The Daily Astorian.

ASTORIA, OREGON:

...APRIL 15, 1887 WORK OF THE INTERSTATE COM-MISSION.

It is evident, says the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, that the interstate commission proposes to move in a cautious and conservative manner, with a proper -realization of the extent and importance of the work which it has to perform. According to Judge Cooley, no effort will be made to give complete effect at once to the law as a whole, but a plan will probably be adopted by which one provision after another will be interpreted and applied. This is obviously the only course that can be safely and reasonably pursued. The conditions governing the various railroads throughout the country differ in every case, and it will be necessary to accept this plain and significant fact, to begin with. There can be no such thing, in other words, as an absolute and uniform process of adjustment as to all the roads, regardless of special considerations. The law does not contemplate that sort of a proceeding, and does not authorize the commissioners to dispose of difficult questions by sheer force of arbitrary rulings. They are expected, on the contrary, to take careful account of all the circumstances that may be presented, and to render decisions which shall command respect and obedience by virtue of their manifest compliance with the ordinary rules of justice.

The undertaking is a formidable one from every point of view, and the commission should not be blamed for making its way slowly. There are now more than 125,000 miles of railroad in the country, representing an aggregate investsengers carried one mile in one ture. year averages 9,000,000,000, and the number of tons of freight transported one mile in a year is 45,000,000,0000. These general statements show at a glance what a great and pervasive agency this commission has to deal with, and suggest at the same time how numerous and intricate the points of doubts and dispute must inevitably be, even under the most fortunate conditions. The railroad system is practically a creation of the last fifty years. Its development has changed the whole nature of commercial operations in the United States, and come to have almost controlling power over our industries of every kind. In attempting now to subject it to Federal control, and cause it to conform to certain statutory requirements extending over the entire country, we must look for more or less confusion and be prepared, at the best, for considerable disappointment, particularly because the law is in itself nothing if not phenomenally indistinct and bewildering.

There is good reason to believe that the railroads are disposed to obey the law and give it a fair and thorough trial. But it cannot be expected that they will fail to take advantage of such parts of it as may offer them opportunity to maintain and increase their profits without incurring any of the penalties which it prescribes. Railroads are not operated for amusement, or from benevolent and philanthropic motives. They mean business in the most determined and enterprising sense of the term; and their owners and managers are known to be remarkably able and alert. These men," we may be sure, will discover many ways in which they can without really violating the law, derive benefits of the same. Among other things they from it which it was possibly not intended to confer; and since the law was passed with the declared purpose of depriving them of the control of their property to a certain extent, they may not unfairly claim the right to thus make it serve their interests. They under-

stand the railroad system thoroughly, whereas the commissioners have to gain that knowledge by future study and experience. We need not be surprised, therefore, to see the railroads secure a good many favors, and vet vield substantial obedience to the stat- Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. ute and to the orders of the commission. They cannot be asked to point out the ways in which their own business may be obstructed and crippled, nor is it reasonable to suppose that they will overlook any chance of gain which they may detect, merely because they are anxious to promote the success of the law.

TWENTY-TWO years ago, to-day, Lincoln died. A Springfield, Ills., dispatch says: The remains were removed yesterday from their former resting place and buried beside those of his wife. Where his ashes are, though, is quite a mystery. It is known to more than a few that they have not been in the marble sarcophagus shown to visitors as their receptacle, but have been slyly hidden by an oath bound society whose ostensible object it was to hold a memorial service yearly. Their exercises occur to-day and possess a peculiar interest this year from the transfer of the remains. The ut most privacy has been maintained regarding all steps taken and the general outline of facts is ascertained. The association has prepared a written statement to be read at to-day's services, giving a full history of the keeping of the remains and the association's relation to the trust. The members are desirous of putting the public in possession of the exact facts and leaving the matter in such shape that there shall no longer be any mystery.

THE Pennsylvania legislature FallCV has agreed to submit a popular ment of over \$7,500,000,000, and vote on the question of woman giving employment to about 700,- suffrage. Woman suffrage has been 000 persons. The number of pas- defeated in the Michigan legisla-

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