

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 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 fortress to withstand 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.

TALKED TOO MUCH.

Severe Rebuke Given to Special Land Agent Leach.

Washington, April 17.—Arnold F. Leach, special agent of the general land office, who is quoted in dispatches from Tacoma as declaring he has unearthed tremendous land frauds in Washington, beside which the Oregon frauds pale into insignificance, has been called severely to account by Land Commissioner Richards.

According to Leach's interview, he has Sherlock Holmes done to a frazzle. He made it appear that he had gathered evidence which would send to the penitentiary many leading citizens and officials of Washington, who, he alleged, had been defrauding the government of hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of timber.

ROMANOFFS IN THEIR COFFINS.

Cartoon in Prominent Russian Paper Sends Price to Premium.

St. Petersburg, April 17.—Quite a sensation was caused this morning by the appearance in the Neva, the most widely circulated illustrated weekly in Russia, of a half-tone picture representing the imperial family, including the empress, holding the heir to the throne, the background of the picture showing, in shadowy outlines, the emperor, Grand Duke Sergius, Grand Duke Alexis, the dowager empress, the heir to the throne and practically all the members of the Romanoff family lying dead in their coffins. The work is done so skillfully that the shadows in the drapery behind the imperial family are discernible with great difficulty. The publishers disclaim any previous knowledge of the shadowy figures. The culprits, who were students employed on the paper, have not yet been located. Copies of this edition of the Neva are selling at a big premium.

The Slova has received its first warning for the publication of articles entitled "The Bureaucracy," and "The War and Reform," in which the paper severely arraigned the bureaucracy, the general staff and the war office for incompetency.

SAVED FOR CELILO CANAL.

Sand and Gravel Pit at The Dalles Withdrawn from Entry.

Washington, April 17.—At the request of Major Langfitt, the secretary of the interior today withdrew from entry lots 1, 2 and 3, in section 2, township 21, range 13, adjoining the Senfert property at The Dalles. This tract contains a large sand and gravel pit, and being all vacant government land, it was deemed advisable to secure it for the use of contractors on The Dalles-Celilo canal before it fell into the hands of speculators. Major Langfitt said it was not known definitely how much sand and gravel was on these lots, but evidently enough to help along with the canal work.

The fact that the government owns this land will tend to materially reduce the cost of the canal. It is likely the contractors will be allowed to use this sand and gravel without cost.

Convicts Who Broke Jail.

Sacramento, Cal., April 17.—Pale and emaciated from the effects of the severe wounds received in their break for liberty, and from confinement in the dungeons at Folsom, convicts J. W. Finley and Charles Carson appeared before Judge Hart's court today and were arraigned on a charge of assault with a deadly weapon with malice and aforethought. Both men are life-terms, and if convicted on this charge they will grace the gallows. These are the convicts who were concerned in the last break at Folsom prison.

New Destroyers for Japan.

Washington, April 17.—Information has reached Washington through Europe that the Japanese navy has within the last four days commissioned 10 new torpedo boat destroyers built in Japanese shipyards. It is believed that within six weeks 25 additional destroyers, building under rush orders, will be put in commission. Three hundred and eighty-one mines planted by the Japanese in front of Port Arthur have been taken up and placed elsewhere.

Cherries Ten Dollars a Pound.

Sacramento, Cal., April 17.—The first box of ripe cherries shipped out of the state by the Earl Fruit company on April 7 was sold in Philadelphia today for \$100, being \$10 a pound. Manager George B. Katzenstein says this is the highest price ever realized from the sale of the first box of California cherries, which is the result of the fierce rivalry among Philadelphia dealers.

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 Pittsburgh 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.

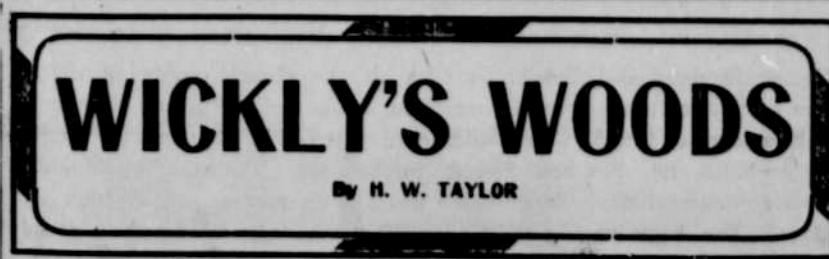
Springfield, Ill., April 13.—The commission which is to have charge of the state exhibit at the Lewis and Clark exposition at Portland, Or., this summer, elected Cyrus Thompson chairman and Reuben H. Tiffany, of Freeport, as secretary. The commission will hold a meeting at Springfield next Tuesday. Unless 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 Bolekow 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.



By H. W. TAYLOR

CHAPTER X.—(Continued.)

She could not believe it. This man who had stood Sunday after Sunday in the little white church, and had talked so earnestly of the after life in relation to the infinitely smaller questions of this life! This man who had first given her so lofty a perception of the character and person of his principal, by revealing a surprising breadth and depth in himself!

It was not to be that he could sink away from all of them for the base purpose of perfecting a villainous scheme to rob the people among whom he had lived continuously for nearly half a year; and whose kindly acts of confident, trustful hospitality had fallen about him like the dew of heaven, as he had said.

It had been said that she had become his only defender. But she could do no less than believe that the assistant and confidante of Prof. Huntley could be nothing less than a sincere and honorable man in all his dealings.

But why? why? could he not come to her and tell her all? He had shown, and had spoken in hundreds of ways an admiration and fondness for her that had given Sandtown the undoubted right to say that he was "head-over-heels in love with her."

She had been jestingly cruel to him in that respect, it is true! But he knew that was because of her love for the man who was his master and employer. How could the slave and the hiring expect more of her?

But at last it was daylight, and Mrs. Redden was calling them to breakfast. "Conrad eat his good sleep ago," Mrs. Redden said in explanation of the absence of the head of the house from the head of the table. "H-yur, Miss Weekly! you set right down in this chump ruck-up, did yuh?" he said, winking slyly at his two guests and beginning to pile eatables upon his plate, and to hurry the dishes around in a way that indicated the extreme pangs of hunger. "I'll don't do no good, ole woman. Jis s'well let the boy lone. I'll git him a plaist in the bank when hits fixed so hit kin open agin, ur when a new starts. He don't want to farm ut. Un I don't blame him. He's got a aige-ention soce he kin neck a lrvn without work. Un ur course no feller's a go-un to work of he kin hep ut. But I've got to eat, un hurry back to town to-night. I'm needed up there."

"What fur, Conrad?" said his wife, passing again with her arms extended, the points of knife and fork resting ominously upon her plate, while her face was turned with fixed scrutiny toward that of the head of the house. "What you needed up thar fur? You haint a go-un a step to town, ef they's a go-un to be a rukus up thar now."

"They haint a go-un to be no rukus up town, ef I kin hep ut. I don't know whurrer I ken or nut. But I've kine a kept ut down all day. But they's a lot a the Dikeses un the Sparkses un the Ellets un the Shipleys, un I don't know who ofun Big Rattlesnake Crick, jist come en, this evenun. Un they're fur hosst ut, too, ef I caint keep ut down."

"Is Mr. Mason in town?" Lizzy asked. "He don't know what it was to be 'hosst up,' but she knew enough about the impetuous people upon the Big Rattlesnake Creek to know that he was menaced with a real danger. And the very uncertainty of its nature made it perhaps more threatening—more to be dreaded.

"I don't know jist whur he is at. He's some's up awn your lan' I think. Camped up there, so I h-years. They's two companies un railroad fellers up thar watchun un another, I low. You see they both want your lan', Lize! Un this feller Mason's gut some-h'n to do with ut some-way urruther. Un one company's tryun to sk-year the other'n off; un hits a tryun to sk-year tham. Un they have ut."

CHAPTER XI.

Columbus glanced a little confusedly at Lizzy Weekly. His mother paused in the very act of cutting her fried ham, and sat ominously stiff with both arms extended and the knife and fork held ready to resume operations so soon as she could get sufficient command of herself to turn her head away from the direction of Columbus Redden's chair toward her own plate.

"You don't k-yur! Huh! Well, I reckon you don't k-yur. Hit haint ben no trouble to you, ef hit has ben to me, uh! Hit's mighty fine to have somebody to work fur yuh! un sen' you to college, un pay fur your aige-ention so your kin set round un make fun un the way your mother un your father talks. At's about whus aige-ention's good fur, Miss Weekly! Hit's a good thing you ain't got no boys to raise un aige-ent! A g-yur! haint a go-un to set up un meck fun a thar mother's way a talkun right to thar fault."

"You don't happen to have any girls, mother," retorted Columbus Redden, smiling in a very self-possessed and exasperating way.

"I wish to thuh lan' I had g-yurils, instid a the kine un a boy I've gut. So I do! Whur did you stay so late las' night, my larkey? I want to know some-h'n 'bout whur you put in so much time. So I do!" broke in Mrs. Redden, in a fury.

Mr. Columbus Redden smiled, and winked deliberately at Miss Lizzy Weekly before proceeding in a calm and pleasantly mischievous manner:

"Oh, these secrets of ours are not at all to be intrusted to the keeping of women, mother. There never was a woman who could keep a secret, you know. And, of course, I couldn't for a moment entertain the idea. Indeed, I couldn't. I'd do anything to oblige you. But really—"

And Mr. Columbus Redden smiled again and winked at Lizzy Weekly, with quiet, enjoyable humor.

"Yes, you'd do lots to oblige me," retorted his mother with great scorn, and going on to cut and eat her fried ham with great vigor.

her only hope of sleep lay in tiring herself thoroughly by walking, arose, dressed herself, and slipped noiselessly down stairs, intending to go through a side hall and let herself out on the long sheltered south porch where she might walk and walk until she was tired enough, without disturbing any one.

In fact, there was very little danger of being heard, once she succeeded in reaching the long, wide-roofed and latticed porch, cut off as it was from all the sleeping apartments, so far as she knew. But scarcely had she reached the foot of the stairway, when the "front door" opened, disclosing Mrs. Redden also dressed and holding a candle in her hand.

"Is that you, Lizzy? Ef I'd a ben ashore you was awake, I'd a ben upstairs after you to go with me. I caint stannut any longer. Some-h'n must a happened, ur Conrad wouldn't a staid out this way. I wish you'd put awn this big shawl over yur head, and come along. Is yur shoes all right? I've gut a pair a good uns h-yur ef youn want keep the worter out."

"Mine are proof against any moderate amount of water, Mrs. Redden. And besides, it doesn't hurt me in the least to get my feet wet."

"Oh, dear! I dasn't to get mine the least bit wet. Lase fall I gut one foot wet en a puddle, out en the cow yard, un hit thome me into a chill un I had the fevers fur three-four weeks. Better slip this linsy sk-yurt over your white dress. White shows too much after night. There, lemme pin ut good un tight, soce you kin climb round un ut ef you want to, thout ut drappun ofun yuh."

Lizzy had not had time to offer any objection, if she had really thought of objecting to this short and usually safe walk to town. For in those days the women of Indiana were safe anywhere, for many and cogent reasons. There were no tramps. And besides, women were strong and courageous by reason of the hard work they did with their hands; and so were able to make a good defense of themselves if needs be.

This endowed them with a courage that women lack in later days. For, after 'all, what we call courage is simply confidence in one's own powers, physical or mental.

The man who knows or deems himself deficient in such physical or mental powers as are to be called into action in any emergency, is necessarily a coward. The man who is confident is also brave.

"What if mother should wake while we are away, Mrs. Redden? Oughtn't I to wake her and tell her?" Lizzy said as the two stood at the front door.

"Oh, we won't be gone no time at all. But mebbe you better write a little note un leave ut by the camle h-yur awn the stan'. She'll be ashore to see ut ef she gits up. I'd hate to wake 'er outen sich a good sleep as she's a havin' jist now. Got a pencil? H-yur's some paper."

The ever ready and capable old Hoosier woman had found a scrap of foolscap paper where she had put it among the leaves of a large history of the world, that, along with some almanacs and a book on "The Horse," constituted the whole library of the Redden family, save the big, brown-backed leather Bible out of which Conrad Redden "loved to read out loud" on a Sunday afternoon when he had tired himself with a walk around the farm to see if the "army worm" and the "fly" were making their annual incursions in their usual force.

Lizzy rapidly wrote a few lines, explaining their temporary absence by saying that she had gone with Mrs. Redden at 11 o'clock, to ascertain what had detained Mr. Conrad Redden so long, and that she would be back very soon.

(To be continued.)

A LIBRARY 8,904 YEARS OLD.

Tablets Taken from One at Nippur Date Back 7,000 B. C.

The oldest city public library in the United States is that of Boston, which was founded in 1851, says the New York Mail. That makes it very old, according to our standards. But Prof. Angelo Hilprecht of the University of Pennsylvania has been examining a library, and a public library of some sort, which is a little older than that. It consists of a mass of documents, inscribed in cuneiform letters on tiles, in a wing of the temple of Baal at Nippur, the ancient Babylonian city which lies between the Tigris and the Euphrates.

Prof. Hilprecht had already dug out of the ruins of this temple about 30,000 commercial, legal and literary tablets, and this last summer he has found 4,000 more. The tablets which he has discovered this year are the oldest ever, so to speak, for he declares that they date back as far as 7,000 years before Christ.

This discovery is startling in more senses than one. If the familiar and so-called biblical chronology is right the Nippur people had a library of documents and stories, probably free to those who could read them, some 1,236 years before Adam was created—according to Archbishop Usher's chronology, 1,192 years before it; for this learned man supposed that exactly 4,094 years had elapsed from the creation of Adam to the birth of Christ, and 1904 years are supposed to have elapsed since that date.

This chronology has been somewhat discredited since Archbishop Usher made his computations, and discredited largely as the result of such discoveries as those made by Prof. Hilprecht in Babylon. It is to be said, however, that the more the old Assyrian or Babylonian records are looked into the more they increase the respect of students for the Hebrew scriptures. Reverence and authority must always go with the record which survives in men's lives and thoughts. Ages after the temple of Baal and its great library had been "a possession for the bitter, and pools of water," and after the very dust of the last survivor of the old librarians had vanished from the interior of its tomb, the stories of Genesis were still told by the living successors of the priests who compiled them.