

# POWER OF NATION OVER RAILROADS

## Sweeping Decision by Judge Speer Upholds Employers' Liability Law.

### SAME ON LAND AS ON SEA

#### Direct Conflict Between Federal Courts on Constitutional Point. Power of Congress to Control Commerce Is Absolute.

MADISON, Ga., March 25.—United States Judge Emory Speer today in a decision in the case of Lucy Sneed, administratrix, against the Central of Georgia Railway Company, upheld the constitutionality of the employers' liability act passed by the last Congress. This decision is opposed to those of United States Judge Evans at Louisville, and Judge McCall at Memphis, who declare the act repugnant to the Constitution of the United States.

The decision points out that no injury can result to corporations or to any useful or valuable power of the state by this National legislation. The act does not deprive the transportation of the same commerce on land.

#### KNAPP ON RAILROAD CONTROL

Commerce Chief Says National Action Must Replace State.

CHICAGO, March 25.—A dispatch to the Tribune from Washington says: Martin A. Knapp, chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission, in an interview yesterday, discussed the causes of Wall street distress, the evils existing in railroad management, and the remedies therefor, and expressed the opinion that the states have exceeded their constitutional rights in some of the anti-railroad legislation they have passed.

"There are two prominent aspects of the present railroad situation, the physical and the financial," Mr. Knapp said in answer to a question.

"In the first place, its causes certainly are not found in any Federal legislation enacted or proposed, or in the attitude or intentions of the President. Possibly there is an underlying reason for the present Wall street flurry, which has not been perceived clearly."

"Now, our marvellous prosperity has induced such an extension of activity as has led to unprecedented investment plans, with the result that over and above the capital necessary to conduct the business for which these plans are created we lack a surplus for their enlargement.

"Consequently when the railroads go into the market to get the vast sums needed for that increase of transportation facilities which the country imperatively demands, they find active capital so profitably employed that they cannot get money for increasing the machinery of production without paying rates of interest which would be a handicap in the future if not actually prohibitive.

"In the second place, one of the incidents of unusual prosperity is the stimulus it gives to advancing prices, which often reach abnormal and unwarrantable levels.

#### OWN YOUR OWN HOME IN ROSE CITY PARK



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eral authority is feeble and easily evaded, attempts constantly will be made to remedy defects by state laws, often ill considered and drastic.

### RUEF'S EXPERT OPINION

(Continued From First Page.)  
witnesses from Los Angeles to arrive in the city. No indictments were returned during the one session that was held, and only two witnesses were examined.

ing to a statement made by Assistant District Attorney Henry Ach, the close of the grand jury session, has nothing to do with bribery. He merely testified that his company was anxious to bid on a telephone franchise and would have bid the price up had it known that one was to be advertised. His company was under the impression that the earthquake fire that led to an indefinite postponement of the proposed bidding.

### SCHMITZ ASKS SPEEDY TRIAL

Accuses Prosecution of Intentional Delay—Will Not Confess.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—"I have repeatedly asked for a speedy trial—for an immediate trial—and the prosecution has just as often refused it," said Mayor Schmitz in an interview with the Associated Press today.

"I waived all technicalities many weeks ago. I wanted to be tried at once. I am willing to be tried by Judge Dunne, although I believe he is prejudiced against me; or I am willing to be tried before any Judge in this county, or any Judge that the prosecution may wish to bring in from any other county. I personally went before the presiding Judge and asked that my case be assigned to some Judge who could try me at once. Judge Dunne has refused to proceed with my trial until Ruef's trial is over. That will bring it just about the time of the primaries in August. Indictments against me were returned five months ago. I was ready to go on trial before I went to Washington. I answered 'ready' when my case was called a week ago, but the prosecution again postponed it for three weeks."

The market quieted after the first hour and showed resistance to a new decline. The dealings became very dull at the higher levels. The source of the heavy drop in sheet copper in London, a sharp decline in tin was also reported from that center.

Assurances of the absence of serious trouble among the members were given by Stock Exchange officials. At the leading banks no news bearing upon the market situation was obtainable. London bought in the early trading here some 600 shares. It was said, investment buying also helped to rally the market before the end of the first hour. Call money opened at 6 per cent, and was loaned at 2 per cent at noon.

### EXTORTION TRIAL POSTPONED

Ruef and Dinan Ready, but Honey and Burns Too Busy.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 25.—Abramam Ruef and Chief of Police Dinan were in Judge Dunne's court this morning on the indictments charging conspiracy and extortion. They were to have entered their plea to the indictment, but Mr. Honey and Mr. Burns being busy on the work of the grand jury, the cases were postponed for one week by consent of both sides.

"The prosecution views the action of an attempted corner in the copper market. Commission-house brokers reported they were in receipt of orders in almost unlimited amount to sell stocks at any price. Meantime the absorptive powers of the market seemed to be entirely exhausted and prices were slaughtered in the process.

### ROTHSCHILD FEARS NO PANIC

Says German Holders of American Stocks Are Selling.

LONDON, March 25.—"There is absolutely no danger," was the reply of Lord Rothschild when questioned today by the Associated Press in regard to the news that the Stock Exchange settlement would result in trouble. "There may be a few small failures," Lord Rothschild said, "but the report that a big financial house is in difficulty or that serious troubles are anticipated, are mere inventions. The London holders of Ameri-

# DOWN IN THE DUMPS

## Stocks Take Another Fall and Can't Recover.

### DEPRESSION IN METALS

#### Sudden Fall in Copper Attributed to Breaking of Corner—Hill and Harriman Stocks Are Among Leaders in the Decline.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Prices in stocks broke wildly again today soon after the beginning of operations on the Stock Exchange. The opening dealings showed a momentary stand against the forces of depression, which was helped by a more cheerful tone of foreign ad-

van securities have been induced to sell there upon the report that President Roosevelt intends taking steps towards nationalizing the railroads, or, at least, enacting legislation that may curtail the roads' earning capacities.

### KILLS WOMAN HE LOVED

Peter Clark Performs Last Act in Church and Social Scandal.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., March 25.—Peter Clark today on an interurban car running between Girard and Virden, shot and probably fatally wounded Mrs. Mollie Gibson, the divorced wife of Elmer Gibson. He surrendered.

### BOY-WORKERS' SCARCITY

Bounties Paid for Them by City Messenger Agencies.

Kansas City Journal.  
So serious is the messenger boy famine in Kansas City that bounties are being paid for them. "We pay," said the proprietor of a messenger office "12 apples for likely lads. This bounty is paid to our own boys. They keep their eyes active for messengers. When they see one working for a rival company or for the telegraph companies or the retail stores they wheel alongside of him and generally bring him in. We pay the newcomer higher wages than he gets where he has been working and we give our conscript agent 50 cents for getting the boy. I do not know where all the boys have gone. I think they quit being born from two or three years ago. Anyway, there are

### Flood of Stocks Sold.

The unchecked liquidation in the metal and industrial stocks brought a fresh flood upon the market from all quarters, and the tone again became demoralized. Smelting broke 12 1/2, Amalgamated Copper 9 1/2, Union Pacific, Reading and Great Northern preferred, 7. The deluge of stocks which poured into the market was unexplained. Disorder in the London metal market was given responsibility for unloading of the metal stocks. In several of which stock market pools were believed to be caught with large holdings on their hands.

### Market Closes Weak.

Call money loaned at 1 1/2 per cent shortly after 2 o'clock. Extensive covering to take profits by the bears rallied the market in the final hour. When this buying ceased, prices slipped back again in some cases to a lower level than before, and the market became very weak again.

### CONFESION ADMITTED

CHICAGO, March 25.—Judge Ball today ruled in the trial of Howard Nicholas and Leonard Leopold, accused of the murder of Mrs. Margaret Leslie, by Nicholas to the police should be admitted as evidence.

### OWN YOUR OWN HOME

Cathartic or purgative pills do more harm than good. Carter's Little Liver Pills do only good, but a large amount of salt. Only one pill a dose.

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### RECOVERING IN LONDON AND BERLIN.

LONDON, March 25.—In spite of a further fall in prices at New York Saturday, the Stock Exchange here today opened much calmer than during the closing hours of last week. Americans opened at about parity and all-around improvement developed, the features being Union Pacific, which rose 3/4, and Canadian Pacific, which rose nearly 4 points.

BERLIN, March 25.—The tone of the Bourse today was calm in comparison with the excitement of Saturday. Banks and industrials recovered part of the heavy loss they had sustained. Prices, however, are still far from strong.

PARIS, March 25.—Prices on the Bourse today were heavy, owing to advices from New York.

not enough to go 'round. Look at that one." Here he indicated a man well past 60 years, who was carrying a lot of telegrams and a delivery sheet.

There is a regular war being waged between the telegraph companies and the messenger service bureaus. The telegraph company local managers are held down to Eastern schedules, which run from 4.00 to 5.50 a week. The local messenger bureau pays from 4 to 8 a week for boys. The age or the height of the boy has little to do with his worth. It is the way he knows the town and can get over it on the cars or a wheel.

Recovering in London and Berlin.

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SOME OF THE FIGURES IN THE SAN FRANCISCO GRAFT INVESTIGATION. Reading from left to right are Henry Ach, Ruef's attorney; Abe Ruef, the indicted boss of San Francisco; William J. Biggy, the elisor, who has Ruef in custody; and Judge Dunne, before whom Ruef is on trial.

### What the Press Agents Say

#### THE BAKER'S SUCCESSFUL PLAY

"As a Man Sows" Proves a General Favorite.

The new play "As a Man Sows," which the Baker Theater has on this week, is proving a general favorite with all classes of its patrons and is a real success. It is an English play but contains more dramatic features than the general run of British productions. The company members are all happily cast and are doing splendid work.

#### "A Cowboy's Girl" Pleases All.

The Empire audiences are simply going wild over "A Cowboy's Girl" for the whole show is one of the kind that appeals to the heart, the imagination, the spirit of the Westerner. The wonderfully thrilling climax, in which the girl saves her sweet heart's sister through a deft rifle shot takes the house by storm.

#### COMING ATTRACTIONS.

#### Advance Seat Sale Opens at Heilig Theater for "The Tenderfoot."

This morning at 10 o'clock, at the box office of the Heilig Theater, Fourteenth and Washington streets, the advance seat sale will open for the latest musical-comedy success, "The Tenderfoot," which comes next Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights, March 28, 29, 30, with a special matinee Saturday, Oscar L. Pigman, Ruth White and an excellent supporting company are presenting the merry offering.

#### "Cymbeline" and "Julius Caesar."

Next Sunday night, March 31, the eminent tragedian and actor, Charles B. Hartford, supported by Marie Drogan and a capable supporting company, will present Shakespeare's great play, "Cymbeline," at the Heilig Theater; Monday night, April 1, "Julius Caesar." This will afford lovers of the classic drama an excellent opportunity of seeing two of the immortal bard's greatest plays.

A street knife cleaner has made his appearance in London. He calls himself the first of his trade. His charge is 2 cents a dozen.

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