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PHONE 98

ALBANY, OREGON, THURSDAY, MARCH 4

CONSTRUCTIVE RAILROAD POLICY

The new railroad law enlarges the Interstate Commerce Commission from nine to eleven members, and extends its powers. That body, therefore, will now be a more important instrument of government control than ever before. With its additional members and the new members that must be appointed to fill vacancies it will be almost a new organization. It is to be hoped that it will show a new spirit, rising to the high level of judicial and administrative capacity now called for.

The Interstate Commerce Commission in the past has rendered much good service, as everybody recognizes; but in the light of recent history it is seen to have interpreted its functions too narrowly, and practised too repressive a policy.

That was natural enough, perhaps. Created at a time when railroad abuses were notorious, the Commission sought to curb the powers that had so often been abused, opposing every attempt at what seemed undue expansion or consolidation, holding rates down as low as possible and concentrating on the prevention of rate discrimination. This policy, however, with all its temporary benefits to the public, was negative and even destructive in its ultimate results. Long continued repression on the part of the Commission, together with that of the state commissions, repressive legislation by Congress and the state legislatures finally rendered the railroads honest in their practices, but nearly destroyed them in that virtuous process.

It is time now for positive, constructive, creative effort, for growth rather than decay, for expansion rather than contraction, for the encouragement of railroad enterprise and the active fostering of every activity and policy that tends to restore American transportation to its proper place in American life. This calls for broad-minded, forward-looking statesmanship on the part of the Interstate Commerce Commission, and for a willingness on the part of the public to do its part in getting this vital industry back on its feet.

Speaking of daylight-saving, the farmer doesn't care what other people do to their clock hands so long as they don't bother his farm hands.

They say the former Kaiser is afraid of assassination. Probably he thinks a U-boat may sneak up through those canals and launch a torpedo at him.

TODAY'S EVENTS

Centenary of the birth of James M. Love, who had a career of 35 years as U. S. district judge of Iowa.
Seventy-five years ago today took place the inauguration of James K. Polk, who was President during the Mexican War.

Thomas R. Marshall, who today enters upon his eighth year as vice President of the U. S., has filled that office longer than any other man since John C. Calhoun.

Interest is added to the session of the Nova Scotia legislature which meets today, as it is expected that it will be last before a general provincial election.

The first of a series of three Far Eastern luncheons arranged by business men of New York with a view to establishing closer commercial relations with the Orient will be given at the Biltmore Hotel today, with the Japanese Ambassador to the United States as the guest of honor.

Conventions Opening Today
Harrisburg, Pa.—Pennsylvania Ice Manufacturers' Association.
Indianapolis—Indiana Ice Dealers' Association.

Shreveport, La.—Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution.

Government Ownership—

The time for government ownership and government operation combined has not come yet. It will probably not come until the American people take as much interest in the efficiency of public as of private business—
Medford Mail-Tribune.

Is this a roundabout way of saying that public ownership is as dead as the proverbial door nail?—Eugene Register

Comments of the State Press

Democrats Advised—

Oregon democrats are planning to get the name of William G. McAdoo on the ballot somehow or other. We might remind 'em that this is a poor year for crown princes.—Oregonian.

All Sail—

Sixty-two years ago Lord Macaulay said that the American constitution was all sail and no anchor, but that was not the only foolish thing he gave utterance to.—Oregon Statesman.

As It Maybe—

The individual who makes grand plans, and does not carry them out, is a failure. He goes on to the end of his life blowing bubbles, dreaming dreams, building air castles. It is the same with a city. No great city ever was born great, or had greatness thrust upon it. It becomes great because the men and women who make it have vision, energy and daring, and push straight ahead. If they stopped to listen to the timid, or the faultfinders and the croakers, they would spend all their time in futile roadside debate, and never reach the goal.—Oregonian.

One of the state agricultural colleges has worked out the following statistics: "The price of wheat and its products for September 23, 1919, compared to the fixed prices in effect during government control, shows that wheat has gone up 17 1-2 per cent, but flour has increased 34.7 per cent in price; bran 41.7 per cent, mixed feed 58.5 percent, and middlings, shorts and red dog 73.5 per cent.—Eugene Guard.



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