

Interstate Commerce Commission's Report

A Washington dispatch, dated Dec. 5, says: The immediate unification of all the railroads of the United States for the duration of the war, either by the railroads themselves or by the President, the suspension of the anti-trust laws and anti-pooling laws, and a government loan and government regulation of security issues, are recommended by the interstate commerce commission in an important and unexpected special report made today to congress.

Commissioner McChord, in a supplementary report, declares that any voluntary pooling plan would fail to meet war exigencies because of the unavoidable influence of selfishness among the railroads, and emphatically urges government control because "the strong arm of the government authority is essential if the transportation situation is to be radically improved." He asserted that railroad operation is approaching a chaotic condition.

The railroads' own proposition for the solution of the present war transportation difficulties of the nation, an increase in rates in order to attract capital, was characterized as entirely inadequate by the commission.

Even with more funds, the report said, the shortage of equipment could not be remedied materially because of the inability of industries to manufacture it with sufficient speed. Doubt also was expressed as to whether new capital would be attracted in view of the enormous flotation of government war securities.

Prompt action of some kind to improve the railroad situation for the

prosecution of the war will undoubtedly be taken by congress. The report met quick response in both senate and house.

Senator Newlands, chairman of the special congressional railroad investigating committee, arranged a conference with President Wilson for next Monday, to receive executive recommendations. He declared that decisive and immediate action by the government is necessary to insure efficient operation of the railroads and provide sufficient capital.

Chairman Adamson of the house interstate commerce committee expressed opposition to the suggestion of repealing the anti-pooling provision of the Sherman act, and advocated loaning money only to weak roads. Representative Sims, who will succeed Representative Adamson as chairman of the committee, advocated government operation. Representative Gillett, acting republican leader, said he favored almost any plan short of government control.

DRYS INCREASE FIRE ON WETS

[From The Chicago Journal, Nov. 21.]

"Chicago is going dry; there is no doubt about it."

This was the war cry today by dry leaders as they girded on their armor and prepared for increasing the intensity of the oratorical bombardment started Tuesday evening by William Jennings Bryan and others.

"The nation is going dry! Will you help?" shouted Mr. Bryan at the climax of his speech Tuesday evening at Medinah temple.

"Yes! Yes! We will!" shouted back nearly 3,000 people.

"Alcohol is poison when taken into the body. It weakens the physical man; it weakens the mental man; it menaces the moral man," the speaker told his audience.

"If it is not a good thing for a man to use liquor," continued the Nebraskan, "how can it be good for a community to permit a saloon to sell that which does harm? Every community in which saloons flourish is a partner in the liquor business. No saloon can now exist without votes."

TALKS FOR A DRY CHICAGO

[From The Chicago Tribune, Nov. 21.]

William Jennings Bryan, at his best, gave the dry Chicago campaign an inspiring start last night. Three thousand men and women at Medinah temple and 1,500 at an overflow meeting at the La Salle avenue Baptist church were aroused to an intense pitch of enthusiasm as he opened the actual fight to wipe out Chicago's saloons at next April's election.

Prefacing Mr. Bryan's speech at Medinah temple, Philip Yarrow, general superintendent of the Chicago Dry federation, made the first definite announcement of the preliminary campaign for signatures to the necessary petition. He predicted an overwhelming success in this detail.

"We need a total of 106,500 names," Mr. Yarrow said. "More than one-half of that number are now signed to petitions that have been turned in and counted, and many districts in the city have made no report. There is not the slightest doubt about the petition. We want to complete it ready for filing by Dec. 1. Certainly it will be ready before the holidays."

Mr. Bryan spoke to men and women who swept over to the north side meetings from every part of Chicago. The crowds were as notable for the diverse character of their membership as for the rolling tides of enthusiasm

that were created by Mr. Bryan's oratorical periods and by the smashing speeches made by Dr. Ira Landrith of Tennessee. Dr. Landrith was the prohibition party candidate for vice pres-

ident in 1916 and is the national chairman of the new national party, organized recently in Chicago. He preceded Mr. Bryan at Medinah temple and followed him at the church.

The Rejected Risk

The man who has been rejected for life insurance learns something in the twinkling of an eye that no one could ever teach him. Heretofore he has thought of life insurance as something he could take at any time — just as he could take a journey or buy a new suit of clothes. He had been so often solicited to insure that it seemed as if he must be doing everybody a favor in making a tardy application.

What a shock and what a revelation, when the agent tells him the company can not accept him. He knows the company wants business. Why then is he declined? There must be some good reason. In most cases he simply waited too long. He can not blame the agent or the company. Whose fault will it be if you, now in good health, later are declined? Better buy a policy now in

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Mr. Bryan's New Book---

"Heart to Heart Appeals"

Mr. Bryan has made a careful collection of the Heart to Heart Appeals, scattered through the speeches delivered by him during a quarter of a century (1890-1916) in the belief that they will be of permanent interest to the reading public, especially to students.

They cover all the issues before the country during the eventful period covered by his connection with American and world politics.

The twenty-two chapters deal with topics enumerated in the table of contents below:

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I.—Government	XI.—Equal Suffrage
II.—Tariff	XII.—The Liquor Question
III.—Income Tax	XIII.—Issues Past and Present
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VI.—Trusts	XVI.—Baltimore Conv'tion
VII.—Labor	XVII.—Pan America
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IX.—Publicity Campaign Contributions	XIX.—Peace
X.—Initiative and Referendum	XX.—Religion
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Mr. Bryan is especially anxious to get the book into the hands of University, College and High School students. Any student desiring to act as agent can obtain terms by addressing the publishers, Fleming H. Revell Co., 158 5th Ave., N. Y. Readers of The Commoner can secure the book at one dollar per volume by addressing The Commoner or the publishers.

It will be sent FREE to any subscriber sending in three subscriptions at one dollar each. Address

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