RAILROADS WILL NOT TAMELY OBEY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR

Officials Intimate That Roads Will Resort to Courts Before Complying.

SAY QUESTIONS ON REPORTS ARE ABSURD

Scoff at Statistics Demanded by State and Say They Make Enough Reports Now—Reluctant to Talk Concerning Probable Action.

It is probable that there will be determined opposition by the railroads to compliance with the letter of the act of 1905, requiring the making of detailed annual reports of railroad business to the secretary of state. Railroad attorneys have not yet received official notice of the governor's intention to enforce the law, and they are today unwilling to make any statement for publication. But their minds are made up that they will not comply with all the provisions of the act unless they have to.

It is said on the part of the railroads that some of the questions that make up the proposed report are unreasonable and absurd. For example, the paragraphs calling for statement of "expense incurred in the running and management of passenger trains"; and "amount of expense incurred in the running and management of freight and mixed trains." It is said to be impossible to segregate these expenses. The same men in the terminal yards handle all kinds of trains, the same general expenses involved in management of the railroad company's affairs cover all train service alike. The same trackage expenses serve all kinds of trains.

"What part of the general superintendent's salary," it is asked, "should be charged off to the operation of freight trains, what part to mixed trains, and what part to passenger trains?" The railroad managers will contend that numerous questions in the report will serve no useful purpose for the public, and impose needless hardship on the clerical force that is to be required to figure out the answers.

Willing to Answer Some Questions.

It is admitted by the railroad people that they should make public a part of their business and no objection is made to 75 per cent of the questions contained in the report. Said one:

"We already make a large number of reports to various official heads of the state and national government, and one or two more or less would make no difference. We report to the labor commissioner, the tax commission, and the interstate commerce commission, all of which bodies ask a great many questions. The making of another annual report raising a lot more questions would probably not cost the company more than $10,000 a year. The railroad business is nowadays a public transaction. We have been making reports to the interstate commission right along, and any one desiring to learn all about our business has only to send to Washington and get a copy of our reports."

Some Questions Indefinite.

Some of the questions asked in the annual report to the secretary of state are said to be indefinite in their meaning, and hard to understand. To set out "Rate of fare for passengers for each month, through and way passengers separately," might be easy, or it might be almost impossible it is claimed. The meaning of the law is not clear to the railroad people. They do not know whether the paragraph applies to "through" passengers from Portland to Chicago, Portland to Seattle, Portland to St. Paul, Portland to Ashland, Portland to Kalama, or Portland to Huntington.

The end of a division or the end of a company's line, or the end of a system of railroads might be regarded as the destination of a "through" passenger under the limited jurisdiction of a state law. The rate for way passengers on Oregon lines is 3 cents per mile, but on a long haul, like Portland to Chicago, St. Paul or San Francisco, the rate per mile is reduced. The rates remain the same every month in the year, excepting in occasional seasons, when tourist and colonist rates are temporarily in effect, and these are invariably for through passengers only, from or to points outside the state.

Not Notified Yet.

W. W. Cotton, general counsel for the O. R. & N. railroad company, when asked to give his views on the proposed enforcement of the annual report law, said he had not received any notification from the state authorities, and was not in a position to discuss it. He supposed the railroads had ceased making reports to the state when the railroad commission law was repealed, under the assumption that its repeal nullified the law requiring annual reports to be made.

C. H. Carey, counsel for the Northern Pacific, said he did not think enforcement of the law would make any material difference to the companies he represented. He had not been advised officially of the governor's action in the matter, and could not say anything material on the subject until he had given it consideration.

Secretary of State Dunbar, who returned today from Seaside, has not yet received the governor's letter on the subject of enforcement of the law. It is expected that he will notify the railroad companies this week, and their attitude will soon be definitely shaped, as the terms of the law require that the reports shall be made not later than September 1 of each year. In case of failure to report the enforcement of penalties will then come up for action by the state authorities. It might be that the railroad companies would prefer to pay penalties of $5,000 rather than undergo the trouble and expense of making the desired reports. The state would then be up against a new problem.

Trouble in Washington.

The state railway commission of Washington, after more than a year's wrestling with the subject, is still in a controversy with the O. R. & N. Co. and other railroad companies in that state over the form of annual report that shall be made to the commission. The difficulty, it is said, is chiefly a matter of bookkeeping.

The railroad companies do not object to answering questions as to amount of capital stock, names of owners, amounts paid in and by whom, amount of liabilities, names and residences of officers, questions as to funded and floating debts, cash values of road bed, rolling stock, buildings and station property, length of main, double and spur tracks, sidings, miles run by passenger trains, earnings by same, miles run by freight trains, tonnage and freight earnings, expenses of maintenance, salaries and tariff of freights, showing each change of tariff. Some of the questions bear on the matter of discrimination in freight rates. It is asked whether the rate of fare and tariff of freight in published lists are the same as those actually received by the company, and if not, what rates were received? Practically the same answers are arrived at in the reports to the interstate commerce commission on this and other questions bearing on the railroad company's relations to other railroad companies and to express companies.

SILER WILL REGULATE WEIGHING IN OF MEN

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)

Goldfield, Nev., Aug. 28.—Despite Nolan's insisting that Gans must weigh in with his fighting togs on, George Siler declares that there is nothing in the rules providing for this. He says if it is left to him Gans may weigh in stripped. The club will probably let the referee decide.

Rev. James Byers, Presbyterian minister, will expel any women members of the flock who attend the fight. This has caused much indignation, as the best women in the place will attend.

CATHOLIC CATHEDRAL BURNED BY FANATIC

(Journal Special Service.)

Lincoln, Neb., Aug. 28.—The First Church of Christ, recently bought by the Catholics and being remodeled for a cathedral, was burned this morning. The loss is $50,000. The bishop's secretary says that the fire was incendiary and started by a fanatic.

Shall Fortune-Tellers Go?

News comes from Seattle that a judge there has declared that all clairvoyants, palmists and fortune-tellers shall be treated as common vagrants and ordered to leave town. The license committee of the Portland council intends to take up the matter here, and the police will be instructed to order all fortune-tellers to cease the practice of their trade or leave town at once. Clairvoyancy, astrology and palmistry, although they are often practiced by quacks, are firmly believed in by many people who have exhaustively studied these arts—anyway, why shouldn't one visit a quack if one wishes and it gives pleasure? Mr. Comstock is so careful of other people's morals that he is even suppressing art catalogues—think what a shock classic statuary must give the good man? Isn't the Seattle judge a little too Comstockian? Will not the doing away of fortune-tellers means depriving many women of an innocent and harmless pleasure? When one is blue, and the clouds seem to have no silver lining, a visit to the palmist will often give new hope. To hear of the possibilities that are yet to come, of the bright days just ahead, gives full value for the money. What if it is all fake, all nonsense? Shouldn't the individual have the right of deciding the question? And if it helps a certain class of women to go and have their "fortune told" is there any vital reason why they shouldn't?

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Nail Superstitions.

Somehow, I have never been quite sure why, we are all superstitious, more or less, no matter how we object to being considered so.

I have noticed that the man who grows lordfully scornful over his wife's objection to starting on a journey on a Friday will carefully walk on the outside of a ladder, although he will usually say it is entirely because said ladder might fall. As a matter of gravity, if it fell it would not go straight down anyway, would it?

Well, here are some superstitions I have long known and so I pass them on, concerning the trimming of nails:

Cut them on Monday, you cut them for health.

Cut them on Tuesday, you cut them for wealth.

Cut them on Wednesday, you cut them for news.

Cut them on Thursday, a pair of new shoes.

Cut them on Friday, you cut them for sorrow.

Cut them on Saturday, see your true love tomorrow.

Cut them on Sunday, your safety seek; the devil will have you the rest of the week.

* * *

Nut and Potato Salad.

Put a cupful of English walnuts in boiling water with a slice of onion, a blade of mace, a bay leaf and half a teaspoonful of salt. Let them boil 10 minutes, then throw into cold water and drain. Slice four medium-sized potatoes while hot. Mix half a teaspoonful of salt, a pinch of pepper and four tablespoonfuls of olive oil. When mixing add gradually one and a half tablespoonfuls of vinegar and half a teaspoonful of onion juice. Mix the nuts and potatoes and pour on the dressing. Serve cold with water cress.

* * *

To the Girl of My Heart.

From an Exchange.

There are girls who can row,
And girls who can sew;
(I know one who writes for the papers),
But my heart will be laid
At the feet of the maid
Who can give me boiled mutton and capers.

I care little about
The girl who can spout
Whole pages of Byron and Shelley.
But give me the one—
Or else I'll have none—
Who makes all the jam and the jelly.

There are girls who speak
Both Latin and Greek,
And quote Aristotle and Plato;
But who can compare—
Be she ever so fair—
With the girl who can cook a potato?

* * *

Take Care of the Eyes.

Don't read in a reclining attitude or in bed.

Don't use the eyes when they are tired or weak from illness.

Don't work longer than two hours without closing the eyes and resting them for five minutes.

Don't look too steadily from a car window at objects that are constantly flying past you.

Don't sit facing a strong light. If possible, let the light fall on work or book from over the left shoulder.

Don't fail to consult an oculist if you find that your eyesight is growing dim or hesitate to wear glasses if you need them.

Don't have colored shades on the lamps. Use white or ground glass. If you must have a colored shade, let it be green.

CZAR'S SOLDIERS THREATEN TO EXTERMINATE JEWS

Jews Are Fleeing in Terror From Warsaw and Trepoff Will Be Sent to Command.

(Journal Special Service.)

St. Petersburg, Aug. 28.—The soldiers at Warsaw threaten to exterminate the Jews on account of the assassination of Count von Wonlarski. The Jews are fleeing. It is rumored that General Trepoff will be sent to Warsaw to control the disorder. Extraordinary measures will be taken to maintain order in this city and rumors of a dictatorship are being revived.

Disorders are reported in various centers. At Kirilov the soldiers guarding the prisoners mutinied and 16 were arrested. At Tambeff two revolutionists killed three soldiers. The police have discovered at Riga 24 bombs. Robbers attacked the government spirit store and the troops killed five of them.

Stolypin's injured daughter is alive, but is still in danger. His son will probably recover.

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