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SHIPPERS RECEIVED REBATES.

Merchants Employ Freight Broker and Get Freight Charges Reduced.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., May 24.—More sensational testimony was brought out this morning in the trial in the United States district court here of George H. Crosby, traffic manager of the Burlington railway; George L. Thomas of New York, a freight broker, and L. B. Taggart, his chief clerk, on a charge of conspiracy.

T. H. McKittrick, president of the Hargadine-McKittrick Dry Goods company of St. Louis, the first witness, who had testified that he had employed Thomas at a salary of \$500 a year to look after the interests of his firm in the matter of railway rates and routing from the east, admitted that he had received various sums of money from "unknown sources."

In one instance, Mr. McKittrick testified, a person whom he did not know entered his (McKittrick's) office in New York city one day and handed him a bundle of money containing between \$400 and \$500. McKittrick declared that he did not know the man who handed him this money; that he had not since seen him; that he did not believe he would be able to identify the man, and further, that he did not know for what purpose the money was given him nor from what source it came.

In reply to a direct question, Mr. McKittrick said that he had at various times received money from unknown sources. His firm in four or five years had received about \$10,000 during which time they had paid out \$480,000 in freight charges.

J. K. Burnham, president of the Burnham, Hanna & Munger Dry Goods company of Kansas City, testified he had hired Thomas at a salary of \$1,000 a year for attending to the freight business of the firm's Kansas City and Detroit houses. Burnham admitted receiving \$43,000 from Thomas in the past three years.

"This was, I suppose," said the witness, "for mistakes in classification, claims for damages, etc. All money was paid to me in New York, I think."

W. E. Emery, a member of the Emery, Bird, Thayer Dry Goods company of Kansas city, testified that he had hired Thomas for four or five years at a salary of \$500 a year, and that in that time he had received between \$1,500 and \$2,000 a year. This money was given to him at his office in New York. Some one would call him up on the telephone, witness said, and say that if he (Emery) were to be in his office for awhile, something would be sent him. Later, a package containing money was sent in. He did not know who had sent it, but supposed it came from Thomas.

Washington News Notes.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—By a party vote the house committee on ways and means has refused to take up for consideration or to lay on the table the Williams resolution reducing to 100 per cent. all tariff schedules in excess of that rate.

The bill for opening of the Fort Shaw military reserve, on Sun river above Great Falls, passed the senate late yesterday afternoon. The opening directly concerns the Sun river irrigation project, and will allow the reclamation service to go ahead with work upon lands thrown open at once. The bill only awaits the president's signature to become a law.

The senate committee on public lands has recommended the passage by congress of a general bill authorizing the secretary of the interior to sell parcels of land not exceeding forty acres for cemetery purposes. Under the present law it is necessary to pass a separate bill for every cemetery so authorized.

Free Alcohol Bill Passed.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The senate today passed the so-called free alcohol bill as it was reported from the committee on finance. The bill has already passed the house and the amendments which the senate had adopted do not materially change its scope. It does not go into effect until January 1, 1907. There was some debate on the measure and the necessity for the amendments explained. The bill was passed without division.

Then the bill was taken up today Senator Aldrich said the bill would greatly injure the business of the wood alcohol manufacturers and gave this as one of the reasons why the date for the bill to go into effect had been extended until January next.

Senator McCumber expressed surprise at the statement, saying that as the interests of the consumers are a hundred times greater than those of the manufacturers they should be pre-

ferred. He thereupon moved the resolution of the date fixed by the house bill, carrying it into effect three months after its passage.

Senator Allison said the bill was crude and that it should have been more carefully considered. He spoke of the importance of the measure, saying it might affect \$100,000,000 of revenue, but expressed the opinion that as the bill had been amended by the senate, fraud under it could be prevented. He did not believe that distillers generally would take advantage of the opportunity to manufacture denatured alcohol as provided for by the bill.

Blackfeet Opening Delayed.

WASHINGTON, May 24.—The provision for opening of a part of the Blackfeet reservation which was put on to the regular appropriation bill in the senate as a rider has been cut out by the house and senate conferees. No opposition appeared to the movement to open the reservation to settlement, but the clause in the bill setting aside the judgment of the court and forbidding the government ever bringing another action to determine the Indians' right to one-half interest in the waters of Birch creek aroused opposition of many senators and invited the opposition of commissioner of Indian affairs, who, prior thereto, had been most favorable to the passage of the bill opening the reservation to settlement. In addition to this, considerable opposition developed against the attempt to enact important legislation by attaching it as a rider to an appropriation bill, which had already passed the house, thus preventing the consideration of the matter by one branch of congress.

Railroad Methods Exposed.

PHILADELPHIA, May 24.—Additional evidence of discrimination by the Pennsylvania railroad in the distribution of cars in the soft coal fields was presented to the interstate commerce commission today. John Lloyd, a banker and coal operator of Altoona, who is one of the members of the banking firm of Cassatt & Co., testified that the Columbia Coal company was forced to sell the Alexandria mine because of the shortage of cars; and George E. Scott, of the Puritan and Crescent Coal companies, declared that he paid for the use of railroad cars when he failed to secure his allotment, and that during a period of 23 days the railroad had furnished him with only one car. He also asserted that Michael Trump, general superintendent of the Pennsylvania, had told him the company intended to protect the Berwind-White company at all hazards.

Frederick Vrooman, an assistant trainmaster, told the commission that he had received gifts of money in amounts from \$4 to \$20 from various coal companies for favors that he did not grant. Mr. Vrooman was questioned by Attorney Glasgow for the commission. The witness said there was no scarcity of coal cars during the anthracite strike. He denied furnishing cars to certain companies at \$20 and \$50 a car.

Insurance Magnate Acquitted.

NEW YORK, May 25.—The appellate division of the supreme court today handed down a decision discharging from custody George W. Perkins, whom the supreme court had held to await action of the grand jury on a technical charge of grand larceny in connection with the campaign contributions of the New York Life Insurance company to the national republican committee.

Justice Patterson, while agreeing that Mr. Perkins cannot be found guilty of larceny, said that he may be compelled by a civil action to make restitution, inasmuch as the officers of the company had no power to make the contribution.

Strange Story From the North.

MEDICINE HAT, May 25.—Corporal Botley, of the Royal Northwest mounted police, who has been out on patrol duty for several weeks, has reported at Swift current with a strange story. On the first night of the San Francisco earthquake a band of Indians were camped at Eagle Quill lake, and they report that during the night all were awakened by a violent shock. That there had been a terrible convulsion of nature there could be no doubt as in the morning it was found that an artesian well had appeared in the bottom of the coulee nearby and was throwing water fully 30 feet in the air. The coulee rapidly filled as did the adjoining depression of land and a fair sized lake now exists where there was no water before. The new lake is 20 miles south of Swift Current.

STANDARD OIL METHODS.

Former Employes of Company Tell About Tricks of the Trade.

CLEVELAND, May 25.—A total of 19 witnesses were called by Interstate Commerce Commissioners Prouty and Clements in the Standard Oil case today. The commissioners' counsel and everybody else connected with the investigation put in a hard day, and the work of the two sessions was prolific of substantial results. Testimony bordering on the sensational was obtained from several witnesses. That of George L. Lane of Mansfield, Ohio, a former employe of the Standard Oil company, was regarded as particularly important. According to his evidence, Lane was for about 14 months, in 1901 and 1902 employed by the Standard Oil company for the particular purpose of driving all of the independent oil peddlers in a dozen or more of the principal cities and towns of northern Ohio out of business. He said he was employed by C. M. Lynnes, of the Cleveland office of the Standard Oil company, to go to certain designated places and use every means, fair or foul, to force the independents to quit. He described the methods pursued in detail.

"My instructions," he said, "were to kill them, and I was told that if I could not do the job somebody else would be sent to take my place. I worked in Youngstown and surrounding small towns. Canton, Girard, Warren, Ravenna, Massillon, Mansfield, Elyria, Oberlin and other places. In all of the towns with the exception of Youngstown the independent peddlers were forced to abandon their business. In Youngstown, a man named William H. Vahey was encountered, and despite everything we could do he held his trade. We gave oil away by the barrel and tank load, but it did no good. Vahey's customers threw it away."

Mrs. Elizabeth Porteman, a stenographer and bookkeeper in the Dayton, Ohio, office, of the Standard Oil company, testified that information concerning the oil shipments of rivals was brought into the office by draymen, and that she made careful record of it, and gave it to her superior.

Rate Bill Sent to Conference.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—In the house of representatives today the question of veracity was raised between Mr. Cooper, of Wisconsin, and Mr. Hepburn, of Iowa, over a conversation in which the latter is alleged to have participated with a member of the senate, and in which, Mr. Cooper asserted, the member of the house and the senator agree that the so-called "express company" amendment to the railroad bill should not remain in the bill. Both Mr. Hepburn and Mr. Cooper were exceedingly angry, and they glared at one another during their colloquy.

The house was turbulent during the consideration of the rule sending the railroad rate bill to the conference owing to the fear of many of the members that the rule might give the opponents of the bill, if they so desired, opportunity to vote out the express amendment, that relating to pipe lines and the sleeping car amendment.

With the assurance that the wishes of the house would be considered on all the amendments, the rule was adopted, yeas 144, nays 105. Speaker Cannon appointed as conferees Hepburn, Iowa, Sherman, New York and Richardson, Alabama. Twenty-five republicans voted with the democrats against the rule sending the railroad rate bill to the conference.

Must Improve Packing Plants.

CHICAGO, May 25.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Washington says: The condition of some of the packing houses was severely criticised by President Roosevelt yesterday during an interview he had with William E. Skinner and W. L. Carlisle, representing the livestock interests of the country, and Representatives Madden of Chicago, Cox of New York, and Brooks of Colorado. Mr. Skinner is the representative of the Union stock yards, Chicago, and Mr. Carlisle is dean of the National Agricultural college of Colorado. It was at the request of the livestock interests all over the country that they conferred with the packers and then came to Washington to see the president.

The president announced that he proposed to see the conditions, of which complaints have been made in the packing houses changed as promptly as possible; the buildings should be remodeled in order to obtain better ventilation and more light; that ample facilities should be provided for employes, far enough removed from the rooms in which meat was prepared for food to prevent contamination and

that there would be lavatories to insure personal cleanliness.

Speaking for the livestock interests and for the packers, Mr. Skinner assured the president that the packers had authorized him to state that if the president would appoint a commission of high-grade scientific sanitarian experts, including one practical man versed in inspection and animal husbandry, they would be glad to adopt any suggestions the commission might make for the improvement or change in the method of slaughtering with reference to the sanitary conditions of packing houses.

Government Inspection of Meats.

WASHINGTON, May 25.—The senate today passed the agricultural bill, carrying an appropriation of \$7,800,000, and without a word of debate or an objection from any source added to it as an amendment the bill providing for an inspection of fresh meats intended for domestic purposes. The bill is along the general lines of the law for the protection of meats intended to be shipped abroad, and the work is delegated to the bureau of animal industry. It requires that acceptable meats shall be labeled, and authorizes the destruction of condemned products. It also authorizes inspection of all animals before they enter the packing houses; requires that those establishments shall be maintained in a sanitary condition; gives the inspectors access to all departments of them, and forbids interstate commerce in fresh meats which are not marked by the inspector. The expense of the inspection is to be borne by the owners, and a fine of \$10,000 and imprisonment for two years are fixed as penalties for the violation of the provision.

Kate Rebaters Convicted.

KANSAS CITY, May 25.—George L. Thomas, a freight broker and L. B. Taggart, a clerk working for Thomas, in the United States district court here late today were found guilty of the charge of conspiracy to illegally give rebates to shippers. The jury considered the case only 30 minutes before arriving at a verdict. Attorneys for the defendants will file a motion for a new trial, and the motion will be argued tomorrow. The court will not pronounce the sentence against Thomas and Taggart until the motion for a new trial is disposed of.

George H. Crosby, general freight traffic manager of the Burlington railway, on trial on the same charge, was discharged, the court sustaining a demurrer alleging that no evidence had been presented to connect Crosby with a conspiracy.

In discharging Crosby Judge McPherson said that the only evidence adduced against Crosby to show a conspiracy was the admission of Frank Barry, a former agent of the Burlington railway, made at a trial, that the road had paid 20 cents a ton a generous salary because of freight tonnage he controlled. Such evidence, the judge held, could not be used in this or any other court to cloud a man's character.

Earth Quakes In Michigan.

ST. PAUL, May 26.—A special to the Dispatch from Houghton, Mich., says: Fifty-seven seismic shocks shook this vicinity today. Buildings rocked and in several places there are cracks in the earth from two to six inches in width. The disturbance seemed to center in the Atlantic mine, which shut down two weeks ago as the result of similar disturbances. Great alarm prevails.

Woman Defies Tax Collectors.

LONDON, May 24.—Mrs. Dora Montefiore, a leading woman suffragist, under whose lead many women have pledged themselves not to pay their taxes, on the ground that taxation without representation is tyrannical, harangued a great crowd of woman suffragists from the second story of her house near London today. She roundly denounced Chancellor of the Exchequer Asquith as an "assassin" because he stood in the way of advance of the women's movement. Chief Secretary for Ireland Bryce and John Sinclair, secretary for Scotland, were also bitterly assailed.

Mrs. Montefiore suggested that her hearers break the windows of Mr. Asquith's house. She would do so herself, she declared, were it not for the fact that she was engaged in defending her residence against tax collectors and others.

The house of Mrs. Montefiore, which is situated near the Thames, not far from Hammersmith, is barricaded and surrounded by tax collectors and bailiffs, who hope to starve her out to effect an entrance. Friends of Mrs. Montefiore, however, are supplying her with food.

OIL HEARING ADJOURNED.

Interstate Commerce Commission Will Make Report to Congress.

CLEVELAND, May 26.—After three days spent in taking testimony concerning the affairs of the Standard Oil company, Interstate Commerce Commissioners Prouty and Clements adjourned the hearing this afternoon and left for Washington this evening, where they are to prepare a report for congress. The report, however, will not be closed until the Standard Oil company's attorneys have been given an opportunity to reply to the main statements of operations.

Today's proceedings were in line with the general line of inquiry made during the two previous days. Special Counsel Monett endeavored to show by several witnesses that the Standard Oil company maintained a bureau for the purpose of subsidizing Ohio newspapers, 125 of which were on the Standard's list.

Z. D. Ellis, an independent oil dealer of Cincinnati, testified that the Standard had obtained the names of his customers by bribing his employes.

Charles J. Castle submitted a table of oil prices for different territories in Ohio, showing that they were high where there were no competition and low where there were rival dealers.

Attorney Virgil P. Kline, for the Standard Oil company, said he wished it understood that he wanted to take up several matters referred to and make reply at some time and place convenient to the commissioners. The commissioners said they would allow Mr. Kline the privilege and would announce the time and place later. The hearing then adjourned.

Lost In the Mountains.

SPOKANE, May 25.—A. Artman, station agent and cashier for the Great Northern Railway company at Troy, Mont., has been lost in the mountains near Troy since last Sunday, and a large part of the male population of Troy has been searching for him, according to information brought to the city by J. E. Brawley, a Great Northern conductor, last night.

Harry Draper, owner of the bloodhounds that were used in trailing Frank Smith the Oregon outlaw, received a telegram from George Allen, deputy sheriff of Flathead county, Mont., to come at once with the dogs. The telegram expressed the belief that the missing man's trail could be found by the dogs if they could take up the scent after 36 hours had elapsed. Draper and the dogs departed for Montana on the 8:40 o'clock Great Northern train last night.

Washington News Notes.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The senate has passed a bill appropriating \$15,000 for the improvement and enlargement of the Butte federal building.

The sundry civil appropriation bill which will be reported to the house next week will carry \$25,000 to cover the cost of contemplated presidential trips for the fiscal year.

The secretary of the interior has restored to settlement the vacant unap-

propriated public lands not otherwise reserved in a tract consisting of about 800,000 acres in western Montana which was withdrawn in connection with the proposed Cabinet reserve. A small part of the area is included in the Flathead Indian reservation. The lands thus restored will not be subject to entry filing of selection until ninety days after notice of such publication as may be prescribed by the department.

Favors Postal Telegraph.

WASHINGTON, May 26.—The idea of a postal telegraph has a warm advocate in Samuel W. Smith, member of congress from Michigan, who, in a carefully prepared speech today, insisted that if the government would undertake such a system the deficit in postal department would almost be wiped out.

"We should," he said, "have a first-class postal telegraph in the United States in connection with our splendid postal facilities, and the rates can be reduced at least one-half, leaving a sufficient amount to dispose of the deficit and have money left to extend the rural service to practically every home and pay the city and rural carriers a compensation fitting their services and expenses."

Wherever the postal telegraph has been adopted, according to Mr. Smith, it has at once been followed by a reduction in price and by an increase in the number and kinds of messages. Mr. Smith is authority for the statement that the "Western Union octopus in one year declared dividends which reached the astonishing figures of 414 per cent."

May Snowstorm In Dakota.

MEDORA, N. D., May 26.—Three days of constant rain has been followed by a hard snowstorm. Two inches of snow has fallen in the past few hours.

MILWAUKEE, May 26.—A severe storm swept Lake Michigan today and two small vessels were driven ashore near Racine. The crews escaped. Freezing weather is reported in northern Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Condensed Rations For Army.

KANSAS CITY, May 26.—Acting under instructions from the secretary of war, eighty-six officers of the United States army from New York, San Antonio, Tex., Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, came to Kansas City today to inspect the method of preparing emergency rations for the United States army. Under the directions of Maj. C. P. Stivers, of the subsistence department of the army in Kansas City, 235,000 rations for emergency use by the troops in the field are being prepared at a local packing house.

Each can contains three cakes of bread and meat that has been compressed under a weight of 6,400 pounds; three cakes of chocolate wrapped in tinfoil, three-fourths of an ounce of salt and a gram of black pepper for seasoning. The weight of a can when filled is twenty-one ounces, and its contents are sufficient to supply the wants of a soldier for one full day.

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