

THE WEST SIDE.

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—ISSUED BY—

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GOVERNMENT CONTROL OF RAILROADS.

[Cincinnati Tribune.]

In the New York Daily *Bulletin* and *Journal of Commerce* of the 17th inst., appears a quotation from Frank H. Mason, United States Council General at Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, in which he says, in a special report to the State Department, that American railway securities have fallen into bad order in Germany, and that

The uniform reply of German financiers when asked what is requisite to restore European confidence in American railway securities is that such corporations should be brought under the control of a comprehensive Federal law.

Tradition, education and experience have alike taught the German that, whatever may be the extent of the damage done, the only safe course of protection and safety in the presence of danger or conflict interests is the supreme authority of national control.

The foregoing is in the nature of an endorsement from distinguished authority of the effort which has been persistently made by Freight Bureau, Chamber of Commerce, National Transportation Association, National Board of Trade and a host of commercial organizations throughout the land, to induce congress to amend the interstate commerce law so as to render it a comprehensive Federal law of vital and controlling force—a law, the enforcement of which will be available the entire power of this great government, sanctioned by a cultivated public sentiment, a law whose behests will command respect and ready obedience from all carriers in all part of the country.

The law, as it stands, is the law of the land, and should command respect, but it is lamentably true that it does not. Its radical defects, which constitute its weakness, seem to lie in two or three cardinal features.

1st. It seeks to punish persons, where it should mult corporations. The courts, the juries, the people of the land are not eager to consign to prison walls the subordinate agent, who, in obedience to the policy of his employer, has cut a rate.

They would, however, unquestionably assess a heavy fine upon the corporation whose treasury is benefited by the cut.

2nd. The means provided for enforcing justice between carriers and the public seems to be imperfect—or incompletely understood.

The investigations and orders of the commission do not command, as they should, prompt and ready respect from the carriers. This is attributable mainly to the fact that the courts upon whom is devolved the duty of enforcing the law have usually taken up the investigations *de novo*, without recognizing either the findings of the commission or the evidence upon which they are based. This has encouraged carriers' counsel to neglect their cases before the commission and to subject all parties to the trouble, expense and delay incident to take all testimony *de novo*.

These inherent defects in the law can be remedied by adoption of amendments proposed by Judge Patterson to the last congress:

1st. By repealing the imprisonment clause, and by making corporations indictable and punishable by heavy fines whenever their representatives violate the law.

2nd. By providing that all testimony in cases of complaint under the law shall be taken by the commissioners and certified to the court as the basis of their findings, whenever their orders are ignored, and by providing further, that in case the court decides to admit more testimony, it shall be done by remanding the case to the commission for further hearing.

This would destroy the incentive to neglect or ignore the commission's hearings, and would justify all parties in presenting their case fully in the first instance.

There is a third feature of the law which is of vital import to the carriers, and is not without effect upon the entire public interest. I refer to the inhibition against pooling.

It is true that pools are unpopular for reasons which it would be difficult to specify, but there exists a very re-

spectable

public opinion that they

might be legalized and regulated by

federal authority not only without

injury to the public rights, but under

circumstances which would facilitate

efficiency of public service.

These considerations are not new;

they merely reiterate conditions which

are vital—principles which are now

living principles, upon the establishment

of which public effort should be

concentrated to the end that our great

railway properties should be subject

to the protection as well as the control

of a "comprehensive" and "effective"

federal law."

In this direction our great com-

mercial organizations, the exponents

of highly educated public opinion,

should move with celerity and with no

uncertain sound.

The next session of congress is a short

one. If it does nothing else than

rehabilitate and place upon a high and

efficient platform the act to regulate

commerce it will command the lasting

gratitude of the commercial public.

The atrocities committed in Armenia

upon the Christians there are most

horrible and the reports that continue

to come, notwithstanding the strict

surveillance of the Turkish government

confirms the first stories that the

murders of parents, the ravishing of

women, and even school children by

Turkish soldiers are matters that should

be investigated by all civilized nations

and some decided action taken.

The cause of humanity leads one to think

that the whole world should rise

en masse and that some just puni-

shment should be meted out to those

human fiends.

To think of whole

villages being sacked, the women

violated and then killed, and that too,

in this 19th century almost passes

belief.

OUR CANNERY.

The success of any enterprise depends

largely upon the active co-operation of

the citizens of a community while the

industry is in its experimental stage.

The canning of fruits here at Inde-

pendence is an experiment. That it will

be of immense advantage to this sec-

tion if successful, is a self-evident fact.

It comes in line with this thought for

our farmers to offer every possible en-

couragement to the enterprise by making

extra effort now at this time to

make the cannery supplied with fruit.

While prices may not pay for a long

haul on apples at this season of the

year, yet if the cannery is sufficiently

encouraged, it will be operated during

time of the year when a profit will re-

sult to the farmers to amply compen-

se them for any inconvenience and

perhaps small return, just now. Our

progressive farmers, who will invest

in this matter, will see the force of

making some sacrifice and even if the

roads are muddy, bring their fruit to a

cash market where it may be turned

into a merchantable product, and cause

our county to gain a commercial stan-

dard as a producer of that one product

of the farm. This is a subject which the

Grange could discuss with profit and

act upon with energy. Here is a chance for

public spirit to manifest itself. The can-

nery will be operated just as long as

the supply of fruit lasts. Let that sup-

ply be made as large as possible, and let the farmers use the same business

judgement that a business man does by

encouraging the industry in a substan-

tial way. The success of the Inde-

pendence cannery means the development

of the fruit industry in Polk county.

CORRESPONDENCE.

SUPER.

All who were present at the masked

ball Thursday evening at this place

were a success as the program was con-

cerned, but the audience might have

been larger. Aside from the contest

who rendered their pieces very creditably.

Dr. Frazer sang a solo. A violin

solos were rendered by Wm. Pickle &

S. V. Dougherty sang a solo in his usual

maner. After a closing song Mrs. Laura Atkins announced that Miss Percy Butler, who recited "A Martyred Mother," received the silver medal.

Miss Clark Hall, a teacher of your

city, was in this burg Sunday.

J. W. Simpson, of Corvallis, is doing

business here this week.

R. Peterson finished sowing a 100

acres field Monday.

MONMOUTH.

The Demorest medal contest held in

the opera-house last Saturday evening

was a success as the program was con-

cerned, but the audience might have

been larger. Aside from the contest

who rendered their pieces very creditably.

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AYER'S

Cherry Pectoral!

SAVED HIS LIFE.

So says Mr. T. M. Reed, a highly-

respected Merchant of Mid-

diaeton, Ill., of a Young

Man who was supposed

to be in Consumption.

"One of my customers, some

years ago, had a son who had all

the symptoms of consumption.

The usual medicines afforded him