

THE SCALPING BUSINESS.

By formal action practically all of the transportation companies of the country and Boards of Trade and kindred commercial organizations, and religious and other societies have sanctioned the bill known as the "Anti-Scalping Bill," and urged upon Congress the expediency and justice of its enactment.

After several comprehensive and exhaustive hearings by the Senate and House committees on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, the bill has been advanced to the calendar of the Senate by a vote of eight to three, and to the House by a majority of fifteen to two.

The bill contemplates the abolition of traffic by irresponsible and unauthorized persons, in railroad and steamship tickets, and confines such transactions to the duly constituted agents of the transportation companies, and obligates all common carriers to promptly and equitably redeem passage tickets when for any reason unused in whole or part.

The Interstate Commerce Commission in its annual reports to Congress has again and again reviewed the evils of ticket scalping and uniformly urged upon Congress the expediency and justice to the traveling public and the railways, of such amendments to the Interstate Commerce act as would abolish the practice and limit sales of passage tickets to responsible and properly authorized channels.

As a rule, the ticket scalper, in his province of a self-constituted agent, is unable, were he so disposed, to discriminate touching the legitimacy or regularity of tickets tendered and purchased in the course of his transactions. It therefore follows that his office creates a convenient market for lost, stolen or fraudulent tickets, and, likewise, an incentive and temptation to railway employes to, through the medium of the ticket broker, defraud the companies whom they serve. This feature of the business of the ticket scalper being self-evident, should condemn his transactions from a moral standpoint.

The business of the ticket scalper does not appear to, in any essential way, serve the economy, convenience or welfare of the traveling public; conversely the unfair and unlawful manipulation of excursion tickets to which he necessarily resorts to obtain a profit from the business, compels the railways to surround such forms of transportation with restrictive conditions militating against convenient and economical use by legitimate purchasers, and not infrequently the ticket scalper's methods compel the railways, in a reasonable protection of their interests, to decline meritorious applications for excursion fares, particularly when such concessions involve important commercial centers or movements of large bodies of people.

The moral influence of the ticket scalper's avocation is deplorable from whatever point of view it may be considered, and in the interest of public morals and fair dealings, the law-abiding, thinking people of the country should raise their voice and influence in the direction of securing enactment of the measures now under consideration by Congress.

This can be done by signing petitions

and sending them to our delegate in Congress. The scalper is of no benefit to the people, while the redemption by the company, of unused transportation, will be of great benefit. Petitions for signing can be had at this office.

POLITICS AND WAR

Our Colorado Correspondent Dishes up a Wroughtful Discourse for the Delectation of Many Readers.

To the Editor of the Optic.

PUEBLO, Colo., March 13.—It does seem decidedly strange to have so many trusts formed under a Republican administration which promised speedy prosperity to the masses, but which, since its advent to power, has been able only to give this precious boon to a few hundred down-trodden multi-millionaires, who having millions to invest, need a few hundred additional millions to keep the grim spectre of want from their doors.

We read of eighteen trusts which have been formed since McKinley became president; and these trusts represent a capital of \$484,000,000. As the main object of the trusts is to form a combine to control a certain commodity, and then after driving out the small dealers and manufacturers, raise the price of that commodity—to say nothing of the many workmen that are thrown out of work by this consolidation for plunder—it does seem a ghastly farce for any honest Republican to prate of prosperity to the masses, under such conditions.

The country needs, and must have, a prosperity that will benefit the great Army of wealth producers, instead of a few hundred millionaires; and if the Republican party fails to make its promises good p. d. q. the coming fall elections will drive the party out of power, and into final oblivion. Whether the mantle of power will fall on Democratic shoulders, or be given to a new party yet to be formed, only time will tell. Not a very pleasant admission for a Republican of thirty-eight years standing to make, but it is true. The people cannot be fooled always, and they are already showing decided symptoms of restlessness, because the glittering anti-election promises have so far failed to be made good.

Prof. Cajori, of the Colorado college, lectured at the Congregational church on Friday night, his subject being "Dust,"—not the yellow dust that makes men struggle, starve, and die in the attempt to obtain it; but the simple every day "dust" that we like most when it is farthest from us. Yet this lowly and much abused dust has, according to the learned professor, a most important mission to perform. Who would have thought that without dust there would be no blue sky, and that its absence would cause the sun to give forth a blinding light?

Dust also gives us the moderately tempered daylight best adapted to our eyes, it also gives beauty to scenery. The finest dust gives the blue to the sky; while the coarse dust produces an almost black appearance. It also makes us sneeze.

We also learn that clouds consist of dust and vapor and that without dust the vapor would be so dense as to penetrate houses, and cause all things to mold with damp. Even Col. Frost's cheek would succumb to this wet and musty vapor. Umbrellas would provide no protection because the vapor would penetrate through them, and the umbrella fend would find his vocation gone.

"Dust," as we happen to know, can be put to other uses, and produce at times ill of which the Professor made no mention;—for instance, if we fail to "raise the dust" when our other half wants a new Easter bonnet, the domestic horizon will at once become black

and murky, and so remain until the "dust" is raised; from all of which we learn that even if dust does make a fellow sneeze, it is not to be sneezed at when viewed from a scientific standpoint.

The colored people of Pueblo are showing a commendable spirit of patriotism. Eight hundred of the young colored men have offered their services to Governor Adams in case war should be declared with Spain. They declared their readiness to go to Cuba and fight for its independence any time the government calls for them. John Arthur, a prominent colored man, has been elected as the Colonel.

F. Morion Crawford, the famed novelist, will appear in this city as a lecturer on Monday night. His subject is Leo XIII. and those who attend, will no doubt enjoy the intellectual treat that is in store for them. Mr. Crawford is said to be as brilliant and entertaining on the platform as he is between the pages of a book.

The two companies of state militia in this city, which were about to be consolidated into one company have, since the war fever started, accepted recruits for their ranks, and from last accounts both companies are receiving a sufficient number to make up the maximum strength. If war does come, Uncle Sam can figure on a small army of Coloradans who will help to make those guitar strumming Spaniards wish they had remained at home serenading the señoritas and attending bull fights, instead of trying their hands in a game of war. A nation that cannot, with 200,000 men, finely armed, whip a few thousand half starved and poorly armed patriots, who are fighting for their independence, ought never to monkey with an old gentleman like Uncle Sam, who, when occasion requires, is found loaded at both ends, and so far he always come out of a row with "Old Glory" flying high, and the word "Victory" emblazoned on every stripe of the old flag.

A citizen of Pueblo, whose modesty prevented him from leaving his address, has hit on a novel way of building a home at little or no cost. This man, the other night, stole three wagon loads of brick from a lot on Elizabeth street, and the strangest part of it is that no one discovered him while engaged in this work.

That the United States Senate can do a sensible act at times is proven by the fact that the nomination of Terrence V. Powderly—the monumental humbug who for years obtained a fat living from the Knights of Labor, for the office of Immigration Commissioner was rejected. Terrence can now hunt up that other exploded humbug, Martin Irons, and compare notes with him, on "fallen greatness." JOHN J. HIPPIUS

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By bulletin, the Government has announced the returns of the number of live stock on farms in the United States on January 1 show 13,960,911 horses, 2,257,665 mules, 15,840,886 milch cows, 29,264,197 oxen and other cattle, 37,656,990 sheep and 37,759,993 swine. These figures show a decrease of 403,756 in the number of horses, 100,841 in that of milch cows, 1,344,311 in that of oxen and other cattle and 840,293 in that of swine. On the other hand, there is an increase of 3,837 in the number of sheep and and 42,011 in that of mules.

The bill introduced by Delegate Smith, of Arizona, to allow Territories to elect their own governor and secretary, instead of having those offices filled by federal appointment, was very properly killed in the House committee. Until a Territory is granted statehood, these things had best remain as they are.

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