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Limitation on Public Carriers.

The anthracite coal strike has forcibly impressed upon the American people the imperative necessity for limiting public carriers to their legitimate functions. The only legitimate business of a railroad is transportation, and to that business all railroads should be restricted by law. The great coal strike in Pennsylvania might have been averted had not the railroads owned the coal mines in violation of the statutes of Pennsylvania.

The experience with the arrogant coal barons who operate the railroads as well as the coal mines in the anthracite coal regions of Pennsylvania, is only a repetition of the experience of the people of Wyoming with the Credit Mobilier management of the Union Pacific years ago. The charter of the Union Pacific restricts that company to the mining of coal for its own use, but the promoters of the Pacific railroad, in defiance of charter limitations, did not confine their operations in the Wyoming and Utah coal region to their own requirements, but deliberately ventured into coal mining on a large scale and monopolized the coal mining industry in the region adjacent to their road by a policy of discrimination in freight rates and resort to downright force. Like the robber barons of the feudal ages, they planted themselves on the national highway, and by a force of armed mercenaries drove competing mine owners and operatives out of the field, took possession of their mines, and froze them out through subservient corporation judges. Having monopolized the mines they levied arbitrary tolls upon the consumers of coal from one end of the road to the other. The appropriation of the Wyoming coal fields created a scandal of national dimensions, and was continued on the boards until the Union Pacific passed out of the hands of receivers into the possession of the present owners.

The manipulation of the coal industry is, however, not the only exercise of public carriers. Years before the Pennsylvania railroads absorbed the coal mines their pernicious activity was felt in various industrial fields, notably in the building up of the Standard Oil trust, which was able to destroy all competition through silent partnerships and secret compacts with the railroad corporations. In the west, notably in the great wheat and corn belt, the grain elevator monopolies were primarily the outgrowth of similar compacts and partnerships. With the coal traffic and the grain traffic in the hands of public carriers the producers were placed at their mercy, just as are the jobbers in commercial distributing centers like Portland, making it possible for the managers of corporations to assume the role of Divine Providence in making and unmaking towns and men by enriching the one and wrecking the other.

When the country awakens to its peril the railroads will be confined to their proper functions as public highways, on which every man who pays has the same privileges that are conceded to every other man who pays just as it is now in the postoffice, which cannot reward friends or punish enemies. The American people are now fully aroused to existing conditions. They will insist either upon the control of public carriers and their limitation within their legitimate sphere as such or their acquisition and operation under government ownership.

Tax Affects Butter Market.

The law making a prohibitive tax on colored oleomargarine has had a peculiar effect upon the butter market of the country and its result is just beginning to be felt. For many years New York has dominated the butter market. Prices in all parts of the country were based on the New York price and the condition of that market affected the sales all over the United States. This was for the reason that for several years the states of New York, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania have had strict oleomargarine laws, which have been rigidly enforced, and the sale of butter has been consequently larger than in other parts of the country. The west and south have been the principal field of operation for the manufacturer of oleomargarine and the laws in states in those sections have been either lax or not enforced. With the passage of the federal law which practically prohibits the sale of colored oleomargarine the center of the principal consumption has changed and to-day the Chicago butter market is as high as that of New York and the demand for butter in that city is almost as large as the demand in the east.

The manufacturers of oleomargarine have now disposed of much of the stock manufactured before the law went into effect and are thrown back upon the uncolored product. This does not move as rapidly as the colored stock and the volume of business had decreased to a great extent. With the decrease in the sale of oleomargarine there has come an

increase in the consumption of butter, and prices of creamery stock are 2 cents higher in New York and Chicago than they were a month ago.

The advance in creamery stock has caused a slight advance in process butter, but one not equal to that in creamery butter. The process men are not receiving the full advantage they hoped from the decrease in the use of oleomargarine, as the consumer is turned from their product by the stamps which are required under the present law. The tendency, however, is for an increase in the consumption of this article, and the dealers look for higher prices not only for the finished product, but also for the country butter from which it is made.

Novelty in National Coin.

A novelty in national coin, typical of national expansion, and intended for circulation in the Philippine islands only will be produced at the mints and shipped to the islands at the rate of \$250,000 a month. Designs prepared by native artists have been accepted for use in the dollar and half-dollar silver pieces and others are under consideration. One is a very ornamental figure of a Filipino woman, attired in graceful flowing robes. The other represents a brawny native, with a hammer at a forge, typifying the Filipino hammering out the destinies of the islands. The law requires that each coin shall bear a device and inscription to express the sovereignty of the United States, although in other respects they may be as strongly pro-Philippine as the designers can make them. The idea of the Washington authorities is to saturate the islands with the new money, so as to do away with the use of the Mexican dollar as much as possible.

Republican Newspapers.

It is reported that the leading republicans of Oregon City and Clackamas County are formulating a plan to start another newspaper in Oregon City, it being claimed by them that the political fights in the future will become harder and they want a strong newspaper at their back. As we view the situation, it appears to us that the republicans have plenty of newspapers in the state, but owing to the factional fights in the republican party the republican press is not receiving the support from the party leaders that it should. It takes brains and money to make a strong newspaper, as the republicans in Clackamas will find out. A little more loyalty to the republican press, which is always loyal to the party when an election rolls round, by republican leaders, would be a great incentive in having stronger newspapers to back the party. The trouble is, however, the politicians expect the newspapers to do the fighting and get the kicking and cussing, all gratuitously, but that kind of treatment gets awfully stale when the republican editors see the patronage go to the newspapers which were on the fence and did not champion the party's cause. If republican politicians were a little more loyal to the press and would use every means to make the republican newspapers stronger, not start new ones, for it is conceded that one strong newspaper is one hundred times better than two poor newspapers trying to eek out a miserable existence, they would be acting wisely and for the best interest of the party.

Pointed Paragraphs.

Intellectual improvement is apt to warp a woman's shape.
Even the pessimist is momentarily happy in his unhappiness.
This would be a gloomy old world for cats if women could purr.
The string tied around a man's finger is merely a forget-me-not.
Some music hath charms to hold a man if he is chained to the spot.
Speaking of home rule, what's the matter with that of the first baby?
In matrimony one and one makes one, but in divorce one from one leaves two.
"Fair and warmer" is the prediction the weather man lays up for a rainy day.
Girls should never flirt in public until after they have a stronghold on the art.
Some men don't know they are beaten until long after other people make the discovery.
If the beauty of the average man's mind isn't more lovely than his face it is entitled to sympathy.

General News.

All salmon canneries outside of the combine recently formed and known as the British Columbia Packers' Association, are being formed into a separate rival combine, with the exception of two or three English-owned canneries managed by H. Bell Irving.

H. W. Corbett, president of the Lewis and Clark Fair, announced that he would ask the governors of neighboring States to recommend appropriations for the Exposition by their respective Legislatures in the assurance of a \$500,000 appropriation by the Legislature of Oregon.

At Grand Rapids, Mich., a Circuit Court jury brought in a verdict of \$2500 for Mrs. Mary J. Lewis against the Modern Woodmen of America. Mrs. Lewis sued for \$50,000 damages for injuries alleged to have been received by her husband, since deceased, while being initiated into the Cooperville Camp of the order last winter. As a result of these injuries it is alleged necrosis set in, which caused death.

Indian Agent Applegate, of the Klamath, Or., reservation, has recommended to the Interior Department that the Government grant a pension of about \$10 a month to three leaders of the Klamaths who were allies of the whites in both the Puute and Modoc wars, and who have always loyally supported the Government in its measure for the control and improvement of their people.

James J. Hill has begun the development of a steel and iron industry in the West which will rival anything of the sort in the world. He arrived at Great Falls Mont., to arrange the first definite project in this great enterprise, the transformation of the old silver smelter of the American Smelting & Refining Company, which has not been in operation for three years, into an iron and steel mill.

Thirty thousand colonists to California in two months is the record of the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroads, the result of the colonist low-rate excursions from the East that were in effect during September and October. Of this number fully 5000, it is claimed by passenger and colonist agents of the railroads, have already become permanently located in the state and many more are viewing the different regions north and South, selecting homes.

Chancellor E. Benjamin Andrews has told the students of the University of Nebraska that he feared football enthusiasm and the devil sometimes went hand in hand. Such a condition, apparently, he said followed the celebration in Lincoln of Nebraska's victory over Minnesota, when students captured a street-car and partly demolished it. That was the devil's work. The chancellor declared it would have been far better had the team been defeated than to have such an exhibition.

A sensation occurred during a political meeting in the public square at Cleveland, in which Mayor Tom L. Johnson struck William Mykraline, a Republican tax board official, in the face with his fist. It seems, according to the statement of bystanders, that the Mayor overheard Mykraline assert that he (Johnson) was a liar. A few hot words followed, and then the Mayor struck Mykraline in the face. Mykraline left the square, declaring he would secure a warrant for the Mayor's arrest.

German official circles are anticipating with keen interest the visit of Emperor William to England. Although the visit is to be private in character, it is said to be earnestly hoped in Berlin that it will contribute toward softening the acerbity, as it is described, of popular British sentiment in regard to Germany and German policy. The Emperor's powers of personal charm are declared to be proverbial and it is a source of no little satisfaction in official circles that he will have the opportunity of exercising them during his visit to Sandringham in conversation with many of the most influential members of the British Government.

President F. J. Odendahl, of the Odendahl Commission Company, Limited, at New Orleans, one of the largest grain exporting firms in the United States, has issued the following communication to the grain trade: "We regret very much to have to advise you that our firm is forced into liquidation and will not be able to pay its liabilities. You will spare us the necessity of making further explanations, as they are painful. Our business has been very profitable and large, but the profits have been diverted into other channels, not through any fault of the writer." The circular follows a widely circulated report of alleged forgeries on the part of a prominent officer of the firm, amounting to between \$150,000 and \$175,000.

At Tapachula, State of Chiapas, Mexico, there is considerable alarm over the eruption of Santa Maria Mountain in Guatemala. For 63 hours the city was almost totally dark. Surrounding coffee planters have experienced great loss, and across the line in Guatemala many valuable properties have been destroyed. Tacana Volcano, near at hand, shows no signs of breaking out. There has been no loss of life. Tereves have

taken advantage of the terror to steal cattle from ranches. On the coast the falling ashes covered the decks of ships in San Benito. Subterranean rumblings have been almost constant. Telegraphic communication has been re-established with the federal capital, and relief is being felt. Business is distressed. Ashes fell abundantly at Palenque.

In its first issue a new shipping periodical at New York, says according to the World, that investigation led to the discovery before the repeal of the revenue stamp tax of a \$400,000 fraud at the Port of New York. The fraud was perpetrated through the use of canceled and washed stamps. The tax is no longer in force except on tea. The evidence was gathered by a corps of Government Inspectors working in the Custom-House. The blame is thrown upon the clerks and employes of Custom-House brokers. Individual brokers discovered the scheme, so far as their own offices were concerned, it is said, but not knowing that it was a part of a general plan, contented themselves with discharging the offending clerks. According to the story, an investigation may be instituted in other cities.

All-Red Cable Line.

VANCOUVER, B. C., Oct. 31.—The completion of the All-Red cable line between Vancouver and Brisbane was accomplished at 7 o'clock Friday night, although the first message did not get through until this morning, when the announcement was made that one dream of the imperialists was a reality. The cable is still in the hands of the contractors, and it will not be open for business for three weeks. During that time it will undergo an elaborate system of tests in order that the officials may see that it is in thorough working order before being taken over from the contractors.

A Nation of "Sore Eyes."

NEW YORK, Nov. 1.—At a conference just held at the call of Commissioner Lederie, of the Department of Health, it was declared by some of the speakers that this city is threatened with the scourge of trachoma, which has made Egypt, the Barbary States, and certain parts of Eastern Europe, nations of "sore eyes." Trachoma is most readily communicated in the schools or in the home. It was pointed out in the conference that the ends of lead pencils, when rubber-tipped, are especially liable to communicate the disease when used by pupils who sit at desks side by side, or in the old type of benches made for two or three.

President Burlingham, of the Board of Education, demanded the speediest and most thorough means of treatment known to medical science, which, while relieving the stress of one, should not endanger the health of another, and while conserving the health of all, should not interfere with the education of the original sufferer. To this problem neither he nor Commissioner Lederie obtained any satisfactory answer from the experts assembled, and another meeting is probable.

Since the beginning of the school here, about 14,000 pupils have been excluded by health department inspectors.

Bright's Disease.

The largest sum ever paid for a prescription, changed hands in San Francisco, Aug. 30, 1901. The transfer involved in coin and stock \$112,500.00 and was paid by a party of business men for a specific for Bright's Disease and Diabetes, hitherto incurable diseases.

They commenced the serious investigation of the specific Nov. 15, 1900. They interviewed scores of the cured and tried it out on its merits by putting over three dozen cases on the treatment and watching them. They also got physicians to name chronic, incurable cases, and administered it with the physicians for judges. Up to Aug. 25 eighty-seven percent of the test cases were either well or progressing favorably.

There being but thirteen per cent of failures, the parties were satisfied and closed the transaction. The proceedings of the investigating committee and the clinical reports of the test cases were published and will be mailed free on application. Address John J. Fulton Company, 420 Montgomery St., San Francisco, Cal.

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