

# THE DAY BOOK

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**RATES AND RAIDS.**—On the plea that the eight-hour law for railroad workers will increase operating expenses the companies are demanding a 15 per cent increase in freight rates.

The new law hasn't gone into effect yet, but they want the rates hoisted now. Nobody knows how much operating expenses will be increased, if at all. That makes no difference. Give us our 15 per cent advance and give it quickly.

Fifteen per cent increase in freight rates will be 30 per cent increase in the cost of living by the time it gets to the tables and weekly bills of the workers and producers.

That would mean that the railroad workers would have to ask for another increase in wages, otherwise they would be worse off than before.

Whereupon the railroad companies would pry up rates again and repeat the old situation.

This kind of thing has already happened twice in our history and is likely to happen again and again.

Every increase of wages in either the railroad or coal industry (having about the same ownership) is followed by a much greater increase in prices to the public.

Forty per cent of the railroad stock in the United States stands in the

names of 3,000 corporations, firms and individuals.

When these come to be examined for duplications it appears that 40 per cent of our railroad stock is in the hands of two groups of financiers in New York city, who own or control two-thirds of our important mileage.

It is for their benefit that freight rates are to be increased again. Not directly for the sake of increased dividends but for the sake of operations in railroad securities, which furnish the greater part of their profits.

We give and give to these influences, tribute upon tribute. Wouldn't it be reasonable to ask now and then what we ever get from them?

## THERE ARE SEVERAL ITEMS.

—U. S. dep't of labor announces that, such has been the rise in cost of food the workingman who drew \$3 per day ten years ago now finds himself just 69 cents a day worse off.

This may be the status as to food, but food is only one item. The workingman not only eats, but he also wears clothes and pays rentals. Add the increased cost of these items to the 69 cents and you get some conception of where the workingman is at. The workingman is something more than all stomach.

## — O — SHORT ONES.

I made all my money by never buying at the bottom and never selling at the top.—Lord Rothschild.

As war economy Texas women's clubs declare for simplicity of dress. To save our lives, we can't help but think, occasionally, that war is not all hell.

Soldiers of fortune: Stockbridge, Mass., militiaman, refused furlough to marry, leaves armory at midnight, weds and returns in afternoon. Private at Freeport, Ill., gets furlough, obtains marriage license, and then girl changes mind.