

A CRISIS IS APPROACHING.

The President May Be Expected to Take Early Action.

Looking to the Relief of American Citizens Who Are Suffering in Cuba from the Effects of the Conditions Created There by the War and the Cruel Edicts of Weyler—The Senate and House Said to be at His Back, and Ready to Take Measures to End the Distressing State of Affairs.

Washington, May 13.—There was a calm and violent outbreak of Cuban sentiment to-day at the capitol and during the early hours the drift of opinion was strongly towards speedy and radical action by both Congress and the Executive, but later there was somewhat of a reaction upon its becoming known that the President, while keenly alive to the situation and anxious to take everything possible that could give his conduct of our Cuban and Spanish relations, felt that further information was necessary and that for the immediate present the question was one of recognition of the belligerent or independence of the Cuban insurgents, but of relief for the American citizens destitute and helpless in the towns of the Queen of Antilles.

The Senate foreign relations committee, it should be stated, while agreeing with the necessity for relief of the suffering Americans, is favorable to more radical measures and a number of its members are earnestly desirous of instant action by the Executive in aid of the insurgents, but have not succeeded in converting the administration to their views that present action is appropriate and imperative.

The event of the day was a report to their colleagues by the sub-committee of the foreign relations committee, which yesterday examined the State Department Cuban reports. This statement, though not given to the public, was so far disclosed in character as to give rise to a good deal of excited comment among Senators and members. The report based upon facts presented by the United States Consuls in Cuba, it is said, brings out in strong relief, the destitution which exists not only among the Cubans, but among the Americans and pacificos now on the island, who were driven from their farms and into the towns by Weyler's orders and thereby prevented from supporting themselves.

For several days past the subject matter of this report has been under discussion quietly among a few of the friends of Cuba in Congress, and they have lost no opportunity of impressing upon the President their convictions that it is his duty as the Chief Executive to delay no longer in taking active steps to terminate the present condition of affairs in Cuba. These representations, however, have not been sufficient to induce hasty action. The President is moving steadily and with all speed that safety and sound judgment warrant in the collection of facts touching the conditions that exist upon the island to-day.

To-day Mr. Calhoun is now in Cuba, officially on another mission, but also charged with the observations of the conditions that prevail. When he has reported to the President, and the latter has gathered what he regards as a sufficient mass of information, based on facts that cannot be questioned, he will be ready either to take himself or to suggest to Congress such action as these facts warrant. Meanwhile he has under consideration the best means of affording relief to Americans suffering as a result of the conditions of the island.

To-day the President saw by appointment Mr. Edwin T. Atkins, of Boston, who is largely interested in Cuban sugar plantations.

Mr. Atkins was in Washington on personal business which brought him in contact with Secretary Long, an old friend. To further Mr. Atkins's business the Secretary took him to the White House and presented him to the President. The latter, learning that Mr. Atkins had just returned from Cuba, began to chat with him as to the state of affairs as they related themselves to a business man.

Mr. Atkins gave him a faithful picture of the economic conditions that prevailed in Havana and in other portions of the island when he left. His story was so convincing that the President summoned Judge Day, Assistant Secretary of State, to the White House to hear it. Mr. Atkins had very little to say about the military conditions in Cuba, and what he did say in that connection did not indicate any leaning on his part either to the peaceful or insurgent side.

At the Spanish legation, the news of the arguments at the capitol to-day was followed with composure. Of course, the action of the committee could not be opened without violation of the strict diplomatic rule which governs the diplomatic corps in its relations to Congress, but it was corrected that the fact that the entire attention of the Senate for months to come would be engrossed by the tariff bill would have determined the friends of the Cuban endeavor to secure some sort of action by Congress before the tariff bill was taken up.

It is not denied at the legation that suffering exists in Cuba, but such suffering, it was said, is almost always incidental to war. It is contended that the Spanish government has done all that it could, with the means at hand to alleviate this distress. It was pointed out that Spain has granted permission to the Red Cross, through Miss Barton, to extend its good offices to the destitute in Cuba, and moreover, will not place any obstacles in the way of any proper charity in the United States which has the same end in view. All that is asked is that the food supplies contributed for the relief of the destitute are not used to maintain the Cuban

insurrectionary forces in their allegiance to the Spanish government.

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations to-day had the question under consideration on the basis of the report of the committee appointed yesterday to confer with the President and Secretary Sherman. The report was prepared by Senators Davis and Foraker, the Republican members of the sub-committee, Senator Morgan, the Democratic member, declining to participate in it. The report consisted of a concise statement of the contents of official reports from American consuls in Cuba, bringing the information up to within a week of the present time. This report confirms the newspaper reports as to the situation of affairs in the island and even goes farther in depicting a deplorable situation than do most of the newspaper stories. Especial stress is laid upon the condition of American citizens in the island. Of these it is positively stated that there are hundreds in a starving condition and most wretchedly clothed. Deaths of Americans from starvation are daily reported. They are scattered in all parts of the island and are shown no consideration whatever because of their American citizenship. They are generally persons who reside on the plantations, but who have been driven from their homes to the towns or concentration camps and who, being among strangers, and without employment, are compelled to subsist on almost nothing. They are not allowed to return to their plantations even to pick berries or to secure the least article of subsistence. They are theoretically under the care of the Spanish army, but the army is without a commissariat. They have no means of leaving the island. Their condition is pronounced wholly deplorable.

The committee was especially impressed with this recital and the opinion generally expressed that the situation should be remedied if possible. It was considered as placing even a worse aspect upon the question of our relations to Cuba than the imprisonment of Americans, of which there are now comparatively few instances. The report also indicates a generally wretched condition of all the inhabitants of the island because of the scarcity of food and money, especially in the centers of population and because also of the pressure of the most malignant diseases, such as yellow fever, small pox and dysentery. These diseases the natives withstand with comparative ease, but they are especially oppressive to the Spanish soldiers.

The reports indicate that the Spanish army is not so strong now as it was a year ago, largely on account of these ravages, while they indicate no diminution of the insurgent forces.

The reports upon which the sub-committee's brief was based were from various consuls, including Consul General Lee. They make no recommendations as to American policy, but merely give the situation as they see it.

In view of the developments in the committee, Senator Morgan agreed not to press the consideration of his resolution to-day, but he will make an effort to have the question made the unfinished business Monday at 2 o'clock.

This acquiescence on the Alabama Senator's part to temporary delay is understood to be given under the impression that it will result in bringing to the resolution support of the entire Committee on Foreign Relations. This will, of course, materially strengthen the resolution in the Senate, and it is believed by its friends will expedite its passage there.

It is now probable the committee will not make any formal report and that the correspondence will not be given to the public for the present.

Members of the foreign relations committee have recommended to the President that if necessary to secure the landing of food and clothing necessary to relieve the wants of Americans, they should be accompanied by an American warship. The President has listened to this advice but has not indicated his action upon it.

The committee has a list of heads of families representing over 100 Americans who are said to be in a starving condition. They are represented to be "corralled" in towns and unable to get out for food even if they had the means to procure it. The correspondence represents that there are thousands of Cubans in this condition.

Representative Castle, of California, to-day introduced a joint resolution for the recognition of the belligerent rights of all oppressed people struggling for liberty.

Senator Gallinger introduced a joint resolution in the Senate appropriating \$50,000 for the relief of suffering Americans in Cuba. The resolution went to the foreign relations committee.

READ THE BULLY

And His Republican Satellites Again Refuse to Allow Just Criticism.

Washington, May 13.—In the House to-day Mr. Simpson (Pop., Kas.) endeavored to renew his attack upon the Speaker for failing to appoint committees and censured the Republicans for not mustering a quorum. He was declaring that there were more Democrats and Populists than Republicans present when the Speaker sustained the point that he was out of order.

"I have been in doubt whether I had any rights in this House lately," Mr. Simpson shouted, and he was compelled to take his seat under the rule.

Mr. Payne (Rep., N. Y.) called Mr. Simpson to order and to him the Kansan said: "The Speaker recognizes that you will do his bidding and you will get a good place on a committee all right. I know there is a good deal anxiety on that point among the Republicans."

This taunt moved Mr. Dingley and Mr. W. A. Stone (Rep., Pa.) to call Mr. Simpson to order.

There was some filibustering, after which the House finally decided Mr. Simpson could not speak, whereupon he appealed to the chair to be informed "where am I at."

"The chair has never been able to find anybody who knew that," was the reply.

At 3:15 the House adjourned until Monday.

MCKINLEY WILL BE THERE.

Will Attend the Tennessee Centennial on Ohio Day, in June.

Nashville, Tenn., May 13.—President John W. Thomas, of the Tennessee Exposition Company, received a letter to-day from President Wm. McKinley stating that he would visit the Centennial Exposition on Ohio Day, in June.

LATEST FROM WASHINGTON.

News of Various Sorts That Will Interest All West Virginians.

Senator N. B. Scott Appears to Have Bumped Up Against Secretary Gage in His Mad Chase After the Internal Revenue Commissionership—Good Reasons for Believing That He May Not Get the Place—McKinley Consulting Gage in All Appointments, and Gage Prejudiced Against Scott. Some Postoffice Recommendations and Appointments.

Special to the Register.

Washington, D. C., May 13.—As matters now stand, there is strong probability that Hon. N. B. Scott, of Wheeling, will not be Commissioner of Internal Revenue under this administration, although he and his friends have all along regarded his appointment as a certainty.

It appears that Secretary of the Treasury Gage has been offended by Mr. Scott's assumption that he was to have the place, especially by published interviews in which Mr. Scott has made this claim.

Mr. Scott has acted on the theory apparently that Secretary Gage had nothing to say about who should be Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

This was a grave mistake.

Mr. Gage is running his department himself, and the President has made no appointments in it except on the suggestion of the Secretary.

There is no doubt Mr. Gage has been strongly prejudiced against Mr. Scott for the reasons given and for other reasons, and if the Wheeling man gets the Commissionership of Internal Revenue it will be after he has made his fight for the place over again, keeping the Secretary in mind all the time.

But the chances now are he will not get the place at all.

Open war seems on the point of breaking out between Congressman Dorr and Senator Elkins over the District Attorneyship. The Senator desires to have Joseph H. Gains, of Charleston, nominated for the place, and his declaration that he would be nominated brought Col. Horan, of Nicholas county, Mr. Dorr's candidate, to Washington to-day and they have been doing everything in their power to stave off action and induce Elkins to change his plans. But as far as can be learned to-night, Elkins still insists on Gains, and if the latter is nominated by the President it will be followed by the hardest sort of a factional fight in the Third district.

Congressman Dovener has recommended the appointment of the following postmasters:

- Long Reach, L. O. Tullis.
- Quiet Dell, John N. Cotterill.
- Loudonville, F. M. Harris.
- Ruka, R. D. Roberts.
- Long Run, John Whalen.
- Parker's, Maxfield Chapman.

J. A. Jamison was to-day appointed postmaster at Goose Creek, Ritchie county, vice Asa Copelin, removed, and W. A. Harrison, a relative of ex-President Harrison, at Silvertown, Jackson county, W. Va., vice H. H. Lee, resigned.

W. L. Morris, was appointed at Beallsville, Monroe county, Ohio, vice J. H. Arnold, removed.

Dr. A. J. Cost was to-day appointed examining surgeon at Jackson Court House, W. Va.

CATHOLIC KNIGHTS.

The Day Devoted to the Consideration of Plans of Insurance—Went for a Trolley Ride.

Mobile, Ala., May 13.—The third day's session of the Supreme Council of the Catholic Knights of America, was devoted wholly to the discussion of three plans of insurance.

At the conclusion of the presentation of the three plans, M. T. Shine moved the reference of all the plans to the council with instructions to appoint a special committee of five to codify the same and report to the council at such time as the council might direct. Adopted.

The president appointed the special committee and the council then took a recess until 3 o'clock. The only business transacted at the afternoon session was the appointment of a committee of five to report a plan of assessment to the council. This committee will report to-morrow. Adjournment was taken at 4 p. m. to allow committees to give the visitors a trolley ride.

A CONDUCTOR KILLED.

Special to the Register.

Volcano, W. Va., May 13.—William Hendrickson, a conductor on the Short Line Railroad, between this place and the Baltimore and Ohio road, was run over by a car while at work in the yards yesterday afternoon and so seriously injured that his death resulted at 8:45 o'clock last evening.

The Weather.

Mr. C. Schnepf, the Opera House druggist, made the following observations of the weather yesterday: 7 a. m., 63; 9 a. m., 67; 12 m., 74; 3 p. m., 78; 7 p. m., 72. Weather, changeable.

WASHINGTON, May 13.—For West Virginia—Partly cloudy weather, with occasional showers; cooler; southwesterly winds, becoming westerly.

For Western Pennsylvania and Ohio—Partly cloudy weather with showers; light southerly winds.

CONSCIENCE OF DEMOCRACY.

Ireland on "The Sure Foundation of True Citizenship."

The Famous Archbishop Addresses the Cleveland Chamber of Commerce at the Annual Banquet—Democracy is the Foundation of American Greatness and Also Her Only Peril—Requires Delicate and Constant Care, but With Religion to Foster Conscience, the Great Republic Will be Safe Throughout All Times.

CLEVELAND, O., May 13.—Nearly 400 of the leading business and professional men of the city attended the annual banquet of the Chamber of Commerce at the Hollenden this evening. The guest of the evening was Archbishop Ireland, all the others in attendance being members. After the banquet President W. R. Warner made a neat speech outlining the achievements and prospects of the chamber.

Senator M. A. Hanna responded to the toast, "Cleveland—Industrial and Commercial."

Archbishop Ireland spoke upon "The Sure Foundations of Good Citizenship." He spoke in part as follows:

The greatness of America is her democracy. America, as no other nation, honors manhood, consecrates its rights and gives it the freedom to develop its powers and satisfy its ambitions. America is the nation of the people, governed for the people, by the people, and to become one of the people of America it suffices to be a man.

The peril of America is in her democracy. I have myself the fullest faith in the Democracy of America, because I have faith in the people of America and because the Democracy of this country has amid terrible trials proven its right and power to live. I have faith, too, in the future democracy of the world, because the manifest evolution of humanity is towards it, and the Being who moves humanity makes no mistake.

I admit that democracy requires delicate and constant care and that its safety will be the reward only of never ceasing vigilance.

Whence will come to democracy the potency of immortality? With reverence I pronounce the sacred word—conscience. Conscience ruling, Americans will be law abiding people; for righteousness commands obedience to law and proclaims that the law of the nation is the law of the supreme governor of man—Almighty God.

A nation without conscience is a nation without a soul. The sooner the earth is rid of it the better it is for humanity; nothing good or great can come from it. Conscience led Americans three score years ago to redress their blood-hungry battles to preserve America one and indivisible and to make her banner the banner of freedom for all the children of her soil. Conscience will lead Americans to-day and to-morrow to watch jealously over the life and weal of their country; to spread through the land social peace and happiness, to make America the fairest and the best of the nations of the earth.

Whatever the differences of conditions arising from inequality of talents and opportunities, all men, and all classes of men must be allowed their own; else all is chaos and death. Take away conscience on election day; let voters like the popular of old Rome scramble for food and pleasure; democracy will have given up the ghost and either an "imperial" will trample upon American liberties or anarchy will light over the land its lurid fires. Americans, fear not. Conscience is on guard. Lord Macaulay imagines a crisis in America. "The peril from which democracy cannot escape," he writes, "will befall it in a season of hard times, when the masses of the people will make use of their political power to despoil the rich and disrupt society." Americans, fear not. Macaulay did not know the people of America; America is safe; conscience is on guard.

What will foster conscience in the citizens of America? I answer, religion—the sense of a Supreme legislator ruling the whole universe, from the tiniest flower to the mightiest sun, ruling men and aggregations of men, rewarding and punishing. Patriotism is never so potent as when it is identified with religion. The crisis for democracy will come when comes the crisis for religion. Fortunately for America, deep in the hearts of Americans lies the instinct of religion; Americans will never believe that an infinite intelligence does not rule the universe. The enemies of religion are the enemies of country and democracy.

After making a plea for the moral education of the youth and condemning sensational journalism, the archbishop closed as follows:

"Americans, we love America; we fear would make her great; our hearts prayer is may she be immortal, to bless during ages our sons and their sons, and those that will be born to them; to bless during ages all people who may strive in their own land for civil and political liberty."

AROUND THE GLOBE.

Full Meaning of the Arrangements of the Baltimore & Ohio and Great Northern.

New York, May 13.—Receiver Murray, of the Baltimore & Ohio, thus explains the alliance of that company with the Great Northern:

"It means a unity of transportation interests that nearly circumvents the globe. A line of steamers runs between the United States, Japan and China and forms a direct connection with the Great Northern railroad, which transfers the freight from the Pacific ocean to the great lakes, where it is taken by the Great Northern steamship line and brought to Fairport on Lake Erie and thence transferred to the Baltimore & Ohio railroad, which takes it to tide water at Baltimore or Philadelphia. Thence it is shipped to England and the continent, making an almost unbroken line from one end of the world to the other. Similar connections are made with the Northern Pacific railroad and its Pacific steamship connections, and this will doubtless have the effect of handling by way of the United States much traffic that has hitherto paid tribute to Canada. By this combination a yearly service by rail is contemplated when

navigation is closed and by rail and water when it is open. In addition to this a line of steamships has been put on between Chicago and Milwaukee, which will handle to all points west and northwest all freight seeking a water outlet."

THE WAR IN THE EAST.

Athens, May 13.—Midnight—According to dispatches just received here, the Greek forces are besieging Nicopolis and Preveza.

London, May 14.—The Athens correspondent of the Daily Mail says that the government continues to send men to the front and is purchasing large quantities of war material.

Athens, May 13.—The government has proclaimed the Gulf of Volo blockaded and is sending large orders for horses and munitions of war to various European cities.

London, May 14.—The Athens correspondent of the Daily Chronicle says: "Preveza is closely besieged by land and being bombarded from the sea. It is reported that an attempt will be made to take it by storm."

Constantinople, May 13.—The foreign ambassadors held another conference to-day, after which Baron de Calice, the Austro-Hungarian ambassador, called upon Tewfik Pasha, the Turkish minister of foreign affairs, and renewed the proposal of an armistice which was presented yesterday. The opinion is general in Turkish circles that until the occupation of Domokos, which is momentarily expected, the Porte will not grant an armistice.

Salonica, May 13.—The Greek squadron is watching the coast from Platamon to the Gulf of Volo, and it is claimed the Greek warships are also blockading the Gulf of Salonica. A British steamer, bound for Salonica, has been prevented from entering the gulf.

Paris, May 13.—A correspondent of the Journal at Lamia, Thessaly, telegraphed yesterday that he has learned from official sources that an armistice between Turkey and Greece has been concluded. He added: "This solution was impatiently awaited by all, for it is impossible to continue the war under the present circumstances. The interest is no longer in Thessaly, but at Athens, as it is probable that the action of the cabinet in signing a treaty of peace is destined to bring the ministry to a speedy end."

The statement of the Journal of Paris as to an armistice having been concluded should be accepted with reserve, as all the reports from other sources seem to indicate that Turkey is delaying action in the matter and the dispatches of yesterday from Athens and Constantinople direct do not bear out the statement quoted above.

LONDON, May 14.—A dispatch to the Times from Athens confirms the report that the inaction of the Turkish army is due to the intervention of Russia.

LONDON, May 14.—A dispatch to the Times from Domokos, dated Wednesday, reports the increased activity of the foreign legion which has been ordered to proceed to the left flank of the Greek army near Lake Tynias.

This is regarded as an indication of the point of danger. It is also possible, thinks the correspondent, that they have been sent to recover the retreat of the army to the old frontier.

LONDON, May 14.—The correspondent of the Morning Post at Domokos, under yesterday's date says: "It has been decided to evacuate this position, and a large number of troops have already left. It is freely asserted that the war is over."

GULF OF VOLO BLOCKADED.

LONDON, May 13.—A telegram received here from Athens to-day says that the Greek fleet has established a blockade on the Gulf of Volo.

A REHEARSAL.

Frederick William Hoellman, Who is to be Hanged To-day, Photographed on the Gallows.

Paxton, Ills., May 13.—Fredrick William Hoellman, who is to be hanged to-morrow for the murder of Mrs. Weibkoen Geddes, on December 2, 1896, had a dress rehearsal this morning and was photographed on the gallows upon which he is to be hanged. He hopes to sell enough of the pictures to pay for sending his body to Grand Haven, Mich., and have in buried beside the remains of his wife. In addition to the murder for which he is to suffer, Hoellman is supposed to have killed three other women.

After being photographed Hoellman rehearsed the speech which he has prepared for the gallows.

HAVE BEEN HEARD FROM.

Moses Y. Ransom and Party Safe in Terra del Fuego—Have Begun Gold Getting.

New York, May 13.—The report that the schooner Joseph F. Loubat, on which Moses Y. Ransom, a wealthy resident of Ohio, and a party of gold seekers, which left this port last October for Terra del Fuego, had not been heard of since February and that grave fears for the safety of the vessel and party were entertained, was denied to-day by friends of Mr. Ransom. U. Hinds, a former business associate of Mr. Ransom, said: "I received a letter from Mr. Ransom on April 27 last dated Sluggs Bay, Terra del Fuego, March 10, 1897. It stated that the party had arrived there safely after a delightful passage; that they had just completed the landing of their machinery and provisions, a task which occupied them six weeks, and that they expected to begin the work of securing the gold at once."

FORGER'S SALTY SENTENCE.

Sent Up for Fourteen Years—Conducted Heavy Operations.

Fort Wayne, Ind., May 13.—Charles F. Moore, the noted forger, check raiser and draft manipulator, who has swindled banks and building and loan associations in many cities of the United States, during the past three years, entered a plea of guilty to the charge of forgery this afternoon and was sentenced under the new law to do time at Michigan City from two to fourteen years. It is said his operations involve nearly \$50,000 in three years.

GEN. PORTER ARRIVES.

PARIS, May 13.—Gen. Horatio Porter, the American ambassador to France, arrived here to-day. He was received by prominent members of the American colony, among them General Winslow, with whom he will temporarily reside.

THE OHIO RIVER RAILROAD.

Annual Meeting of the Stockholders Held Yesterday

At the Office of the Company, in Parkersburg—The Annual Report of the President Shows a Remarkably Good State of Affairs, Considering the dull times in 1896. The Earnings Larger Than for Any Year in the Road's History. The New Board of Directors to Meet in New York for Organization Soon.

Special to the Register.

Parkersburg, W. Va., May 13.—The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Ohio River Railroad Company was held here to-day in the general office of the company.

President H. H. Rogers, of New York, presented the report of the company for the year ending December 31, 1896. In the report President Rogers says:

"There has been a gratifying increase in the revenue from freight and passenger traffic, notwithstanding the dullness of trade and industry that prevailed. The year's earnings of the road were the largest in its history and after consuming 66.27 per cent. of the earnings in operating the road, the net earnings were sufficient to afford a surplus of \$21,713.63, after providing interest on the funded debt, rental of tracks and all other charges against income. The improvements made during the year places the road in the best condition ever known; and during the year \$100,000 of the Huntington and Big Sandy Railroad Company's bonds were transferred to the Ohio River Railroad Company from the treasury, where they were held in part payment of the advances made by it, and the bonds are now carried as a treasury asset on the books of the company."

Accompanying the report of President Rogers was the report of Vice President and General Manager George A. Burt, which embodied all the details of the operation of the road during the year, and reflects great credit upon the management. The General Manager, in his report, says that during the first six months the earnings showed a marked increase, which was not sustained during the year in the same ratio, the principal contributory factor to the decrease being the general financial and industrial depression of the country, aggravated by the political canvass.

The gross earnings for the year were \$968,670.51, compared with \$887,270.74 for the previous year, an increase of \$81,399.77, or 9.17 per cent. Of this increase, \$46,352.13 was due to the freight, \$27,844.75 to passenger, and \$7,202.89 to express, telegraph, etc.

The net earnings for the year were \$326,745.48, and in the previous year \$319,543.11, an increase of \$7,202.37, or 2.26 per cent.

The gross earnings per mile of road averaged \$4,332.99, against \$3,968.47 per mile in the preceding year, being an increase of \$364.52 per mile, equal to 9.19 per cent.

EXPENSES.

The operating expenses for the year were \$641,925.03, compared with \$567,727.63 for the previous year, an increase of \$74,197.40, or 13.06 per cent.

The percentage of operating expenses to gross earnings were 66.27 per cent., against 63.89 per cent. in the previous year, an increase of 2.38 per cent.

The operating expenses per mile of road were increased from the average of \$2,539.26 per mile in the preceding year, to \$2,871.12, making an increase of \$331.86 per mile, or 13.07 per cent.

The operating expenses were greatly increased by reason of the washouts and landslides, occasioned by the heavy rains of last June and July, as well as other extraordinary expenditures, to which reference is made further on.

PASSENGER TRAFFIC.

The gross earnings from passengers amounted to \$370,696.33, against \$342,251.58 in the preceding year, being an increase of \$28,444.75, or 8.33 per cent. This result was caused entirely by the increase in passengers carried, there being a slight decrease in the average rate per passenger per mile.

The number of passengers carried was 499,249, against 425,791 in the previous year, an increase of 73,458, or 17.25 per cent.

The number of passengers carried one mile was 14,668,595, an increase of 1,504,472, or 11.43 per cent.

The average fare received from each passenger was 74.119 cents, against 59.339 cents in the preceding year, a decrease of 14.780 cents, or 7.80 per cent. The average rate per passenger per mile was 2.524 cents, against 2.599 cents in the previous year, a decrease of .075 of a cent, and the average distance that each passenger was carried was 29.4 miles, being a decrease of 1.5 miles, compared with the distance traveled by each passenger in the preceding year.

The miles run by passenger trains during the year was 489,745, while during the previous year it was 462,659, an increase of 27,177 miles, of which 15,958 miles was due to the running of an additional train between Parkersburg and Spencer.

The average earnings per passenger train mile (not including mail and express) were 75.568 cents, against 73.975 cents in the previous year, an increase of 1.593 cents, or 2.15 per cent. The average earnings (including mail and express) were 83.255 cents, as compared with 81.677 cents, an increase of 1.578 cents, or 1.97 per cent.

FREIGHT TRAFFIC.

The earnings from freight traffic were \$542,889.62, against \$496,536.89 in the previous year, an increase of \$46,352.73, or 9.33 per cent. This result was due entirely to the increase in the volume of traffic secured, there being a decrease in the average rate per ton per mile.

The number of tons of freight carried was 635,025, against 555,916 tons in the preceding year, an increase of 79,109 tons, or 14.23 per cent. The increase in tonnage received from connecting roads was 79,029 tons, and was principally in pig and bloom iron, castings and machinery, and staves. The tonnage originating on this road increased only 80 tons; the increase in the products of the forest, and the manufactures being

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