

RAILROAD COMPETITION ALMOST ELIMINATED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The annual report of the interstate commerce commission was sent to congress this noon.

The report shows that the net earnings of all the railways in the United States for the year ending June 30, 1902, are \$605,500,000, or \$3100 per mile for each mile of constructed road.

The earnings exceed those of the previous year by \$51,000,000, while over \$30,000,000 more in dividends was paid than a year ago.

The report is outspoken regarding railway combinations and as-

serts that competition which formerly existed has been largely suppressed. It is declared to be only a matter of time, if the present movement continues, before the entire railway situation will be controlled by a few individuals.

The resulting conditions of this almost entire elimination of competition and common ownership are declared to involve consequences to the public which claim the most serious and urgent attention.

The commission recommends corresponding changes in the regulating statutes of the interstate commerce acts, as existing laws are to-

tally inadequate to meet the new conditions.

The criminal provisions of the present law, as tested by the North-western securities merger and other prosecutions of the past year, are declared to be dead letters. There ought to be some power, states the report, which will compel the grain-carrying roads of the northwest to maintain their published rates, as well as to force the railways to make fair and reasonable rates.

Attention is also called to the gratifying results of the safety appliance law, by which nearly 10,000 less deaths occurred among those engaged in coupling and uncoupling cars than during the previous year.

NIGHT FORCE AT POST OFFICE.

"It is probably the opinion of many," said Assistant Postmaster Dieffenbach this morning, "that in the larger cities the general delivery windows are open night and day and that there is no break between the days. This is a false impression, and even in Chicago and New York city concessions of the kind are unknown."

"When we keep open our registry department window and put on an additional force in Spokane, it will be to accommodate the holiday business, but the general delivery windows will not be open except at the usual hours."

"If the present volume of business continues, we will within a few days create the night force, as announced in The Press a few days since."

"Washington, D. C., is the only postoffice in the United States, Canada or Mexico which has its general delivery window open night and day."

BELGIUM NOW AFTER CASTRO

BRUSSELS, Dec. 17.—It is officially announced today that a diplomatic note has been sent to Venezuela regarding the settlement of the Belgian claims, amounting to \$500,000.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Minister Bowen has called the state department from Caracas this morning. The Italian minister had left. Minister Bowen has assumed charge of the Italian legation affairs according to his instructions.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—Prime Minister Balfour in replying to questions in the house of commons yesterday repeated his assurances of yesterday that England had no intention of landing troops or of occupying the territory of Venezuela. Great Britain was most anxious there should be as little inconvenience as possible to the neutral powers in the blockade. He believed that the Germans had old grievances besides the new financial claims. Nothing further, he added, has been received regarding the arbitration negotiations.

PARIS, Dec. 17.—Foreign Minister Delcasse has obtained assurances from England and Germany that the customs of Venezuela, which by the agreement made last April were to be set aside as guarantees of the payment of the French claim, will be protected by the allies.

BUENOS AYRES, Argentina, Dec. 17.—The South American republic as a rule favor Venezuela in her troubles with the allied powers. Brazil is indifferent, and Argentina and Chile are neutral.

PREACHER ON TRIAL FOR BEING TOO GAY

On the charge of conduct unbecoming a minister and a Christian, accused of having fallen in love and having attempted an elopement with a former member of his congregation, Rev. C. D. Nickelsen, the popular young preacher of Colfax, is being tried today before a committee of the clergy in the First M. E. church.

Rev. Nickelsen is alleged to have telegraphed the young lady, who resides in North Yakima, to meet him in Spokane, saying they would "go together." Instead of complying with the request, the woman sent an attorney, who met the preacher. Explanations followed and the preacher returned to his charge at Colfax, who charitably regarded him as having been temporarily out of his head.

Some three weeks ago Rev. Nickelsen came to Spokane with the avowed intention of committing suicide, but changed his mind.

It is presumed that his wire that they "would go together" meant that there would be a double suicide.

The committee trying the case is composed of Rev. H. D. Kimball of Vincent M. E. church, Spokane; Rev. Mr. Brown, Union Park; Rev. T. G. Hudson, Coeur d'Alene; Rev. J. H. Martin, St. Maries; Rev. J. W. Spangler, Latah; Rev. A. L. Hawley, Garfield; Rev. T. H. Ferguson, Ritzville; Rev. W. Haskins, Sprague; and Rev. J. P. Barker of Cheney. Mr. Nickelsen is present and is represented by M. E. Carley, S. C. Armstrong and Henry Copley of Colfax.

All witnesses were sworn to severely regarding the proceedings, and no spectators allowed to be present.

Mr. Nickelsen requested a change of venue from Spokane and also applied for a postponement of the trial. Both requests were denied.

SPOKANE HOTELS ARE ALL CROWDED

All Spokane hotel men report that the present season is showing unprecedented business. With many of the houses for the past two weeks it has not been unusual to turn people away.

When Bob Fitzsimmons came to Spokane the other day one of the largest hostleries here was compelled to direct him to a rooming house,

owing to the hotel's crowded condition.

In addition to the usual local and customary country business, a very large number of eastern people have been and are guests of Spokane's hostleries, advance guards of the crowd of homeseekers that will flock westward with the melting of the snows.

DELIBERATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL

At last night's council meeting Julius Galland and Attorney W. J. Thayer, representing Gust Pearson and the Stockholm, failed to appear when called upon, though present a few minutes before.

Copies of the complaint filed by F. Studley with the city clerk on Monday against the Coeur d'Alene and Comique theaters were read and referred to the license committee, and the hearing fixed for 1:30 Monday. At the same time will be

heard the complaint against Commissioner Lillenthal by S. W. Green for not enforcing the ordinances against gambling houses.

Much minor business was transacted.

The fire limits were enlarged, the final payment for the proposed cemetery site ordered and the ordinance reducing the salary of the police judge \$50 per month defeated. A resolution carried that the finance committee furnish funds for poor people suddenly taken ill.

NO SEARCH WARRANTS AGAINST GAMBLERS

Yesterday C. E. Burnham applied to Judge Richardson of the superior court for search warrants against the five Howard st. gambling houses, against whom complaints were filed in the justice court. Judge Richardson took the matter under advisement and today declined issue the search warrants, holding that, as the complaints were

filed in the justice court and not in the superior court, he had no jurisdiction in the matter. Had the complaints been filed in the superior court, then he would have had jurisdiction, but as they were not only the magistrate before whom the complaints were filed could issue the search warrants.

CHARGE CUTTING GOVERNMENT TIMBER

A case was today filed with the United States marshal's office against the Cameron Milling company of Idaho, which is alleged to have been cutting timber on government lands.

Judge Hanford will hear the case, the company being cited to appear

and show cause why a restraining order should not be passed.

Cases such as charged are reported numerous, one notable instance being given as that of the town of Republic, which is said to be almost wholly built of timber stolen from the government.

WILL SUE.

E. A. Morrison, a former conductor on the Northern Pacific, will bring a suit for \$20,000 damages for personal injuries which, he states, he received in a head-end collision last spring.

Mr. Morrison claims that he is totally incapacitated for ordinary duties.

GLINDEMAN.

The arguments on the petition of John Glinde, who is in jail on the charge of incest and whose wife has filed a bill for a divorce, asking that he be permitted to mortgage a portion of his property, which is tied up by an injunction, for the purpose of securing funds with which to defend himself in court, were heard before Judge Kennan this morning.

At the conclusion of the arguments his wife agreed to allow him to mortgage certain real estate for the purpose of raising \$1500 and an order was made to that effect.

GIRL BURNT.

YREKA, Cal., Dec. 17.—The homes of E. B. Edison and L. M. Foulke at Gazelle, near here, were destroyed by fire at 8 o'clock this morning. Miss E. Foulke, oldest daughter of L. M. Foulke, was burned to death.

Mr. Edison is railway commissioner for the northern district of California and was a leading candidate for gubernatorial honors in the last republican state convention.

TELEGRAPH BRIEVITIES.

New York.—Physicians today predict Cornelius Vanderbilt's recovery.

Victoria, B. C.—By a decision of the privy council just received, naturalized Japs can exercise the franchise in British Columbia.

London.—The archbishop of Canterbury's condition continues the same. There is no noticeable improvement this morning.

Pendleton, Ore.—Chris Lempe hanged himself to a rafter in an outbuilding. His brother Claus committed suicide Saturday in a similar manner. Despondency.

Copenhagen.—A German first-class armored cruiser is ashore near Koeber in the Baltic sea. The battleship Kaiser Wilhelm Der Grosse and other vessels are trying to save the stranded vessel.

London.—Great ceremonies attended the christening of the infant son of the duke and duchess of Manchester at noon today. Queen Alexandra is the child's godmother.

Portland, Ore.—Solomon Hirsch, ex-minister to Turkey, was buried here this morning before a great concourse of people. The body was placed in two feet of cement. Armed guards will watch until the cement hardens. This is a result of the theft of the body of W. S. Ladd some years ago.

CITY NEWS.

Hal J. Cole is back from Grand Forks.

The supreme court has sustained the Hallett inheritance tax law in the James Clark case from Spokane.

A reception was tendered to Bishop Wells of the Episcopal church at All Saints' parish house last evening on the tenth anniversary of his appointment.

Business men report that the buying for Christmas started this year earlier than ever before, and that the season and holiday stocks are now far advanced.

The high school football team is practically disbanded, unless games can be secured with Cheney or any of the coast teams, which at this time does not seem probable.

The county surveyor is almost daily in receipt of petitions from various parts of the county, asking him to survey for the opening of roads, but on account of the cold weather and short days nothing is being done in that line at present.

WRECKED.

MARCUS, Wash., Dec. 17.—A wreck occurred at 10 o'clock last night on the Spokane Falls & Northern at Clayton, a small station 30 miles from here. No one was injured. Two loaded cars and some empties were wrecked, delaying traffic for several hours.

ANDJAN DESTROYED.

ST. PETERSBURG, Dec. 17.—Andjan in Central Asia has been practically destroyed by a recent earthquake. No details have been received of the loss of life as yet. The city had a population of 30,000 inhabitants.

LILY SAILS.

LONDON, Dec. 17.—Prominent among the passengers on the Celtic, which sailed for New York today, were Mrs. Langtry and the leading members of her company, who are to engage in a tour of the large cities of America this winter. A large body of friends assembled at the station to bid the famous actress bon voyage.

XMAS AT FT. WRIGHT.

The ladies of Fort Wright are preparing to make Christmas a pleasant occasion for the army boys.

Nothing in the nature of a set entertainment has as yet been planned, but it is reported that each member of the garrison will be remembered.

As to the officers' circle, the celebration of Christmas will not be especially marked. "There are too few of us," said an officer's wife this morning in explanation of the reason.

REDUCED.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The house ways and means committee has authorized a favorable report on the bill reducing the tariff on goods imported to the Philippines to 25 per cent of the Dingley tariff schedule. The islands now pay 75 per cent.

CONGRESS.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—In the senate the urgent deficiency bill was taken up and passed in five minutes. A motion also passed to the effect that when the senate adjourned this afternoon it be until Saturday.

Senator Morgan gave notice that on Saturday he would ask that a bill to provide for acquiring the rights necessary to the construction of the isthmian canal be laid before the senate.

The pension appropriation bill also passed without objection or amendment.

The house in committee of the whole reported without opposition the Hepburn amendment to the judiciary bill appropriating half a million dollars to be immediately available, with which the attorney general is to employ counsel for the enforcement of the trust laws now on the statute books.

MARKETS.

As reported by the Coe Commission company:
Chicago—Opening. Closing.
May wheat \$0.77 1/4 \$0.77 1/4
May corn 43 1/2 43 1/2
May oats 32 1/2 32 1/2
May pork 15.72 15.57
Minneapolis—
May wheat 75 75 1/4

Wilbur, Wash.—Jesse Rusk and Thomas Gordon were thawing out dynamite in an oven when the stuff exploded. Rusk lived 10 minutes and Gordon three hours. Wade Cole, who was in the room, was stunned and bruised, but not seriously injured.

PARENTS TESTIFY ON CHILD LABOR

SCRANTON, Pa., Dec. 17.—The coal operators before the coal strike commission today began their response to the charges made by the miners. Former Congressman Wolverson, one of the operators' attorneys, began an address when the commission opened.

Before he had fairly started Attorney Darrow said that he desired to call a few more witnesses. Permission was granted.

Dunko, father of one of the little girls who testified to working nights to help support her family, was the first witness. The company employing Dunko entered a statement yesterday, showing that he received \$1400 last year, of which \$900 was his share. Dunko testified that the money had been divided between two miners and two laborers, his assistants. He had received \$30 per month and was deeply in debt at the company store when his girl went to work.

Judge Gray said that he should not have let his daughter work like this no matter how deeply he was indebted to the company.

Another father was called and testified that his daughter made \$1.50 per week, his wife was sick and his boys were employed in the silk mills. No certificate of age over 13 had ever been demanded.

Judge Gray said, "It's up to that boss now." He requested the witnesses to keep his daughter from such work in the future.

Chairman Gray asked the counsel of the Pennsylvania company for an explanation of the discrepancy in their statements, and was answered that the company kept no record of how many men were employed to assist contract miners.

The railway's defense will be based on the ground that the miners were forming a monopoly of labor and that there is no similarity between bituminous and anthracite mining. They assert that all laborers and miners are paid more wages than other occupations requiring the same skill. They will try to show that the educational facilities are good and that mining is not a dangerous occupation, and also try to show that it is impracticable and almost impossible to adopt the system of weighing asked for by the miners.

THE LUCKY CHARLIE IS BEING PUSHED

The Lucky Charlie in the Pierre Lake district is among the few mining properties which are being actively pushed through the winter season.

E. F. Graves, prominently connected with the mine, states that

GORGEOUS WEDDING IN BALTIMORE TO-DAY

BALTIMORE, Md., Dec. 17.—So many were dazzled today by one of the most gorgeous weddings that has ever been celebrated in the old city of Baltimore. The contracting parties were Thomas Alexander McIntyre, millionaire, clubman and Wall st. power of New York, and Mrs. Archibald Paul Mitchell, a young and wealthy widow, also of New York. The ceremony was performed at the home of the bride's relatives, Dr. and Mrs. James D. Inglehart in West Linnvale st. Following the ceremony there was a wedding breakfast served to 200 guests by Delmonico of New York.

RAN AWAY BECAUSE WANTED NEW CLOTHES

Earl McLaughlin and Carl Hampton, two romantic youths who ran away from home in order to get initiated into the secrets of a messenger boy's life in Spokane, were arrested early this morning by Officer Shannon.

McLaughlin is a lad of only 13 years of age, but claims that this is not the first time he left home. He ran away a year ago to Tekoa. "I ran away both times because the old man wouldn't get me any clothes," said McLaughlin. "So I quit him. I'd like to go home. This here place is on the bum. A fellow can't go to sleep or anything. But I'd rather hang out here than go back home if the old man don't buy me a new suit. I don't want to walk around naked."

Carl Hampton, who says that he met McLaughlin in Tekoa, says he has always earned his own livelihood, and at periods makes a sudden departure for other points in order to better his condition. His stopover lives in Wallace, Idaho. Carl speaks of his home in glowing terms, stating that his stepfather, W. J. Doudy, has always been good and kind to him. He is 15 years of age.

Both boys paid their way to Spokane on money earned while employed at the City restaurant in Tekoa.

The Wonder

409-413 Riverside Avenue J. HELBERG & CO.

Only one week more to do your Christmas buying. During that time do not forget to visit our store. You will find many fancy novelties and many useful as well as ornamental articles for holiday gifts. An early visit will give you best choice.

Holiday Prices Still Prevail in Our Millinery Department.

Coats and Skirts.

Come in and make a selection before they are picked over. We will lay it away until Xmas for you. 150 ladies' all wool serge cheviot and covert cloth dress skirts in black and colors; former prices were \$4.00, \$5.00, \$6.00; holiday price \$2.98

Ladies' Monte Carlo Coats—Only a small lot left, and some of the best, but they must go; come and get a bargain; price no object.

Watch Fobs for Xmas.

We have a few samples of elegant fobs and at one-half the regular price; just the thing for a gentleman's Xmas present; 98c to \$2.50

Men's Cuff Links.

Stone Bros.' famous warranted gold goods; a good assortment to select your husband a present from; your choice for 49c

Men's Silk Kerchiefs.

Pure silk, initialed, hemstitched, plain white or fancy border; our holiday price 25c

New Track Railway.

Combination passenger coach and open freight car; engine, coaches, switches, track signals, etc., all complete; just the thing to delight the boys; for 98c

Burnt Leather Pipe Racks

Genuine burnt leather Indian landscape; smoke the pipe of peace; for 49c

Celluloid Work Box.

Containing six-inch mirror, scissors, hook, etc.; all complete; satin lined decorated box 49c

Tam o' Shaners.

Extra heavy Angora; all colors; gray, red, blue, white; for the holidays 39c

Opera Shawls.

These are lovely Xmas gifts; made of Shetland floss; 140 inch sweep; white, pink, blue; holiday price \$1.98

Go-Carts, 25c. Fancy Baskets, 10c.

LOWEST PRICE STORE IN SPOKANE FOR GOOD GOODS.

WHITEHOUSE DRY GOODS

Specials for Thursday

Suggestions for Christmas Gifts in Men's Wear.

Bath Robes and Smoking Jackets at Cost. Continuation of sale. Only two or three of each size left.

Special Sale Linen Handkerchiefs.

Men's full size, pure linen handkerchiefs; worth 20c each; on sale Thursday at two for 25c

Men's Glove Sale.

Dress and walking gloves in fine quality dogskin; colors, tans and reds; regular price, \$1.25; on sale Thursday at, per pair 90c

Men's Shirt Sale.

Best quality colored stiff bosom shirts, two pairs cuffs; all new patterns; regular price everywhere \$1.50; on sale Thursday at, each 95c

Men's Underwear Sale.

Fine quality fleece lined shirts and drawers; also a heavy jersey ribbed cotton underwear; regular price 75c garment; on sale Thursday at 48c

Sale of Men's Outing Flannel Night Gowns

Our regular 75c and \$1.00 qualities on sale Thursday at each 69c

Sale of Pillows in Art Dept.

All our finished pillows on sale at 33 1/3 per cent reduction. \$25.00 pillows for \$16.75
\$15.00 pillows for 10.00
\$9.00 pillows for 6.00
\$6.00 pillows for 4.00
\$5.00 pillows for 3.35
\$4.00 pillows for 2.75

ON SALE THURSDAY. SEE DISPLAY IN OUR CORNER WINDOW.

Rabbi Bloch has written Superintendent Saylor, demanding that all mention of Christ be omitted from Christmas exercises to be held Friday afternoon, the closing day of the term.

In all the schools of the city programs are being arranged for Christmas exercises to be held Friday afternoon, the closing day of the term.