

The River Press

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EXCESSIVE EXPRESS RATES.

The announcement from Washington that the interstate commerce commission intends to give a series of hearings on the express rates question this fall is welcome news, says the Commercial Bulletin. Hundreds of shippers in all parts of the country have registered complaints against the rates charged by the express companies, and the information which large commercial organizations have collected in support of their contention that rates are unjust and unreasonable is of a character at least to establish the presumption in their favor.

The results of an investigation which was concluded some time ago by Frederick DeBerard of the New York merchants' association, showed that for the year 1909 the Adams Express, the American Express, the Wells-Fargo Express, and the United States Express earned from 14.4 to 52.3 per cent on the capital actually invested in the companies, and from 25 per cent to no less than 105 per cent on this capital after deducting the value of the real estate owned and 5 per cent of the value thereof to represent its ordinary rental return.

The reason for this calculating profits on the capital remaining after deducting real estate investments was based on the decision of the United States supreme court in the Knoxville water cases, in which it was held that the proper standard of measurement to apply to the earnings of a public service corporation is the proportion which such earnings bear to the fair value of the property employed in the service of the public.

It is idle, therefore, for the express companies to attempt to deny that their annual profits range from five to twenty-five times the income yield of good investment securities, and it is up to the express companies to prove the justice of rates which render such swollen profits possible.

POLITICAL INCONSISTENCY.

Democracy, always inconsistent, votes with Aldrich in congress and for partisan effect criticises him in the campaign. "Down with Aldrich," howls the democratic press—"Vote with Aldrich," say the democratic senators. There were 126 different roll calls upon the tariff bill in the senate. Every democratic senator save one, on some vote at different times, forgot his party pledge and voted with Aldrich. Clarke of Arkansas alone is entitled to have his name inscribed upon the democratic roll of statesmen. All the others were susceptible to the blandishments of the Rhode Island senator. Think of it—31 democratic senators and 40 congressmen guilty of breaking platform pledges and betrayal of the interests of the people!

Senator Tillman asked for a tariff on tea. Representatives Maynard and Laessler of Virginia fought for an increased duty on peanuts of 400 per cent. The entire Florida delegation sought to increase the duty on pineapples, citron products and long staple cotton—and secured an increase of 128 per cent on pineapples. The Texas delegation voted to retain the duty on hides. Saunders of Virginia asked to increase the duty on tobacco. Senator Daniels and Martin of Virginia sought to increase the duty upon extract of quebacho wood. The Louisiana delegation clamored for a tariff on sugar.

Such eminent democratic leaders as Bailey, Bacon, Stone, McLaurin, Money and Gore led from the path of duty their trusting followers into the arms of Aldrich!

Shouting in public, Down with Aldrich, revise the tariff downward; working in committee rooms and otherwise out of sight of the public for protection, is the spectacle presented by democracy! Democracy is best described in the language of Senator Gore of Oklahoma:

"The trouble with the democratic party is, it is a party of statesmen without statesmanship, patriots without patriotism, heroes without heroism. Their policy begets farmers without farming, laborers without labor and freemen without freedom."—Helena Record.

HILL EXPLAINS HIGH PRICES.

"Some people say that the trusts make the cost of living high. The trusts say that the cost of living is not high. I can illustrate," says James J. Hill.

"Twenty-five years ago corn was sold at 15 cents a bushel. The price of corn is now 65 cents a bushel. It stands to reason that when corn is as high as it is now a farmer will not raise as many cattle, to which he must feed corn, as he would if corn were only 15 cents a bushel. The result is that fewer cattle are raised, and the price of beef is higher. I mention corn and beef because they serve, as well

as any other commodity, to illustrate why the cost of living is high.

"The price of corn is high because we are constantly decreasing the percentage of those who raise corn while we are constantly increasing the percentage of those who use corn and its products. In 1790 there were ninety-six men engaged in raising foodstuffs on the farms to every four in the cities who needed foodstuffs, but did not raise them. At the time of the civil war the number of men engaged in raising foodstuffs from the soil had decreased to eighty-four, and the number who did not raise the foodstuffs they must have increased to sixteen.

"In 1870 there were only forty-seven producers, while the nonproducing consumers had increased to fifty-three. In 1880 the producers had diminished to forty-four, while the others had increased to fifty-six. In 1890 only thirty-seven producers were left to feed sixty-three in the cities, and in 1900 there were only a fraction more than thirty-five on the farms to produce food, not only for themselves, but for every sixty-five in the cities. I doubt if the census of 1910 will show that there are more than thirty persons engaged in agricultural pursuits to every seventy who live in the cities.

"There you have the ingredients that go to make up high prices, for the necessities of life. Every seventy persons who live in the cities are dependent upon thirty farmers for the raw materials that are necessary to existence. The only way that the seventy in the cities can get the money with which to pay the farmers is to manufacture the raw products of the farm into finished forms, to perform professional service, or to assist in the task of distributing the products of factories and farms. The competition among the seventy to perform the services that are required by the thirty will keep the wages of the seventy low, while the great demand created by the seventy for the products of the thirty will keep the prices of farm products high."

Great Inventions Went A-Begging.

Sixty-five years ago Professor Robert Morse, accompanied by his associates, stood before congress and offered to sell the patents on the electric telegraph for \$100,000. After a long and bitter debate, congress appropriated \$30,000 for the construction of a line between Washington and Baltimore in order that the merits of the invention might be fully tested.

It is recorded that President Polk thought the invention a good thing for the government to own but the postmaster general, in a long report, gave as his opinion that the revenues could never be made to cover the expenditures in the telegraphing of messages. Today, in this country alone, the Morse systems are capitalized at \$220,000,000.

But this little anecdote is seldom told by the officials of the Western Union Telegraph company, for it is a matter of history that Prof. Alexander Graham Bell offered to sell his telephone patents to the telegraph company for the paltry sum of \$30,000, but the officials of that company only smiled and declared the invention a toy with no commercial value. Today there are more than five million telephones in use in this country earning \$150,000,000 annually.

Mr. Taft and The People.

There probably has never been a president so misunderstood by the country or one by whom the popular tendencies and temper have been so misunderstood. Mr. Taft's methods are different from those to which we have become accustomed, but we have had glimpses of a hand of iron under the glove of velvet; and whatever may be the disagreement with his policies, in or out of his party, it is futile to assume that he is the servant of any special class or interest, or that he has any other purpose than the highest good of his country.

Saloon Keeper Builds Church.

New York has a "apite church" erected, it is said, as a result of the business rivalry of two saloon keepers in the Bronx. The church, a little wooden building, was opened for worship recently with a congregation of thirty persons.

For some time the liquor trade in the neighborhood has been divided between two saloon keepers, whose business rivalry has been keen. There is a state law which forbids the keeping of a saloon within 200 feet of a church. One of the saloon keepers, it is said, decided there could be no more effective way of putting a rival out of business than building a church near enough to him to compel him to close up when his license ran out.

DILLON, Sept. 29.—Five hundred dollars is the sum which a lone robber, heavily masked and armed with two formidable-looking revolvers, secured from a number of poker players at the Froman house a few nights ago. After the game broke up, when the players were about to retire for the night, a heavy-set man entered the place and commanded the four occupants to throw up their hands. He then commanded one of the men to search the pockets of the others.

TIMELY HINTS FOR FARMERS

About Brood Sows.

Just as the difference between good and bad seed corn is sometimes the difference between profit and loss, so also is the difference between good and bad brood sows. The common way of comparing sows is by breeds. One man says he thinks he will get rid of his red hogs and try white ones. Another will try black ones, and so on. More stress is laid on the breed than on the individual. Without doubt the selection of sows predominating in the blood of one breed and always using a pure bred sire of that breed is the best policy, for the simple reason that the even lot of market hogs produced will be more attractive to the buyer and often bring more money. A lot of sows revealing all the colors known in the hog world could be selected and bred that would produce as fast and cheap growing pigs as the highest class of sows of any one breed, but there is no doubt that the "calico" sows produced would not sell as well as the solid one color herd. Using and staying by one breed is right, but more attention should be paid to selection of the individual to be used.—National Stockman.

The Young Boar.

The boar of eight months or older will do better if kept by himself. He should not be where sows or gilts may arouse him. He should be kept in a comfortable pen, with a lot of pasture adjoining, and supplied with a variety of nutritious food, which means something more than dry corn with an occasional drink of diluted dishwater. The permanent quarters should be provided with a view to furnish sunlight, exercise, dry warmth and cleanliness. These should be so located that the sows may be conveniently brought to him for service. A large pen is not needed—ten feet square will do—but a yard and a pasture should each be adjacent. The yard will be needed for service and for his exercise in the breeding season, and the pasture, which may be an acre or less, should afford him water, shade, grass, alfalfa or other succulent food.—Coburn's "Swine in America."

PREVENTIVES OF HOG CHOLERA.

Keep the Pens Clean and Carefully Guard the Water Supply.

When any remedy is recommended for a disease too many want to drop all precautionary measures and rely upon the remedy as their protection. While the serum will undoubtedly prove a very valuable means of preventing hog cholera, it is quite likely that for some time to come more will be benefited by keeping their hogs under as perfect sanitary conditions as possible and by guarding carefully against all of the ordinary means of spreading the disease than will be benefited by the application of the serum.

Running water is a very active means of spreading the disease. Pens containing diseased hogs and located along streams make the water dangerous for all other hogs located below them. Outbreaks of cholera can often be followed considerable distances along water courses. The infection may also be carried by the clothing, wagons, crates or, in fact, by almost all means of communication between farms. A man may often, by closely guarding his hogs when cholera breaks out among them, so handle the disease as to not expose his neighbors to the infection, while if he disregards all ordinary precautions he may easily scatter the infection to neighboring farms.—L. L. Lewis, Oklahoma Experiment Station.

Preparing Bones For Poultry.

The fowls will prefer the bones if they are broken or cracked into small pieces, with particles of meat adhering to them. As a rule, a flock will tire of the commercial bone, for unless it is strictly fresh there is a certain odor about it that is not altogether refreshing. Dry bones either broken or ground are relished, but not so much as those that are fresh. Fresh bones are not very easily ground, as they are tough, and the amount of gristle adhering to them renders them more so. In order to render them brittle they are usually steamed or dried in the oven almost to the burned stage. When subjected to heat they lose more or less of their nitrogenous properties, such as meat and gelatin, so on that account they are much more nourishing and more palatable when prepared for the flock with the use of a bone cutter.

Dairy Wisdom.

Corn may be given to calves when they are three weeks old. When the calf is taken from the cow he must, of course, be taught to drink. There is a vast difference in cows, and it's the dairyman's duty to find out the difference. The highest degree of success will only be attained through the use of pure bred cattle. Experience and good judgment must guide the practical dairyman in his daily work of feeding.

ROOSEVELT WINS OUT.

Machine Politicians Meet Defeat in Scrap With Colonel.

SARATOGA, Sept. 27.—Theodore Roosevelt was today chosen temporary chairman of the republican state convention after a bitter fight on the floor. The decisive vote came on a motion to substitute Roosevelt for Sherman, candidate of the regular organization, known as the old guard.

Chairman Woodruff announced 1,012 votes were cast, of which Roosevelt received 567 and Sherman 445, three not voting, giving Roosevelt a majority of 122.

Chairman Woodruff, amid thundering cheers announced that Colonel Roosevelt was duly elected temporary chairman and named Vice President Sherman and State Superintendent of Prisons C. V. Collins as a committee to escort Colonel Roosevelt to the chair.

Mr. Sherman came smiling down the aisle and shook hands cordially with his successful opponent, congratulating him on his victory. The colonel whispered something in the vice president's ear, while the convention shouted and cheered. There was a volley of cheers when Vice President Sherman introduced Col. Roosevelt.

"Gentlemen, your selection for temporary chairman, Colonel Roosevelt." The colonel took the chair and gavel, and thumping the table with a whack, brought the cheers to a stop. The colonel looked straight out in the audience, his face streamed with perspiration and his jaw was firmly set. "Republicans of the state of New York," he began. "I thank you for the honor that you have conferred upon me and the confidence you have displayed in me, and all of my power will be exerted so that you shall not have cause now or hereafter to regret what you have done."

Notable Gathering of Irishmen.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Sept. 26.—The freedom of Ireland and the general uplifting of the Irish race is the keynote of thought dominating a gathering of distinguished Irish blood now in this city. From many of the chief cities of the United States and Canada delegates have arrived in large numbers to attend the fifth biennial convention of the United States Irish League of America, which will open its regular sessions in convention hall tomorrow.

The convention promises to be the greatest gathering ever held in America in connection with the Irish cause. Those who have followed closely the recent progress of events in the English parliament express the belief that the present convention will be the last national assembly of the Irish race abroad at which financial aid will be asked to enable the people in Ireland to win their fight for national legislative independence or home rule. This belief is said to be prevalent not only in Ireland, but among the leading men of the Irish race in Australia, Canada and the United States.

Postmasters in Civil Service.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 27.—The first definite result of the present cabinet session in Washington was the announcement today that President Taft tomorrow would issue an executive order extending the civil service to include all assistant postmasters. The president will also recommend to congress that second and third class postmasters be placed under civil service. This action is in line with Postmaster General Hitchcock's recommendations.

Census of Deaths By Violence.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26.—In 1909 there were 2,854 known homicides in that portion of the United States covered by death registry laws, and in the same area 8,402 deaths due to suicide. The figures are by the census bureau's report of mortality and cover about 55 per cent of the population. There is an actual falling off of 149 in the number of homicides, as compared with 1908, while there is a decrease of suicides in proportion to population.

Largest Land Deal On Record.

SAN ANTONIA, Texas, Sept. 27.—Robt. B. Buchanan, an Englishman, and fiscal agent of a Franco German syndicate of capitalists centered in Berlin and Paris, is now in Mexico City for the purpose of consummating the largest land transaction ever recorded. He is buying grazing and timber land in the Mexican republic to the value of \$200,000,000 in gold, and will buy more later on. Mr. Buchanan is buying everything that comes to his notice, large or small, and in some instances tracts at fancy prices in order to insure contiguity.

Outside of the land acquired by conquest, cession or international agreement, there is no other instance in which so large a tract has ever exchanged ownership. Some of the land bought sold at as little as 30 cents an acre.

Mr. Buchanan in a newspaper advertisement, is authority for the statement that he wishes to acquire the land for the purpose of controlling the export cattle trade of Mexico, Central America and Brazil. Whether he intends to buy land in other countries mentioned is not known.

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