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THE RAILROAD SITUATION

Ex-President Taft, in the Constitutional Review, discusses at some length the railroad situation in an article on the subject of "Wise and Unwise Extensions of Federal Power." He points out the troubles, or some of them, caused by the 48 state railroad commissions and the interstate commission making 49 bodies in all to which the railroads must give heed. He calls attention to the many conflicting requirements, some of them frivolous, but on that account so much the more annoying and irritating. As an illustration he cites the law in one state which compels the placing of a spittoon between every two seats, which other states expressly forbid. It will be seen that when a car crosses the state line between the two states, going one way the spittoons would have to be removed, and going the other installed. It is a trifling thing, but as was stated, for that reason the more irritating. This is but an example of many annoying things. Demurrage is enforced in some states and not in others; and what is law in one state is forbidden in others all along the line.

That these annoying conditions exist is due to the railroads themselves, but that does not alter or lessen the annoyance. There was a time when railroads were all powerful. They controlled the affairs of the country, decided its politics and were supreme dictators. They controlled courts and legislatures, corrupted politics, and were above and beyond the reach of the law. To a certain extent they are so yet. We have an example in the Southern Pacific probably the worst offender of them all. It has defied congress and deliberately violated the terms of the act granting its predecessor millions of acres of land in Oregon, and this up to the present year. As a matter of fact it is still trying to dodge the provisions of that granting act. It was this overriding of the people and the law that caused the creation of the interstate and the 48 state railroad commissions. It caused the Sherman act and it stirred legislators to efforts to find ways in which they could catch popular favor by cinching the railroads. From being the bosses politically, the railroads found themselves deposed and like everything else once it is down, the subject of many unnecessary kicks. From being on top they went to the bottom. The people having been kicked gratuitously by them, naturally when the opportunity came, kicked back.

It is time now that these old conditions be changed. The railroads have been chastened, and the people have discovered that they have perhaps gone too far along some lines in controlling them. It is time for the roads and the people to meet on a common ground, that of mutual interest. The people cannot get along without the railroads and the railroads would find it hard sledding without the people. Government supervision has come to stay, and while we have this it may be well to let the railroads do their business as other business men do theirs without undue interference. Doing away with state commissions is proposed by Mr. Taft as the remedy, and he advances some strong reasons in defense of his position. Perhaps he is right, but it will be long before he can convince the public of this unless the railroads themselves show the way. They can do this when they supply cars for doing the business of the countries tributary to them, when they voluntarily act fairly with those dependent on them for transportation, and when the interstate commerce commission comes down from its high horse and pays some attention to the complaints of those hurt by the roads' neglect. At present the commission is not doing this but has arrogated to itself the slogan made famous by the late Cornelius Vanderbilt: "the people be damned." The railroads will find that the people will gladly meet them half way in changing and bettering conditions, but the roads must travel their half first and do justice before demanding it. They must provide cars and move the products of the country. When they do this, which is their imperative duty under their franchises, they will find the people willing and anxious to do anything that is fair to give the roads a square deal. On the

other hand they are not going to make any friends or get any sympathy or assistance from the millman whose lumber for which there is an abundant demand remains unsold in the yards, or from the farmer whose products rot on the side tracks through the criminal neglect--or worse of the railroad. Demanding equity of the people they must come into court with clean hands. They must make the first move or submit to still further unnecessary hardships.

PREMATURE CARVING

The allies are said to be already making calculations as to what will be done with the countries set free by the war, and are considering the best combinations for forming new governments in such countries as Poland, Galicia, etc. The United States is taking no hand in this nor will it, at least until after the war is over. The other parties to the war are premature in their work, for it is a wise plan to catch your coon before cooking him. The United States will perhaps have some suggestions to make when the war is over, but she has no other interest in the matter except to see that the peoples of the different countries mentioned and other such, have the form of government best suited to them and that races that naturally have antipathies are not forced into the same bed. Austria is an example of a country of mixed races, and is the worse for the mixture. It is entirely too soon to begin carving the bird but when it is done the white and black meats want to be kept on separate plates.

If arrangements could be made by which some big tractors could be set at work in the valley with big gangs of plows preparing the ground for wheat it would be a paying investment. Most of the farms are too small to justify their owners in investing in an outfit of this kind, but if districts could be formed and several farmers go in together to make the purchase, this difficulty could be overcome. The Willamette valley as a general thing has been plowed shallow for a generation, and what it needs is a tearing up, and a lifting of the subsoil. With this done the valley would again become, as it once was, the greatest wheat growing section of the United States so far as yield per acre was concerned. Anyway the experiment is well worth trying, and now if ever, is the time to give it a trial.

Repairs on the interned German vessels seized by the government at the beginning of the war have been held up on account of strikes. If an agreement is not reached soon the government will have the work done at its own yards. Frank Morrison, secretary of the American Federation of Labor lays the blame on the manufacturers and shipbuilders, and says: "The cost of living goes up \$3 a week and when the men ask for a dollar raise they are called unpatriotic." As living is not going up \$3 a week one is forced to disbelieve the balance of Secretary Morrison's statements.

There is one redeeming quality about some of the war slogans suggested and that is that the average battle would be over before the boys got through sloganing. Some of them are of the serial character, and as the boys charged the enemy and hauled their slogan on them they would have to yell "continued in our next." By the way why would that not be a pretty fair slogan just by itself?

Senator Reed and more of his ilk are still holding up the food control bill and insisting a board should have control instead of one person. What would a board composed of such "pi lines" as Senator Reed accomplish in the way of managing the food situation? He and his kind are a living example of how not to do it, yet he wants to tell others how.

President Wilson yesterday through Senator Lewis notified congress he is anxious for it to finish its labors and take a needed rest before the December session begins. This is a delicate way of putting it; but all the same it means the president would like to have a rest from congressional wearings, and heaven knows the people would enjoy a vacation of that kind.

The I. W. W's are demanding an eight hour day, yet at the same time are working double that with their jaws. They may want an eight hour day for the other fellow, but what they want for themselves is the right to do nothing except raise hell. If they would confine themselves to working only eight hours a day at that, it would help the situation some.

The governor has appointed a conciliation board of ten members, five representing labor and five capital. There will be perfect harmony among the members of the board until some dispute comes up between the two elements which they represent, and then the governor will have to appoint another board to conciliate the board of conciliation.

The dispatches from Butte say the funeral of Little was carried out without any demonstrations. Perhaps the presence of 300 regular troops had a cooling effect on the hot blood of the anarchistic gang. The bunch threatens to resist the draft and to cause trouble. This may be true, but it will not be while the army boys are there.

Senator Chamberlain and Gore had a tilt yesterday, in which the senator from the rebellious district did not come off victorious. Gore seems to be about as loyal as the other members of the ignorant horde in his state, trying to resist the draft and whip the United States.

It is expected the government will before long commandeer the ships sailing out of the Northwest coast ports. The big steamers running between Flavel and San Francisco are expected to be taken over by the government at any time, and the boats plying between Portland and the south as well as those sailing from Seattle may all be withdrawn from their routes soon. This will prove a severe blow to the northwest, for it will still further hamper shipping the products of the state which will then have to be carried by the railroads already over-crowded, and which have taken no steps to relieve the car shortage.

"Oregon fir" is to be given a trial as airship material. That it will make good anyone who knows anything of its splendid qualities need not be assured. It is light, straight grained giving it uniform strength, springy, tough and altogether the best all-around timber for hard wear and usage that grows. Once it is tried our prediction is that it will be the only timber used in this country for the purpose of building airships.

Oregon is highest in standing in its schools of all the states and is also highest in its enlistments for service in the army. Oklahoma is lowest in school standing and also lowest in the matter of enlistments. Draw your own conclusions.

The cool weather has greatly improved the water situation and now there is little complaint, though the pressure gets pretty low yet some evenings during the irrigating hours.

If the I. W. Ws. had any sense of humor they would surely smile as they appealed to the law for protection while preaching and advocating anarchy.

What has become of those Mexican heroes of old, Carranza, Villa, Obregon, etc. etc.?

Its a quiet day which passes without a Russian cabinet crisis.

Rippling Rhymes

By Walt Mason

MARCHING HOME



WALT MASON

When they come back from bloodstained fields, the country's hero fighters, displaying on their belts and shields the scalps of Prussian blighters, when they come back across the foam from active German hunting, how proudly they'll be welcomed home! We'll deck the land with bunting! The bands will play to beat the band, brave airs in handsome doses, and pretty girls, on every hand, will pet the boys with roses. And there'll be music in the kirk, loud organ peals and singing, and every man will quit his work, and keep the welkin ringing. I'd hate to be the slacker lad who skulked and dodged the fighting, when from Poree or Petrograd the boys come home a-kiting! I'd hate to be that young man then, disgraced beyond redemption, who claimed a spavin or a wen, as reason for exemption. Oh, better far to fill a grave in some red field uncharted, than sink around when banners wave to greet the lion-hearted. When we, to see the heroes back, before the courthouse rally, the bloodless fellows who were slack will hide in some dark alley.

And He Did



The Daily Novelette

WHICH?

(This Week's Mystery)
"Waiter, what's good today?" Is the mock rabbit soup good?" asked Nippen Tuck as he ran his eye down the price list side of his menu card.
"Saw ri," mumbled the waiter, carefully brushing a half gill of crumbs into Tuck's lap.
"Well, bring me some, and an order of planked peas, some eelbuss on the ear, and a plate of fried stews."
A long while later, after Nippen Tuck had completely worn out the knees of his trousers impatiently crossing and recrossing his legs, the waiter brought him a plate of wisteria soup with his thumb in it, stuffed beans, French fried twicken, and a saucer of baked broils. Nippen Tuck, being too hungry by that time to send it all back, merely tried unsuccessfully to look one-tenth as mad as he felt, and ate it.

"Waiter, how's the mock rabbit soup?" asked Ponsoby Twivver.
"Burned, sir, a little touched," replied the waiter confidently. "But the wistenberry soup is elegant--and if I might recommend the swizzled beets, sir, and the toasted bakes--"
"All right; bring 'em along," said Twivver. And in exactly two minutes and eighteen seconds they were along, fresh and steaming.
(Now one of the foregoing men was accustomed to tip a nickel, the other fifty cents. To the reader first sending in the correct guess as to which was which, a handsome illustrated guide to the alleys of Perth Weebus, North Dakota, will be presented.--Ex)

Bad Stomachs--The Penalty

Stomach sufferers should take warning. Gall stones, cancer and ulcers of the stomach and intestines, auto intoxication, yellow jaundice, appendicitis, and other dangerous ailments are some of the penalties. Most stomach, liver and intestinal troubles are quickly over come with Mayr's Wonderful Remedy. This favorite prescription has restored millions of people. Let one dose of Mayr's Wonderful Remedy prove today that it will help you. For sale by J. C. Perry, druggist.

My Husband and I

By Jane Phelps

TOM GOES OUT

CHAPTER CXVI.
Just as soon as Tom had finished his dinner he flung out of the house. Had I not been ashamed to give in--seemingly--I would have called him back. The idea that he should go to the theatre without me was unendurable. Nor could I in clear away and begged me to eat something.
"You'll be sick if you don't," she urged.
I drank two cups of strong coffee, but couldn't eat a mouthful. Then the recollection of Tom's threat set me thinking. I would ask Helen to come down, then get her to tell me what he meant. She knew so much she might as well know a little more. So I called her up to say I wanted to see her a moment. If I went up there Walter would be in the room and I couldn't talk. In my own home I could make some excuse to get her in my room even if he came with her.
"Tom is out, Helen, please come down. I want to talk to you," and I knew that my voice trembled the I tried to speak naturally.
"All right, I'll be down in half an hour, Walter is going to his lodge, and will stop by for me on his way home."
Until Helen arrived I sat nursing my anger. I'd show Tom Randall that he couldn't treat me like a child. He'd be sorry for what he had done. I wouldn't speak to him until he had fixed things up at Bimble's. That would punish him more than anything I could think of.
Helen enlightens Sue.
"Now what in the world is the mat-
ter?" Helen said after she had laid out her hat. "Your voice sounded as if you were ready to cry."
"I was, and am," I returned. "I gave Tom the dickens for what he did at Bimble's, and he has gone off mad. But what do you think he said to me before he left?"
"Something which has upset you, I can see."
"I should think so. The worst of it is I don't know what he meant. He said if I ran a single bill without his consent he would advertise that he would not pay any of my debts. What did he mean? I didn't know they advertised such things."
"What a little country girl you still are about some things, Sue. Have you any old morning papers lying around? Perhaps I can find an ad. in one of them."
"Yes, lots of them," and I left her, to return with my arms full of newspapers.
She hurriedly looked thru a half dozen before she found what she wanted.
"Here is one, Sue. I'll read it."
"To whom it may concern, I will not be responsible for any debts incurred by anyone other than myself."
"You don't mean--"
"It means Sue that unless you had money of your own you couldn't get trusted for a shoestring in New York."
"But that is awful! I'd leave a man who would do that. What Tom did at Bimble's was bad enough, but that--" I shivered.
"Look out you don't make him do it, Sue. Unless I am mistaken Tom doesn't

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