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WORLD'S—1903—FAIR.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE ACT AMENDMENT.

Public sentiment throughout the entire country should be so heartily in favor of the proposed amendment of the Interstate Commerce act now being urged by the leading representative commercial organizations of the United States as to insure Congressional action to that end.

As the law now stands, the ruling of the Interstate Commerce Commission in cases where interested railroads take issue with the Commission carries no effective authority in its own right. There is also a restriction of the scope of the act in dealing with instances of violation of rates which leaves smaller shippers unprotected against railroad discrimination in favor of the larger patrons of carrying corporations.

The proposed amendment of the Interstate Commerce act was drawn especially to remedy these evils. Violation of rate schedules is made difficult if not impossible by minuteness of detail in the section forbidding such practices. Most important of all, however, is the provision of the amendment which makes the ruling of the Interstate Commerce Commission immediately operative and continuing in force until set aside by an adverse judicial ruling.

The necessity for the amendment now being urged is widely recognized. But a most serious mistake will be made if favorable action by Congress is taken for granted. There is by no means a certainty of such action. Pressure from the people should be brought to bear in Washington. Every Congressman should be made to realize that public sentiment demands the amending of the Interstate Commerce act as now contemplated. The time to relax such effort will not have arrived until the Interstate Commerce act has been definitely amended.

CONGRATULATIONS, KANSAS CITY.

St. Louis may most appropriately be the first to extend to the merchants and manufacturers of Kansas City the heartiest congratulations on the latter's achievement in breaking all previous records for the volume of business transacted in one year.

There is nothing surprising in this showing now made by Kansas City. That lively town has always been noted for enterprise, energy and first-class ability. The Kansas City business element has a way of standing together and working as one man for the city's advancement which is as admirable as effective.

Under no condition is a Kansas City man ever open to conviction that any rival or possible rival to Kansas City possesses superior advantages. St. Louis has no cause for jealousy in contemplating Kansas City prosperity. Our cross-State neighbor has no reason to fear a St. Louis effort to prevent her continued growth and development. The two Missouri cities have each a well-defined trade territory, in which each is formidable to all competitors. The prosperity of one is conducive to that of the other, and both tend to the greater glory and importance of their State.

SOME REPUBLICAN IDEALS.

Republicans have asked that the record of Missouri government between 1865 and 1871 be one of the exhibits in their campaign to "redeem Missouri." They have characterized the fiscal management of that period as "admirable," the official conduct of the administration as "incorruptible," and the six years as "a bright page in the history of the State."

Democrats cannot complain that this challenge has been thrown into the political discussions of the year. The subject presents an issue which leaves no doubt as to the attitude of Republican politicians on present-day problems. If the standards that governed officials during that period are to be the ideals of to-day, Missourians can only be thankful for the frankness of the avowal. It is always easier to fight an enemy in the open and to know what he intends.

And what is the record? The Republic has previously called attention to the fact that Republicans sold the railroads for less than one-third of the amount that the State had invested in them. A single instance sufficed to show how this was done—testimony in the case of James L. Lamb et al. vs. the Pacific Railroad et al., giving in a nutshell the means employed. Said the "negotiations" committee of the railroad in its report to the Board of Directors:

"The sum of five millions is the price, the State abating six millions of her claim—the terms of payment very favorable. It was obtained through our exertions and appliances, at a cost to the company or stockholders of \$2,200,000, already paid, and \$1,850,000 to be paid, the whole aggregating \$4,050,000. This cost in dollars is by no means all for it cost this committee an amount of anxious labor, pain, mortification and, we may safely add, degradation that they will never again willingly undergo."

Yesterday's Republic gave another chapter dealing with one more phase of this era of bad government. So brazen had become the actions of the officials that an investigating committee of the General Assembly was appointed to examine the conduct of the penitentiary. Their report makes instructive reading.

Pardons were granted after officials had been presented with money. Convict labor was used to build private houses for officials. Stone and brick from the State's property were taken without payment. Hay, corn, beef, coal and wood and other supplies were purchased in quantities that could not possibly be used by the convicts. Produce was raised from an acre and a half of land belonging to an official and sold to

the State for \$1,215, thus proving it to be about the richest piece of soil in Missouri.

The report of the investigating committee is filled with the recital of the schemes used by penitentiary officials to rob the State. All means known to sharpers of the worst type were employed in despoiling the people.

Could depravity in public government reach a lower plane? If Republican leaders enter this year's campaign with such ideals—ideals that seem to have animated the Republican minority in the General Assembly and the recent Ziegenheim administration of St. Louis—the people are prepared to prevent the consummation of the plot.

However, if Republicans intend to change their minds about vouching for these standards, they should lose no time in saying so. If they wish to repudiate these actions of their party in past days, they should hurry up and wipe the slate clean. If they stand for anything that is opposed to the conduct of officials between 1865 and 1871, let them speak out.

NO PROMISE OF FAITHFUL SERVICE.

With Congress now reassembled after the holiday recess the real business of the session must be taken up and the issues which concern the people must be definitely decided.

Judging from indications offered by the more important measures awaiting Congressional consideration, and by the attitude of the majority party toward these measures, the people are to receive what should be convincing proof of the truth that the present Congress is controlled by dangerous and un-American influences.

Passage of the ship-subsidy bill is believed to be assured. This measure stands out conspicuously as a typical and bold illustration of the entire willingness of the Republican party to go to extreme lengths in behalf of syndicate interests. A tax of nearly \$200,000,000 will be placed on the people for the exclusive benefit of a powerful group of monopolists when the ship-subsidy bill is enacted into law. The bill's defeat in the last Congress was caused by knowledge of this truth. The Fifty-seventh Congress, however, is secure in its majority and will not be deterred by popular protest. The Republican party is pledged to the syndicates that this measure shall be passed.

The Philippine tariff bill will unquestionably become a law by the action of the present Congress. The Senate may make certain amendments in the measure as passed by the House, but the amendments will not reach the fundamental evil contained in the measure. Colonialism, pure and simple, is the policy which will be put in force by the operation of this most odious bill. The menace of such a departure from American principle has been plainly pointed out in the House debates, Congressman De Armond of Missouri having rendered especially faithful service in this particular. But the warnings thus voiced have been uttered in vain. The Republican party is not to be deterred from a determined imperial attitude toward our distant possessions.

These two measures, the one taxing the masses of the people to further enrich unduly-privileged monopolists, the other abandoning the true American faith in order to rule a dependent people along monarchical lines, most accurately typify the spirit animating the Fifty-seventh Congress. Other legislation of like import will be forthcoming when occasion arises. The reassembling of Congress is not a fact of promise to the American people. The syndicate-imperialists may alone find comfort in contemplating the prospect opened up by this resumption of business in Washington.

Specific charges have been filed against Police Judge Sidener by Mayor Wells. The allegations of misconduct in office cover many forms of violation of the law that no official should countenance. It is understood that Judge Sidener will contest the proceedings. Mayor Wells, who will hear the evidence, has the confidence of the community in so great a measure that any finding which he will make will be accepted by citizens.

RECENT COMMENT.

A. Hoffman, Insurance Statistician. This country is more healthy with the exception of Norway and Sweden than any part of Europe, and the effect of the intense struggle for success on the part of our business men and women is more than balanced by our higher standards of living, which tend to make our people continue along the path of improvement. While it is impossible to arrive at final conclusions on the basis of our industrial or ordinary experiences, because of the careful medical selection exercised in insurance practice, the facts established by other investigations indicate that the adult foreign-born citizen is subject to a lower mortality in the United States than in his own country, and it may be safely assumed that our inherited tendency to early decay will be more than balanced by the healthier conditions of life in our country. A comparative mortality table shows that close behind Norway, and ahead of Great Britain, France, Germany, and ahead of other states of our country, New Jersey has the lowest death rate. The chance of attaining the age of 100 in Massachusetts is today ten times what it was half a century ago. Certainly the facts are abundant, tending to prove that old age is being attained by men and women in this country with an increasing degree of frequency, and what is better, to quote the words of authority: "It is certain that our American men at 60 are not broken up as badly as our fathers were at 40."

Harmful Effects of Smoke.

Sir William Richmond estimated that as many as 600 tons of coal were carried off in suspension in the atmosphere daily from the chimneys of London. This gives some idea of the magnitude of the nuisance in that city. The dirt caused by this black fog is only one of the resulting evils; days spent in darkness or in artificial light as well as the large amount of oxygen consumed by artificial light is another item of the expenses which should be considered in this connection. Inhabitants of dark cities are never cheerful, and no doubt this may be the reason for the spleen of the English, which is supposed to be characterized by the French and some others. The London scientists state that there is even a decided increase in the death rate during these heavy black fogs, and there can be no doubt but that so much smoke in the air is a cause of bronchitis and other inflammations of the respiratory tract, which in their turn give rise to greater liability to pneumonia and tuberculosis.

Why Not Better Sermons?

The Christian Church is to-day in a state of decline, as shown by the weight of testimony from all sources. In a vast majority of the churches even the most inviting pews and the best ministerial election fail to attract full congregations. And there is cause to fear that the worship of many who attend the services is only perfunctory. During the last year efforts have been made by many zealous clergymen to overcome the growing apathy by the use of new methods. Some of them seemed to be partially successful, but none has filled the requirement for general purposes. A plan to popularize church attendance everywhere is the salient need of the Christian religion as we pass the first annual post of the Twentieth Century. The man who succeeds in devising such a plan, whereby churches may be crowded with enthusiastic congregations, as baseball and football grounds are crowded, will live in the history of the church. The names of Luther and Calvin and Wesley may be forgotten.

The Result.

The Globe-Democrat has been published in St. Louis for more than a quarter of a century; it has had large experience and opportunity to understand the character of the Missouri Democracy. It has been an eloquent and persistent traducer of the State for all these years, and yet it has never learned the plain truth that its denunciations have never injured the Democracy and have only had the effect of injuring the State and its own political party by prejudicing Republicans in other sections against Missouri.

IRVING AND MISS TERRY.

Sir Henry Irving, Miss Ellen Terry and the London Lyceum Company of players opened their St. Louis engagement at the Olympic last night in "The Merchant of Venice," with Irving in his favorite role of Shylock and Miss Terry as Portia, a memorable success of earlier seasons. The presentation of the play was made to appear in the Jew, not only so in his grief at the loss of Jessica, even mingled as it was with an almost equal grief at the loss of his daughter. The culminating trial scene was presented last night with the accustomed forcefulness, resulting in a curtain call for the star, which was not satisfied until he had made a neat little speech of grateful acknowledgment. Miss Terry's Portia is a delight for the clear-cut reading of the lines, just as it has always been. There is, however, a marked deficiency in certain utterances of the part, and this may be overlooked in enjoyment of Miss Terry's exquisite art. As was the case with Irving, the most marked triumph scored by Miss Terry was in the trial scene. Her reading of the famous "The quality of mercy is not strained," won enthusiastic recognition from the audience. The dress also appeared to the best advantage in the vivid emotion of the advocate's work in this act.

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The State's importance in Democratic councils and the character and ability of Missourians in public life alike justify a Democratic conviction that the party's standard-bearer in 1904 should be a Missourian.

Western influence will be most potent in the next Democratic National Convention. Missouri is the banner Democratic State of the great American Middle West. There is no lack of worthy Presidential material in this State.

The Democratic party in Missouri should be stimulated to the best endeavor by this promise of exceptional distinction. A confident and aggressive spirit, a capable and compact organization, an earnest maintenance of leadership in party service, are demanded of the party.

There is excellent reason to believe that Missouri Democracy will adequately meet these demands and go into the next National Convention of the party with a prestige so great as to make sure the nomination of a Missouri Democrat for the Presidency.

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Miss Emily Catlin wore gray crepe and blue, came with Allen and Miss West. In pale-blue tulle, with Walter McKittrick, the four joining Miss Catlin and George Donohue in the fourth row.

George Donohue escorted Miss Scanlan, who wore pale gray. Mr. and Mrs. Byron Nugent and their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Nugent, were in the circle and party. Mrs. Nugent, Sr., was in cream lace, the bodies trimmed in chiffon flowers.

Mr. and Mrs. William Porteous were near the front. Mrs. Porteous sat with friends in the circle and Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCormick were near Mrs. Francis and her guests.

Miss Celeste Michel and her fiancé, Doctor Philip von Phil, were in the rear parquet in the same row with Mr. and Mrs. Sam Plant. Miss Michel wore white tulle, with long sleeves and a high collar. Her husband was in ecru crepe, striped with bands of white.

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George Donohue escorted Miss Scanlan, who wore pale gray. Mr. and Mrs. Byron Nugent and their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Nugent, were in the circle and party. Mrs. Nugent, Sr., was in cream lace, the bodies trimmed in chiffon flowers.

Mr. and Mrs. William Porteous were near the front. Mrs. Porteous sat with friends in the circle and Mr. and Mrs. Harry McCormick were near Mrs. Francis and her guests.