

The River Press.

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CORPORATION CONTROL.

The purpose of the national administration to urge upon congress the enactment of laws for the better control of corporations, was indicated by President Roosevelt in a recent public address. After calling attention to the inefficiency of the state laws relating to this subject, the president outlined his policy in these remarks:

"Experience has shown that it is necessary to exercise a far more efficient control than at present over the business use of these vast fortunes, chiefly corporate, which are used (as under modern conditions they almost invariably are) in interstate business. When the constitution was created none of the conditions of modern business existed. They are wholly new, and we must create new agencies to deal effectively with them.

"There is no objection in the minds of this people to any man's earning any amount of money if he does it honestly and fairly, if he gets it as the result of special skill and enterprise, as a reward of ample service actually rendered. But there is a growing determination that no man shall amass a great fortune by special privilege, by chicanery and wrong-doing, so far as it is in the power of legislation to prevent; and that the fortune when amassed shall not have a business use that is anti-social.

"Most large corporations do a business that is not confined to any one state. Experience has shown that the effort to control these corporations by mere state action cannot produce wholesome results. In most cases such effort fails to correct the real abuses of which the corporation is or may be guilty; while in other cases the effort is apt to cause either hardship to the corporation itself, or else hardship to neighboring states which have not tried to grapple with the problem in the same manner; and of course we must be as scrupulous to safeguard the rights of the corporations as to exact from them in return a full measure of justice to the public.

"I believe in a national incorporation law for corporations engaged in interstate business. I believe, furthermore, that the need for action is most pressing as regards those corporations which, because they are common carriers, exercise a quasi-public function; and which can be completely controlled, in all respects by the federal government, by the exercise of the power conferred under the interstate commerce clause, and, if necessary, under the post-road clause of the constitution. During the last few years we have taken marked strides in advance along the road of proper regulation of these railroad corporations; but we must not stop in the work. The national government should exercise over them a similar supervision and control to that which it exercised over national banks. We can do this only by proceeding farther along the lines marked out by recent national legislation.

"In dealing with any totally new set of conditions there must at the outset be hesitation and experiment. Such has been our experience in dealing with the enormous concentration of capital employed in interstate business. Not only the legislatures but the courts and the people need gradually to be educated so they may see what the real wrongs are and what the real remedies. "Our aim is to try and do something effective. Our purpose is to stamp out the evils. We shall seek to find the most effective device for this purpose, and we shall then use it, whether the device can be found in existing law or must be supplied by legislation. Moreover, when we thus take action against the wealth which works iniquity, we are acting in the interests of every man who acts decently and fairly by his fellows, and we are strengthening the hands of those who propose fearlessly to defend property against all unjust attacks. No individual, no corporation obeying the law, has anything to fear from this administration."

MEN WHO RIDE HOBBY HORSES.

Much of the good accomplished, and its resultant benefit to the general community, is due to the efforts of men who were not content to keep in the beaten ruts, and who persisted in carrying out their own ideas as to what should be done. The public is frequently advised to keep up with the procession, but there can be no procession until one of them leads the way. The Great Falls Tribune, in referring to these trail blazers in the field of thought and action, designates them as men who ride hobby horses, its remarks being to this effect:

The man on horseback is the man who rides. The term generally carries with it a sense of power. In the old time the man on horseback, clad in complete mail and mounted on a strong beast, was well nigh invulnerable to the common herd. He disdained their weapons of assault and

rode fiercely over them. But in spite of his many faults and the frank selfishness of his ideals, in many ways the man on horseback served a useful purpose in the middle ages and he serves a useful purpose now. The man of determined purpose is generally the man of great achievements and there are giants and dragons in the modern world whose conquest calls for the services of a man on horseback.

But of all the men on horseback these days the most interesting and useful are the men mounted on hobby horses. They are a noble army despite some notable drawbacks, even as were the knights of yore. What care they for the jeers or jave-lins of satire cast at them by the vulgar herd? Panoplied and sheathed in the complete armor of their strong purpose, they ride over the world, trampling under feet its ridicule and gibes, hewing a way straight to their goal. Of all men on horseback, give us the hobby horse rider every time. They are the men who do things really worth doing, who change the face of the world, bore through mountains, annihilate space, conquer the giant forces of nature, bind them in chains, and lead them captive at their saddle bow. When that comes to pass and the slow witted public comes to gaze at the triumphal procession, the hobby horse rider is no longer known as a crank and a fool. Then he is called a genius and a hero.

It would be a mighty poor world today if it were not for the hobby horse riders, the men with wheels in their head and visions and dreams before their eyes of steamboats and iron horses and horseless carriages and air ships, a thousand other things which were pursued restlessly and persistently until they were realized. Man's brain at best has not room for a whole flock of new ideas, and if it can get hold of a single one and pursue it to its last fastness and subdue it to human will, it is a great achievement. We should be proud of the hobby horse rider and respect him, especially if the horse he is mounted on comes of a good serviceable breed.

Then there are the harmless and useless breeds of hobby horses. We are not sure that the man who spends all his time and energy collecting old postage stamps or different kinds of buttons is not engaged in an honorable and useful hobby horse adventure as the man who spurs himself on, dripping with sweat and blood and tears of the crushed and fallen, to accumulate new millions of cash that he cannot spend, and must leave for his heirs to fight and quarrel over like hungry dogs over a fat marrow bone.

A man is always better off in the hurly burly fight and tumult of a world of struggling men when mounted on some kind of a steed. It takes him out of the press and he breathes better, strikes harder and goes further, and that is why it is well to hitch our little wagon on to a star and start out in the world with a fine ideal. If by living and eating and sleeping with it a long time it comes to own us and animate us and possess us, and shape all our actions, then we join the noble army of hobby horse riders, and there is no reason for shame over the fact. Quite the contrary, it seems to us, so that we be mounted on a good steed.

TELLING HALF THE TRUTH.

"No form of falsehood and misrepresentation is so effective and so productive of harm as that which is concealed under the garb of half a truth," says the Havre Plaindealer, in discussing the tax levy for high school purposes and its effect upon citizens who own taxable property in Chouteau county. To that statement there will be no exception on the part of this newspaper.

It appears, however, that the Plaindealer convicts itself of misrepresentation by telling less than half the truth regarding the effect of this year's tax levy upon property in this county. In urging the taxpayers to rejoice and be exceeding glad because part of the taxes removed by the state legislature has been offset by additional impositions, it presents this more or less consoling exhibit:

"In 1906, a man whose property was assessed at \$10,700, would, if he owned cattle and sheep, be taxed \$216.67. In 1907, with exactly the same conditions prevailing, he would be taxed \$203.30, or \$13.73 less than his taxes amounted to in 1906."

The figures, which are given exactly as they appear in the Plaindealer, are so inaccurate that they should disqualify the author of the exhibit for admission to the county high school. This misleading attempt to demonstrate the effect of taxation in Chouteau county in the years mentioned, is worse than a half truth, because it tells only about one-fourth of the story. Livestock constitutes less than 25 per cent of the taxable wealth of Chouteau county, the remaining three-fourths consisting of real estate and improvements and other kinds of property listed by the assessor.

The owners of this three-fourths of the taxable property may be interested in this exhibit:

In 1906, a man owning property in Chouteau county other than livestock,

with a valuation of \$10,700, was taxed \$144.45 for state and county funds. In 1907, the taxes upon the same property at the same valuation will be \$179.22—an increase of nearly 25 per cent.

This increase, as explained by the River Press on a former occasion, is due to a two mill levy for general school purposes which is required by a new state law, a county high school levy of one mill, and one-fourth of a mill for county purposes.

The Range Beef Season.

Already the western range cattle marketings are becoming a strong factor in steer trade and the good quality of subsequent arrivals this season promises to put them in high favor with slaughterers, as against medium and plain short-fed natives. Rangers arriving thus far this season have been of generally better quality than in recent years, and while the volume of them has not yet been large enough to seriously affect values of natives, a much greater number which are due to arrive within the next few weeks will, in the opinion of many local traders, cause further depression in prices for medium and plain natives unless liberal liquidation of the latter is checked.

There is to be a considerable shortage in the range marketing this season compared with a year ago, estimates of traders who have canvassed the situation thoroughly ranging 15 to 25 per cent less than a year ago. Even a smaller run than a year ago, however, cannot help but put a rather depressing effect on trade for medium natives.

Receipts of short-fed natives have been considerably above trade requirements in the past two weeks and a decline of 25 to 40 cents from recent high prices is now in force. Slaughterers have found that rangers kill out relatively much cheaper than the medium grade natives and for this reason have shown partiality toward rangers.

Marketing of medium and plain short-fed native steers must be conducted cautiously in coming weeks, when big receipts of rangers are due. With plenty of good pasturage and assurance of a big crop of corn owners of half-finished native steves would seem to be following a poor policy in shipping many of these at a time when keen competition from rangers must force them to a lower price level.

Six of a Kind.

It is a matter of report that the possession of a "straight," and still more of "four of a kind," is apt in a certain game of cards, sometimes called the "great American game," to lead to a rise in financial rating. It was perhaps due to this that a sturdy citizen of North Dakota, by the name of Kapperman, got it into his head "that any man having six boys straight is entitled to a prize of \$1,500." He not only had six "straight," but he had "six of a kind." His letter to the treasury department at Washington asking for the \$1,500 is to be referred to Secretary Loeb.

Sunflower Philosophy.

Some straight-faced men have gone crooked.

There is a good deal of inhumanity in human nature.

No one ever takes a real good look at a horrible example.

To the bunko artist one man's money is as good as another's.

The man who boasts of his ignorance has reached the limit.

Every one is superstitious enough to believe in the dollar sign.

One way to put money in circulation is to take it to the race track.

At a summer resort every summer is the hottest one they ever had.

The "fast" young man usually is about everything but his work.

It is hard to argue with a man who gives the Lord as his authority.

The theory that the good die young worries mothers more than it should.

When a small boy refuses a second piece of pie it's a sign there is something wrong with him—or the pie.

Mine Frauds in Colorado.

DENVER, August 21.—A general uncovering of alleged mining frauds is likely to be the feature of the next session of the federal grand jury. The postoffice inspectors have been at work on a large number of cases since the session of the grand jury last spring, and they have an immense mass of evidence partly ready to be submitted to the district attorney for presentation to the grand jury. It is expected that a grand jury will be called in October to meet at either Denver or Pueblo.

The grand jury last spring returned several mining fraud indictments, including those against the Lost Bullion Spanish Mines company. It now appears that this was but the preliminary outcropping of a sweeping investigation, which may, before it is finished, involve hundreds of men in trouble with the federal authorities.

DOUBLE TRACK NEEDED.

Great Northern Plans Improvements On Montana Divisions.

SEATTLE, August 20.—Double tracking of the mountain divisions of the Great Northern will be started as soon as the engineers finish their work, according to a statement made by A. H. Hogeland, chief engineer of the Hill line, who has been inspecting the road in Montana and Washington. The work will be on the worst portions of the line on the west slope of the Rockies, between Whitefish and Summit. In addition to this much of the line in that district will be rebuilt entirely in an endeavor to eliminate as far as possible all sharp curves, and to reduce the grade to the minimum.

The cost of the improvements will be enormous, how great cannot be determined until the surveys are finished. In that part of the line which will be entirely rebuilt will be several new tunnels, which will call for a vast expenditure.

At the time the Great Northern was built, the greatest sums were spent in this mountain district, which will now be practically rebuilt. With the laying of double track, the construction of new tunnels, the elimination of curves and the reduction of the grade to the minimum, the improvement work will cost the road a sum almost as great, if not greater, than the construction of the original line.

Chief Engineer Hogeland states that the road will not be satisfied with this improvement, but will eventually double track the line down the eastern slope. Then he thinks the road will be in shape to handle the business in a far more satisfactory manner.

Timber Lands Worth Millions.

SPOKANE, August 20.—"If the timber of Washington could today be manufactured and put on the market at once, it would bring its owners from \$300,000,000 to \$400,000,000."

That declaration, made by R. L. McCormick in a speech before the Pacific Coast Lumber Manufacturers' association, has been accepted by the state tax commission as an endorsement of the movement to cruise and reappraise all the timber lands of the state.

The valuation of \$400,000,000 placed upon the standing timber in private hands within this state is greater than the entire assessed valuation of all property in Washington. Last year the total equalized valuation of all classes of property in this state was only \$367,000,000, and the total contained timber lands which McCormick declares would be worth \$400,000,000 if it could only be marketed immediately.

Convicted of Land Frauds.

SAN FRANCISCO, August 20.—John A. Benson and Dr. Edward B. Perrin were convicted of conspiracy to defraud the United States government in the securing of 12,000 acres of land in Tehama county. The verdict, which means a fine and term of imprisonment, was returned by a jury in the United States district court, after being out about one hour. Only two ballots were required before the jury arrived at the conclusion to find the aged defendants guilty.

Taft Outlines Platform.

COLUMBUS, O., August 20.—William H. Taft, secretary of war, made what he was pleased to term his "political confession of faith" at Memorial hall. The auditorium, which has a seating capacity of over 5,000, was packed to the doors and several thousand others were unable to gain admittance. The secretary's address was under the auspices of the Buckeye Republican club, and the address was notable from the fact that it is regarded as the platform upon which he will make his campaign for the presidency. Mr. Taft made no formal announcement of his candidacy but he was introduced by Governor Harris as the next president of the United States, which was the signal for a prolonged burst of applause.

Special interest was manifested in Secretary Taft's utterances on the tariff. He reiterated his previous declaration in favor of revision, and declared that it would be both unwise and unsafe for the republican party to fail to pledge itself to revise the Dingley bill as soon after the next presidential election as possible.

Mr. Taft also declared in favor of the imprisonment of individuals responsible for violations of the anti-trust law and for the giving or accepting of rebates, as more effective than fines. His defense of President Roosevelt's policy evoked enthusiastic applause.

Bryan In Train Wreck.

BELVIDERE, Ill., August 21.—Wm. J. Bryan was the occupant of one of the three coaches of the Northwestern train which was dinged near here yesterday. Mr. Bryan emerged blandly and made this memorandum in his diary: "This is the fourth time a wreck has occurred on my various journeys to speak at the Rockford

Chautauquus." Mr. Bryan trudged with the others a couple of miles, and then took the trolley here for Rockford. The wreck was caused by the baggage car taking an open switch.

Fined For Rebating.

ST. PAUL, August 21.—Judge Page Morris has fined the Wisconsin Central Railroad company \$17,000 for granting rebates to Minneapolis grain firms. The road was convicted some time ago, but sentence was not imposed until yesterday. The individual defendants, Burton Johnson, formerly general freight agent, and George T. Huey, assistant general freight agent at Minneapolis, were fined \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively.

MUST OBEY THE LAW.

Officials of Offending Corporations May Be Sent To Jail.

WASHINGTON, August 21.—Acting under instructions from the president and attorney general, the department of justice has issued a statement for the purpose of calming the public mind as to the government's intentions with respect to state rights and the future prosecutions of railroads and corporations.

The statement intimates that the railroads should acquiesce in state action, leaving to the department of justice the adjudication of interests in the supreme court of the United States. It also asserts that the reports of wholesale investigations and prosecutions of corporations are correct, and that when the present policy of enforcing the anti-rebate and the anti-trust laws, shall have continued, a while longer, "the result cannot fail to be a sounder and less tainted prosperity."

The spectacular feature of the anti-trust campaign of the administration is its determination to put behind the bars some of the high officials of the railroads and corporations which have violated the law. This is no new purpose. The president repeatedly has referred to the efficacy of imprisonment in preventing future evil doing. It is comparatively an easy task to establish the violation of law by a corporation. It is an extremely difficult thing to locate upon an official the responsibility for the offense.

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SUMMONS.

In the district court of the Twelfth judicial district of the state of Montana, in and for the county of Chouteau.

A. H. Fey, plaintiff, vs. Oscar C. Graetz, defendant.

The state of Montana sends greetings to the above named defendant:

You are hereby summoned to answer the complaint in this action, which is filed in the office of the clerk of this court, a copy of which is herewith served upon you in the county where you reside, and to file your answer and serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Said action is brought to recover the sum of \$207.00, the value of goods sold and delivered to you by plaintiff, and \$100 money loaned to you by plaintiff.

Witness my hand and the seal of said court this 26th day of July, A. D. 1907.

CHAS. H. BOYLE, Clerk.

By C. M. BARNVELDT, Deputy Clerk.  
F. E. Stranahan, attorney for plaintiff.  
First publication, July 31, 1907.

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