert of the Littlefield News-Ledger is one of the third district postmasters. It is not surprising, therefore, to see such an announcement in his paper as a shrewd skimming around within the past two months for a candidate or candidates for governor in the next campaign.

The Alexandria Post News advocates the new sixth district. The St. Cloud Journal indorses the suggestion—if Judge Collins is willing. There's the rub. The Judge doubtless prefers a quiet life, and he is a conservative.

The fact is, most St. Cloud republicans are not particularly anxious that the choice shall be made by the people. They are a feeling in central Minnesota that St. Cloud is pretty well taken care of. With two state institutions, a federal building, both land office appointments, a superior and a district court, St. Cloud can hardly ask for more.

The Lambertson Star says: As the time approaches for the congressional election in this district the indications are becoming stronger that there will be a contest for the nomination.

St. Paul business men figure that the extra session of the legislature will bring \$1,400 a day to the hotels, barber shops and stores of the capital city.

It is "Up to the Mayor." "Have you sent a copy of the society's letter to Police Commissioner Partridge?" Dr. Parkhurst was asked.

Dr. Parkhurst's Busy Winter. Jan. 20. Dr. Parkhurst was asked what his society would do if the excise law was not enforced in the city of Minneapolis.

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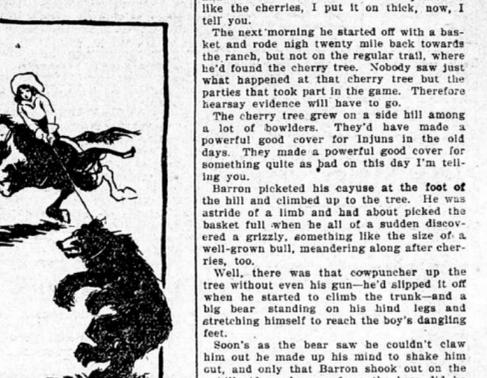
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"DROPPED THE LOOP OVER THAT BEAR'S HEAD AS PRETTY AS A PICTURE."

ride and shoot, and he set her down first out of the box as what the eastern papers call "a product of the wild and woolly west." Well, the bear was a grizzly and it took up in silk and furbelows presiding at a tea-table or something like that.

But I want you to show me the female creature that had a mate for the male every time Minervy didn't start in caring a brass farthing for Barron, but I picked her that he still fought shy. She just laid herself out to bring him down, and—well, you know the old saying about playing with fire.

My woman was cooking for the Goshens when she reached the ranch. She was another woman's game first. She let on to me before many weeks that Minervy was just about eating her heart out over young Barron.

I didn't believe it at first. Minervy seemed just the same when Barron was around as ever—snappy and full of life and jollying the peace of mind clean out of the boy. But I noticed when he was off on the range she dropped, and I finally took my woman's view of it.

And it got me mad, too—mad with Barron. Minervy was as fine a girl as ever cavorted over these foothills, and to have a darned tenderfoot come out here and mix her up so that she was off her feet just hit me hard.

To kinder help matters along I began to hint pretty strong to him. But it was dangerous business. I never come nearer to getting into my checkers and rook than the banker in my life! You see, Barron'd been jollied more or less right along, for all the boys was on to the play, but we was careful about the names. Let me tell you, the row-punchers may be a tough lot, but we don't bandy about women's names—not good women's names, leastwise.

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can be fixed on one man. In the language of the day it is up to Mayor Low. "What the society would do if the excise law was not enforced in the city of Minneapolis." "District Attorney Jerome was not consulted at all. We have no doubt that he has no objection to the law being enforced in which the excise law is being enforced. Mr. Jerome, in my mind, has taken the proper stand."

A Call on Mr. Jerome. When District Attorney Jerome was informed of the wording of Dr. Parkhurst's communication, he showed great interest in it. The pleasure of the law is a reform administration that has good principles but is afraid to use them" seemed to amuse him very much indeed. "When he was asked what he thought of the communication he was thoughtful for a while and then said: "I guess I will fall back on my standard answer: I decline to make any comment on the subject."

Some of Mr. Jerome's admirers have compared him to the prophet Jeremiah. These friends were not again in the least referring to the district attorney's repeated prophecies that there were dark and troubled days coming in the administration of the city government, and that it was the duty of the laws instead of advocating laws that could reasonably be enforced.

While some of Mr. Low's friends seemed to have lingering suspicions that Mr. Jerome might have had a hand in the preparation of the communication of the Society for the Prevention of Crime, the associates of the district attorney are positive. They say that there is not the slightest ground for such suspicion.

Mrs. Wilmerding's Troubles. Mrs. "Jack" Wilmerding, who on Friday left an apartment in Harlem, went to the W. 137th Street police station and, addressing Sergeant Shells, said: "I want to get a warrant for the arrest of some of my relatives. They've had me there once, but I got out because I was perfectly sane. I am sane now, too, but they are trying to deprive me of my liberty. I want the assistance of the police."

Mrs. Wilmerding said the people she wanted warrants for were her great aunt, Mrs. La. Bau of 14 Riverside Avenue, a Mr. Miller, who keeps a boarding-house where she lived recently, and John Wallace, an uncle, who was formerly a member of the Grand Jury and was in Bloomingdale. The sergeant of course told her she could get the warrants she wanted only at a police court, and she left, going to a boarding-house on some of the city streets where her relatives had engaged rooms for her.

She told a reporter in an excited way that she had been "shamefully" because she insisted on drinking stout and smoking cigarettes. A relative, Mrs. Edward Tiffany Dyer, removed her from the sanatorium, and said, after she had been there only a few days Mrs. Wilmerding said she knew some of her relatives were plotting to deprive her of liberty.

THE HOUSE IN "RICHARD CARVEL." William A. Larned of New York has bought the old Park mansion on Prince Georges street, Annapolis, for \$15,000, intending to convert it into a hotel. The place was bought from the estate of the late Richard Swan. The house is that old colonial residence which Winston Churchill describes in "Richard Carvel" as the "old house of the Swans." The Park house was built by Governor Park, who was governor of Maryland in 1782.