

GEN. Wade Hampton, U. S. Railroad Commissioner, has just returned from an official tour over the Pacific Railroads. He says the roads are in good condition and that they are doing as good business as could be expected. A detailed report of his trip will be made to the Secretary of the Interior, who will include it in his annual report to the President, which will be submitted before Congress reassembles. Gen. Hampton says that many people he met in California were clamorous not only for government control of the Union and Central Pacific railroads, but of all others. He is opposed to the idea, in toto. Speaking on the subject, he said: "In the first place the bonds on these roads held by the government are not due until 1897, and the government cannot foreclose until default has been made in their payment. Then it becomes a question of expediency. If the government should foreclose, having only the second mortgage, it would be compelled to pay the first mortgage, amounting to many millions. Even then the government would find itself in a session of years without terminals. A government such as ours cannot operate railroads. In autocratic governments it is possible, but not in this. The remedy for foreclosure of the Pacific roads does not come from the best informed people of the Pacific coast although it has become popular in the west."

CHAIRMAN Faulkner, of the Democratic Congressional Campaign committee has consented for the first time to give out his estimate of the result of the Congressional elections. He figures, after making a most liberal allowance for doubtful districts—too liberal many democrats think—that there will be in the next House 190 democrats, 156 republicans and 10 populists. As instances of his liberality, in making allowance for doubtful districts it may be mentioned that he only claims the election of nine democratic Representatives in Illinois, while the estimate of the republican campaign committee concedes the election of 11 democrats in that State; he only claims 5 in Louisiana, while the republicans concede 6; in South Carolina he claims 4 and the republicans concede 6. That will give a fair idea of the care exercised by Senator Faulkner in making up his figures. He prefers underestimating the democratic strength to overestimating it, and has no desire to encroach upon the bluster and bragging which has been such a marked feature of the campaign on the republican side.

THE annual report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, just made public, takes strong ground in favor of encouraging the local authorities by money payments to cooperate with the government in getting the Indian children into the public schools and says that the policy which resulted in a reduction of \$75,000 in the amount appropriated by Congress for contract schools for the current fiscal year will be continued by the

government until the Indian children are all absorbed in the public schools.

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