

SYNDICATE IN TROUBLE

EVERETT-MOORE COMPANY, OF CLEVELAND, EMBARRASSED. Its Financial Affairs Placed in the Hands of a Committee of Bankers—Concern Is Solvent.

CLEVELAND, O., Jan. 2.—The financial affairs of the Everett-Moore syndicate, owning or controlling a number of urban and interurban electric railways and an extensive system of local and long distance telephone lines in Ohio and Michigan, passed into the control of a committee composed of seven prominent bankers of this city today. This action was taken, it is said, as the result of temporary financial embarrassment on the part of the syndicate, which has for some time past been affected by the stringency of the money market. The committee chosen has been at work investigating the affairs of the syndicate, and expresses the firm belief that the concern is entirely solvent and that its embarrassment is only temporary.

The Everett-Moore syndicate is accredited with controlling more than 120 miles of urban and interurban electric lines in Ohio and Michigan, with many extensions still in course of construction.

Among the telephone properties owned outright, are the Cleveland Telephone Company, of this city, with more than 10,000 subscribers; the United States Telephone Company (long distance); the Federal Telephone Company; the Columbus Company (Ohio) Telephone Company; the Columbia Company (Ohio) Telephone Company; the People's Telephone Company, of Detroit; the Wood County Telephone Company, and a number of others in which the Federal Telephone Company is the controlling factor.

Among the more important electric street road properties in which the syndicate is largely interested are the Cleveland Electric Railway Company; the Detroit United Railway Company; the Toledo Railway & Light Company; the Northern Ohio Traction Company; the Cleveland, Palmetto & Eastern Railway Company; the Detroit & Toledo Short Line Railroad Company; and the Lake Erie & Western Railroad Company. Some of these lines are declared by the committee to be, with scarcely an exception, in good physical condition, solvent and in no wise embarrassed.

The aggregate capitalization of all the various properties owned or controlled by the syndicate is said to be about \$130,000,000.

Expert accountants have been employed by the committee in charge to examine and report upon the condition of all the constituent companies. No statement has been given out, indicating the liabilities of the syndicate.

Henry A. Everett and H. W. Moore refused to be interviewed concerning their affairs, saying that the statements prepared by the committee covered the entire matter. The committee of bankers organized by selecting Mr. Newcomb as chairman and E. B. Tilton, secretary. The following statement was today given out by the committee:

"It became apparent some time ago to some of the members of the Everett-Moore syndicate that the financial condition of the tight money situation in the different centers where they were financing some of their enterprises, although in their opinion they owned several million dollars worth of property, would be unable, without temporary assistance, to meet their obligations which were about to become due. The committee of bankers, therefore, was organized to investigate the affairs of the syndicate and to see that the syndicate was able to complete the negotiations for the raising of a large sum of money on certain bonds and stocks belonging to the syndicate, which had been furnished them with ready money, and which negotiations they had reason to believe, until 10 days ago, would result favorably.

"Some of the members of the syndicate, when it became apparent to them that many of their liabilities, which were coming due about January 1, could not be met, called together the syndicate and their personal advisers to advise them as to what was best to be done. These gentlemen examined very fully into all the affairs of the syndicate, and they found that the syndicate was unable to complete the negotiations for the raising of a large sum of money on certain bonds and stocks belonging to the syndicate, which had been furnished them with ready money, and which negotiations they had reason to believe, until 10 days ago, would result favorably.

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"At the meeting held at which Messrs. Everett and Moore stated that they were perfectly willing to turn all of their matters and properties over to a committee that should be appointed to handle them in connection with themselves to preserve the most equitable, with the belief that when their properties were developed and creditors paid there will be a substantial amount to return to them. The personal of the committee is as follows: R. B. Newcomb, president; E. B. Tilton, J. J. Sullivan, Calvary Morris, Kaufman Hays, E. G. Tilton and W. C. Mather. These gentlemen were selected, not only because they are well known directly involved, but because of their well-known ability and integrity.

"Personally I have had no connection with and no knowledge of the operations of the Everett-Moore syndicate. Although I am named as one of the members of the committee for the reorganization of their affairs, I have no actual knowledge of their condition, except as informed by another committee of Cleveland bankers, which has spent more than a week in making an investigation. While I have taken no part in the investigation, the bankers who conducted it are our own and conservative men, and their report should inspire confidence. The entire affairs of the syndicate are now undergoing a thorough investigation, with the assistance of chartered accountants, and all persons concerned should, in my judgment, feel assured that the interests of all classes of creditors will be conserved by

COMPETENT BUSINESS MANAGEMENT AT THE HEADS OF THE COMMITTEE CHOSEN.

Chairman Newcomb, of the committee of bankers, stated that the syndicate had secured heavy loans from a number of Eastern banks and from banks in the interior of Ohio, Pennsylvania and Michigan. The loaning institutions regard their position as a gift-in-kind, and actually worth 15 to 25 per cent more than the value of the loans.

"MYRON T. HERRICK." As a result of the announcement of the financial embarrassment of the Everett-Moore syndicate, a run was started on the Dime Savings & Banking Company, of which Everett and Moore are directors. The bank had ample funds on hand to pay all depositors who desired their money. The institution is one of the city depositories. When its last report was issued in October, the bank's total resources were placed at \$2,792,007, including a surplus fund of \$1,000,000.

The officers and others interested in the Dime Savings & Banking Company tonight authorized the following statement: "There is no question as to the soundness of the bank and the city depository will be paid. The bank carries abundant securities for all deposits, and if unusual demand is made, the bank will enforce the sale of the securities to meet the demand."

"M. G. WATKINSON, President."

One of the Syndicate's Projects. CHICAGO, Jan. 2.—One of the most ambitious of all the interurban projects of the syndicate is the Chicago & Aurora Railroad. The syndicate has been interested in the Aurora, Elgin & Chicago Railway, an electric line now under construction on plans designed to secure the widest form of transportation between the three cities, and to parallel the Chicago & Northwestern Railway. Trains running almost a mile a minute over a right of way secured by the syndicate, and either side for its entire length, are the chief features of the new electric line. Much work has been done on the Aurora line in the form of securing right of way.

FOREIGN INDEBTEDNESS. We Owe Europe Yet, but Europe Owes Us Increasingly.

New York Journal of Commerce. There is probably no disposition to deny the fact that the syndicate's statement of the London Times that the United States is still a debtor country, in the sense that more foreign capital is invested in this country than American capital is invested abroad. But the comments of Secretary Gage are rather more important than this bare fact, and while the Times recognizes the fact that the syndicate's investments in the United States its language is calculated to give too small an impression of the extent of this indebtedness.

Mr. Gage denies the statement of the Times that there is an actual though unbalanced balance of trade against us in current transactions. All the known facts and the probabilities support him in this. He says that the balance of trade in our favor, and this balance is reducing the amount of our indebtedness to Europe by the amount of our exports in this country, whichever way it is regarded. Our current indebtedness to Europe is estimated by the Secretary at a figure not far from that reached by his paper as the result of the most extensive investigation that the matter has ever received, and at a figure far below that commonly assumed by persons who have given the subject no investigation beyond the carrying of expenses and all other items making up our net annual debt to Europe amounted to \$145,000,000. Later, with larger margins for travel, mail, imports and higher freight rates, and larger profits on American investments, these figures were raised to \$175,000,000, a considerable increase.

The London Times takes too short a view when it speaks of the trade of the past three years, our exports of merchandise and precious metals have exceeded our imports in every year from 1888. For the first four or five years the excess was not large, but in the last year, for every one of the past eight years this excess has ranged from large to enormous. For the eight years it has aggregated \$3,136,644,849. For these eight years our exports of merchandise and precious metals, travelers' expenses and all other items of that class cannot have reached one-half of this total, for we know that the syndicate has engaged in the sale of \$150,000,000 of the average for their eight years was \$175,000,000, the amount for the whole period would be \$1,400,000,000, leaving a balance of \$2,736,644,849 in our favor, and a credit balance now due us in Europe, and the reduction of foreign investments in the United States by American purchases of American securities.

Mr. Gage says of the past four years: "The presumption is that with this \$800,000,000 we have been buying back American securities, and thus holding in England, France and Germany, the amount of our debt to these countries has been reduced to a very small amount. It is well known that immediately after the National election of 1896 foreign owners of American securities sold their securities to us, and we have since that time been buying back American securities, and thus holding in England, France and Germany, the amount of our debt to these countries has been reduced to a very small amount. It is well known that immediately after the National election of 1896 foreign owners of American securities sold their securities to us, and we have since that time been buying back American securities, and thus holding in England, France and Germany, the amount of our debt to these countries has been reduced to a very small amount."

Spokane Railroad Business for 1901. According to the Spokesman-Review conservative estimates place the Spokane freight earnings for the year 1901 as follows: Northern Pacific, freight earnings, \$1,200,000; passenger earnings, \$240,000, or a total of \$1,440,000; Great Northern, freight earnings, \$1,000,000; passenger earnings, \$180,000, or a total of \$1,180,000. In comparison with the total amount of business done by each road the O. R. & N. shows the largest per cent of passenger business of any line entering Spokane.

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 2.—Governor Van Sant and Attorney-General Douglas are expected to leave for Washington tomorrow night for the purpose of attending to the matter of the proposed merger of the Northern Pacific and Great Northern railroads. The Attorney-General will leave tomorrow night for Washington and will institute the state's suit Monday in the Federal Supreme Court. His appearance Monday will be a formality. The court will set a date for the hearing, and Mr. Douglas will return to Minneapolis on the day after tomorrow. He will be accompanied by George P. Wilson and L. D. Munn, his associates in the case. Then the great battle will be on in earnest.

PAICHA Express Company Election. OMAHA, Jan. 2.—The annual meeting of the stockholders and directors of the Pacific Express Company was held in this city today. The principal business transacted was election of officers and directors for the coming year. They are as follows: President, James Eggleston; vice-president, Horace G. Burt; secretary and treasurer, W. R. Carter; assistant treasurer, H. B. Hanson; directors, H. G. Burt, C. H. Warden, J. Ramsey, Jr., E. J. Fryer, S. J. Schuyler, Erastus Young and James Eggleston.

Sold Under Foreclosure. DULUTH, Minn., Jan. 2.—The Duluth Transfer Railway was sold today under foreclosure of the Federal Supreme Court. The sale was under an order of the United States Court. The road consists of valuable real estate, including a warehouse of the heart of the city up to Ford Du Lac, and reaching all the manufacturing districts, and includes practically all terminal facilities not now owned by the Northern Pacific, Great Northern or Omaha roads.

ANACONDA, Mont., Jan. 2.—A crowd of 150 miners in the West Union Company today arrived in Anaconda, having walked all the way from St. Paul and strung a new wire from that city to this place. The wire is now complete when the party from St. Paul was made early in September, and an average of nine miles of wire was strung daily.

STOCK DEAL COMPLETED

COMMON STOCK OF NORTHERN PACIFIC NOW \$155,000,000.

Northern Securities to Own and Administer the Two Northern Transcontinental Railroads.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—Formal notice was issued today in connection with the power conferred upon it, the Northern Pacific Railway Company retired its preferred stock in whole yesterday. Each and every holder of the certificate for the stock, not heretofore surrendered, will, upon presentation and surrender of his certificate at the office of the company, No. 49 Wall street, receive payment in cash of the amount of the stock, and all rights and claims of the preferred stockholders have ceased to exist.

Notice was also given by the Northern Pacific Railway Company that it has elected to require the holder of every 4 per cent convertible certificate of the company to convert the same into common stock of the company at the rate of one share of \$100 for each \$100 of the unpaid principal of the certificate, and upon presentation and surrender of such certificate at the company's office, the holder will be entitled to receive therefor common stock of the company at the rate aforesaid. No interest will accrue or be payable upon any such certificate from and after January 1, 1902.

These notices showed that from and after today the capital stock of the company would consist of \$155,000,000, entirely in common stock, and that the bondholders would receive therefor the retirement of the preferred stock would be retired immediately. The effect of this was to put what was formerly preferred stock on the same basis as the common stock. All of the Northern Pacific stock is to be taken over by the Northern Securities Company, which will also acquire all of the stock of the Great Northern. The Northern Securities Company will hold the stock certificates of two great companies in the Northwestern field, and under the settlement agreed upon between the contending parties, the Northern Pacific will administer the properties in its charge to the end that harmony may prevail.

The belief in Wall street was general today that the settlement of the Northern Pacific preferred stock followed by the redemption of the bonds issued for its retirement had removed the obstacles in the way of the proposed merger, and the adjustment of the difficulties which grew out of the contest for control of the Northern Pacific last May. It was this content and a sensational rise in Northern Pacific common stock, which brought about the sensational decline in the prices of other securities on May 2.

BAKER CITY TO SEVEN DEVILS. Agitation for Starting a Railroad by Local Capital.

BAKER CITY, Ore., Jan. 2.—The Chamber of Commerce here is advocating the building of a local railroad from here to the Seven Devils country. It is urged by members of the Chamber of Commerce that a sufficient amount of commerce to justify the project, and that the project will require a comparatively small amount. When the right of way is secured, the project will be an easy matter. It is said to induce capital to take hold of the project and buy the bonds of the corporation. As a result of the opening up of the Seven Devils country, the new road would traverse fruitful territory between here and the copper fields.

STRAITON BACK FROM HELENA. Doubtful About Suit to Prevent Great Northern Railway.

HELENA, Mont., Jan. 2.—Attorney-General W. B. Stratton has returned from the Governor's conference at Helena. He says that whether suit will be brought to prevent consolidation of the Great Northern, Great Northern and Northern Pacific road systems in this state is doubtful, depending on future contingencies which he cannot now discuss. The conference, which decided to attempt to secure an unconstitutional in five states, Washington, Idaho, South Dakota, Montana and Minnesota, Mr. Stratton says was harmonious.

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NEW YORK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PUTS ITSELF ON RECORD.

Disapproves the Action Taken by the Reciprocity Convention at Washington.

NEW YORK, Jan. 2.—A meeting of the Chamber of Commerce was held here today. Addresses were made by M. L. Weiler, a representative of French interests, and by Ludwig Max Goldberger, of Berlin, both of whom are in this country to investigate American commercial methods. The committee on foreign com-

FOREIGN TRADE OF PORTLAND.

Exports for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901, Were \$10,381,732; Imports, \$1,526,806.

Portland's exports for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1901, amounted to \$10,381,732. Imports were \$1,526,806, making the total of the foreign trade \$11,908,538. Wheat is the principal export commodity, with flour second. In imports, cement leads in volume and jute manufactures in value. The following statement of the foreign trade of Portland for the fiscal year was prepared by Hon. L. L. Patterson, Collector of Customs for the Port of Portland:

Principal Exports, by Commodities, for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901.

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Quantity, Value. Includes Barley, Wheat, Flour, etc.

Exports, by Countries, for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901.

Table with 3 columns: Country, Quantity, Value. Includes Africa, British South, Australia, etc.

Principal Imports, by Commodities, for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901.

Table with 3 columns: Commodity, Quantity, Value. Includes Cement, Sugar, etc.

Imports, by Countries, for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901.

Table with 3 columns: Country, Quantity, Value. Includes Australasia, British, Austria-Hungary, etc.

Entered and Cleared During Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1901.

Table with 4 columns: Country, Entered, Cleared, Tonnage. Includes American, Danish, German, etc.

Vessels Entered and Cleared Coastwise.

Table with 4 columns: Number, Sail, Steam, Tonnage. Includes Entered, Cleared, Total.

Documents Outstanding.

Table with 3 columns: Number, Tonnage. Includes Registers, Enrollments, Licenses.

TARIFF MODIFICATIONS

markets for our products; and be it further resolved, That the chamber views with apprehension the policy advocated by the reciprocity convention as likely to invite hostile legislation on the part of other nations against this country, to the great detriment of its commercial interests.

Gustave H. Schwab, chairman of the committee on foreign commerce, supported the resolutions, saying he thought the injury that would be done to certain industries by reciprocity was so small compared to the great good which would result to the country at large as to be not worth considering.

Charles A. Schieren, ex-Mayor of Brooklyn, who was a delegate of the Chamber of Commerce to the reciprocity convention at Washington, said he objected to any reflection being cast upon that convention and its actions. "The men who composed that convention," said he, "were the very men who were responsible for the great prosperity of the country. We cannot compete with foreign countries because of the quality of goods we manufacture. So long as we have the system of protection, we can employ skilled labor which makes our goods what they are. If the duty is taken off, they will have to cease employing the skilled labor and to employ the ordinary labor force, and when that is done, the present high standard of our manufactures will be gone. You cannot adopt this report without casting the country on that convention and on the country at large."

The following substitute for the report of the committee was offered, but rejected: "Resolved, That this body recommends reciprocity in our trade with foreign countries until it can be done without injuring any of our own products and manufactures."

HOSTILE TO PORTLAND.

Yaquina Bay Region Imagines It Has a Grievance.

The following correspondence was written from Philomath, Or., to the Portland East Oregonian by J. E. Lathrop. It draws interesting conclusions on conditions in the Yaquina Bay region, and Eastern Oregon viewpoint. The alleged grievance of the Yaquina Bay district in the matter of transportation is portrayed in this part of the report: "The Yaquina Bay region is in a very bad condition of quasi-hostility to Portland, that has for all past years worked to the detriment of Oregon's advancement. People appear to regard the business and commercial interests of the metropolis as antagonistic to the remainder of the state. For instance, they allege that it was through the influence of Portland that the Southern Pacific people caused the virtual abandonment of the Corvallis & Eastern, the road bought by A. B. Hammond supposedly for the Southern Pacific system."

The Corvallis & Eastern road formerly hauled from the seacoast large quantities of freight that came from San Francisco, Astoria to Yaquina Bay, which is down goods here, shipped by water from there to Yaquina Bay, and thence over the Corvallis & Eastern, at the same price charged for the same goods in Portland. It is impossible here that the Portland land people went to the Southern Pacific people and insisted upon the killing off of the water and rail transportation scheme, so as to leave Portland in undisputed possession of the country as to wholesaling. However that may be, it is true that no one here can now buy in San Francisco profitably, and Portland is the place where the Southern Pacific has a monopoly of the carrying, for all the territory that is not on the Willamette River itself, where the loading rate difference is considerably less per 100 for all freights.

"Here is entertained a strong hope that Portland will effect arrangements for the construction of the projected road from Astoria to Yaquina Bay, which, if carried out, will place this region in a position to obtain the competition they have lost. It cannot be denied that this part of the state is not in an enviable position as regards railroads, and freight-carrying, and that some relief should come to them. And because they believe that Portland is responsible for the newer order of which the Southern Pacific Company became virtually an adjunct of the Southern Pacific Company, they feel hardly toward Portland.

"It is something which Portland can afford to take account and do what ever is necessary to remove this feeling of hostility. This virus of antagonism of the Pacific coast to the other is what has done more to retard Oregon's growth than all other causes. And one cannot gain say that Oregon has its full share of retarding growth. The time has come when everybody who lives in the state and has any interest in the welfare of the state should unite upon terms of mutual helpfulness and see to it that the most resourceful state on the Pacific Coast forges to the front where it belongs."

"Portland must be the leader in this forward movement, and Portland must be strong and commercially viable if it is to be able to make and develop its stores of natural wealth."

Run Down at the Heel.

There are reasons why the Willamette Valley looks run down at the heel. One reason is that the people on the farms here are not getting any energy they should. It will surprise Eastern Oregon farmers to learn that their fellow-agriculturists hereabouts are quite generally in debt. Many farms are covered with mortgages. Men who have lived here for 40 years are paying interest upon debts that represent, not speculation, but the pure and simple result of being run down at the heel. They have in many cases lost spirit and do not care very much.

"One reason is that the farmer here clings to what training as the ne plus ultra and refuses to attempt to improve while all the time here are boundless resources for the most magnificent system of diversified farming in the world. There is not one reason why the Willamette Valley farmer cannot diversify. He has all varieties of soil, all sorts of grasses, all kinds of crops are produced that grow in the temperate zone, anything animate flourishes here as in any place on the globe. Fruits, vegetables, grasses, grains, timber, livestock, dairying—everything here is possible. One cannot avoid regarding it as a paradise in many respects, and indeed, it is in variety a paradise. And for the breeding of livestock there is not a region superior to it under the blue skies of heaven."

Orchards Are Neglected.

"Willamette Valley orchards are as badly affected with fruit pests as we were five years ago. There has been practically no effort—no consistent effort—to eradicate them. Occasionally one finds an orchardist who has attempted to do

REMINISCENCES AROUSED AND GREAT CHANGES BROUGHT TO MIND.

Minneapolis Tribune. The Christmas Century's chronicle of Thackeray's American visit of six months in 1851, 1852 and 1853 is peculiarly interesting from its reminiscences of the great intellectual lights of that period—the golden period of the Victorian age of English literature, both in our own and the mother country—of the days in comparison with whose brilliant days in our own time seems but a dim, misty twilight.

Thackeray's lectures on the English humorists of the eighteenth century had revived the memory of the great distinguished authors, including Carlyle, Macaulay, Dickens, Ruskin and other celebrities of British art and literature, professional and literary, who were arriving at Boston in the latter part of 1852, his first caller was the historian Prescott. Bancroft was the first to welcome him to New York. He had just completed his masterpiece, "The History of the United States," and he was taking the three volumes to Mr. Prescott he said to a friend whom he met on Beacon street: "Here is the very best I can do. I am not a great writer. I stand by this book and am willing to leave it where I go as my card."

Inheriting at the age of 21 a patrimony of \$200 in year, Thackeray had lost his money in the stock market. He had come to this country hoping to secure by his lectures a provision for his invalid wife and daughters in the event of his death. He had a literary career as a literary and pecuniary success. In Boston he numbered among his most enthusiastic listeners Emerson, Longfellow, Holmes, the two Danas, Whittier, Prescott, George Sumner and other celebrities of the modern Athens. In New York the professional and literary magnates flocked to hear him. In Philadelphia he was welcomed by Boston as a literary center. New York could boast the great names of Irving, Halleck, Bryant, Curtis and others about equal note, while some of the most famous names of the times occupied its pulpits, and its bar possessed jurists of world wide fame.

In Washington every person of note from court to Congress, from the White House to the humbler ranks of representatives and diplomats gave him a right royal welcome. Wherever he went, in Boston, New York, Washington, Baltimore, New Orleans, New Orleans, Albany, occasions attended him. The dinners given in his honor were many. At these dinners brilliant conversation and sparkling wit were the order of the day. In New York Boston as a literary center. New York could boast the great names of Irving, Halleck, Bryant, Curtis and others about equal note, while some of the most famous names of the times occupied its pulpits, and its bar possessed jurists of world wide fame.

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