

INTERSTATE CORPORATIONS.

In the last issue of the GAZETTE the letter of our esteemed friend, Col. Philips, referring to interstate corporations, says: "These corporations must be controlled by whatever means necessary even though it involve government ownership." And he further says "The GAZETTE took this position three years ago, and today the republican party lines up to it." The GAZETTE takes issue with the gentleman, and by way of explanation, says the republican party has never advocated the doctrine of government ownership; that is purely the doctrine of the socialist party. By way of explanation, the GAZETTE has to say that Col. Philips has, for considerable time, often contributed valuable articles to the GAZETTE and part of that time some of his contributions have appeared in the paper as editorial matter; such articles were good and generally such as the GAZETTE could endorse. It is well remembered the time, three years ago, when the article went in that Col. Philips refers to in which he threw into it a few words endorsing government ownership. (The same was not noticed by the manager in charge of the paper until the paper was in print. The next issue, however, the paper editorially corrected that mistake so far as the paper was concerned, disavowed all connection with advocating government ownership, leaving that to rest as the views of Col. Philips alone.

The GAZETTE now resists any attempt of any one to crowd it out of the republican party and into advocating the socialistic proposition of government ownership. When the republican party so declares, it will be time then for the GAZETTE to decide and not for Col. Philips to say what the GAZETTE shall do or what position the paper shall take.

The GAZETTE feels sure that Col. Philips misconstrues the meaning that President Roosevelt intended by his message. We do not read the President's message as favoring government ownership of railroads in any sense, or any railroad, but on the contrary his message favors regulation in strong terms, repelling the idea of government ownership. The idea of advocating government ownership in order to prevent a "popular rush to socialism" shows the weakness of such argument. The principles of the republican party are based upon solid grounds, and therefore it is not necessary to "throw scp" to socialistic ideas to sustain its position. God has planted in man the principle of individuality and put him here on earth to exercise it.

The republican party believes in not going contrary to the laws of our Great Creator. The socialistic idea of government ownership is contrary to that principle, reducing all individuality to a common level, and therefore can not succeed. The President of the United States well knows this fact. He has not declared for government ownership, but has declared for regulation of the corporations by adequate laws, and through the courts when necessary. Anyone who before doubted his position, certainly must be convinced if he will read the President's speech, delivered on January 30th before the Union League at Philadelphia. He urges regulating the great interstate corporations by law, and if necessary the constitution of the United States must be amended. He also advises moderation, calm consideration, so as to get to a proper supervision and control. He advises against any form of ill-advised interference. In fact everything he says points to the

fact that he does not advise government ownership. So peculiar it is that any strongly entrenched republican should make a mad rush to socialism because lawyers differ, make a bluff and bluster to scare away the ghosts, when we learn that for all time lawyers have differed and raised what seemed to be formidable questions to a non-professional. If lawyers had not differed, such a thing as a court for hundreds of years would not have been necessary.

What seems to be different opinions among lawyers, coupled with a belligerent, contentious client, is what makes law-suits. Again Col. Philips undertakes to instruct the public mind on government bonds to the effect that "four per cent bonds might sell for a little below par and possibly might bring a small premium," when in fact U. S. Government two per cent bonds sell on the market for par and four per cents premium. But it does not alter the fact that if the government should build a railroad, money would be required to build and pay for it. For the government to get the money it would have to issue bonds to obtain it, and the bonds would finally have to be paid by the people, but Col. Philips relies upon the wisdom of Congress not to build the road, because, he suggests, that "Such a menagerie of fools as this would require could not be collected in the country." Then why should he suggest that the government build a railroad? It would have to build pursuant to action by Congress.

BEEF TRUST DISSOLVED.

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided that the great beef trust of Chicago was doing interstate commerce business and therefore subject to the laws of the United States forbidding monopolies and unlawful combinations exercised in restraint of trade and the raising and depressing the price of commodities at pleasure. This was the "National Packing Company," of New Jersey, formed March, 1893, with a capital of \$15,000,000. Under the control of this organization was operated "Armour & Co.," of Chicago, with capital of \$20,000,000; "Swift & Co.," of Chicago, with \$35,000,000 of stock and \$5,000,000 of bonds and five or six more smaller companies with \$6,000,000, or \$7,000,000." This colossal beef trust raised and lowered the price of live stock at pleasure, raised the price of their cured and dressed product, where they could require the helpless consumer to pay more, and they lowered the price of the same product where they found a small competitor in a field who would not submit to aid their schemes until they crushed his business operations, when they would raise the prices to the consumer. They arrange a scale of discriminating rates with the railroads and force the roads to comply with their wishes, thereby putting all competition out of the way. They sent lists out all over the country quoting high prices of live stock until the local buyers in remote sections bought extensively of stock, until the buyer had his stock on the railroads bound to market, when the beef trust would suddenly lower the price of stock, causing great loss to the shipper.

Every person in the stock business will recognize the extreme low price of beef for the last three years and they can thank the beef trust for it. They may also thank the Supreme Court of the United States for its legal wisdom exercised in dissolving the unlawful combination.

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Etie Cale.

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Notice is hereby given that the undersigned was appointed executor of the last will and testament of C. E. Moor, deceased, and all persons having claims against said estate are required to present same, with proper vouchers, to me at my home or to W. E. Yates at his office in Corvallis, within six months from this date. PERSES J. LINDERMAN, Executor. Dated January 30, 1905.

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