REPORT ON THE RAILROAD LAW

Views of Minority Presented in the Senate by Elkins of West Virginia.

Figures Covering a Period of Thirty-seven Years Show a Big Reduction in Rates—Service Much More Efficiently Organized.

Washington.—Senator Elkins of West Virginia has just completed and filed in the senate his minority report on the railroad rate law. It presents a comprehensive history of the economic development of American railroads, together with exhaustive tables which tend to show a constantly decreasing freight and passenger rate, and the relation between such rates and the price of commodities and cost of labor.

"The average passenger rate," says the report, "advanced slightly from 1870 to 1880. During the next twenty-four years there was a decline amounting to 17.85 per cent of the average for 1880. The net decline from 1870 to 1890 averaged 16.14 per cent. During the years from 1870 to 1904, the rate for the earlier year being about two and a half times of the latter and the net savings to the shippers averaged 11.09 mills per ton mile."

The report says that the cost of transportation in 1904 was nearly two billion dollars less than it would have been had the rates for 1870 still prevailed.

The passenger business of 1904 exceeded that of 1890 by more than 25 per cent, while the freight rate was 13.26 per cent, in comparison with the increase in wages of railroad employes from an average wage of $567.25 in 1900 to $630.80 in 1904. The report says that the service in 1904 was so much more efficiently organized that the labor contributed by the average employe accomplished 23 per cent more in the movement of passengers and 74 per cent more in the movement of freight than in 1880.

The report gives the total railway capitalization June 30, 1904, as $10,711,794,078, and says this amount is 4.74 per cent less than the commercial value of the railways, as estimated by the census bureau.

SHIP SUBSIDY IN BACKGROUND

Every Day Lessens Chances of Its Passage in Lower House.

Washington.—Aside from appropriation bills and conference reports the ship subsidy bill is the only measure of general importance that is likely to receive the attention of the house, and the Aldrich financial bill the only one that probably will receive the attention of the senate during the closing week of the last session of the fifty-ninth congress. It is Senator Aldrich's purpose to press his bill for consideration whenever opportunity offers, and he is still hopeful of success notwithstanding the opposition, the congestion of bills and the limited time left. The house friends of ship subsidy also profess themselves as hopeful, but they admit that every day that goes by without action lessens their chances. Some of them express confidence in getting some features of the bill incorporated in the postoffice appropriation bill, but if they fail in that program they will make a last effort for independent action by the house after the passage of the general deficiency appropriation bill. They will ask to have two or three days set aside for the consideration of the subsidy bill, when the conference reports are not before the house, and the inclination of the leaders is to grant this concession.

The Kaiser is Exultant.

Berlin.—Emperor William on Sunday gave an audience of an hour to Count Udo von Stolberg-Wernigerode, president of the reichstag, to whom he expressed his high satisfaction at the result of the recent elections, which, he said, had shown that the Social Democracy had been overcome. He hoped this spirit among the people would continue. Regarding colonies Emperor William expressed the wish that a large number of the members of the reichstag would convince themselves as to their value by traveling there.

Eulogies in the House.

Washington.—Eulogies on the lives of the late Senator Russel A. Alger of Michigan, and the late Representatives Cullom Adams of Wisconsin, William S. Black of New York and J. H. Ketcham of New York, were pronounced Sunday in the house of representatives, which convened to pay tribute to these statesmen. Those who spoke of Senator Alger's career were Representatives Townsend, Fordney, Hamilton, Gardner, Denby and Darragh of Michigan, and Representative Lacey of Iowa.

Urge Downfall of Zelaya.

Panama.—The mail which arrived here Sunday brought a proclamation signed at Choluteca, Honduras, by Generals Anastasio Ortiz, Paulino Godey, Emilio Chamarro, Benito Echeavrria, Antonio Bustos and Rafael Hernendez, representing the various political opposition parties in Nicaragua, who are among the officers of the army of President Bonilla of Honduras. The proclamation is addressed to Central American and says that President Zelaya's downfall is an urgent necessity.

CONFESSION OF ADAMS READ IN COURT ROOM

Claim Was Made by Adams That He Was Sent to Idaho to Help Simpkins "Get" Steunenberg.

Wallace, Idaho.—The features of Saturday's proceedings in the trial of Steve Adams, charged with the murder of a man named Tyler in the wilds of the St. Joe country, and involving the murder of ex-Governor Steunenberg, were the reading of the confession of Adams, which the defense contends was obtained under duress and is false, and the cross-examination of Warden Whitney of the Idaho penitentiary. Mr. Whitney was questioned chiefly with regard to the disposition of Adams while the prisoner was under his care, who had access to him and who was denied access. A searching cross-examination followed as to the reason why Adams was kept in the penitentiary when there was no charge against him and after he had not been indicted by the grand jury.

Adams' confession states that he joined the Western Federation of Miners at Cripple Creek; that he knew Moyer, Haywood and Pettibone; that Pettibone told him to go to Idaho and see Simpkins—that they wanted to "get" Steunenberg; that Pettibone went to Haywood and got $200 for his expenses; that the manner of "getting" Steunenberg was left to him; that he went to Idaho, met Simpkins and there planned the crime.

CUBANS CHEER MAGOON.

Governor Asked to Abrogate Law Against Cock Fighting.

Havana.—A procession headed by ex-Senator Monteagudo and composed of 500 horsemen, many carriages and bands of music, paraded the streets Sunday afternoon. A halt was made in front of the palace where the bands played patriotic airs amid much cheering. Governor Magoon, in response to cries of "Long Live Governor Magoon," reviewed the gathering from a balcony of the palace and afterward received a committee which presented a petition signed by many thousands of persons in Havana and other cities requesting the abrogation of the military order of General Leonard Wood prohibiting cock fighting. Governor Magoon promised to give the matter careful consideration, after which the gathering dispersed.

Twenty Cents a Mile for Congressmen.

Washington.—When the report of the conferees of the legislative, executive and judicial bill was presented to the house, Mr. Crumpacker of Indiana asked what provision was made respecting the mileage allowance of members of congress, in view of the increase in salaries. Mr. Littauer explained that the amount remained at 20 cents a mile. He said, however, that the committee on appropriations would doubtless limit the allowance to actual traveling expenses in the general deficiency bill.

Peasants in Russian Parliament.

St. Petersburg.—Statistics for last week show the election of 419 members of parliament, as follows: Seventy-five monarchists, 33 moderates, 24 progressives, 78 constitutional democrats, 156 members of the left party, 40 nationalists and 13 indefinites. The left party is no vague aggregation; it contains an unprecedented number of socialists, including 47 social democrats and 45 social revolutionists. The Russian socialists are stronger numerically than any body of socialists that ever sat in the German reichstag.

Steamer Imperatix Goes Down Off the Island of Crete.

Trieste, Austria.—The Austrian Lloyd steamer Imperiatrix, while bound from Trieste to Bombay, ran onto a rock near Cape Elaphonisi, upon the island of Crete, and sank soon afterward. It is known that the disaster was accompanied by loss of life, but in the absence of definite news the number of drowned is unknown. The passengers and crew on board numbered about 150. The Imperatrix sailed from Trieste on February 19.

Threw Bomb Under Chief's Carriage.

Odessa.—A bomb was thrown beneath the carriage of the chief of police, Colonel von Gessenberg, as he was driving in the center of the city Saturday afternoon. The explosion of the bomb wrecked the carriage, severely injuring the chief of police and scattered debris all over the the block, and broke windows of all the houses in the vicinity. The would-be assassin escaped. Chief of Police von Hesseberg is accused of being the instigator of the late anti-Semitic riots here.

House Will Hear No More.

Austin, Tex.—So far as the members of the house committee appointed to investigate the charges against United States Senator J. W. Bailey is concerned, the investigation is at an end. At an executive session on Saturday it was decided that no further testimony should be heard, and a sub-committee was appointed to review the 2,300 pages of evidence, make findings on the undisputed facts and report to the full committee at the earliest possible moment.

On Life's Journey.

He will certainly fail who hopes to know men deeply and only get happiness, never to get anxiety, distress, disappointment, out of knowing them; and he has mistaken the first idea of human companionship who seeks companionships, friendships and contacts with mankind directly and simply for the pleasure they will give him.—Phillips Brooks.

Frivolous Femininity.

In an article in the Rapid Review, Marie Corelli says: No power, human or divine, can alter the inborn spirit of the purely frivolous feminine—and one cannot but be amused with its delights in chiffons—its kittenlike pleasure in the length and silky appearance of its own tail—its placid smirk at its own reflection in the convenient mirror.

Willing to Expatriate Son.

Counsel for a hotel beat said to a London magistrate the other day that the prisoner's father was willing, if the magistrate would deal with the case then, instead of holding the prisoner for trial, to "send him to an island in the Pacific from which it would be practically impossible for him to return."

"Apple of the Eye."

The term apple of the eye, used in the Bible, is frequently applied to anything highly esteemed. An apple yard is an orchard, or a field devoted to the rearing of apple trees. The wood of the apple tree is close-fibred and hard, and is used for turning into articles for which a hard grained wood is required.

As a Favor.

At the pit of a coal mine in Pennsylvania there have occurred, during the past few months, quite a number of accidents whereby innocent bystanders have come to grief. Accordingly, some kind official has caused to be posted a notice that reaches the acme not tumble down the shaft."—Harper's Weekly.

The Hairdresser's Problem.

"I am told," said the customer in the operating chair, "that there are more persons in the world than any one of them has hairs on his head." Really, sir!" said the hairdresser. "Then it follows that two persons at least must have the same number of hairs on their heads!"- Is that a fact?

Elephant Stealing Comm

Siam's teak industry is handicapped by the stealing of elephants. Last year three firms lost 33 elephants, worth $35,000 gold. Recovery of a stolen animal is rare, says the Far Eastern Review, of Manila, Hong-Kong and Yokohama.

How to Tell Pure Cream.

A simple way to detect the adulteration of ice cream with cornstarch is to dissolve a little of the ice cream in water and then add a few drops of the tincture of iodine. The solution will at once turn blue if there is starch in the cream.

The Average Girl.

I wonder why every one is so ready to condemn the poor present day girl? The average girl of the present day has many interests and wastes far less time than the maiden of the "good old times."—Mrs. Neish, in M. A. P.

Check on African Traders.

The Cape parliament in South Africa passed a bill which compels each trader to keep proper books and refuses him a license unless he can show that he has some capital and is not a man of straw.

American Cloth in China.

The popularity of American cloth, especially sheeting and drills, among the Chinese is such that it is handled by all the principal merchants in this line, whatever their nationality.

At the Horse Flies' Convention.

The honorable chairman—We will now consider the question of automobiles, the alarming increse of which seriously threatens the future of our profession.—Puck.

Upper Nigeria Advancing.

The finger-print system has reached southern Nigeria. In October it was started for the identification of criminals, and 152 impressions and photographs were taken.

Atlanta Cooking.

Scientists say that cooking does not kill the bacilli. Lots of it finishes people, however.—Atlanta Constitution.

Invention Dispels Fogs.

An Austrian engineer named Pola has invented an apparatus which by means of sudden suction and pressure dispels the fog in front of ships.

Become a Problem.

Remember that when you go visiting you become a problem.

Train Whistle Carries Far.

A train whistle has been heard in a balloon four miles above the earth.

Sure! Haven's You Heard Them?

Men who are habitually meek have a queer way of saying ugly things.

Truth in Proverb.

We are the authors of our own disasters.—Latin proverb.

Pigs as Pets.

The Barbados pigs are kept as pets by many of the natives, who teach them amusing tricks and permit them to run all over their houses.

He's Dead.

"What has become of the man who used to write plausible articles on How to Live on Thirty Cents a Day?" asks an exchange. Dead, most likely.

Little Leisure in Japan.

Factories in Japan do not stop work on Sundays, but usually the first and fifteenth of each month are holidays.

With the Coming of Age.

Age does not make us childish, as some say; it finds us true children.—Goethe.

Death as a Friend.

Death is a friend of ours; and he that is not ready to entertain him is not at home.—Bacon.

The Man Without Defects.

A man who shows no defects is a fool or a hypocrite, whom we should mistrust.—Joubert.