

# ESPEE MAY TAKE SALT LAKE OVER

But Wall Street Refused to Credit Report—Road May Be Extended in Southern California.

NEW YORK, Jan. 7.—Wall street refused to stamp as authentic the report that the Southern Pacific would absorb the San Pedro, Los Angeles and Salt Lake railroad when traffic was resumed and the latter road rehabilitated after the recent floods in Nevada and California that swept away 100 miles of track and roadbed.

From an authoritative source, however, came the word that the Harriman system is quietly preparing to take over shares from a number of small stockholders in the company. Inasmuch as the corporation is said already to own 50 per cent of the Salt Lake road's stock issue, the move is regarded here as the first step in the exercise of Southern Pacific control.

The projected route through the Cajon Pass in Southern California to Daggett would be put through as soon as the main line is repaired. On completion of it, it was rumored the Harriman interests will take over the management of the Clark road.

# "DIXIE" AND "YANKEE DOODLE" AT OUTS

Question as to Popularity of National Songs Making Much Trouble For Music Leader.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7.—"Is 'Dixie' more popular than 'Yankee Doodle'?"

This question, apparently, has divided the country into two camps. The innocent assertion of Otto G. T. Sonneck, chief of the division of music of the library of congress, in a publication on American national songs, that "Dixie" was more prominent in patriotic popularity than "Yankee Doodle," has stirred up a hornet's nest, and even resulted in threats of death to Mr. Sonneck. His office in the congressional library has been swamped with letters from various parts of the country, in which the writers take exception to the statement about "Dixie." Some of these letters threaten Mr. Sonneck with dire punishment, and Mr. Sonneck has requested the suppression of further mention in the newspapers of his work on American national songs.

# CANNED FOOD CAUSE OF SALEM MAN'S DEATH

SALEM, Or., Jan. 6.—Colonel I. K. Page, who came to this city from Idaho county, Iowa, about 10 years ago, a large property owner and one of the founders of the United States National Bank, died at his home from the effects of ptomain poisoning occasioned by eating canned food on a dining car on his recent trip from the east.

He served throughout the civil war and was five months in Andersonville prison.

**HOTEL ARRIVALS.**  
At the Nash—J. C. Donovan, Albany; E. C. Johnson, Portland; D. L. McKay and wife, Portland; R. T. Robinson and wife, Chicago; Earl Orndurf, San Francisco; A. Philbrick, Grants Pass; C. L. Monson, Portland; R. W. Terrell, Portland; E. J. Humada, San Francisco; F. A. Reischert, San Francisco; Alfred Jones, Ashland; D. B. Farquhar, Denver; J. C. Douffonbach, Portland; E. J. Calley, San Francisco; R. F. Kruee, St. Louis; J. C. Murray, San Francisco.

At the Moore—J. M. Stephens, Gold Hill; L. A. Barriek, Gold Hill; T. L. Graves, Portland; Wm. Hahn, Portland; R. C. Bortfeldt, Salem; C. S. Lupton, San Francisco; James Weidn, Chico, Cal.; R. B. Lee, Portland; A. O. Smith, San Francisco; J. Slater, San Francisco; O. Schneider, Portland; G. B. Lillinghart, Portland; A. H. Carson, Grants Pass.

City Treasurer's Notice.  
Office of City Treasurer, Medford, Ore., Jan. 6, 1910.

Notice is hereby given that there are funds in the city treasury for the redemption of all outstanding warrants issued against Oakdale avenue improvement fund, and warrant No. 5, issued against Trunk sewer fund, protested May 12 1909.

Interest on the same will cease after the above date.  
L. L. JACOBS,  
City Treasurer.

# TAFT'S MESSAGE TO CONGRESS

(Continued from page 1)

"Further, All such mandamus proceedings, as under the provisions of section 20 or section 23, of the interstate commerce law, are authorized to be maintained in the circuit court of the United States."

**The Judges.**  
The president recommends the appointment of five circuit judges from the districts having the largest volume of business and also would empower the Chief Justice to re-assign judges to districts at times when the business of the commerce cases does not require their services.

He recommends the payment of such judges while sitting in the court of commerce of such an additional amount as to make the total salary of each \$10,000 annually.

The president recommends that regular annual sessions of the court be held in Washington, but that the court be empowered to meet anywhere. He says that the orders should be made final, and subject only to review by the supreme court of the United States with the provision that the operation of the decree appealed from shall not be stayed except by the supreme court of the United States.

**Its Power.**  
He recommends giving the court power to suspend orders of the interstate commerce commission which are under review, pending a final hearing, but that no such restraining order be made except on notice, and after hearing unless in a case where irreparable damage will ensue to the petitioner. He would allow the judge of the court to grant a 60 days' stay of the commission's orders, pending submission to the court but only on hearing, and upon finding of evidence that irreparable damage would ensue to the petitioner, providing that this damage must be specified. The president condemns the bringing of cases by attorneys acting for the interstate commerce commission and recommends that all prosecutions be brought by the department of justice.

**Rate Making.**  
"In view of the complete control over rate making and other practices of the interstate carriers, established by acts of congress, and as recommended by this communication," the president says: "I see no reason why agreements between carriers subject to this act specifying classification of freight and the rates, fares, and charges for transportation of passengers and freight, which they may agree to establish, should not be permitted provided copies of such agreements be promptly filed with the commission, but subject to all the provisions of the interstate commerce act, and subject to the rights of any of the parties to such an agreement to cancel it, as any and all of the agreed rates by notice in writing to the other parties and to the commission."

**Must Tell Truth.**  
He suggests that the railroads be required to quote rates in writing on the application of any shipper, with a fine of \$250 for any misquoting.

He recommends the empowering of the interstate commerce commission to inquire into the reasonableness of rates, and adds:  
"The enormous volume of transportation charges, and the great number of separate tariffs filed annually with the interstate commerce commission, amounting to almost 200,000 and the impossibility of any commission supervising the making of tariffs in advance of their becoming effective on every transportation line within the United States to the extent that would be necessary if their active concurrence were required in the making of every tariff, has satisfied me that this power, if granted, should be conferred in a very restricted form."

**Can Postpone Operations.**  
It is recommended that the interstate commerce commission be empowered to postpone the operation of any proposed increase of rates, either upon its own initiative or on the complaint of an outsider, for a period not exceeding 60 days. If the commission finds them unreasonable it may forbid them or fix a maximum beyond which the road may not go. If the commission has not completed the investigation when the new rate becomes effective the investigation may be continued as under the present law.

The message recommends definitely that shippers be given the right to select routes over which their shipments are to be handled.

**No Freezing Out.**  
It is proposed that after passage of the suggested bill, no railroad shall be permitted to acquire any interest, in any kind, directly or indirectly, in the capital stock or purchase or lease any railroad, or any other corporation which competes with it, with the provision that the law shall not operate to prevent any corporation, which, at the date of the passage of the act, owns half of the entire stock of a company, from securing the rest of it, nor prohibit any railroad company which is operating

railroads under lease at the time of the passage of the act from acquiring a reversionary ownership of such roads.

The message recommends the enactment of a law prohibiting the watering of stock by requiring all stocks to be sold at par, or at a value determined by the commission, for money, or if anything else is tendered, or if services are paid in return for stock, it must be valued by the commission.

**To Supervise Stock Issues.**  
In addition, the commission is to supervise the issues of all stocks and bonds. The president also recommends the passage by the senate of the Esch bills passed a few weeks ago by the house, giving the interstate commerce commission power to standardize the safety appliances of all railroads.

The president says that Attorney General Wickersham has prepared a bill, embodying all of these ideas, which is now ready for congress.

**Anti Trust Law.**  
In discussing the anti-trust law the president says that it needs no amendment.  
"The object of the law is to suppress the abuses of business and not to interfere with a great volume of capital, which concentrated under one organization has reduced the costs of production and made its profits thereby, and took no advantage of its size to stifle competition. I conceive that nothing could happen more destructive to the prosperity of this country than the loss of that great economy in production which has been effected in all manufacturing lines by the employment of large capital under one management."

After declaring that the decision of the supreme court upheld the law, the president says:  
"The value of the statute which is rendered more and more certain by a long line of decisions by the supreme court of the United States, furnishes strong reasons for leaving the act as it is."

**Must Investigate.**  
He declares that it is the duty of the department of justice under the present law to investigate all trusts and says:

"But such an investigation and possible prosecution of corporations whose prosperity affects the comfort not only of the stock holders, but of millions of wage-earners and employees and associated tradesmen, must necessarily tend to disturb confidence in the business community and to dry up the new flowing sources of capital from its places of hoarding, and produce a halt in our prosperity that will cause suffering and strained circumstances among the innocent for the results of the guilty few."

**To Prosecute Corporations.**  
He says that he desires to procure a means of bringing corporations into the pale of the law and to prevent any business disasters. He offers the proposition of the federal charter as the means of gaining this purpose, saying:

"In dealing, therefore, with men who have used methods condemned by statute for the purpose of maintaining profitable business, we may well facilitate a change by them in the method of doing business, and enable them to bring back into the zone of lawfulness without losing to the country the economy of management by which in our domestic trade the cost of production has been materially lessened, and in competition with foreign affairs our trade has greatly increased. Through all our consideration of this grave question, however, we must insist that suppression of competition, the controlling of prices and monopoly, or any attempts to monopolize interstate commerce and business are not only unlawful, but contrary to the public good, and they must be restrained and punished until ended."

Therefore, the president recommends the enactment of a law for the formation of corporations engaged in interstate trade under a federal license, protecting them from undue interference by state, and providing for the issue of stock only for the paid-in value in cash or property whose value has been ascertained by the federal authorities.  
"The law should subject real and personal property only of such corporations to the same taxation as is imposed by the states within which it may be situated, and upon other similar property located therein, and should require such corporations to file full and complete reports of their operations with the department of commerce and labor at regular intervals," the president says that he also proposes to prohibit corporations from acquiring stock in other corporations.

In discussing the possible objection to his plans, the president says that recent decisions have been so sweeping that only three doors are open to corporations. They must resolve themselves into their component parts with loss to themselves and to the country. They must run in defiance of the law or as a third possibility they can accept his charter plan.

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