

TO HEAR ALL SIDES

Senate Committee Will Consider Railroad Rates.

NEW BILL IS TO BE PREPARED

Two Months Will Be Devoted to Hearing Testimony of Experts on Question.

Washington, April 15.—Railroad rate legislation and kindred topics will again be brought prominently to the attention of the public with the meetings here, beginning Monday, of the senate committee on interstate commerce, which will assemble for the purpose of ventilating the subject in a manner more thorough than any heretofore on record. The meeting will be held in the committee's rooms at the capitol and will be public. Senator Elkins, of West Virginia, will preside. The Republican members are Cullom, Illinois; Aldrich, Rhode Island; Kean, New Jersey; Dolliver, Iowa; Foraker, Ohio; Clapp, Minnesota; and Millard, Nebraska. The Democrats are Tillman, South Carolina; McLaurin, Mississippi; Carmack, Tennessee; Foster, Louisiana; and Newlands, Nevada.

As a basis of consideration, the Esch-Townsend bill, passed by the house at the last session, will be expected to serve. The committee had the measure before it many days before the adjournment of the last congress and was urged to put it on its passage. Arguments were advanced, however, protesting against hasty action because of the alleged radical character of this measure, and the importance of the interests involved. Chairman Elkins and Senator Foraker were among those who advocated delay, and the committee, near the close of the session, after much time had been devoted to hearings, reported to the senate a resolution authorizing it to continue the hearings during the recess. This authority was granted and Monday's meeting will be the initial meeting under that authority.

Although the house committee on interstate commerce, which evolved the Esch bill, took sufficient testimony to fill several large volumes, and although the senate committee was not idle in that regard, the investigation of the subject now imminent promises to be most exhaustive. Both sides, in fact many sides, of the case will be heard.

BUTCHERS DENOUNCE PACKERS

New York Trade Up in Arms About Advance in Beef.

New York, April 15.—Prices of all kinds of meat have begun to rise in New York because of a reported increase in cost to dealers of about 2 cents a pound. This advance in dressed beef by the packers means a corresponding increase of from 4 to 6 cents per pound at retail on the average grade of sirloin steaks, porterhouse steaks and prime ribs of roast beef.

Retail dealers say they received notice of the first advance ten days ago, but postponed an advance to their customers. However, on receiving notice of a further raise next week it was found necessary to make a change in retail prices.

Meetings of the Retail Butchers' and Meat Dealers' Protective association will be held in all boroughs to take action. The Brooklyn branch of the association already has met and discussed the situation. Several retailers bitterly denounced the packers, who were alleged to be taking concerted action. It was declared that while the advance of wholesale prices was attributed to falling off in supplies of cattle at the Chicago stock yards, no such falling off had taken place, and that the raising of prices was entirely unjustified.

Preparing for Long Siege.

Tokio, April 15.—It is reported here that the Russians are continually reinforcing the garrison at Vladivostok and that the work of strengthening the fortress is constantly progressing. It is said that the plans of the Russians contemplate a garrison numbering 100,000 men, with 500 guns. Many additional batteries, redoubts, barriers, and pits are in course of construction and enormous stores of ammunition are being accumulated. The Russians, it is said, have equipped their fortresses to withstanding a siege.

Standard Asks the Impossible.

Topeka, Kan., April 15.—The Standard Oil company has filed in the Supreme court a motion "to make more definite and certain" the petition in the suit filed by Attorney General Coleman to oust the Standard company from the state. It will be absolutely impossible to comply with a motion of this kind, the attorney general says, but the Standard says it is necessary to obtain this information in order to properly defend itself.

Ten Million Dollars for Good Roads.

Albany, N. Y., April 15.—The proposed constitutional amendment authorizing a state issue of \$10,000,000 for building good roads under the state aid law passed the assembly today. Having passed the legislature last year, the proposition will now be submitted to the popular vote at the November election.

ADVANCE IN ALL BIG MARKETS.

Packers Raise Price and Lay Blame on Cattle Growers.

Chicago, April 14.—Prices of beef have advanced in every important market of the United States. The consumer is paying the advanced price, which to him represents several cents per pound over what he paid up to ten days ago.

Swift & Co., Armour and Nelson Morris state that no beef has been supplied to the retail markets of Chicago or to any other market in the country during the last month and a half except at a loss. This, it is declared, has been partially due to the fact that breeders of stock and the handlers of range cattle have been holding back on supply until the grass of the range becomes nourishing. Swift & Co., speaking for the packing interests, this afternoon, issued the following statement: "During the last six weeks the producers of beef cattle have been receiving about \$1 advance over past prices for choice cattle. This simply means that the advance to the consumer in prices would be about \$2 on the one-half of choice cattle that can be used for food purposes. The range cattle producer is the master of the situation."

ATTEMPT TO WRECK WARSHIP.

Caution Saves Connecticut from Being Ruined in Drydock.

New York, April 14.—During the process of placing the new battleship Connecticut in drydock at the navy yard here today, what might have proved a serious accident was avoided by the officer in charge sending down a diver to make thorough examination of the hull before the water should be pumped out and the vessel lowered into the keel blocks.

The diver discovered a heavy timber stuck fast to the hull on the port side of the keel, where it had adhered to the rough plating while the vessel was on the ways and had not been released in launching. A failure to discover the timber, it is said, would have resulted in the buckling or crimping of the keel and lower frames when the vessel settled on the blocks.

Several days previous to the launching of the Connecticut last fall divers were sent down to examine the ways and found a large spike placed where it would have pierced the hull, had it not been found. Later, an official investigation disclosed holes bored in one of the plates.

LOW GRADES FOR SANTA FE

Will Spend Ten Millions on New Road Through Mountains.

Chicago, April 13.—The Record-Herald says: Official announcement is made that the Santa Fe has decided to build a \$10,000,000 cut-off to the Pacific coast with a view to getting rid of the mountain grades which now are encountered in the trans-continental travel. Orders have been given for the purchase of all the material necessary, and work will begin in 30 days. The work will be pushed to completion rapidly, and the new transcontinental low-grade line will be ready for opening within a year or 15 months.

The Western end of the cut-off will be at Belen, N. M., 27 miles south of Albuquerque, on the El Paso line, and the Eastern will be at Texico, 250 miles away on the Pecos valley lines of the Santa Fe. The new road will cross the Sierra Nevada mountains at Aho Pass, at an elevation of 6,491 feet, but at a maximum grade east-bound of 1 1/2 per cent and west-bound of 6-10ths of 1 per cent. The line will cross the Santa Fe Central near Willard and the El Paso & Northwestern at Llano, N. M.

Ready to Fight Once More.

Paris, April 14.—Captain Rode telegraphs to the Matin that he has been the guest of Kaulbars, commander of the second Manchurian army at the Russian front. The captain's observations showed that the Russian army had been reinforced and is prepared to renew the battle. The troops maneuver daily in battle formation. The Japanese cavalry advance guard, the dispatch adds, is barely 10 miles away, and frequent cavalry skirmishes take place. The prisoners captured have sabre cuts on their heads, showing hand-to-hand skirmishes.

Flood Damages Arizona Railroad.

Phoenix, Ariz., April 14.—For two or three days it has been raining heavily in Arizona. Early this morning 300 feet of the pile structure built to repair the Phoenix & Eastern railway bridge over Salt river at Tempe was washed away. Salt river is still high tonight and some fear is expressed for the Maricopa & Phoenix railway bridge at Tempe. Reports from the Roosevelt dam site is that the river is higher than at any time this year and is fully as high as the Arizona canal dam as at any previous time.

Invite Taft to Australia.

Manila, April 14.—Governor General Northcote, of the commonwealth of Australia, will, it is understood, invite Secretary of War Taft and party to visit Australia during the party's forthcoming visit to the Philippines. The commonwealth of Australia will defray the entire expense, it is said. The American chamber of commerce of Manila is preparing to entertain Mr. Taft and party on an extensive scale during their stay in Manila.

Submarines at Vladivostok.

Tokio, April 14.—It is reported here that the Russians at Vladivostok are conducting experiments with six submarine vessels, and that these vessels are all of foreign manufacture, and include French, British and American types.

SOON LET CONTRACT

Plans for The Dalles-Celilo Canal Are Almost Complete.

WILL BEGIN WORK AT UPPER END

Enough Money Now on Hand to Build Upper Lock and Entrance to the Canal.

Washington, April 13.—Within two weeks, it is expected, Major Langfitt will be instructed to advertise for bids for the construction of the first lock of The Dalles-Celilo canal, thus launching a project that has been under consideration in one shape or another for a generation. The chief of engineers has received Major Langfitt's plan for beginning construction, but, owing to the fact that several details are not quite clear, the papers are to be returned for explanation. When they get back to Washington it is thought the plans will be approved and authority granted to invite proposals.

Major Langfitt's plans, which have been carefully worked out in great detail and with apparent care, contemplate beginning construction on the upper end of the canal and working down stream. This is done to enable contractors to make use of the canal as it is completed, section by section.

Major Langfitt has prepared plans for approaches to the canal at its upper end, for the guard gates for the first lock near Celilo, and for a considerable stretch of canal. It is impossible to tell how much work can be done with the money appropriated in the rivers and harbors law, but it is anticipated there are funds enough to complete the Celilo lock and canal entrance, and to do considerable blasting and straight canal work. Near the first lock it will be necessary to build an immense embankment as the north wall of the canal. This part of the canal, and in fact all other parts not cut through solid rock, will be lined with cement. All embankments will be solid of construction and will be faced with immense rocks to prevent washing in seasons of high water.

ONLY ONE FARE.

Reduced Rate to Portland Fair from All Eastern Points.

Chicago, April 13.—The action of the Trunk Line association meeting held at New York yesterday was supplemented in this city today by the Central Passenger association meeting, which decided to concur with the former association in granting a one-way rate plus \$1 from all points east to Chicago for those desiring to attend the Lewis and Clark fair at Portland.

The Trunk Line association at its meeting yesterday receded from its former demand for a rate of 80 per cent of the round-trip fare, and agreed to make a one-way rate plus \$1 from all points in its territory on the Atlantic seaboard west to Pittsburg and Buffalo. This was to be done, provided the Central Passenger association would take the same rate from the two latter cities through to Chicago, where the rates could be joined with the same concessions made by the transcontinental lines, giving a one-way round-trip rate from the Atlantic to the Pacific. The action of the Central Passenger association ratified this agreement today, which makes the one-way rate from coast to coast certain.

This action assures a large attendance at the Lewis and Clark exposition from all of the territory lying east of Chicago, extending to the Atlantic coast, between the Canadian boundary and the Ohio river. The Central Passenger association territory takes in all the cities of the east, and the rate of one fare will induce thousands of well-to-do persons to make Portland the objective point in their summer and fall vacations.

Illinois Will Show Lincoln's Home.

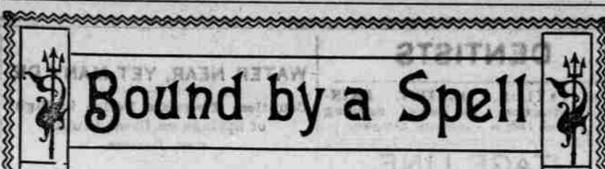
Springfield, Ill., April 13.—The commission which is to have charge of the state exhibit at the Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland, Or., this summer, elected Cyrus Thompson chairman and Reuben H. Tiffany, of Freeport, as secretary. The commission will hold a meeting at Springfield next Tuesday. Unless objections are raised the commission will make the state building a copy of the Lincoln home. It was practically decided to exhibit all available Lincoln mementos in the building during the fair.

Peasants Seizing the Land.

St. Petersburg, April 13.—The peasants at Orgeleff, near Odessa, recently seized the land of some of the big estates and proceeded to divide it. Troops have been dispatched to the scene. Near Byelostok the peasants demanded that the landlords cease to use agricultural machinery, and as their attitude became threatening, Cossacks were required to disperse them. An additional force of Cossacks has been dispatched to keep order.

British Steamer Captured.

Tokio, April 13.—The British steamer Henry Bolckow was seized by the Japanese guardships off the island of Hokkaido, April 7. The character of her cargo has not been divulged and her destination is not stated in the official announcement. It is presumed, however, that the vessel was bound for Vladivostok.



Bound by a Spell

CHAPTER XXV.—(Continued.)

"One day he asked permission to take me with him to see the horticultural show, at Bury. I did not wish to go. I always had a strange feeling, almost amounting to a dread, of being left alone with him; but I would not have mentioned it for the world. Grandfather, however, thinking that it would please me, gave a ready assent.

"In the exhibition we met a very disagreeable looking old lady, who was introduced to me as Mrs. Humphries, and who invited us home to dine with her. She was accompanied by a young lady, with remarkably red hair, and strange-looking eyes, whom she called Judith.

"We went, Cousin John and I, home with them to a large brick house in a retired part of the town. After dinner Cousin John and the young lady, whom he called Miss Porter, began to talk about mesmerism. I had never heard of it before—did not know the meaning of the word. Suddenly she turned to me, and asked me how I should like to be mesmerized. I answered that I did not know what it was. 'Oh, it's the strangest sensation in the world,' said John. 'This young lady is very clever at it.'

"After some little persuasion, I consented, but very unwillingly. Then they took me into a dark room. Miss Porter sat down in a chair. On the wall at the back was hung a black curtain, and around her shoulders was draped a black cloth. Upon the table in front of her was a lamp, in which was fixed a powerful reflector, that threw a dazzling light upon her face. She seated me opposite to her, and bade me fix my eyes upon hers. I did so. Never can I forget the effect. I was once taken to a wild beast show. The glare of her widely distended eyes was exactly like that which I had seen there in the tiger's. It fastened upon mine, and held them fascinated. I had no power to shift them; and as I gazed, spellbound, upon hers, they gradually dilated until they seemed to be two enormous globes of fire, suspended in utter darkness. Then I lost all recollection.

"It appears that while in this condition you are compelled to answer truthfully any question put to you, and to execute upon awaking any act you may have promised to perform while in the mesmeric state. I believe that in my trance they extracted from me every particular of my uncle's will.

"When I awoke I found myself in the dining room, lying upon a sofa, and Mrs. Humphries holding a vinaigrette to my nose. I felt very weak, and strangely dazed. Cousin John made very light of the matter—said that I had got frightened, and fainted away, and impressed upon me that I must be sure not to speak of it to grandfather. And I did not.

"I cannot dwell upon the dreadful story. After this he found ways and means to subject me again and again to this terrible influence. I grew pale and emaciated; my nerves were shattered, my memory was almost destroyed, and a kind of stupefaction seized upon my brain. Night and day, sleeping or waking, those awful globes of fire glared at me out of the darkness. It was killing me, as slowly and surely as the deadliest poison could have done. My grandfather was in a troubled state of mind. Physicians were brought; they pronounced my complaint to be a gradual softening of the brain.

"In the meantime, I was restrained from divulging the truth by threats from Cousin John—threats not only against myself, but against my dear grandfather. What torture could have exceeded what I then endured? But I could not reason. I had not the power to make one effort to free myself from the hideous thralldom; and at last I became utterly passive.

"One day, I was seized with a irresistible impulse to steal my grandfather's keys, go to the cabinet, seek for the secret drawer, take out the will and carry it to Cousin John. Then I knew that such an act had been imposed upon me by those terrible eyes in one of my trances. All day I fought against it; but an invisible power seemed driving me on. Suddenly, the thought flashed upon me that I would run away—fly from all, everything. The instant it occurred, I acted upon it. I ran up into my room, opened my desk, took out all the money I had saved, and while my grandfather was taking his after-dinner nap, stole out of the house—not thinking in my haste, even to put a hat on. It was dark, and no one observed me. I went on, taking no heed of my whereabouts, until I found myself in the streets of Bury.

"I had crept under the old Norman gateway, where you saw me. I remembered that I had once chanced to see the city road pointed out from a spot very near to where I stood. When you left me, I took that road. That night, or, rather, towards morning, I slept in a wood. For a long time I dared not inquire my way, nor, until I was half dead with exhaustion, did I venture to buy food.

"After terrible hardships, I reached Ipswich. There I purchased new clothes and took the train to the city. Although I had still money in my pocket when I arrived, I began to think of how I should get my living.

"But did you not think of writing to your grandfather—of telling him all you had suffered?" I interrupted.

"Oh, no; I dared not. In the first place, I felt what a wicked creature they had made of me—how I had betrayed his confidence—how I had almost become a thief! and I knew that if I went back to him to-morrow, the same thing would begin over again. For while they knew my whereabouts, no earthly power could protect me from the influence of those awful eyes. My grandfather would think me dead—my cousin would inherit all his wealth, and I should be safe; and so I resolved that henceforth I would live unknown, and that not even my name should ever pass my lips.

very much. Seeing such things exposed for sale, suggested the idea of offering some of my own work. I found a ready sale, and so I have gone on ever since. And now you know my history."

"Have you seen your cousin John since you have been in this house?" I inquired.

"Yes," she answered, shuddering. "This evening, as I was sitting at the window watching the sunset, I heard my door open, and there, standing upon the threshold, I turned and saw him and that awful woman. I screamed with terror, and then the room seemed to swim round, and I almost fainted."

"And what did they want of you?"

"Cousin John pretended to be very much in love with me, and proposed that we should marry. He said that he had come from my grandfather, who was very angry at my flight, and who would never forgive me but upon those terms; but that if I consented, we should at once return to Rose Cottage, and all would be forgiven."

The door was suddenly burst open. Judith appeared.

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was it to me now who knew that she was my wife? Had she desired it, I would have led her through the public streets, and have proclaimed the fact to every passer by. If I could save Clara by such a now trifling sacrifice, it would be at least some reparation for my cruel conduct to her.

When our bargain was concluded, she lay down upon the sofa; I still sat in the same position upon the bed, with my elbows resting upon my knees and my face buried in my hands; and thus the broad daylight saw me as it tried to struggle through the curtained window.

CHAPTER XXVII.

Utterly worn out, I was just sinking into a dozing sleep, when I was roused by the hateful tones of Mr. Porter's voice greeting his daughter, as she sat at breakfast in my room. Another enemy added to the number that encompassed me!

He quickly turned to me and began, in his usual hypocritical snuff, "I hear that it hath pleased Providence to put you in a fair way of recovery. So you thought to get off, Master Silas, did you?" he said, with a satyr-like leer upon his face; "but Judith has laid her runaway husband safely by the heels this time."

About 12 o'clock that same morning there came a knock at the door. It was the nurse; there was a whispered conversation, and then Judith came up to me—I was sitting before the fire in an easy chair—and said, quietly, "Madame Berne, the woman whom I told you was coming to-day, is here; remember your promise, and I will remember mine."

In a few moments there came into the room a tall, iron-looking woman. Judith's father cringed, and fawned, and leered, and snuffed. But Judith stood with her hand resting upon the table, cold and defiant, never deigning to her visitor even a salutation.

"And you are Silas Carston?" she said, fixing upon me a strangely intense look.

"That is the name I am known by," I answered.

"And is this woman your wife?" she asked, pointing to Judith.

I paused for one moment. I could feel Judith's fierce eyes were upon me; then I answered quietly, "She is."

Madame Berne paused again, and turned her cold glance upon her; it was met by one as fearless as her own.

"The sum of \$2,500 a year is settled upon you as an annuity," she said, again turning to me as the door closed upon Mr. Porter. "It will be paid you quarterly, on personal application, by Messrs. Fogle & Quick. Your wife—there was a strange emphasis upon the word—"communicated with me through those lawyers; and as I was informed that you were too ill to attend at their office, I have come here to judge, as far as I am able, whether you are the man you pretend to be."

"Have you no wish to inquire into your parentage, Silas?" said Judith, speaking for the first time.

"It will be useless if he has," answered Madame Berne, freely; "he will never know it."

As she turned to leave the room, another figure appeared upon the scene—Montgomery was standing in the doorway. She started back, with a look and gesture of loathing; but the next moment drew herself up, with the same frigid, passionless look upon her face as before.

For a moment Montgomery stood looking at her with an exultant grin. "You see, we have met again," he said. "It seems that you and I cannot help getting mixed up with one another. Your protegee has married a very old friend of mine, Mlle. Zenobia, clairvoyante, as the bills used to say. Her father, too, an old boon companion."

Then, suddenly changing his tone from mockery to malignancy, he added, hissing out his words, "This is my work; but it is only the beginning of my vengeance. You shall feel it yet!"

(To be continued.)

Gem from the German.

Sophon, a wise teacher, did not allow his grown-up sons and daughters to associate with those whose conduct was not perfectly correct and proper. "Dear father," said the gentle Eulalie to him one day when he forbade her going in company with her brother to see the light-minded Lucinda, "you must take us to be very childish if you think she can do us any harm!"

But the father quietly took an extinguished coal from the fireplace and reached it to his daughter.

"It does not burn," said he; "take it, child!"

Eulalie did so, and beheld her delicate hand and pure white dress were soiled at once.

"One cannot be too careful in touching coals!" said she impatiently.

"Certainly!" replied her father. "You see, my child, that coal blackens even where it does not burn; so does the society of the immoral!"

Good Title.

Poet—The editor didn't pay the least attention to my last verses. Now, I have written a comic poem entitled "The Alarm Clock."

Friend—Do you think he will take any notice of it?

Poet—Oh, yes; it'll make him open his eyes.

Tip that Failed.

Waiter (in restaurant)—Pardon me, but gentlemen usually remember the waiter here, sir.

Guest—Do they? Well, I have a poor memory for faces, so if I fail to recognize you when we meet again, kindly call my attention to the oversight.

Might Be True.

Wife—This paper tells about a man who says he never made love to a woman in his life. Do you believe it?

Husband—Well, I have no reason to doubt it. Perhaps he didn't have to.

Wife—Didn't have to?

Husband—That's what I said. He probably made a specialty of widows.

Might Have Been Worse.

"Truly," said the disappointed female, "marriage is a lottery."

"What did you draw?" asked the inquisitive person.

"Less than half the matrimony I expected."