

THE DAILY BEE.

E. ROSEWATER, Editor.

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THEY SHOULD HEED THE APPEAL.

The appeal addressed by Governor Thayer to the managers of railroads in Nebraska, asking for such reduction of the rates on corn as will enable the farmers of the state to market their crops with some profit, has been given careful consideration by the general manager of the B. & M. road, and it is to be presumed will receive attention from other managers. The matter is one of such importance as to merit the most serious consideration from the railroads. These corporations are certainly interested in the progress and prosperity of Nebraska. The material progress of the state must result in a larger prosperity for the railroads that carry its products and bring into it the commodities which the marketing of those products will enable its people to buy. The great staple of Nebraska, its corn crop, is the dependence of the large majority of its people for support, and therefore a large part of its business interests. If this product is not marketed, or most of it is marketed at a price which, owing to the high freight rates, leaves no profit to the farmer it is inevitable that all business must suffer, the general prosperity be unfavorably affected, and the progress of the state be retarded. In such a state of affairs the railroads doing business in Nebraska could not escape a share of the injury.

In his second letter on the subject Governor Thayer shows that at this price of corn in Chicago there is no profit to the farmer with the present rate of freight. Corn shipped to Chicago from central Nebraska will yield to the shipper only twelve cents a bushel. Nobody will pretend that this is a fair return. On the contrary it is simply ruinous. The farmers of the state with fixed obligations to meet and the necessities incident to their industry to provide for, to say nothing of other demands upon them, cannot long withstand the disastrous consequences of such a condition of affairs. A few of them are in a position to bear for a time the drain it entails, if they are disposed to do so, but the large majority are not, and many will inevitably be forced to the wall if they are not given the relief which Governor Thayer asks for them. The apprehension of disastrous results expressed by the governor, should relief be denied, does not exaggerate the danger of the situation.

It rests entirely with the railroad managers to say whether the farmers of Nebraska shall be enabled to market their corn at a fair and reasonable profit, or a considerable part of the crop be left unmarketed, to the detriment and damage of all business in the state. There is no authority to compel them to change the rates on through shipments of corn. The matter is one over which they have, in its present condition, exclusive control. They are merely appealed to consider whether it will not be wise and just to afford to the farmers of Nebraska the relief that it is in their power to give, and without which it is apparent the general prosperity must suffer. A careful study of the situation will convince them, we believe, that they should promptly heed the appeal.

FORCE THE ELEVATOR ISSUE.

The state board of transportation having refused to recede from the position taken in the Elmwood elevator case, the railroads propose to carry the case into the courts and fight it to the bitter end. The Missouri Pacific is the only road directly involved, but all roads are menaced by the order of the board and they will exhaust every means to prevent its execution. The position taken by the board of transportation can not be disturbed by threats nor its justice affected by assaults from Atchison. When the original hearing was had the Missouri Pacific did not deny or attempt to controvert the statements of the local farmers' alliance. It was shown that the two elevators located on the company's right-of-way at Elmwood did not have sufficient capacity to handle the grain of the surrounding country; that they prevented competition; charged an unreasonable sum for handling the grain, and practically dictated the market price. The alliance petitioned the company for the privilege of building an elevator and warehouse on railroad ground, on equal terms with the elevators already there, and permission being refused, appealed to the state board of transportation for redress.

General Attorney Waggoner of the Missouri Pacific is credited with the assertion that the order of the board will be taken to the United States supreme court, if necessary, on the ground that "it is contrary to the constitution of the United States, as it takes property without compensation and without due process of law." This is the baldest sort of averment. It is said, and the statement is not incredible, that the recent rulings of the speaker have not been approved by all the republicans of the house, and that there is a disposition among some of them to regard Mr. Reed as unwarrantably anxious to extend his jurisdiction and power.

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and shipping their grain to market on equal terms with the elevators favored and sustained by the railroad company. The only constitutionality of the elevator ring. Created and fostered by the railroads, it struggles for life and grasps every legal straw to prolong its existence. If it can succeed in deferring action from one to four years, the alliance may dissolve and individualism would soon grow weary of the contest. The state authorities should checkmate this movement by forcing the issue on an early decision in the state supreme court and promptly compel the offending corporation to obey the mandate. The question is of vital importance to every producer in the state, and no delay in its settlement should be permitted.

THE POLICY OF DESPAIR.

Senator Hoar of Massachusetts, in his reply to Senator Butler's advocacy of the proposal to appropriate several millions of dollars to promote the emigration of negroes from the south to Africa, characterized this most remarkable project as the policy of despair. The dominant white element in the south having determined that the negro shall not have justice done him, that the rights guaranteed him by the constitution and the laws he shall not enjoy, and finding that in this policy there is the certainty of an irrepressible conflict, as a last resort propose to commit the government to a policy of negro deportation at a cost to the whole people beginning with a few millions of dollars, but once entered upon would require, if at all successful, an expenditure larger than the revenues of the nation for the next decade. It is only necessary to consider the practical nature of this extraordinary proposal to appreciate the apportionment of Senator Hoar's characterization of it. No wilder scheme, as to both its moral and practical aspects, was ever suggested, and it is gratifying to find that there are intelligent men in the South of the dominant political element who condemn it as utterly absurd and impracticable. It very likely finds favor with a majority of the white people of that section, but it ought to be clear to the thoughtful among them that no such policy can ever obtain in this country. In spirit and purpose it is hostile to the cardinal principle of our republican system, and its adoption would bring upon us the just reproach of the world.

The great importance and the grave difficulties of the negro problem are universally admitted. But its solution is not to be found in expedients to coax or coerce the negroes to leave the country. Those people justly regard the United States as their rightful home, and while a few of the more adventurous might accept an opportunity to go to Africa or somewhere else at the expense of the government, the very great majority could not be induced to do so under any circumstances. Coercive measures we have no right to adopt, nor would the controlling public sentiment of the country tolerate them. Such policies as the despotic governments of Europe have adopted toward peoples offensive to the dominant element cannot find acceptance in this republic until our people are prepared to abandon their republican system of government. It is a hopeless scheme, therefore, that the southern states have proposed as a means of solving the negro problem, but its discussion may do some good in more forcibly emphasizing to the southern people the fact that any other policy than that of justice to the negro cannot receive the support of the great body of the American people, and that until that policy is given full and fair trial the demand for it will not cease.

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THE HOUSE RULES. It is expected that the present week will witness the beginning of the contest over the new rules of the house of representatives, which promises to be both lively and prolonged. The delay of the committee in framing new rules has, it appears, not been due altogether to the enforced absence of Mr. Carlisle and Mr. Randall, but in part to a difference of view between the republican members. It is stated that Speaker Reed favors an extension of the jurisdiction and power of the speaker, and that at least one of his republican colleagues on the committee hesitates about consenting to this and other innovations upon the past practices of the house. This difference of view between republican members of the committee on rules has not only delayed the work of arranging the rules, but it is thought probable that if the committee republicans cannot unite it may result in creating a division among the republicans in the house. It is said, and the statement is not incredible, that the recent rulings of the speaker have not been approved by all the republicans of the house, and that there is a disposition among some of them to regard Mr. Reed as unwarrantably anxious to extend his jurisdiction and power.

However this may be, it is obviously important that the house shall not much longer go on as at present, without any rules for its government except those of general parliamentary law. There can be no question that a revision of the rules which had been in operation through four or five congresses is imperatively demanded, but this should be done in a spirit of fairness and justice, so that while the rights of the majority are fully protected, the minority will be secure against wrong or injustice. It is time congress had settled down to business, and nothing now stands in the way of its doing so but this issue regarding the rules. That threatens to bring on a prolonged and bitter fight.

A bill has been introduced in congress to increase the salaries of federal judges. It proposes to double the present compensation of members of the supreme court and to considerably increase that of circuit and district judges. The salaries now paid the federal judiciary have remained fixed for a great many years, and while they may have been fairly remunerative when established, they are not so now, by reason both of the increased cost of living and of the greater labor and responsibility now devolving upon the federal judiciary. It is a distinguished honor to occupy a place on the bench of a United States court, and there will doubtless never be a time when the demand for these positions does not exceed the supply, but this does not furnish any reason why federal judges should not receive such reasonable liberal compensation as would at least enable them to live as becomes the judicial representatives of the government, and as the class of legal ability that should be preferred for the federal bench ought to receive. This matter of increasing the salaries of United States judges has been talked of for a number of years and the proposal has always met with very general public approval. Whether congress would be justified in doubling judicial salaries is another question. The mere fact that there is a large surplus in the treasury affords no valid excuse for extravagance.

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