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UTILITIES BILL NOW HAS RIVAL

Seeks To Enlarge Scope Of State Railway Commission

Represents Views Of Freight Shippers—Chairman Williams
Of Food Probe Committee Forecasts Report As Plea
For Exodus From Cities To Farming Communities
And Greater Activity On Part Of Grand Juries, Dean
Bill Almost Ready

Columbus, O., Feb. 10.—The rival measure to the Woods public utilities bill made its appearance in the house when Representative Ervin of Meigs county introduced a bill to enlarge the scope and powers of the state railroad commission which the Woods utilities bill abolishes.

The Ervin bill is the bill of the freight shippers, who are earnestly against the merging of the railroad commission into the more comprehensive utilities commission. The shippers have brought sufficient pressure to bear to induce Chairman Crawford of the house railroad committee to agree to let them have a special hearing in which to register their protests against the utility bill. The shippers' bill is far-reaching. It extends the authority of the railroad commission to supervision of interurban and street railroads by revising the legal definition of a railroad to mean a railroad operated by steam, electricity or other motive power. It gives the railroad commis-

test and may cancel the new rate. At a rate hearing and on all complaints the burden of proof is placed in the company. Freight scales are to be inspected by the commission.

Senators William G. Phare of Cuyahoga and D. C. Mooney of Auglaize and Representatives B. H. Gaston of Belmont and Mahlon Gebhart of Montgomery were appointed as members of the joint committee to investigate charges of the gobbling of canal lands in the state.

Although no public meetings have been held by the committee that is to investigate food prices, it is known that the report will be a "back to the farm" plea and a stirring up of grand juries. Senator Williams, chairman of the committee, gave out the following statement relative to the probable findings of the probers:

"The investigating committee has gone far enough in its work to be able to say that its report to the legislature will contain only two remedies of any importance.

"We will recommend to the people of Ohio that they go back to the farm; that Ohio's agricultural supremacy of 40 years ago be restored; that more attention be paid to every phase of agriculture with the end in view that the state's yield be increased; that agricultural experiment stations be established in every county; in short, that the state push its agricultural interests with the same degree of enthusiasm that it pushes manufacturing or business of other kinds.

Prods Grand Juries.

"Our second important recommendation will concern grand juries. The reason these legislative probes are necessary is because grand juries fail to do their duty. It was originally intended that grand juries should be inquisitorial bodies, always alert for infractions of the law; instead, they have decayed until they are mere servants of prosecuting attorneys. We will urge that grand juries wake up and get busy. There is plenty of law on the statute books and they can break up all these illegal combinations that are boosting prices if they will only do their duty."

The judiciary committee has decided to report back to the senate on the recess appointments of Governor Harmon. All appointments were approved.

Senator Dean of Sandusky county made a statement that within a short time he would introduce his bill to amend the Rose county local option law so as to give cities the right to decide whether or not they shall have saloons independent of the action of the county or subdivisions, on the subject. At the last meeting of the Ohio Federation of Labor a resolution was adopted endorsing this home rule proposition and the bill will probably receive the support of labor.



REPRESENTATIVE ERVIN.

Author of Bill to Enlarge Scope of State
Railway Commission.

tion all the power to regulate railroad corporations which the utilities commission would have under the Woods bill. It confers practically complete power over classification, regulation, practice and service.

Can Veto Raise in Rates.

It is given specifically the power to veto an increase of rates. The supreme court has held that under the present law the commission has no supervision over rate-making. Under the Ervin bill any shipper may protest when a railroad gives the requisite 30 days' notice on an increase. The commission must hear the pro-

SENATE PROBE PROVIDED

Washington, Feb. 10.—The senate was in session three hours. The Elkins resolution authorizing an investigation by a special committee of seven senators of the increased cost of living, was passed after some debate. The names of the committee will be announced later by Vice President Sherman.

SHOOTS WIFE AND SELF

New York, Feb. 10.—Joseph Harbin, a young consumptive, shot and killed his wife and then shot himself on the street here. His wife died instantly. Harbin was taken to Bellevue hospital. The physicians said he couldn't live long.

DAMAGE WROUGHT BY FLOOD ON THE FATHER OF WATERS.



While the Paris flood engaged the attention of the entire world some sections of our own country have not escaped damage by rising waters. Melting snows and heavy rainfalls added to the volume of some of our rivers so greatly that considerable loss was caused along their banks. Especially was this true of parts of the Mississippi. One of our pictures shows the City of Providence, one of the largest and fastest of the river's boats, left stranded on the bank at the mouth of the River des Peres, near St. Louis. The City of Providence sank subsequently to the bottom, causing a loss of \$150,000. Other Mississippi river boats, including ferryboats, met disaster in the flood.

TELLS HOW MORGAN GOBBLED 'PHONE INTERESTS

New York, Feb. 10.—Edward J. Hall, vice president of the American Telephone and Telegraph company, was examined before John F. O'Neill as a special commissioner in connection with suits instituted in Ohio by minority stockholders of western independent telephone companies, who want to know about the recent acquisition by J. P. Morgan & Company of a controlling interest in those companies.

Mr. Hall acknowledged freely that his company had sought to obtain control of the independent companies involved in the suit, and had considered going about it in one of two kinds.

ways. He said, however, that his purpose had been abandoned by legal advice after last fall's decision in the Ohio Standard Oil case regarding holding companies, and that the first knowledge his company had of the Morgan purchase was obtained from the published announcement of such purchase.

The aim of the suitors is to show that, as they think, Morgan & Company bought the independents on behalf of the American Telephone and Telegraph company.

Death is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity.—Milton.

CHARMED LIFE ENDED

Dayton, O., Feb. 10.—After having fallen from the roof of a two-story building twice and from the topmost height of a three-story structure once, after receiving an ugly wound in the jugular vein while opening a bottle of pop by the breaking of the glass, and finally being run down and injured by a streetcar, Charles Schwegel, a carpenter and millwright, who seemed possessed of a charmed life, met a tragic death when he was caught in the shafting of a rattle at the plant of the Dayton Casting company, in North Dayton.

BLACKMAILED A PRIEST

St. Joseph, Mo., Feb. 10.—Father W. Rakowski, priest in charge of St. Peter's and Paul's Catholic church, was blackmailed out of a note for \$5,000 and \$150 in cash by Policeman Allan McDonald and "Dot" Coon and Fred Duncan, a real estate man, according to a confession made in writing by Policeman McDonald. The priest acknowledged the fact, Bishop M. F. Burke issued an order relieving the priest from further service with the parish. The priest was lured to a woman's house and arrested.

WITNESS HAS POOR MEMORY FOR DATES

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 10.—Hiram G. Moe, the agent of the Conger Brothers in the alleged bribing of Senator Aldrich, continued on the witness stand throughout the session of the Conger charges under the examination of Martin W. Littleton, of counsel for Senator Aldrich.

Despite continued questioning, Mr. Littleton was unable to locate Mr. Moe on a single train between Croton and Albany, either coming or returning to Croton, when he brought his boodle fund of \$6,500 to Albany from the Conger bank at Croton. At the conclusion of a long grueling of the

witness, during which Mr. Moe baffled every effort to obtain information regarding the trains he rode upon, Mr. Littleton exclaimed: "Isn't it true, Moe, that the reason you won't give me these train times is that it would help me to show that you were never in Albany?" Moe's reply was that he could not remember the particular train times that Mr. Littleton questioned him about.

It takes a strong man to be mean. When I give a tip 'tis not because I want to, but because I'm afraid of what the water 'll think.—Mr. Dooley.

CHARGED WITH ASSAULT

Piqua, O., Feb. 10.—A sensation was caused here when it became known that the Rev. James Thomas, 60, a Christian minister, whose home is in Marion, Ind., but who had been located here in charge of a gospel mission for several months, was wanted upon a charge of assault upon Ruth Rumble, 7, the adopted daughter of Mrs. Johnnie S. Rumble.

ACCUSED OF DRINKING

Zanesville, O., Feb. 10.—James Kline, an Anti-Saloon league detective of Columbus, was arrested in this city on the charge of drinking and giving away intoxicating liquors on an Ohio Electric company interurban car between Zanesville and Columbus. The charges against Kline were preferred by Conductor Pearl McCormick in the Newark police court, and the prisoner was taken to that city. Kline was on his way to this city to testify against C. W. Morrison, whose place he helped raid.

KILLED FOR REVENGE

Cleveland, O., Feb. 10.—John Janowski and his comely young Polish bride, found murdered in their beds, died in satisfaction of a debt of \$60. This is the story told the police in a statement which they say was made to them by George Boscardo, 29, arrested on the charge of murder in the first degree. He had lent the money to Mrs. Janowski, according to the statement, to secure her love, but found himself unable to realize on the investment. Angry because of his failure to get his money back, the police say that Boscardo tells of waiting for the couple to return to their home, of again demanding the money and, failing to get it, of killing the woman with a section of gas pipe. The man, as the story is told, succumbed only after a struggle.

MEADOWS NOT GUILTY

Columbus, O., Feb. 10.—Frank Meadows, charged with the murder of Mrs. Amelia Spino, was acquitted by a jury in Judge Dillon's court, but was returned to jail to await trial on the charge of killing the woman's husband, Pasquella. The Spinos were killed when their home at Marble Cliff was dynamited July 24, 1909. Meadows, who was a former suitor for the hand of Mrs. Spino, was arrested and tried on purely circumstantial evidence.

CANTON WANTS QUIET FOURTH

Canton, O., Feb. 10.—Mayor A. B. Turnbull stated that the sale of firecrackers and other dangerous explosives likely will be prohibited here next Fourth of July. In this stand he is backed up by the council. A municipal celebration is now planned. A letter from Governor Harmon was made public here in which he said: "I do not think it is possible to regulate the use of dangerous fireworks. I think the sale of them should be abolished."

PINCHOT STIRS UP OLD STORY

Speaks At Dinner In His Honor By National Arts Club

Attacks Solicitor McCabe—Former Head Of Forestry Service Asserts That Law Was Not Violated When Rangers Were Sent To State Universities To Perfect Themselves In Duties—Also Charges That Law Was Prostituted To Secure Reversal Of Practice

New York, Feb. 10.—Speaking at a dinner given in his honor by the National Arts club, Gifford Pinchot, president of the National Conservation association, bitterly attacked Solicitor McCabe of the department of agriculture at Washington. Mr. McCabe is the man who was temporarily put in charge of the forestry department after Mr. Pinchot was dismissed by President Taft.

Mr. Pinchot accused the solicitor of misrepresentation and of "prostituting the law." The Pinchot attack is based on the action taken by McCabe in refusing to continue making payments for the education of forest rangers at some of the state universities.

The complaint of President Pinchot against the solicitor found a ready sympathy among the diners. They applauded him again and again. Mr. Pinchot said in part:

"About the middle of January the papers contained stories of now the forest service was paying the expenses of students at various colleges and how this alleged illegal expenditure had been discovered and stopped.

States Facts in Case.

"The facts are these: The forest service has never spent a cent for the training of any young man who was not already in the service. It has never sent any student to college. But it has ordered picked men already in the service, one or two from each forest, to go for eight, 10 or 12 weeks to four state universities in order to learn things necessary for their work for the government. These men were ordered to take courses prescribed by the forest service, partly taught by its officers and organized and arranged especially to meet its needs. And what the service thus did was well done.

"No one has denied or can successfully deny that the training of the rangers is necessary for the admission, protection and improvement of the national forests. It is so recognized in the rule book and officially approved. Money is appropriated in the agricultural bill for all expenses necessary for the administration, preparation and preservation of the forests."

"The expenditure of the public funds for ranger schools, conducted, attended and taught wholly at government expense, is recognized as clearly within the law. Money spent for ranger schools at state universities is in precisely the same legal position.

"Under this state of law, suddenly the law was invoked to stop the training of the rangers. It happened thus: Upon my dismissal the solicitor of the department of agriculture, pending the arrival of another officer from the field, was made acting for-

ester for three or four days. It appears that he learned then of the ranger schools at the four state universities, and sent telegrams to the disbursing officers in the field to pay no expenses connected with them. These telegrams were kept secret from every member of the service in Washington except the stenographer who wrote them. With equal concealment from all the men in the forest service, a letter was prepared and sent to the comptroller asking for a speedy advance decision as to the legality of the ranger schools. This letter was clearly intended and was so framed as to secure a decision against the schools, and it was successful in doing so.

Letter a Misrepresentation.

"This letter is a misrepresentation because it omits to state the central, essential and incontrovertible facts: first, that the forest service must have trained rangers, and second, that it can get them only by training them after they enter the service. It follows that the training of the rangers by the service is necessary, clearly and undeniably, for the administration, protection and improvement of the national forests. Being necessary for that purpose, it falls well within the terms of the agricultural appropriation bill, and is therefore lawful.

"I am not concerned with the motive behind the indefensible sacrifice of the public welfare. It is a typical illustration of a certain way to 'obey the law.' Of course it is not obedience to the law at all, but the prostitution of the law. It is the method so effectively used by the special interests against the people, and there is nothing to be said in its favor."

ACTRESS DIVORCED

Cleveland, O., Feb. 10.—Pay Courtney, actress, was granted a divorce by Judge Keeler at a trial lasting 15 minutes. She refused to discuss her reported engagement to Vaughn Glazer, the matinee idol.

Her Nationality.

When small Sigrid made her first appearance in an American school, says Harper's Magazine, she was asked the usual puzzling questions, one of which was:

"What is your nationality, Sigrid?"

"Sigrid tossed her faxen braids. 'I'm an American of Norwegian descent,' she said promptly.

SIX MINERS KILLED BY GAS EXPLOSION

Stearns, Ky., Feb. 10.—An unexpected explosion in Mine No. 1 of the Stearns Coal company killed six white men outright. It is thought the victims ran into a pocket of gas which ignited when it came into contact with their lamps.

The dead: A. B. Thrasher, Edward

Thrasher, C. C. King, Elmer Grundy, Benjamin Grundy, John Troxel.

Traveling Salesman Dies.

Columbus, O., Feb. 10.—William Lackaye, 58, a traveling salesman of Terre Haute, Ind., who was taken suddenly ill at a local hotel, died in Grant hospital from apoplexy.