HEAVY REDUCTIONS IN FREIGHT RATES ORDERED

Commerce Commission's Decisions Affect Every Railroad in United States.

FIGHT WON BY SHIPPERS

Transcontinental Tariffs Cut as Much as 50 Per Cent in Some Instances—Three Months' Test Granted.

[From The Tribune Bureau.]

Washington, June 29.—Extensive reductions in freight rates have been ordered by the Interstate Commerce Commission after months of investigation. The reductions affect both class and commodity rates, and will be felt by every railroad in the country, despite the fact that Far Western tariffs were made the immediate subject of the inquiry. All transcontinental lines will feel the primary effects of to-day's decisions, which were prepared with the utmost care and have been awaited with unusual interest by shippers in all parts of the country. They were rendered in the Pacific Coast cases. The most important is the Spokane case, which has been before the commission in one form or another for several years.

In every instance reductions in the existing rates were ordered, and in some cases these reductions amount to as much as 50 per cent of the present tariffs. The shippers of Spokane complained to the commission that the rate on freight to their city was the rate to the Coast, plus the local rates to Spokane, although the freight was discharged at the latter point by the railroads on the trip west. Reno, Salt Lake and other cities in that section seconded the complaint. The commission recommended a reduction of approximately 30 per cent in the rates to these cities. This reduction, however, will not be immediately effective. In order to proceed with caution the commission has determined to ascertain by actual test the effect of proposed rates, and will require the carriers to keep a detailed account for three months showing the revenues and the expenses. The commission found a remarkable rate situation existing on the Pacific Coast, and an even more remarkable one in the intermountain territory. This is notably true of the rates to and from Spokane and Reno.

Coincident with the decisions handed down to-day, which will involve an immense amount of work on the part of the commission, hundreds of tariffs were filed to-day by the trunk lines, including the Pennsylvania and the Erie railroads. These tariffs increase class rates, and will have to be investigated by the commission before they can become effective under the new rate law. The commission has decided to hold a conference on July 15 to consider these tariffs after experts have studied them carefully.

Decision in Spokane Case.

The decision of the commission in the case of Spokane against the Northern Pacific and Great Northern Railroad companies and other carriers was prepared by Commissioner Prouty. It was held that the earnings of the Northern Pacific and the Great Northern for the ten years preceding 1908 "might fairly be termed excessive, and that reductions in revenues might therefore be made without violating the constitutional rights of those companies." The commission adds:

> Having determined that question, we did not make reductions in rates to Spokane for the reason that these revenues were excessive and for the purpose of reducing these revenues. The rates to Spokane were held to be unreasonable, and other rates were established as reasonable upon entirely different considerations.
>
> The scheme of rates proposed by the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific for transportation of traffic from St. Paul and Chicago to Spokane, made by taking 75 per cent of the terminal rates, is founded upon facts which do not exist and is constructed upon a theory which cannot be approved by the commission.

The defendant lines maintained that if material reductions were made the result would be disastrous in view of reductions that necessarily would have to be made elsewhere. In addition, the Northern Pacific showed that since the first decision in the Spokane case, in the spring of 1907, it had spent approximately $93,000,000, and the Great Northern showed it had spent approximately $75,000,000 in betterments. The commission says:

> These sums would in each case equal approximately 25 per cent of the entire cost of reproduction, as found by the commission, and would, if not accompanied by increased earnings, perhaps justify the claim to a greater return. An examination of the nature of these expenditures does not, however, lead to the conclusion that they can have any legitimate bearing upon the correctness of our former decision.

In fixing the rates to Spokane the commission did not use the rates to Seattle as a standard, but adjusted them on what it considered a reasonable basis, taking into account that water competition at Spokane was not material. Then the commission held as follows:

> Joint through rates, both class and commodity, should be established from defined territories east of Chicago to Spokane. Where joint through rates do not now exist from points east of Chicago upon certain lines to Spokane, the commission finds that there is no reasonable and satisfactory through route, and that such through routes and joint rates ought to be established. Both class and commodity rates should be slightly lower from Mississippi River points to Spokane than from Chicago points.

It was also held that the rates to Baker City, La Grande and Pendleton, Ore., and Walla Walla, Wash., were excessive, in so far as they exceed the new rates fixed to Spokane.

In the Nevada and Arizona cases, including the Sacramento-Reno case, against the Southern Pacific Company, the Railroad Commission of Nevada against the Southern Pacific Company, and the Maricopa County Commercial Club against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company and other carriers, the decisions were prepared by Commissioner Lane.

Existing Rates Unprecedented.

In each of them a heavy cut in class rates is ordered, some of the reductions being as high as 33 1-3 per cent. The commission finds that the existing rates are "practically without precedent or parallel" throughout the United States. The average rate a ton a mile on all ten classes from Sacramento to Reno is 9.16 cents, an unprecedented figure. The class rates between Sacramento and Reno are reduced approximately 30 per cent, the rate on first class freight being lowered from $1.29 to 85 cents on one hundred pounds. Similar reductions in the class rates are maintained from Sacramento to other points in Nevada and Utah.

In the case of the Railroad Commission of Nevada against the Southern Pacific Company and other carriers, the commission condemns the existing west-bound class rates from Eastern points to Nevada. The commission declares these rates to be the "highest main line rates found in the United States." For carrying a carload of first class traffic containing 20,000 pounds from Omaha to Reno the Union and Southern Pacific lines charge $858. If the same carload goes 154 miles further, to Sacramento, the charge is only $600. The first class rate to the more distant point, Sacramento, is $3 on 100 pounds, and to the nearer point, Reno, $4.29 on 100 pounds. If the same carload of freight originates at Denver, 500 miles west of Omaha, the same rates to Reno and Sacramento apply; and if the freight originates at Boston, 1,700 miles east of Omaha, the rates are the same. The figures lead the commission to the conclusion that Nevada traffic is no longer as inconsiderable as has been generally supposed.

Turning to the division of earnings between carriers on traffic from the East to Reno, the commission finds that the lion's share accrues to the Southern Pacific Company. It is significant, as indicated in the opinion, that the lines east of Ogden, Utah, receive exactly the same divisions out of the so-called "water compelled" rates to Pacific Coast terminal points as they receive out of the greatly higher rates to Nevada points, "the entire difference being appropriated by the Southern Pacific Company." After discussing this situation, the commission adds:

> The fact remains, however, that for the 2,400-mile haul from New York to Ogden the New York Central, the Lake Shore, the Northwestern and the Union Pacific secure the same revenue out of the $3 rate to Sacramento that they do out of the $4.29 rate to Reno.

Southern Pacific's Earnings.

Astonishing facts were developed by the commission at its hearings concerning the earning capacity of the Pacific lines. The commission shows that "during the last two years the operating revenues of the Southern Pacific Company's Pacific system had increased $8,000,000, while its operating expenses had decreased $5,000,000, thus producing an increased operating income of over $12,000,000, or a net increase of about $2,000 per mile of road."

Referring to other lines in the Pacific system, the commission says:

> If we take the Central Pacific alone, we find it third in the list of Pacific Coast roads in tons carried and the highest of all in freight earnings per mile ($13,453 per mile in 1907). While it is one of three railroads in the West carrying over a million tons of freight per mile of road, the earnings of the Central Pacific per mile are 65 per cent greater than the average for the United States and 100 per cent greater than the average of the roads west of Chicago.

In all these cases the commission provides that the carriers shall take account of their earnings in July, August and September under both the existing rates and the proposed new rates, with a view to determining the precise relation between the two systems of rates.

In the case of the Portland Chamber of Commerce and the Seattle Chamber of Commerce against the Oregon Railroad and Navigation Company, the Northern Pacific company and other Northwestern carriers, commonly known as the "back haul cases," a reduction will be made in the existing rates, but the precise amount of the reduction probably will not be determined before next October.

Present class rates in both directions between Chicago, the Mississippi River and the Missouri River, on the one hand, and Utah common points, on the other, are held by the commission to be unjust and unreasonable, and material reductions are proposed, but no order on either class or commodity rates from Eastern territories to Utah will be made until an account of the present and proposed rates for July, August and September can be obtained. This conclusion is reached in the case of the Commercial Club, of Salt Lake City, against the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company and other carriers.

In addition to the findings as to traffic from Eastern points of origin, the commission orders the carriers to reduce their rates on fruit from points of production in California to Utah common points. The present passenger fares between Utah common points and Omaha and Portland are not found to be unreasonable, as alleged, but the fares between Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, Salt Lake City and San Francisco and between Ogden and Provo and San Francisco are declared to be unreasonable, and they are ordered to be reduced.

HUSTLE TO BEAT AGE LIMIT

Candidate for Naval Academy to Take Hurried Examination.

[By Telegraph to The Tribune.]

Annapolis, June 29.—Because he is on the eve of exceeding the law's maximum age limit, Zena Blain Huffman, a candidate for the Naval Academy who passed the mental examination last week, will take his physical examination to-morrow.

Within twenty-four hours Huffman, whose home is in Lawrenceville, Ill., will be over twenty years old. Should he be accepted physically to-morrow he will be sworn in at once, to comply with the age limit law. He was to have been examined to-day, but because the senior member of the medical survey board was detailed as a member of the board of inquest investigating the death of Mrs. Bowyer and two midshipmen a postponement was taken.

ROOSEVELT FOR COBB BILL

Continued from first page.

demand. It is a fortunate thing for New York, and it is also a fortunate thing for the United States, that New York should have as its Chief Executive a public servant of the stamp of Governor Hughes."

The Governor Replies.

In responding, Governor Hughes said: "I desire to express my appreciation of the great service which has to-day been rendered, not to me, but to the people of the State of New York, by its first citizen. I congratulate the people of the State of New York, and all those who in other states are fighting the battles of public decency and honor, that at this time of his resumption of active participation in the great work of solving the problems of our imperial commonwealth, his decision, in accordance with the example which he has so frequently given of his allegiance to that which counts for the public good, has been rendered in a manner to leave no doubt that the weight of his great and just influence is cast upon the side of freedom within parties, honorable conduct of party affairs, the expression of the intelligent will of the people and of the efforts to make our political life sweet to the taste of our citizens."

Governor Hughes discussed problems affecting university life and paid a tribute to Charles W. Eliot, president emeritus of Harvard, and also to President Lowell. He added:

"I desire also to express my appreciation of the contribution made by college men to the best work in public affairs, as well as in private undertakings or enterprises. It is no accident that we have just closed the administration of Theodore Roosevelt, of Harvard, and are under the administration of William H. Taft, of Yale."

Hughes's Day at Harvard.

This was Hughes's day at Harvard, in so far as a commencement day can be any one man's day, and Theodore Roosevelt, Harvard alumnus, joined with his fellows to pay honor to the man who perhaps fills more roles than any other in the United States.

Charles E. Hughes, Chief Executive of the Empire State, prospective member of the Supreme Court of the United States, and, by virtue of the honorary degree he received to-day, alumnus of Harvard, receiving a rousing welcome from graduates and undergraduates, and none was more hearty than that extended by the ex-President of the United States.

There has been some disposition here in Boston to draw an invidious comparison between the reception accorded Mr. Roosevelt this morning and that accorded Governor Hughes, all of which appears to be unwarranted. As a Harvard man remarked this evening, "Yesterday was Theodore's day. This was Hughes's. Then, too, Theodore is one of the family, while the Governor was a stranger within our gates. Of course, we gave him the best of it this morning. But he is one of us now, and next year he will have to turn in and help us welcome others."

DR. ABBOTT ON THE ISSUE

Declares Cobb Bill To Be of Fundamental Importance.

Assemblyman George A. Green has received the following letter on the subject of direct primaries from Lyman Abbott, editor in chief of "The Outlook":

> The Outlook, 287 Fourth avenue, New York.
> Lawrence F. Abbott, president; William B. Howland, treasurer; Karl V. S. Howland, secretary; Lyman Abbott, editor in chief; Hamilton W. Mabie, associate editor; Theodore Roosevelt, contributing editor.
>
> June 29, 1910.
>
> Dear Sir: The right of popular self-government involves the right of the voters, not merely to choose between candidates placed before them, but also the right to determine who those candidates shall be. In a government carried on by parties this right involves the right of the members of a party to determine who the candidates of the party shall be. Under our present primary laws the voters of a party are denied that right.
>
> It is because the Cobb direct nomination bill, now before the Legislature, provides a way at the same time of maintaining the responsibility of party organization under duly constituted party leadership and of giving to the members of the party the right to select party candidates that I regard the Cobb bill as a measure of fundamental importance.
>
> The Republican party is now in control of the Legislature of New York. The people of the state will hold that party responsible for whatever happens to this measure. It is hardly necessary to say that all right minded people will be inclined to place their confidence in the party only as it accepts and acknowledges its responsibility, and takes action as a party with regard to this bill. Very sincerely yours,
> LYMAN ABBOTT.
>
> Hon. George A. Green, Assembly Chamber, Albany, N. Y.

MANY BILLS INTRODUCED

Senators and Assemblymen at Albany Show Activity.

Albany, June 29.—Only three Senators were present at to-day's session of the Senate, which adjourned until to-morrow night. There was a fair attendance in the Assembly, which will meet again to-morrow morning at the usual hour.

At to-day's brief session Senator Agnew introduced a bill designed to prevent the appropriation by one party of the political emblem of another party. "The purpose of this bill," he explained, "is to prevent a recurrence of such a proceeding as the taking by Tammany Hall of the Independence League emblem at the late mayoralty election in New York." The same bill was introduced in the Assembly to-day by Mr. Ward.

Senator Agnew also introduced the Ward New York City election bills, which were defeated at the regular session, and have been reintroduced by Assemblyman Ward.

Senator Grattan introduced the franchise corporation tax bill and the bill prohibiting the sale of transfer stamps without the Controller's consent, which were introduced by Assemblyman Hinman on Monday night.

In the Assembly the Murray concurrent resolution providing for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the feasibility of legislative retrenchment was offered, but consideration was refused on objection of the minority leader, Mr. Frisbie, who declared that such a committee was unnecessary. He said that the question would be attended to at the next election. The Ways and Means Committee has promised to consider the matter at its meeting this afternoon.

Assemblyman Lansing introduced two bills providing for licensing abattoirs and butcher shops. The bills failed at the regular session.

Assemblyman Ebbets succeeded in introducing his bill licensing slot machines, which was held up at yesterday's session.

RETAIL BEEF PRICES DROP.

Chicago, June 29.—Retail beef prices dropped sharply yesterday following the wholesale price reduction of the day before. Sirloin steak, which on Monday sold for 18½ cents a pound could be had for 16½ cents. Porterhouse, that had sold for 22 cents, was quoted at 20 cents.

OLD GUARD IN A PANIC

Continued from first page.

ing signatures to-night to a call for a caucus in the Assembly. They expect to have enough to-morrow to force the calling of that caucus by Jesse Phillips, the caucus chairman. The big fight will centre around this. Plans for its handling have not been perfected yet by the direct nominations men. Some of them are for having it begun as a conference and turned into a caucus; others think it should be called and handled throughout as a caucus. They are agreed, though, on the fact that there must be a caucus and that to make the Cobb bill with the Agnew amendments a caucus measure would be the easiest way out of the affair.

Senator Agnew did not introduce his amendments this morning. He will do so to-morrow and expects to have no difficulty in obtaining an emergency message for the passage of the bill as amended.

"I think this Roosevelt message spells success for direct nominations," he said to-night. "I think the Governor won't object to giving us an emergency message on the bill as amended. Then we could pass it in the Senate, a caucus could settle the difficulty in the Assembly and we could adjourn this week with a good record for the Republican party to begin the campaign on."

The Roosevelt thunderbolt, while not entirely unexpected, proved even more damaging than the "old guard" leaders had expected. They were not willing to make any predictions to-night.

Called Vote Getting Proposition.

"The telegram won't change my attitude," said Speaker Wadsworth. "The proposed amendments to the Cobb bill add to its ridiculousness, and are a confession of the lack of faith of the proponents in its practical working. They contain provisions for a change in the form of ballot whereby the voter may mark his cross in the circle and vote for a group of candidates—which is the very ground on which the Governor vetoed the Meade-Phillips bill. Evidently Griscom in exempting his own wants to stand from under the direct primary proposition. The bald inconsistency of exempting first class cities is done for the purpose of gaining votes and nothing else."

"I am very sorry Colonel Roosevelt's usual perspicacity has been led astray by a search for opportunity in a matter of principle," was the somewhat cryptic contribution of William Barnes, jr., to the comment on the situation.

"The blow almost killed father," said "Big Ed" Merritt, the majority leader, when told about the Roosevelt message. "It's strange what things will happen."

"A distinguished outsider tried to interfere in a legislative situation once before this year," said Senator Grattan, of Albany. "As I remember it, he wasn't very successful. This one may not be any more successful."

"This won't make any difference in my attitude," said Assemblyman Jesse Phillips, one of the strong anti-direct nominations men.

What difference it has made in the situation is shown quite as much by what was done to-night as by what men are saying. Assemblyman Artemas Ward, of New York, who this afternoon voted in the Judiciary Committee to report the Cobb bill adversely, to-night signed a call for a caucus, knowing that practically committed him to support the bill. Assemblyman MacGregor, of Erie County, has swung into line, thus making a solid Erie County delegation, Republican and Democrat, for direct nominations. Many New York County men, all the Republicans, in fact, except Conklin, are expected to follow Ward into the direct nominations camp. Several Brooklynites who did not vote for direct nominations last time are professing conversion now.

"Means Passage of Bill."

"This Roosevelt telegram means the passage of the bill," said Collin H. Woodward, leader of the 23d New York District. "It means also that our outlook for the campaign is about 500 per cent better, and we now shall have a good chance of electing a Republican state ticket. Roosevelt has taken the leadership of his party in this state, but can't confine his activities to one state; he's too big for that."

"I have regarded it as possible for Theodore Roosevelt to pass this bill," said Fred Greiner, leader of Erie County. "I am very glad he has come out for it I think his telegram indicates that he is ready and willing to take the leadership of his party in this state, which needs him."

"I don't think there will be much difficulty about passing a direct dominations bill now," said Assemblyman Higgins, of New York, one of the stanchest of the direct nominations men. "It's a good thing for us as legislators and a good thing for the party that this advice has been given by a man of Roosevelt's standing. I only hope it is followed without a big fuss. There's been trouble enough over this issue; it is about time we Republicans got together on it.

"I'm very glad to hear this," said Assemblyman Sullivan, of Chautauqua County. "This means the passage of a direct nominations bill, and it's a mighty good thing for our party."

All Over, Says McAnerny.

"It's all over now," commented Assemblyman McAnerny, of Rochester.

"This should result in the passage of the Cobb bill," said Assemblyman McGrath, of New York, one of the Democratic direct nominations men. "Conners has come out for direct nominations; what a chance Dix has to-night!"

Earlier in the day the Assembly committees met and took the course outlined by the machine leaders. The Judiciary Committee considered the Cobb bill introduced by Mr. Green, the Frisbie bill and some of Mr. Ward's primary and election law reform bills. It voted down the Ward bills and decided to report the Cobb, Green and Frisbie bills adversely. Three men—Sullivan, Wilkie and Chanler—voted against the adverse report of the Cobb-Green measure. After the meeting Chairman Jesse Phillips made a public statement explaining the committee's attitude.

Mr. Phillips's statement reviewed the course of the Hinman-Green, the Frisbie, the Cobb and the Meade-Phillips bills in the Legislature at the regular session. The situation regarding the Cobb-Green measure and the Frisbie bill, according to Mr. Phillips, had not changed in the least from when the House determined its course at the regular session. There was nothing which demanded or warranted "the reversal of the position taken by the committee and the House or justified the reconsideration of the subject at an extraordinary session of the Legislature."

"While we are firmly of the opinion that under the letter and spirit of the constitution this subject should not have been submitted to and should not be considered by the Legislature at an extraordinary session," Mr. Phillips said, "nevertheless, that the motive of the committee may not be misconstrued and that the House may not be charged with defeating this proposed legislation by indirection, we have determined to afford the House another opportunity to discuss these bills on their merits, and again to register their determination as to the subject matter involved."

Give a Perfunctory Hearing.

The Ways and Means Committee gave a perfunctory hearing on changes suggested by Mr. Bates and Mr. Dana, of New York, in the graft investigation resolution, then in executive session voted down all proposed broadening of the scope of that resolution. Mr. Merritt at one time made the point that this Legislature had no precedent for altering a resolution adopted by itself at the regular session.

Assemblyman Lindon Bates, jr., advocated his resolution making changes in the investigation resolution to meet the Governor's recommendations and providing for the appointment by the Governor of three citizens to act with the legislative committee. He said that this appointment of outsiders to aid in the investigation would command the confidence of the public. He urged it on the theory that the Legislature should not investigate itself, but should submit to outside investigation, the same as a business institution some of whose stockholders were dissatisfied with the management. He urged particularly that the provisions requiring the verification of complaints on knowledge and permitting the cross-examination of witnesses be stricken out.

Assemblyman Dana spoke for his bill providing for a committee to investigate general graft conditions. He said that the resolution adopted by the Legislature provided for a trial, not for an investigation. It was wrong in principle, and he feared it would be ineffective in practice. He pointed out that there was provision for the immunity of witnesses in the resolution as adopted, and predicted that this would make it almost impossible to gain desired information. He said that the Legislature owed it to itself to hold a drastic investigation and pass drastic legislation to discourage bribery. Legislators were mere weak humans, he declared, and everything possible should be done to guard them from succumbing to the temptations of the man with the proper price.

"If there is anything possible which can prevent temptation from coming my way," he said, "I shall be very thankful to have it put into operation. I don't blame a legislator who accepts a bribe so much as I do the man who offers one."

The committee voted down all proposed changes to the graft resolutions, Mr. Chanler being the only one in favor of a broader resolution of inquiry.

Party leaders are hurrying to Albany to take a hand in the struggle. Governor Hughes is expected back from Cambridge to-morrow night, and it is understood he has the assurance that President Taft is with him in his fight for primary reform. Lloyd C. Griscom, after hearing from Mr. Roosevelt, took an early train for Albany. Senator Cobb, majority leader in the upper House, is expected to-morrow. Chairman Griscom, on his arrival here to-night, said he expected to see Governor Hughes and Speaker Wadsworth.

SURE OF COBB BILL NOW

Griscom Explains Amendments Which Roosevelt Approves.

In his first political utterance since he returned from Africa Mr. Roosevelt yesterday declared his belief that the people demanded the passage of a direct primary measure, and that the Cobb bill, with the amendments proposed by President Griscom of the county committee, met the situation.

The statement of the former President, which most of the leaders here believed last night would insure the passage of the amended Cobb bill, came out in the form of a telegraphic dispatch to President Griscom.

The dispatch arrived late in the afternoon, and Mr. Griscom immediately took steps to have the views of Mr. Roosevelt communicated to the members of the Legislature. Later he started for Albany himself. Collin H. Woodward, vice-chairman of the county committee, has been at Albany since Monday, and expects to remain until the Legislature adjourns.

President Griscom said he did not care to make any comment on the dispatch from Mr. Roosevelt. He declared that it spoke for itself. He was much pleased, of course, that Mr. Roosevelt had come out in favor of the amended Cobb bill. Mr. Griscom has thought all along that some soft of direct primary measure was demanded by the people, but he was fearful that so stringent a measure might be passed that it would prove unsatisfactory to the active members of the party.

For some time he has been working on the problem, and his amendments to the Cobb bill, as announced yesterday, were the result. A member of the county committee who was going to be in Cambridge at the same time the meeting between Governor Hughes and Mr. Roosevelt was scheduled to take place was designated to communicate the views of Mr. Griscom and explain the proposed amendments, both to the ex-President and to the Governor.

There were many New York City Republican legislators in the city yesterday, and they were informed of the views of Mr. Roosevelt. It was also pointed out to them that advices from Washington were to the effect that President Taft had expressed himself in favor of the general principle of direct primaries, although he did not believe the party convention should be done away with altogether.

Considerable argument was being used on the Kings County Republican members of the Legislature, most of whom voted against the Hinman-Green bill. While this was going on State Chairman Woodruff, who is credited with being responsible for the hostile attitude of most of the Brooklyn men to the Governor and his policies, was sailing on a yacht. It was said that he went out yesterday on his way to New London to see the Yale-Harvard boat race, and would not be back before Friday.

President Griscom believes that the reported opposition of some of the upstate men to the amendments to the Cobb bill on the ground that they would exclude this city from the provisions of the bill is not well founded, and is based on a misconception of the purpose of his amendments. Going into some detail in regard to his amendments, and taking them up one by one, President Griscom said:

> The present law provides that in Presidential years the primaries shall be held on the tenth Tuesday before election. Under the Cobb bill all primaries are to be held on the seventh Tuesday before election.
>
> As it is difficult to get a campaign under way until after the nomination for Governor has been made, and as that nomination must follow the primary election, the time left for conducting such an important election as that for President would be too short under the Cobb bill, and one of the amendments proposed provides, therefore, that in Presidential years the primary election shall be held on the eighth Tuesday before the general election.
>
> The second amendment provides that a voter in New York City changing his residence after enrolment shall lose his right to vote at the primary election. The alleged removal of an elector from one place to another within an election district has been a fruitful source of fraud at primary elections.
>
> The most careful canvass of a district will frequently show a number of removals without disclosing the place to which electors have moved. Yet on primary day many of the men who could not be found will vote from other places within the election district, and it is generally impossible to prove at the time that they do not live at the address given.
>
> The proposed amendment will, therefore, make for greater honesty at primary elections, and will disfranchise a comparatively small number of people who might otherwise be legitimately entitled to vote.
>
> Under the present law, as it has existed for some years, a voter may lose his vote at primary elections by moving from one side of the street to another, where the street forms the dividing line of an election district. The change, therefore, is comparatively slight, although important.
>
> In regard to the fourth amendment which permits the executive members of the county to attend and have one vote at their respective Senate and Congress committee meetings for party designations President Griscom said it would make slight difference in the result, but it was thought proper that the committees should have the advice of the district leader in such important matters.
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> It was thought wise, he said, to exempt county offices from the provision of the Cobb bill in every year, instead of only in mayoralty years, as the chances for fusion, it was thought, would be less under direct primaries.
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> President Griscom explained his belief in the necessity of having the party emblems printed on the ballot, as follows:
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> The eighth and ninth amendments affect the form of the primary ballot. The eighth amendment provides that the party name and emblem shall be printed on the primary ballot, so that the illiterate voter may, at a glance, be satisfied that he is voting the proper ticket.
>
> This is particularly necessary in polling places in which more than one party votes, as otherwise it is quite possible that a voter of one of the minority parties might receive a ballot of a party other than his own.
>
> The ninth amendment provides that the names of party committees shall be so arranged that all the nominees of one group of persons may appear together, and that the voter may be enabled, by putting a cross within a circle, to vote for all the nominees of one group.
>
> While recognizing the advisability of having a voter exercise to the fullest his discrimination in selecting party candidates, it is believed that in voting for party committees electors desire to support a group of men representing one faction of the party or another, rather than to split their vote, and as they generally recognize the affiliations of these groups by the names of the leaders, it will enable them to vote in accordance with their intentions, without being compelled to select from a large number of names which they would find it difficult to remember.
>
> As committeemen are all nominated by petition, those in control of the party organization will receive no advantage over their opponents through this change.
>
> Speaking of the proposed changes in the judicial convention as constituted under the present Cobb bill, Mr. Griscom said:
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> The Cobb bill provides that judicial conventions shall be composed of three delegates from each Assembly District within the judicial district, and after providing for the method of voting in the judicial district convention allows the convention itself to change the method of voting provided by the law, by a majority of the delegates present, each delegate having one vote.
>
> This provision seemed manifestly unfair, for it would allow the control of a judicial district convention by a majority of delegates selected as provided in the law, who, however, represented a small minority of the voters.
>
> The change which is proposed by the amendment provides that there shall be one delegate for each one thousand voters within an assembly district, each of which delegates shall have one vote. This amendment applies to judicial conventions throughout the state. It may, however, be changed by party rules.
>
> Persons acquainted with Chairman Woodruff said last night that he was about ready to jump on the direct primary band wagon. They declared that five of the votes in the Republican legislative delegation in Kings County had been changed from the anti to the pro-direct primary column. This was accomplished by Naval Officer Kracke and Congressman Calder, it was said, and it was added that Chairman Woodruff realized that only a quick flop will keep him from annihilation at the primaries in Kings County in the fall.
>
> When Judge William H. Wadhams, president of the Direct Primaries Association, learned of Mr. Roosevelt's message last night he exclaimed "Splendid!" He added:
>
> "It should insure the passage of the Cobb bill without any question. We are hearing from leading Republicans all over the state falling in behind the leadership of the ex-President. All the elements in the Republican party are uniting in support of this excellent beginning of a direct primary system. As such a beginning it is acceptable to the Direct Primaries Association and, I understand, to all the advocates of direct primaries."

TO END TRACTION SUITS

Continued from first page.

proved the proposed adjustment on the theory that "all rights are reserved" and that the Metropolitan Street Railway Company would demand an accounting from Receiver Ladd of the money he received in settlement of the suits in question.

Choate Favors the Plan.

Mr. Ladd received the proposition for the settlement of the suits he had instituted against the Metropolitan Securities Company and the other defendants on Monday, but before accepting it he submitted the offer to his counsel, Joseph H. Choate.

In a letter advising the settlement, made public yesterday by Mr. Ladd, Mr. Choate points out that there are many difficulties in the way of an ultimate recovery in these suits and that the receiver is confronted with a protracted and widely extended litigation, which might extend for several years, with no certainty as to what the result would be.

The total amount that could be recovered, without interest, Mr. Choate said, is $7,761,200, whereas the total cash recovery under the proposed adjustment, including the cash previously received on account of the judgment secured against the securities company, will be $6,531,738. Under these circumstances he advises that the offer be accepted.

MAYOR MAY WIELD AXE TO-DAY

As the Mayor's power to remove holdover officeholders without cause ends to-night, at the expiration of his first six months as chief executive, there was a report yesterday that he would take action in the Change of Grade Damage Commission case before nightfall. It is suggested that the Mayor may do as he did in the case of the old Aqueduct Commission—that is, replace the present members by others pledged to clean up the work within a short time and permit the commission to go out of existence.

FUNDS NEEDED

To Celebrate

An Old Fashioned Fourth

Mayor Gaynor has appointed an Independence Day Committee to arrange for an old fashioned Fourth of July Celebration. Money is needed to carry out the plans.

The Committee is planning a Military and Civic Parade, for District Celebrations in the Parks and Playgrounds, and for exercises in connection with the Centennial Opening of the City Hall.

The civic pride which animates New Yorkers, no less than the patriotic feeling inspired by the occasion, leads the Committee to hope that the considerable expenditure entailed by appropriate decorations, bands, and by entertainments will be readily provided by popular subscription.

The Committee urges the citizens of New York to make a prompt and liberal response to this appeal to their generous and patriotic impulses.

Subscriptions may be forwarded to

JAMES S. CUSHMAN, Treasurer Independence Day Committee,
Room 611, Pulitzer Building, New York City.

JOHN H. FINLEY,
Chairman Independence Day Committee.