

PRESIDENT'S BILL GIVES RAILROADS STUNNING SHOCK

Rate Measure's Details Are Far Worse Than They Expected.

COMMISSION DOMINATED General Opinion Is Its Voice Was Powerful at Conferences.

Statements, politicians and lobbyists, of every shade of opinion and representing every interest, have found their one topic of political discussion since last evening in the provisions of the Administration's railroad rate bill, which was given publicity first and exclusively in The Times.

Despite that considerable effort has been devoted to making this bill appear as merely tentative, it can be stated that the conferences which resulted in its draft, as given in The Times, included the closest advisers of the President in the Senate committee, and the two great lawyers of his Cabinet, Attorney General Moody and Secretary of State Root.

The bill, while thus representing the consensus of opinion of a most influential group of men is not, on the other hand, to be understood as in any way an ultimatum of the President to Congress.

Composite Work.

The President and his advisers have little pride of opinion in the matter there has been from the beginning a manifest disposition to reach a determination as to the most effective method of securing the desired result, and then uniting in support of this plan. Thus the bill that has been prepared is no man's measure. Probably the President and Secretary Root are more nearly satisfied with it than any of the others who were concerned in its preparation.

It is the most common opinion that no construction can be put upon the measure which would justify its characterization as a compromise. In fact, it is a more vigorous and straightforward bill than was expected to come out of such a series of conferences as was held incident to its preparation.

For this there are several reasons. One of the significant ones, it is believed on the authority of members of the Senate committee, is that the members of the Interstate Commission were given a much larger part in drafting the measure than was generally expected would be accorded them.

Commission Stands Better.

In this connection, it may be said with knowledge that the Administration's attitude toward some influential people on the commission has decidedly changed of late, and that instead of looking for excuses to rid that body of them on the ground of their alleged undue radicalism, he is rather inclined to give their counsel a weight that was not anticipated.

Thus it comes about that the invaluable experience which the commission have had in handling interstate commerce cases has come into use in making the new measure. The bill is regarded as primarily a commission bill. Railroad men and lawyers who know the views of the commission, and lobbyists who have followed the reports of the commission and the writings in magazines and elsewhere of its members in recent years, were not slow to recognize that the commission's views had been a dominating factor of shaping the bill.

The feelings of the opponents of legislation will not be overstated when it is said that they received the details of the bill as a shock. It was worse than they had expected. They had hoped to bring to the Senate, where they had hoped to tie up the measure, was mostly myth; and now to have a measure characterized as radical, increased the burden of sorrow with which they entered upon the festivities of a rather loggish Thanksgiving season.

Await Congressmen.

While there is already in town a large number of Congressional leaders, the real influx will not take place till after today. By the end of the week Congress will practically be gathered here for the opening of its sessions, and opinion on this and other issues will be much clarified.

President Robert Mather, of the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific road, came to town yesterday to discuss rate legislation with members of the committee.

Mr. Mather is one of the great railroad lawyers of the country, having been made general counsel of the Rock Island system when he was yet a young man. He continued in that position during the period of the wonderful expansion of the system from less than 4,000 miles to its present mileage of more than four times as much, which makes it, in point of mileage, the greatest system in the country. He was greater Rock Island, which is his present position.

Mr. Mather called today on Senator Folger for a discussion of the pending legislation. Yesterday he spent considerable time with Senator Doolittle of morning he declined to discuss the terms of the Administration bill, saying he had not had time to give it the study necessary to enable him to pass opinion on it.

\$2.25 to Baltimore and Return, \$2.25. Pennsylvania Railroad, Saturday and Sunday; tickets good on all trains except Congressional Limited, and good for return until Sunday night.—Adv.

ARGUMENT BEGINS UPON MERIWETHER IN HIS BEHALF

Counsel Munroe Holds Repeated Falls Killed Young Branch.

ABLE WORK IS EXPECTED Naval Officers Show Marked Legal Powers—Both Lawyers Good.

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Nov. 29.—The members of the Meriwether court-martial did not wear a Thanksgiving smile this morning, when the judge advocate announced, "All are present."

The record of yesterday's proceedings was read and approved. Lieutenant Commander Robison, counsel for the accused, was early in court, and conferred with his assistant, James M. Munroe. Mr. Robison was suffering from a sore throat. He did not talk at all well, Meriwether sat at a table, going carefully over his testimony delivered yesterday.

"Is the defense ready to proceed?" inquired the judge advocate.

"If the prosecution is willing, we are ready to submit the case without argument."

Prosecution Objects.

"I object," said the judge advocate. "Then," replied Mr. Munroe, "we will ask for some time to prepare our case, and we may want to make an oral and written argument."

"You can do either or both," said the judge advocate. After witnesses of yesterday had corrected their testimony, Mr. Munroe asked that an adjournment be had until 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon, when the defense would be ready to proceed. Between now and then the defense could go over the record and prepare the argument.

The judge advocate suggested that the case could be expedited by proceeding now. The court went into executive session on the question. It was decided to wait until tomorrow morning.

Defense Changes Mind.

Mr. Munroe, however, surprised the court by withdrawing his request, and asking to proceed forthwith. He was permitted to do so.

Mr. Munroe delivered a strong speech on behalf of Meriwether. In an hour's argument, he devoted the major portion to setting up that Branch's death was due to the three falls upon the head which he received during the fight. He rehearsed portions of the testimony of Drs. Galloway, Ames, and Glazebrook to show that the blows made have caused the injuries. Discussing this testimony in its medical and legal effect, Mr. Munroe urged upon the court his conviction that the manslaughter charge was unfounded and completely defeated.

As to the fighting proposition, fully and completely, he was in favor of the Academy had been proved to be within the knowledge of the officers stationed here and the Academy authorities.

Lieutenant Commander Robison, who has been indefatigable in defense of Meriwether, was barely able to attend court this morning. He is suffering from a practical collapse and is under medical treatment.

Mr. Robison is professor of mathematics in the Academy, and while this is his first appearance before a court-martial in civil court, he has shown a remarkable aptitude as a legal advocate. On the other hand, Captain Marix has had wide experience as a legal advocate, having made a record in that capacity before the Maine board of inquiry.

Expect Forensic Treat.

The prosecution has been assisted by United States District Attorney Rose, one of the leading members of the Maryland bar.

Mr. Munroe, civil counsel for the defense, is a well-known trial lawyer, and is particularly strong before a jury. He will be at home before a court-martial.

In courts-martial the defense opens and closes the argument, contrary to the practice in civil courts. There will probably be some first-class analysis of evidence in the summing up.

Midshipman Meriwether has borne the strain of his trial well. He returned to the stand for a few minutes for the correction of minor inaccuracies in the stenographer's report of his testimony yesterday.

Mr. Minor Meriwether, sr., mother of Midshipman Meriwether, is in the city, having come from Lafayette, La. She visited her son in his quarters today, and they had a little family reunion.

Meriwether's Evidence Made Good Impression

ANNAPOLIS, Md., Nov. 30.—All the testimony in the court-martial of Midshipman Meriwether, Jr., charged with manslaughter in having caused the death of Midshipman James R. Branch, Jr., by engaging the latter in a fist fight, was given yesterday.

(Continued on Second Page.)

THE WEATHER REPORT.

The temperature will begin to rise Friday in the lower Mississippi valley, also in the Ohio valley, and the western portion of the lower lake region.

THE SUN. 4:49 p.m. Sun sets today. 6:59 a.m. Sun rises tomorrow.

TIDE TABLE. Low tide today. 5:04 p.m. High tide today. 11:54 a.m. Low tide tomorrow. 11:49 a.m. High tide tomorrow. 11:49 a.m. (—) p.m.

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RETIRING MINISTER TO CUBA AND HIS SUCCESSOR



EDWARD V. MORGAN, Who Will Represent United States in Sister Republic.

HERBERT G. SQUIERS, Who Steps Down From Diplomatic Berth.

SQUIERS OFFENDED BY OBEYING ORDERS

Acts Resented by Cubans Directed From Here.

SIX MONTHS' WAR ON HIM Newspapers and Politicians in Havana Have Been Bombarding Him for Long While.

Herbert G. Squiers, United States Minister to Cuba, apparently fell between two stools.

According to the Cuban government, he has been overzealous in his office to prevent the Anglo-Cuban treaty becoming a fact. According to officials here, he was simply obeying orders.

Cubans also charge him with having been hand-in-glove with the revolutionist party which was anxious for the annexation of the island by the United States and with sympathizing with the Americans who, following the war with Spain, settled in the Isle of Pines and endeavored to hold that land for the United States.

Target for Newspapers.

Mr. Squiers has been subjected to an almost constant fire of newspaper criticism for six or seven months, since he showed great activity in trying to force the passage of the rice bill.

At that time several publications were made to the effect that he was working without instructions from Washington, and had received an enormous sum from Southern planters. He informed his friends that his activity in favor of the rice bill was due to positive orders from the administration at Washington.

Isle of Pines Mess.

Mr. Squiers' position on the agitation by the Americans living on the Isle of Pines seems to have been the culmination of the trouble. But for that, which has embarrassed the American Government and has led to complaints by the Cubans and representations from the Isle of Pines "revolutionists" that they had been misled, Mr. Squiers might have continued at the Havana post for some time to come.

The Anglo-Cuban treaty negotiations began as early as May of this year, and it is known that a rough draft of the treaty was handed to Mr. Squiers at the time. Twenty days elapsed between the time when the treaty was received at the State Department and the date when the Cubans got any word as to what the United States thought of it.

Mr. Root was not at the head of the State Department at the inception of the negotiations. President Roosevelt was hunting to the West, and it was not until October that the department became impressed with its importance and issued instructions to Mr. Squiers.

Worked to Defeat Treaty.

Mr. Squiers served formal notice, on November 1, on the Cuban senate that the passage of the treaty would be deemed by the United States an act of hostility and, according to all reports of an unofficial character, he worked precisely that end in mind.

From that time his position became precarious. When he added to his difficulties reports upon the unsatisfactory condition of Havana, the feeling against Mr. Squiers in Cuba became crystallized.

Then came his alleged sympathy with the Isle of Pines revolt, and his failure to make plain to the Cubans that neither he personally nor the United States intended the Americans. Every word he uttered on the subject was twisted into a speech for the revolt.

Mr. E. V. Morgan, who succeeds Mr. Squiers at Havana, will have no easy task, because it will take the keenest diplomacy to carry out the meaning of the Platt amendment without becoming persona non grata.

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G. W. U. FAILS IN ITS LAST GAME

Taken Into Camp by Washington and Lee.

LOCALS UNABLE TO TALLY Weather a Bit Too Cold for the Game. Thousand Enthusiasts on Hand.

Although outnumbered nearly ten to one, the football team of Washington and Lee University defeated the George Washington University eleven by 11 to 0, at Van Ness park this morning.

The weather was a little too cold for football, and in consequence fumbles were frequent. A strong west wind made punting difficult. Despite the weather about 1,000 enthusiasts witnessed the contest, quite a number of Washington and Lee followers being present.

The game was a dismal failure from the local standpoint, after the exhibition at Georgetown last Saturday. Even Stepperson, on whom the coaches and students had relied especially, failed to come up to his usual high standard, showing poor judgment several times at critical moments in directing plays.

Slow All Around.

The line was very slow in charging, and, as a result, the Lexington eleven had little trouble in gaining by straight plunges. At ends the Washington team was also weak, the visitors getting around them frequently for long gains.

The first touchdown was a result of a fifty-five-yard run by Anderson, who carried the leather to the 2-yard line before being downed by Walter. On the next play it was taken over by Moomaw, after eight minutes of play.

The game was free from objectionable features, and but one penalty was enforced, that on Washington and Lee for off-side play.

Chibson, the big right tackle, was the star for Coach Barnard's team, and was nearly always able to make his distance. If he had been used more often the score would not have been as large as it was.

For Washington and Lee, Anderson and Eagleley did up an excellent game. Another man on the Lexington team who showed up well was Hoge, a former central high school boy who played left guard.

The line-up: Position W. and L. Beryman.....L. E.....Alderson.....L. G.....Hogge.....L. G.....Miller.....L. G.....Vierra.....R. G.....Daw.....Gable.....R. T.....Withers.....Whiting.....H. E.....Jamison.....Steenerson.....Q. B.....Rush.....Captain.....R. H.....Anderson.....Pipes.....Beard.....L. H.....Eagleley.....R.....Moomaw.....Touchdown—Moomaw.....Goal—Anderson.....Refer—Jack Goss, of Lehigh. Umpire—Maxwell, of Swarthmore. Head linesman—Shuter, of George Washington. Time of halves—25 minutes.

POLICE BOAT VIGILANT SAVES LIVES OF TWO MEN

But for the timely action of the crew on the police Vigilant, James Bates and William Taylor, colored, would have been drowned in the Potomac river yesterday afternoon, when the wind tossed their small boat from the Virginia side to the middle of the stream. The men had been fishing all the afternoon, and were near the sea wall opposite the Vigilant's wharf when the squall came up.

WATCH AND VEST STOLEN

A gray vest, in one of the pockets of which Frederick K. Downs, of 1264 I street northwest, had his gold watch, was stolen from a locker in the engine room of the State, War and Navy Building, last night. Detectives Peck and Warren investigated the case, but got no clue as to the identity of the man who did the stealing. Downs valued the watch and waistcoat at \$30.

DREAD OF TEACHER MAY CAUSE CHILD'S DEATH

RUTLAND, Vt., Nov. 30.—Charlotte, the eleven-year-old daughter of Mrs. Anna H. Chamberlin, of South Burlington, was found in the woods nearly frozen to death, having wandered away from home because she did not want to go to school, fearing her teacher. Her condition is critical and fatal results are feared.

The child has repeatedly asked her mother to take her away from the school because the teacher was cross. If Charlotte dies, Mrs. Chamberlin will hold Miss Josephine A. Slayton, the school mistress, responsible.

Miss Slayton is a popular teacher. Charlotte disliked her because of punishment for some childish act.

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CHEVY CHASE CLUB HAS FAST HUNT

Ten Miles Over Good, Stiff Country.

BROWN BREAKS STIRRUP There Are No Serious Accidents, However—Senator Newlands Takes Part.

Excellent sport was enjoyed this morning by the enthusiasts who took part in the annual hunt of the Chevy Chase Club.

All the riders returned in safety, but George Brown broke his stirrup strap, going over a jump and had to drop out, and Chester Kerr broke a curb chain.

It was a drag hunt of about ten miles, with twenty or twenty-five jumps of between four and five feet. The wind was strong and cold from the northwest, but the principal trouble was with the wet going due to the rains of yesterday.

The course was through Mr. Marlow's farm, George Durr's place and the other Dunlap place on the hill. The start was made at 10:55 a. m. and the riders were back before noon.

The Riders.

Those who chased the festive antelope were George Curran, chief huntsman; C. H. L. Johnston, master of the hounds; Chester Kerr, first whip; Senator Newlands of Nevada, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. L. Johnston, Miss Newlands, of San Francisco, niece of the Senator; George Brown, W. P. Cresson, Jack Palmer, Morris Hacker, Stuart Grip, the Swedish minister; Joseph Allen, of San Francisco, and Miss Marion Everett, of Heidelberg, Cal.

GERMANY MAY DEMAND RECEIVER FOR EQUITABLE

Company Ordered to at Once Increase Its Premium Reserves Invested in the Kingdom.

BERLIN, Nov. 29.—The German manager of the Equitable Life Assurance Society has been notified by the Imperial insurance commissioner that a receiver for the corporation will be appointed in Germany unless the company at once increases its premium reserves invested in the kingdom.

The insurance department claims that the American corporation is working under the law of May, 1901, which passed to safeguard policyholders, and which compelled all insurance corporations to treble their invested reserves.

The Equitable officials claim that as they no longer write new insurance anywhere in Germany they are not liable under the law.

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REVOLTERS WON OPENING BATTLE OF CIVIL WAR

London Has Report That Schmidt's Forces Have Swept Everything Before Them and Control Sebastopol Today.

GOVERNMENT, EUROPE THINKS, IS ISSUING FALSE REPORTS

Admiralty's Sudden Refusal to Give Out Information of Any Kind About Struggle Is Considered Significant.

LONDON, Nov. 30.—News is current here this morning that instead of the mutineers having been defeated, they were really victorious over the loyal forces and are now in full control of all the forts and ships at Sebastopol.

While this report has gained little credence, yet there was seemingly some foundation for it in the fact that the admiralty at St. Petersburg has so far declined to give out any statements, either concerning the fight or its results.

A press dispatch received at noon from St. Petersburg stated that absolutely no further information had been received there regarding the Sebastopol fight than was contained in the first report sent out.

It is believed in London that none of the reports yet sent out about the battle tells the full truth about the fight.

St. Petersburg Looks For Early Intervention

Your correspondent is informed that foreign interference is not unlikely for an endeavor for the pacification of the mutineers.

Five Hundred Fall.

It is reported that the northern and southern batteries at Sebastopol yesterday fought each other with artillery for five hours. Finally the infantry stormed the northern battery, losing 500 men in the assault.

The squadron divided also, and a part of it bombarded the city of Sebastopol, half destroying it, while the guns of the others were turned on the mutinous vessels.

Schmidt Dead.

The mutineers, it is reported, surrendered after the death of Lieutenant Schmidt the leader of the mutineers on the cruiser Schotchkoff.

The cruiser Schotchkoff was sunk, and the warships Dnelper and Pantellimon were seriously damaged.

The Pantellimon was formerly the cruiser Kalaz Potemkin, and was recently renamed.

Mutiny Near Warsaw Quelled by Loyalists

WARSAW, Nov. 29 (via the frontier).—The garrison at Novogeorgievsk, twenty miles outside of Warsaw, has mutinied. A battalion of infantry, a battalion of artillery and a battalion of engineers left the barracks, demanding better treatment, also better clothes and food. Loyal troops, who were summoned, arrested the mutineers.

Five of the ringleaders were shot, and 50 others were imprisoned.

SUES TO GAIN POSSESSION OF YOUNG COLORED GIRL WHILE HUNTING BIRDS

National Association for Relief of Destitute Women and Children Objects to Her Sleeping in Cellar.

The management of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children does not propose to have its probationary wards sleeping in cellars or deprived of the advantages of school training.

Dr. Rebecca J. Cole, superintendent of the association, is displeased with the treatment given Nina Butler, a ward of the institution, placed in the care of Wallace W. Souder, a contractor and builder, and has instituted proceedings in habeas corpus in the District Supreme Court to regain possession of the child, who is nearly fifteen years old.

Mrs. Cole says the child complained to her that she was compelled to sleep in the cellar at the Souder home, and that she was also not allowed to go to school. According to the contract entered into with persons who are given charge of inmates of the National Association for the Relief of Destitute Colored Women and Children, Mrs. Cole says it is specifically agreed that the wards shall be sent to school. This, she says, has not been done in the case of Nina Butler.

The contract in reference to probationary wards Mrs. Cole says works both ways. In the event either the managers of the association or the person assuming charge of a child are not satisfied at the end of six weeks, then the contract becomes void.

In the case of Nina Butler, Mrs. Cole says, from the reports made to her by the child she was not satisfied she was receiving the treatment she should, and asked for her return. The Souders, she says, refused to return the child, and she applied to the courts for relief. The matter will come up for hearing tomorrow before Justice Barnard, in Circuit Court No. 1.

SECOND KLONDIKE IN CHILE.

SANTIAGO, Chile, Nov. 30.—A second Klondike has developed in the gold fields bordering on the Strait of Magellan. There has been a great opening of the fields and washeries.

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SON SHOTS FATHER WHILE HUNTING BIRDS

John F. Van Horn's Arm Shattered in Eastern Branch, Back of Workhouse—May Amputate.

While gunning in a skiff on the Eastern Branch back of the workhouse, John F. Van Horn, fifty-one years old, of 543 Fourteenth street southeast, was shot in the left shoulder by his son Chester, about 8:30 o'clock this morning. His arm was shattered.

The police of the Fifth precinct sent him to the Washington Hospital in a patrol wagon.

The father and son left their home at daybreak and went immediately to the point where their skiff was tied. They bagged a number of black and red birds in the vicinity of the Pennsylvania avenue bridge and then poled up behind the workhouse.

The son stood up in the boat to fire at some birds, but the boat lurched, the gun was thrown out of plumb, and the entire charge struck the father, who was standing in the bow of the boat.

The son then rowed to the shore and informed the authorities at the workhouse to convey the man to the hospital. It is believed that amputation will be necessary.

NATIONAL RED CROSS MEETS NEXT TUESDAY

The first annual meeting of the American National Red Cross will be held at Hubbard Memorial Hall, Sixteenth and M streets northwest, Tuesday, December 5, at 3:30 p. m.

Secretary of War Taft will preside. Major Van Rensselaer H.C.F. assistant surgeon general of the army, will talk on the work of the Russian Red Cross in Manchuria during the recent hostilities between Russia and Japan.

Cards of admission may be had from Secretary Magee, Room 528, Colorado building.

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