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Opposite Leon Hotel.

THE MORNING SUN 1907

Published in Tallahassee while the Legislature is in session.

CLAUDE L'ENGLE, Editor.
THE SUN COMPANY, Publisher.

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ENACTMENT OF RAILWAY LAW BUT AN ACT OF JUSTICE

Fertile soil seemed to have been in readiness to receive the seed cast by THE SUN concerning the suggestion that the rules and regulations of the Railroad Commission be enacted into statute law.

At least it would appear that the ground was receptive because of the favorable attention the article received from several members of both Senate and House.

One Senator remarked that he was astonished at the disregard of the railway companies of the rules of the Commission, and believed that it would be proper for this Legislature to put laws on the statute books, instead of depending, as at present, on the orders of the Railroad Commission to adjust matters.

Another Senator, who admitted that he had not given the subject the thought it deserved, stated that he, too, had been astonished to learn that the mandates of the Commission were ignored or evaded by the railways or contested in the courts to the injury of the people, while of the thousands of dollars in fines assessed against the railways less than three hundred dollars were paid.

Still another Senator declared that the time was ripe for Legislative action. "Let us do something that will bring the desired corrections," said he, "or else wipe the whole thing off the slate and confess our inability or unwillingness to maintain supervision over the railroads of the State."

These remarks are cited to show the feeling that exists for the necessity of an effective law.

Consideration of the plan advanced by THE SUN will prove the basis for securing a law which will bring the railways under the authoritative supervision of the state.

Such enactment will provide the means for prompt punishment of railway offenders, as in the case of other violators of law.

Such provision does not mean persecution of railway companies, but simply that they shall receive the same degree of justice as is dealt to others who disobey the laws of the State.

As it is but justice that is asked it is the duty of the Legislature to provide the way to gain it.

The very first thing Mr. Cortelyou did when he got to be Secretary of the Treasury was to save the gambling Wall Street banks by letting them have a whole lot of millions of the people's money for nothing. His predecessor, Mr. Shaw, was the best friend the banks ever had, and there is no reason to think that Cortelyou will do otherwise than follow his example, and as this is the age of progress, we may expect the man who spent the Life Insurance money to elect a Republican President, to exceed his predecessor in the giving out of favors to the system. Did anyone ever hear of a Secretary of the Treasury giving aid to anyone except the banks in general and the Wall Street banks in particular?

The chances look slim for the passage of the two-cent passenger fare in Illinois. President Roosevelt and the Governor of Illinois have been in conference, and the suspicion is not so badly founded that the President's mailed hand dealt the blow that threatens to kill this bill along with a similar bill to regulate rates. Our Theodore never misses a chance to show his love for imperialism. He mixes in the affairs of every State whenever he gets an opening, and makes an opening when he doesn't see one.

I see that the Pensacola Journal has caught Willie Ringworm Carter's Kitchen Entertainer printing a fake telegram. If the editor of the Pensacola Journal knew this literary miscreant as well as I do, he would not have wasted so much space on an every-day happening. Very little goes into the Metropolis, outside of the Associated Press dispatches, the white and negro society columns and the advertising, that is not a fake.

The Standard Oil trial has hardly begun in Indiana and the documents introduced to show Standard Oil methods of throttling competition already number more than six thousand. This is not surprising because the ability to get evidence of Standard Oil disregard of law, right, justice and decency is limited only by time and the capacity of human hands to gather it together.

W. R. Wilson

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