

IT'S AN OUTRAGE, SAH! SNORTS THE COLONEL

Sojourner in City of Roses From Blue Grass State Takes Exceptions to Treatment of Users of "the Weed" by Traction Management.

...faster, but the street car track in the most crowded, so one practically equals the other."
"But what are you going to do about it," smiled the New Yorker.
"Nothing," said the westerner as he replaced his feet on the rail.
"Nothing," sighed the colonel, and all three were silent.

**OKLAHOMA ASKS
A TIP OF OREGON**

Salem, Or., June 10.—W. L. Chapman, secretary of the Democratic central committee of Oklahoma, writes to the state railway commission for data to be used in the preparation of equitable corporation laws. The new constitution of Oklahoma provides for a corporation commission and the Oregon data will assist the compilers in their work. Secretary Goodall of the Oregon commission will send a copy of the act and the rules adopted by the commission.

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"It's an outrage, sah! An outrage," snorted the colonel as he stalked along the veranda of the Portland hotel to his favorite chair in the corner.

"What's an outrage?" inquired the New Yorker languidly, while the westerner nudged his feet to the rail and lit his pipe with a half suppressed grin.

"The streetcars, sah! The streetcars! Today I stepped in a car for a ride about your beautiful city; it reminds me of Kentucky at her loveliest, sah, and I settled down for a pleasant ride and an hour with my cigar, sah! The first thing I knew, sah, the conductor handed me a card, sah, saying that would I please be polite enough not to smoke except on the front platform. I arose, sah, and resisting strenuous temptation to throw the conductor through the car window, I went to the front platform. There were but two men and one woman in the car, sah, but on the front platform were eight men, all standing up, who were trying to smoke. I spoke to the motorman, sah, and he felt just like all the other men on that front platform. He said that at times his platform was so crowded with men that he could not work his brakes properly, thus endangering the lives of every man, woman and child on the car while the inside of the car was nearly empty, and no one was on the back platform at all, sah.

"He explained to me that because one man out of ten does not smoke that the car company makes the other nine stand on the front platform and endanger the lives of all to accommodate the public as they call it, sah!

"Would you have men smoking inside the car where the women are to whom it is disagreeable?" asked the westerner.

"Certainly not, sah. No man stands before me in the protection of women and children, sah!" fumed the colonel.

"But tell me, sah, if the streetcars are run to accommodate the public, sah, and thereby give the greatest service to the greatest number, why do not the cars contain seats where a gentleman can smoke, sah, seeing that it is an almost universal masculine custom? I work for positive hardship, sah! The business man, clerk or laboring man who cannot smoke at his work, a bad habit I'll admit, sah, but when he cannot do that he tries to get a smoke after breakfast on his way down town on the car. And to do so he must ride on the front platform in a jam where the motorman both because of lack of room and the conversation going on around him, and which it is beyond human nature for him not to join in, cannot attend properly to his duties."

"There is absolutely no reason, sah, why a street car should not have seats, or even a whole compartment, reserved for smokers, sah, just as do the railroad trains and the hotels. Suppose, sah, that every man who smoked on a railroad train had to ride with the engineer in the engine cab, sah! Would you want to ride or have your family ride on that train, sah?"

"Hardly," said the New Yorker with a shrug. "But what are you going to do about it?"

"Do about it? Do about it, sah! Nothing, sah! Just so long as the men in Portland who smoke let the street car company herd them on to the front platform they deserve all they get, sah. I have no sympathy for them at all, sah. But to a stranger this thing of making gentlemen who smoke take the Jim Crow car, sah, seems very queer, sah. If in the morning from 8 to 3 every third car was a smoking car, sah, it would carry as many passengers as the other two put together, sah. And the colonel snapped the end off a cigar and shook his long hair earnestly.

"Well," murmured the New Yorker, "the public is a queer animal. The next time a car with the inside empty and the front platform jammed runs over

a little child in the street, the public led by the men on the front platform, will try to hang the motorman. And he, above all men, wants a clear front platform. The public always gets just what it deserves.

"Smoking or no smoking," growled the westerner putting both feet down hard, "the front platform should be kept as free from passengers as the cab of a locomotive. The steam engine runs



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