

The River Press.

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HIGHER FREIGHT RATES.

The plan of the transcontinental railroads to advance freight rates the first of the year is going to meet with a great deal of opposition.

The New York writer points out in a startling way just what this Canadian competition will amount to in a few years, and what it means today.

The Canadian government has backed a transcontinental line that will cost \$340,000,000, or more than the Panama canal.

With all this advantage of distance, grades and capitalization, the Canadian railroads are perfectly satisfied with present freight rates.

FOR BETTER ROADS.

A good deal is being printed of late in the state papers about good county roads, and, if we are not mistaken, a move is being made to organize a county road commission.

This is a move in the right direction. Good dirt roads are as indispensable as railroads.

They go out and paw around in the dirt for two or three days, talk politics, crack a few jokes, take a receipt for duty performed, and go home.

During times of the year when the products of the farm are rotting around in the subsoil of the paleozoic period the weather is a poetic dream and that road a boulevard that would make glad the heart of an automobile crank.

the fence to masticate plug tobacco and damns the railroads for robbing him of the fruits of his wife's labor by exorbitant freight rates.

We want to put men in charge of the work who do not imagine that piling a few tons of subsoil in the middle of a highway and scooping out a pollywog pond on one side and inaugurating a mosquito factory on the other, is giving the old Roman turnpike constructors a terrific stroke of paralysis.

Good roads associations are being organized throughout the western states and Montana, as far as we are able to learn, is one of the last to fall in line.

BOOSTING FOR WATERWAYS.

According to dispatches from Washington the advocates of a comprehensive plan of inland waterways improvement are boosting for the proposition in every way possible.

The reasons advanced by the rivers and harbors congress for its advocacy of a general scheme for improving all the waterways, even at the expense of many hundreds of millions, have been stated in a concise form by the president of the congress, Representative Joseph E. Randell of Louisiana.

First—Because water transportation is much cheaper than by rail, and in many cases much quicker for the heavy, low-class commodities.

Second—Because the railroads under normal conditions are gested and unable to handle the commerce of the country.

Third—Because our commercial competitors, Germany and France, have so thoroughly developed and improved their waterways and cheapened freight charges that we will be unable to compete with them in the world's market unless we do likewise.

Fourth—Because Canada now has a 14-foot canal connecting the great lakes with the ocean and is planning a 21-foot canal through Georgian bay and the Ottawa river.

Fifth—Because we are spending vast sums at Panama to connect two oceans by a canal 35 feet deep and to make the greatest artificial waterway on earth, and in order to reap its full benefits our rivers must be so improved as to get our commerce to the sea quickly at the lowest rates and our harbors so deepened that any ship passing through that canal may enter any one of the important harbors on our seaboard.

Sixth—Because waterways improvements are as imperishable as the solid rock and concrete out of which they are constructed.

Tunnel Boring Record.

TAFT, Dec. 15.—The contractors on the tunnel which is being put through the Coeur d'Alene mountains here by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul road established a new world's record for one month, in November, having bored 731 feet.

BOZEMAN, Dec. 15.—A. Atkinson, professor of agronomy at the college here, returned this morning from the northern part of the state where he has been lecturing at farmers' institutes.

WASHINGTON LETTER

[Special Correspondence.] It will be a little cooler for the American soldiers in the Philippines if an experiment the war department has ordered to be thoroughly tested proves to be a success.

Color Scheme in the Army. Experiments carried on under the direction of Surgeon General Kelly and Inspector General Garlington revealed the fact that plants under an orange colored glass grew less rapidly than those under any other shade and less than half as fast as plants exposed to the direct rays of the sun.

With the reports favoring the use of orange colored clothing Quartermaster General Aleshire has ordered 5,000 suits of underwear and hat linings dyed in orange color and shipped to the Philippines for distribution.

Huge Bronze Casting. The largest piece of bronze ever cast in a single piece in this country, if not in the world, was successfully executed at Elmwood, near Providence.

It was the immense horse for the equestrian statue of General Phil Sheridan recently unveiled in this city. The flask in which the mold was contained was about twelve feet in length, six and one-half feet high and eight feet in width and weighed between seventy and seventy-five tons before the metal was poured into it.

Sheridan on Horseback. The statue is of heroic proportions and depicts "Gallant Phil" Sheridan on the back of his famous dark bay Kentucky steed Rienzi in the very act of turning to his fleeing soldiers at Cedar creek after his historic twenty mile ride from Winchester.

The figure of Sheridan is a portrait likeness. His clothing and accoutrements are modeled after garments worn by him. He is shown wearing a service uniform, with sword and spurs. His hat is rolled up in the hand with which he is beckoning to his men.

A Famous Steed. The horse is also modeled as far as possible after the horse which Sheridan rode. The animal, which was sometimes known as Rienzi and sometimes as Winchester, was skinned after its death, and the hide was presented to the Governors Island museum, where it has since been preserved.

The statue is fourteen feet high and stands on a plinth of granite. The groundwork represents the rough cart of the field across which Sheridan rode.

The Incoming White House Host. When Mr. Taft takes possession of the executive mansion and office there will be one change which the employes will do well to mark.

Stockmen Will Meet. DENVER, Dec. 15.—From the office of Secretary T. W. Tomlinson of the American National association has just been issued the call for the twelfth annual convention of the association, to be held in Los Angeles, January 26 to 28, 1909.

Among the questions to be discussed are federal control of the grazing on unappropriated public lands in the semi-arid states and territories; the administration of forest reserves by the federal government; further consideration of service given by railroads to shipments of stock, especially the furnishing of cars and the speed minimum; correction of unreasonable railroad rates and the tariff.

IN THE ANANIAS CLUB.

President Consigns Two Newspaper Men To Famous Aggregation.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—President Roosevelt this morning sent to the senate a statement concerning the purchase of the Panama canal property by the United States, denouncing in strong language charges that there was anything wrong in the acquisition by the United States of the canal property.

"These stories," he continued, "were first brought to my attention as published in a paper in Indianapolis called The News, edited by Mr. Delavan Smith. The stories were scurrilous and libelous in character, and false in every essential particular. Mr. Smith shelters himself behind the excuse that he merely accepted the statements which had appeared in a paper published in New York, The World, owned by Mr. Joseph Pulitzer. It is idle to say that the known character of Mr. Pulitzer and his newspaper are such that the statements in that paper will be believed by anybody; unfortunately, thousands of persons are ill-informed in this respect and believe the statements they see printed even though they appear in a newspaper published by Mr. Pulitzer."

The senate enjoyed hugely that portion of the message referring to Pulitzer and other editors and greeted it with roars of laughter. Vice President Fairbanks lessened the merriment by rapping for order. After the personal parts were passed the senators gave less attention and gathered in groups and talked loudly.

Washington News Notes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—The secretary of the treasury today recommended that \$500,000 be appropriated for irrigation projects on Indian reservations for the coming fiscal year instead of \$200,000, the amount included in the regular estimates, and that the appropriation be made continuing, so that if not expended at the close of the fiscal year the balance need not be turned back into the treasury.

The house has passed a bill placing an annual tax of \$100 on all dealers in cigarettes and cigarette papers in the District of Columbia. The measure was offered by Representative Mann of Illinois as an amendment to a bill imposing a tax of \$12 a year on all dealers handling manufactured tobacco products.

President Roosevelt is understood to have promised Commander-in-Chief Newton of the Spanish War Veterans, who called on him, that he would favor a law to equip the 550 camps of the Spanish War Veterans with Mauser rifles, now going out of use in the regular army, which would give the government a large reserve army in case of war.

Senator Burrows, chairman of the committee of primaries and elections, today introduced a resolution providing that the two houses of congress shall assemble in the chamber of the house on Wednesday, Feb. 10, to canvass the vote for president and vice president.

For Larger Homesteads.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Efforts are being put forth by Representative Mondell of Wyoming to smooth the way for the passage at this session of congress of his bill increasing the quantity of land that may be taken up for a homestead from 160 to 320 acres.

At present the bill is on the speaker's table, where it was left at the last session. The Wyoming representative is considering means to revive it. He is in daily consultation with members, hoping to obtain unanimous consent to allow the bill to be sent back to conference. In case he fails in his efforts he proposes to move the house to send the bill back to conference.

An effort was made to prevail on Representative Howland, who, as a member of the committee on public lands lead the fight against the bill, to withdraw his opposition, but he has manifested a disposition to stand firm.

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GLENDALE, Dec. 15.—In the darkness of the early morning a man, at present unknown, met death on train No. 1 in a horrible manner. His body was cut squarely in two just above the hips. The upper part of the corpse clung to the trucks of the express car.

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