

RAILROAD LEGISLATION.

HOW THE RATE MAKING QUESTION STANDS BEFORE CONGRESS TODAY.

Interstate Commerce Commission Bill is Administration Measure—The Foraker Bill and the Elkins Bill Alternatives.

After its usual little flurry of business before Christmas, followed by the holiday period, Congress is now ready to settle down to the serious work of the session. Probable debate looms up large on the Panama Canal question, the railroad rate issue and the tariff. Of these the railroad question is undoubtedly the most important, at least it is the newest subject; and while no legislation may be desired on the other issues, if a railroad rate bill is to be passed, as is the announced desire of the leaders and the President, practically unlimited debate will ensue. It has been stated that the House would likely act promptly, as it did last year, but it is something of a problem as to what will be the procedure in the Senate. The Interstate Commerce Commission rate bill appears to have taken the place of the Esch-Townsend bill of last session. Technically there is to be no Administration bill, which designation was accorded the Esch-Townsend measure, but with the members of the Interstate Commerce Commission in hearty accord with the President, it is understood that the Commission's bill contains the basis of the Administration's demands.

On the other hand, the Foraker rate bill and the Elkins bill are the principal alternative measures before Congress. The issues, then, would be thus joined, and the two houses would likely struggle with it for a large portion of the session, with the probability that in the end a compromise would be reached. This contemplates some modifications of the President's measure, which will not necessarily mean defeat for him or give him cause for embarrassment. It is conceded, even by those who are avowedly supporting President Roosevelt's railroad rate policy, that he is too staunch a partisan to embroil his party in dangerous strife on the verge of a general Congressional election that will be fraught with unusual importance to other policies which the President heartily desires should be carried out as Administration measures backed by a practically solid Republican support. Tariff revision, or "readjustment" is one of those policies which is said to be close to the Presidential heart, and a new and practical assertion of the Monroe Doctrine, particularly with relation to such threatening middle as that in Santo Domingo, is said to be another.

Protests From Shippers.
A rather peculiar development of the railroad question is the action of great numbers of large shippers who theoretically are the very men who should favor stringent rate legislation, but who are vigorously expressing themselves as adverse to radical action. Since Congress met, great numbers of letters and protests have been received from shippers all over the country, declaring that they are adverse to giving the rate-making power to the Interstate Commerce Commission, or to any other political tribunal. The protests coming from shippers to members of Congress are very effective, since the shippers are usually among the most influential men in Congressional districts.

The situation is full of possible complexities and changes, the only apparent developments thus far being a less radical public view of railroad matters, which is being reflected in the more conservative attitude on the part of the thoughtful Members of Congress and Senators. There seems to be a growing recognition of the fact that the subject is one full of intricate and complex conditions which make final action inadvisable without a very full understanding of what the practical effect of any proposed legislation would be, not only upon transportation interests, but upon the hundreds of thousands of people throughout the country who constitute the shippers.

Democrats to Support President.
There has been such a stampede of Democratic Representatives and Senators to the support of "any rate bill which the President may want" on the ground that any rate bill is good Democratic doctrine, that many of the President's political advisers are warning him that he may be in the position of having to dodge an alliance with the Democrats, which is exactly what the President does not want.

While it is generally believed that the House will promptly pass the "Administration" bill, yet Speaker Cannon said not long ago that while it was impossible to say what Congress would do, he felt convinced that the House would not again pass the Esch-Townsend bill. Yet the Interstate Commerce Commission bill is a much more radical measure and in every way is more far-reaching. Whether this is to be made the basis of a compromise or whether the President will insist that a commission appointed by him shall be invested with this plenary power of constitutional government—legislative, judicial and executive—is a matter of some conjecture.

In connection with the foreign and domestic policies above mentioned, it is said alike by friends and critics of the President that he is facing a critical period, not only in his own career, but also in that of his own party. Party harmony, to the end of continued party control, is known to be quite as inspiring a motive with President Roosevelt as are those great social, political, and industrial reforms with which his fame is linked, hence, those who believe they best understand the President, temperamentally, and also appreciate his patriotic zeal no less than his robust republicanism, are firm in the conviction that they stand with his party by an obstinate insistence upon the enactment of legislation that exactly embodies his ideas, he will accept the best compromise of the railroad question, confident that the American people, who gave him the amazing majority of 2,600,000 votes last year, will continue to hold him in esteem that has been accorded to no man of his time.

RESPLENDENT DIPLOMATS.

Grand Display of Jewels at President's Reception to Foreign Representatives.

President Roosevelt's reception to the diplomatic corps, Thursday evening, January 4th, was one of the most brilliant functions the White House has ever presented.

The foreign diplomats and their secretaries and attaches, in rainbow-hued attire, their breasts bedecked with gold, silver, enameled and jeweled grand crosses; their gold hilted swords, sashes, belts and gray colored capeau, were resplendent living pictures of chivalry's romantic age.

Courteous, yet dignified, these representatives of knightly gallantry and gentleness charmed the vast assemblage with their speech and manners.

French, by long usage, is their official and social language. But many diplomats speak the Latin tongue and the others of continental Europe.

The White House echoed the speech of nearly all civilized nations. The diplomatic corps' unfailing appreciation of the ladies, their clever bonnets

and their sparkling dresses, were a thing of beauty. The President, seated at the head of the table, looked on with an air of unalloyed pleasure at the brilliant repartee and strong, often amusing anecdote, that appealed to the fair sex and made their society much sought.

Social intrigue was exhausted in the efforts to secure invitations to this never-to-be-forgotten reception.

Ambitious mothers with eligible daughters were especially eager to have their fair ones adorn the galaxy of beautiful women and gallant men.

The beauty and brilliancy of the diplomats' gold and jeweled grand crosses is best seen at this reception. Here are given illustrations of some of the decorations which delighted the eyes of President Roosevelt's guests.

The Order of St. Stanislaus.
The newly appointed Russian Ambassador, Baron Rosen, was decorated with the famous Polish Order of St. Stanislaus, founded in 1765 in honor of Poland's patron saint by Stanislaus Augustus Poniatowski. In 1815 Emperor Alexander confirmed the order, and Tsar Nicholas, in 1831, united it with the Russian orders. Russian priests are excluded from the order. It is one of the few to which a pension is attached, which does not detract from its popularity.

The order decorates Russia's most distinguished soldiers and statesmen, and its motto is "For merit in the field."

The Order of the Crown of Italy.
The Order of the Crown of Italy, founded in 1808 by King Victor Emmanuel, ornamented several of the Latin diplomats. The Italian ambassador, Mayor des Planches, who also wears it, is absent. It is Italy's most cherished military decoration. The Order de la Conception of Villavieca, founded in 1818 by King John VI of Portugal, is a famous decoration. The monarch's crest adorns the centre surmounted by the Portuguese crown in jewels.

Founded by Pope Gregory XVI.
The Grand Cross of Saint Gregory the Great, worn by several diplomats, was founded in 1801 by Pope Gregory XVI. It is conferred for political services without religious distinction. The great pontiff's vignette in gold is in the center. It was prominent among the Latin orders. The Order of Charles III of Spain, founded in 1771, by that monarch, is worn by King Alfonso XIII, others of the royal blood and distinguished statesmen. It has been conferred on several European diplomats and was one of the most beautiful seen at the White House. Cipriano Castro, Venezuela's turbulent President, lavishly dispenses the famous order of Simon Bolivar, the Liberator, worn by Don Augusto Pulido, Venezuela's diplomat.

Conferred Upon Admiral Walker.
This order was instituted by that country's Congress in 1825, and is the only South American chivalric order. It was conferred on Rear Admiral John G Walker, late of the Panama Canal Commission. Venezuela's crest and a vignette of the great Liberator ornaments the centre with the motto "Libertad."

Honduras, only order is "Santa Rosa," created by her Congress in 1808 to commemorate the regeneration of Honduras.

"The Order of Glory," founded by Achmed Bey, of Tunis, in 1837, is bestowed by France for distinguished valor and patriotism. It adorned several of the attaches. A beautiful relic of Spanish judicial distinction is seen in the two raised shields on the cross representing the scales of Justice and Spain's coat of arms, surmounted by her crown. It is worn by that country's great jurists, one of whom was present at the diplomatic reception.

The orders of Europe, Asia, Africa and South America date from the earliest days of knightlyhood to the present time. They are beautifully hand wrought in solid gold, silver, jewels and enamels.

STATUE OF SACAJAWEA.

Story of the Indian Maiden Who Piloted Lewis and Clark—Result of Woman's Work.

Mrs. Eva Emery Dye, of Oregon City, Ore., wrote a book on a very old subject, but she treated it in another way. This book, "The Conquest," was the history of the Lewis and Clark expedition, with which every school child is familiar, but she brought out a most refreshing incident showing the invaluable services rendered the expedition by one woman.

A number of women of Portland, Ore., banded together under the name of the Woman's Club, felt in duty bound to honor the memory of that one woman, Sacajawea. Mrs. Dye was elected president of a Sacajawea Statue Association. With woman's wit they found various methods to acquire the necessary \$7,000 to erect the statue. Even with all the money procured the association found itself in a quandary until Mrs. Henry Waldo Coo, through the generosity of her husband, came to the rescue with the copper for the casting. And this latter gift was by no means inconsiderable, for it means nearly ten tons of pure copper, not to speak of the expenses for smelting and shipping the ore across the continent.

And after all it was but fitting that this statue should be erected, for had it not been for Sacajawea, the Lewis and Clark expedition would never have lived to bring under the American flag

that vast and rich country drained by the Columbia River. Sacajawea, when but thirteen years old, was stolen from her people—the Shoshones—and became a slave to the Dakotas. They treated her well, however, and at the age of eighteen they sold her to a French fur-trader, Charboneau, who made her his wife, promising that he would, in time, take her to her own people. Shortly after this the Lewis and Clark expedition, with its motley band, came along, making their winter quarters in that section which is now the southern part of the Dakotas. The expedition needed a guide, and Charboneau learning of this, told his wife that by guiding the party she would have a chance to find her own people. She offered her services to the pioneers, which were accepted; Charboneau was hired as cook.

During the winter, while the party was making preparations for moving forward next spring, Sacajawea gave birth to a baby boy; yet, not to be deterred in her hope of again being united to her people, and with her baby on her back, she led the party over the rugged mountains to the head waters of the Columbia.

Before reaching the end of the journey the explorers came across the tribe from which the Western heroine had been stolen. Her own people endeavored to persuade her to remain with them. Sacajawea had given her word to guide the men to the Pacific Ocean and she was not to be swayed from keeping her promise. This is the story which Mrs. Dye has set forth in "The Conquest." All through the book is full of little incidents of the bravery of the woman guide, how she saved the band from annihilation at the hands of an unfriendly Indian tribe, the leader of whom was her brother. Mrs. Dye brings out into the light the story of Lewis and Clark themselves, in which they give Sacajawea the credit for having saved their lives and having made possible the success of their expedition.

And so this country now gives recognition to her services through the agency of woman. A statue has been erected to a woman through the aid of woman; Miss Alice Cooper, of Denver, was the designer; Mrs. Dye and her woman friends procured the funds for the monument and a woman contributed the necessary metal.

Paris Statue of Franklin.
The two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Benjamin Franklin on the 17th of January has brought to light the regard with which philosopher and statesman is esteemed, not only by Americans, but by foreigners as well. The memory of Franklin, as first minister of the United States to France, is much revered in the capital of that country, and it is quite fitting that the first statue to him in a foreign clime should be unveiled in Paris.

As early as May 23 last, Mr. John H. Harjes, at present the resident member in Paris of the firm of Morgan, Harjes & Co., formulated an offer to Paris officials of a bronze statue of Franklin. While it was originally intended that the gift to Paris of the statue should

come from the citizens of Philadelphia, this plan made little progress and it was soon abandoned, so that the statue is the bounty of this firm.

The statue is a replica of the one now standing in front of the Philadelphia post-office, the only difference being in the size of the pedestal supporting the figure. Although there was but a short time in which to construct the bronze figure, there was no delay in casting and forwarding the figure to Paris in time for the dedication on the anniversary.

The original Franklin statue in Philadelphia was a gift to the city by Justus C. Strawbridge, at a cost of \$10,000.

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Facts and Fan.

"He that is diligent in business shall stand before kings," quoted the stern father to his wayward son. "Well, dad," said the young hopeful, "I'd rather sit behind a desk."

Beautiful Cleopatra gazed moodily out of the window.
"Oh, Great Queen," faltered the slave, "knowest thou then the number of days thou hast yet to spend here?"
"No," responded Cleopatra, "bring me an alder and let me figure it out."

Dr. Oliver gives an account of a cherry stone on which was carved 124 heads, so distinctly that the naked eye could distinguish those belonging to the popes and kings by their mitres and crowns. It was bought in Prussia for \$15,000.00.

A Gascon officer on hearing of the boasts of a prince who claimed to have killed six men with his own hands, explained disdainfully, "That's nothing, the mattress upon which I sleep is filled with the whippers of those whom I have slain."

Walking down town this morning, I saw a darkey pushing his hand cart filled with kindling wood. A damsel of like hue met him and a coquetish conversation ensued, when suddenly, with a fine flourish, the darkey took from the cart a large piece of his master's kindling and handed it to her. She received it with a seductive smile and a toss of her head, covered it with her apron and departed, while I murmured, "A dark transaction resulting in light weight."

"Even a dead tree may have its graft."

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