

The Daily Reporter.

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INTER STATE COMMERCE.

CONTINUED.

That some adequate notion may be had of the estimate placed on this bill by prominent members of each house, who desired the bill amended to make it certain and effective, I beg to quote the following extract from a speech made in the house of representatives, January 19th, in discussing the report of the conference committee, by Mr. Weaver, of Iowa, universally recognized as a firm and enthusiastic supporter of the rights of the people against the encroachments of corporate power, and who was a warm supporter of the Reagan bill in the house.

He said, It seems to be the theory of the pending bill to do as little for the people as possible; and in making that remark I wish to say I am entirely impersonal in everything I say here, and desire to be so. It seems to be the theory of the pending bill, I repeat, to do as little for the people as possible and to render those sections of the bill relating to the rights of the people as obscure and unintelligible as human ingenuity can make them. To use the language of a distinguished member of this house, "If the hand of a Talleyrand was not present in the construction of this bill, then all appearances are deceptive."

Suppose the great Lawgiver had constructed the ten commandments with the same uncertainty. Suppose he had said: "Thou shalt not bear false witness; thou shalt not covet—contemporaneously or under substantially similar circumstances and conditions" [laughter]; or suppose, at the conclusion of the decalogue the following provision had been added: "Provided, however, that upon application to the high priest or ecclesiastical commissioner appointed under the provisions of this act persons so designated may be authorized to cheat, steal, bear false witness, or covet, and said commission may from time to time prescribe the extent to which said persons may be relieved from any or all of said commandments." Under such circumstances would not the world have been without moral law from Mount Sinai to Pike's peak? [Great laughter.] A distinguished gentleman [Senator Frye] discussing this bill said in another place: "I should like to know what the fourth section means from this discussion. I should like to know how I or my constituents are to determine what it means from this discussion. I should like to know what lights have been thrown upon it. The conferees disagree in relation to it; almost every senator who has discussed it disagrees with the other senators in relation to it. Boards of trade in Boston and Indianapolis, the chamber of commerce in New York, legislatures of the different states, all absolutely disagree diametrically as to what this fourth section is."

And another senator, in another place not mentionable here, characterized the bill as follows: "But there are matters in which, in my opinion, the bill is even more fatally defective, if that were possible, than in the particulars to which attention has been called. I regret that I have to vote for it, and I think there are a great many others in the same condition. This is a bill which practically nobody wants and which everybody intends to vote for, a bill which nobody is satisfied with and which everybody intends

to accept, a bill which nobody knows what it means, and yet we have all agreed it ought to pass." But the distinguished gentleman is too broad and sweeping when he says the bill is in the condition he describes. It is only those portions of the measure which refer to the rights of the people which are obscure and shrouded in mystery. The things which are certain in this bill are precisely the things which the people do not want, and the things which are uncertain are precisely those about which the people demand the greatest possible certainty. All the safeguards thrown around the corporations are plain and unmistakable. There is no uncertainty whatever here. We will examine them in their order.

Of course, under the decisions of the supreme court of the United States our state legislature has no power to legislate in regulation of railroad commerce on roads or lines extending across state boundaries—concerning commerce crossing such boundary-lines. In so far however, as any lines of commerce are wholly within the boundaries of our state, the legislature has ample power to give the people protection by some such suitable and proper measure as would do the transportation companies no injustice, and at the same time remedy some of the great evils of transportation existing in our state, and to which attention has been attracted in this letter. This may be done, possibly more readily and more effectively, by an enactment placing a positive limit to maximum freight charges on different lines of transportation, or by an effective long-and-short-haul provision that would properly come within the jurisdiction of the state legislature. It is not for me, however, to suggest what might, could, or should properly be done in that direction. My duty is to do the best I possibly can on this subject in the senate, and I only regret that in this instance I have done so little. I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN H. MITCHELL.

WIT AND HUMOR.

"It is impolite to talk to a man when he is reading." It is just as impolite to read to a man when he is talking.—*Philadelphia Call.*

The verdict of the coroner's jury on the dead base-ball umpire was "He tried to please both nines." It covered the ground.—*Norristown Herald.*

One-eighth of the bicyclists in the country are physicians. Even the surgeons and doctors know how to drum up trade in hard times by coaxing t'other fellows on.

An old colored woman upon being immersed in Palatka last Sunday exclaimed: "Bress de Lord, dis am five times I've been baptized."—*Jacksonville (Fla.) Herald.*

"One spirituelle girl," says a seaside landlord, "will eat up, waste, and muss over more food than any two men who sit at my tables. I'd rather board a bear."—*Detroit Free Press.*

It took six Philadelphia policemen to get a drunken female cook down to the station house. She had just advertised: "Place wanted by a sober, sweet-tempered cook."

Baroness X—(on the promenade): "Just look what a ridiculous costume Countess Y—has got on this time. I wish I knew where she gets her dresses made."—*Die Weppen.*

Mrs. Ernest Hulskamp, who was Miss Morosini, is studying for the stage. If she were studying for the hack her husband could give her lessons.—*New Orleans Picayune.*

THE FLOOD MANSION.

Description of One of California's Bonanza King's New Palaces.

After many month's of study, planning and elaboration, the plans for the Flood mansion, to be erected on the brow of Nob Hill, have been perfected, and another proud palace will be erected. But unlike most of the railroad magnates' "huts," their new neighbor is not to be a compendium of all the styles of architecture already discovered or yet to be invented. It will not flaunt to the world planing-mill bric-a-brac of all known or unknown orders. It is to be built of stone, and like Solomon's temple, the stone is to be obtained and cut abroad, and like Solomon's temple once more, every stone when cut will be numbered and sent to our city, there to be placed in position on Nob Hill as part and parcel of a mining magnate's domestic monument. Connecticut is the land which will furnish the material, the brown stone which New Yorkers love to see in the fronts of their dwellings, and Connecticut will shape and cut it. But although the Connecticut brown stone may be a reflection upon California's mineral resources, and while the manner of its preparation may give offense to California workmen, the bonanza king does not intend to inflict upon the public an idiosyncratic pile of stone. On the contrary, the style of the building is to be as severely pure and unadorned as is conformable to modern notions of elegance and architectural beauty.

THE EXTERIOR.

The front of the building is to be but two stories in height, the lower Doric and the upper Ionic, both modified by Roman suggestions of ornamentation. The building will form a parallelogram 107x127 feet in size, the only break in the even lines of the four walls being a portico and a square central tower, containing the vestibule in its base at the front and a similar portico extended into a port cochere in the rear. The front and rear portico will be alike. Both will be supported by fourteen columns, purely Doric, carved out of single stones, and supporting a balcony of corresponding design. Everything about the portico is to be of brown stone, with the exception of the floor, which will be laid in marble. From the ground to the top of the tower the distance will be seventy-five feet. A stone wall, fitted with an elegant iron railing, between the massive piers, will surround the building.

The interior of the house is to be divided by a series of halls, separated by architraves supported by two columns on each side, one of which is to be square and engaged, the second to be round and stand free. These will be in the Ionic order, as are to be all the columns, pilasters, wainscoting, banisters and balustrades in the interior. What the cost of this establishment will be cannot be ascertained. But when it is considered that all the stone has to be shipped from the east, that it will require from two to three years to construct the building and perhaps another year to fresco its extensive walls, it may be safely assumed that it will require the expenditure of a considerable portion of J. C. Flood's accumulated millions.—*San Francisco Chronicle.*

Mrs. Behrens, who wrote to her lover, "I wischt I hot wings dis minet I wot flet too you and skwis you on my heart and teil you how I fel dis moment," evidently spells by ear.

"O, was it I, or was it you?" asks the golden-haired poet, Nora Perry. If Nora will refrain from making a noise, perhaps we can shove it onto the proof-reader.—*Buffalo Express.*

Mother, there was a dead mouse in the milk-pail.

Mother—Well, didn't you take it out?

Carl—No; I throw the cat in!—*Didaskali.*

And so Quida is to be married? If in the course of human events she should one day be left desolate, would it be a mere flower of rhetoric to speak of the Quida's weeds?—*Boston Traveller.*

Observations.

Advertisements, etc., intended for publication in The Weekly Reporter must be handed in Tuesday morning. We cannot in future deviate from this rule.

Miss Belle Johnson, teacher of music in McMinnville and at McMinnville college. Residence corner of Second and C Streets.

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