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TO STOP MERGERS

CONGRESS CALLED ON FOR NEW LAWS.

COMPETITION OF RAILWAYS

Combination of Interests Consolidated; Management in Individual Hands—The Result is Disastrous to Public Welfare.

WASHINGTON.—The tendency to combine continues the most significant feature of railway development, according to the annual report of the Interstate Commerce commission just issued. The report says: "It is not open to question that the competition between railroad carriers which formerly prevailed, has been largely suppressed or at least brought to the condition of effective restraint. The progress of consolidation, in one form or another, will at no distant day confine this competition within narrow and unimportant limits, because the control of most railroad properties will be merged in a few individuals, whose combination interests impel them to act in concert. While this will insure, as probably nothing else can, in equal degree, the observance of published tariffs, and so measurably remove some of the evils which the act was designed to prevent, the resulting situation involves consequences to the public which claim the most serious attention.

"A law which might have answered the purpose when competition was relied upon to secure reasonable rates is demonstrably inadequate when that competition is displaced by the most far-reaching and powerful combination.

"Some great change in the conditions calls for a corresponding change in the regulation of the statute."

The commission reaffirms its recommendations for amending the interstate commerce law and urges the grave necessity for legislation.

The report says that the fact that no convictions have yet been obtained nor indictments found in the cases of the roads which were shown by an investigation last winter to be given secret rates to grain shippers, emphasizes the fact that the criminal provisions of the present interstate law are practically a dead letter.

The commission says that the effect of injunctions to compel roads to observe published tariffs has been to materially advance the rates actually received by the carrier and paid by the shipper and that their operation enables advances, which otherwise might not be made.

But while the producer will undoubtedly pay from now on from 5 to 7 cents per 100 pounds more to transport grain from the field to its destination than he paid before these injunctions took effect, that must not be regarded as an argument against the injunctions. They ought to be some power to compel the carriers to maintain the published rate and to publish a fair and reasonable rate.

DEWEY CABLES FLEET ORDERS.

Advices the Navy Department Where Ships Will Go for Christmas.

WASHINGTON.—The navy department has received a cablegram from Admiral Dewey announcing the proposed itinerary of the vessels of his fleet during the Christmas holidays.

Admiral Dewey's cablegram, dated San Juan, December 14, is to this effect:

"Proposed itinerary of vessels for Christmas holidays: Kearsarge, Alabama, Massachusetts, Iowa, Scorpion, Trinidad, Illinois, Indiana, to St. Thomas; Texas, to Point-a-Petrie; Chicago, New York, Eagle, to Curacao; San Francisco, Albany, Wasp, to Mayaguez; Cincinnati, Atlanta, Prairie, tugs and torpedo boats, to San Juan; Cullagos, to Mayaguez and San Juan; Olympia, Nashville and Machias, to St. Kitts; Detroit, to Antigua; Mayflower and Vixen, to Porto Rican waters and vicinity, and Dolphin, to Antigua and vicinity."

France Wants the Money.

LIMA, Peru.—The French legation here presented to the Peruvian government on November 8 a claim for \$16,071,940 in favor of the Dreyfus brothers of Paris in accordance with the finding of the Lausanne court of arbitration.

A blind horse can see what his owner is driving at.

LOOKS TO AMERICA.

Learn Fresh Lessons from This Great Republic.

NEW YORK.—The sixth annual dinner of the Canadian society of New York given at Delmonico's Friday night, was presided over by Sir Frederick W. Borden, G., minister of militia and of the Dominion of Canada; by Royt, president of the Ohio State A. Higginbotham, president of the Canadian club of Philadelphia; and by Sir Percy Sanderson, British minister to the United States.

The toasts were "The President," "The King," after which Sir Frederick Borden, in speaking of the United States, said: "I all frankness that we up to Canada thank the people of the States for teaching us self-reliance. We also want to always by rivalry. You hear a said as to what is to be the of Canada. We are absolutely with our present position going along on the the followed for some time, the best friend we have in this country.

In the Monroe doctrine was promulgated the leadershipmen approved it. The time is a good thing for and is a guarantee against oppression. It is as a protection of any other the American continent."

IS IMPREGNABLE.

Put 400,000 Men in the Field.

Thiessen, formerly minister to Venezuela, who ne convention of 1885 and many years in Venezuela interviewed concerning there. He said:

"I can put 400,000 men in even foreigners there military service. The the army numbers only ber of the younger of their education in the of France and Germany are armed and Remington rifles by Maxim and Krupp are no cavalry. Caracas is impregnable, owing to the situation on the other side range about 6,000 feet except by steep mule paths. There is a railway to Caracas, but a line useless. If, by a was taken, the Venezuela a guerilla war against Spain."

CASE REVIVED.

Renewed Before Judge U. S. Court

noted "beef trust" given Tuesday in Judge Grosscup in the court.

which was filed in the court was "multifaceted" to any offense of the United States sufficient particular.

representing the that the bill did not all of interstate and found that the shippers by the packers to any state did not commerce.

packers, he said, we of trade rather than

Completed.

The Twentieth Methodist church practically been raised by the Methodist set out to raise \$20,000 in the twentieth century this Sunday Dr. E. M. secretary for the fund, announced a task had been completed. "The total amount now more than \$19,000 of December 31. Methodist Episcopal church, Mass.—the call for the money—I am assured of announcing that the fund has been

AWAIT THE REPLY

POWERS EXPECT ROOSEVELT TO SETTLE TROUBLE.

DIFFICULTY NEARING AN END

Certainty that Venezuelan Problems Will Be Solved in the Near Future Through the Medium of Arbitration.

WASHINGTON.—President Roosevelt has proposed to the allied powers:

That the Venezuelan dispute be submitted to the arbitration of The Hague tribunal.

The powers have replied with a counter proposal that President Roosevelt himself arbitrate the issue.

If an agreement is reached on arbitration, the procedure would be for Mr. Bowen, representing Venezuela as a plenipotentiary, to sign with the representatives of the allies a protocol stating that the case is to be submitted to arbitration; that Venezuela admits the right of diplomatic intervention in behalf of a claimant, a principle she has always resisted, and that the details of the arbitration shall be arranged in a formal treaty, which she pledges herself to sign. This treaty will provide in the greatest details for the security of foreign interests against vexatious and extortionate interference on the part of the Venezuelan government hereafter, and will insure the administration of exact justice in the settlement of claims, and especially will it relieve foreign residents of Venezuela from forced loans and persecution in times of revolutions.

The status of the arbitration negotiations, as disclosed at the State department, was that the powers were waiting for an answer from the president to the proposal that he himself undertake to arbitrate the Venezuelan difficulty. The president's answer can only be guessed, for the officials decline to express any opinion of their own. However, it is believed to be a safe prediction that he will renew his suggestion that the case be submitted to The Hague tribunal, adding to the argument he has already produced, the fact the United States having claims of its own against Venezuela to the amount of about \$100,000, is a party in interest, and it would be unfair to put the president in the position of having to arbitrate his own claim. For their part, the powers bring against The Hague proposition the argument that President Castro would feel lightly bound by any decision by that tribunal, but would be certain to heed a judgment rendered by President Roosevelt. It is said at the State department that no matter how these two propositions are disposed of, there will be no backward step, and that an agreement of some kind, which will bring about a peaceable settlement of the Venezuelan trouble will result from the present negotiations.

LONDON LOOKS ACROSS WATER.

English Statesmen Want Roosevelt as Arbitrator.

LONDON.—It is believed that President Roosevelt's answer to the proposal made by the allied powers that he arbitrate the Venezuelan issues has been received in London. The strictest secrecy with regard to every phase of the negotiations is preserved, however, and it is impossible to make a definite statement, but such indications as are obtainable point to President Roosevelt's acceptance.

With President Roosevelt as arbitrator the serious objections in the matter of guarantees which frequently have been mentioned at the foreign office would disappear.

The promptness with which Washington deals with vital matters concerning which prolix pouparlers have been interchanged in Europe astonishes diplomats here and forms an interesting phase of an engrossing situation.

Answers German Demands.

CARACAS.—The Venezuelan answer to Germany's ultimatum has just been made public. In part it is as follows: "The Venezuelan government is unable to discover in its correspondence a single sentence offensive in tone. "With regard to the publication of the note of March 8, 1901, marked 'confidential,' This note lost its confidential character through the publication of a memorandum by the German ambassador to the United States in which was incorporated the note in question.

HELP CATTLEMEN

MR. RICHARDS CONFIDENT OF A LEASING BILL.

A CONFERENCE WITH PRESIDENT

Senators Millard and Dietrich Presented the Delegation of Cattle Growers to the President—Mosby Likely to Be Relieved of Duty in Nebraska.

WASHINGTON.—Bartlett Richards, representative of the Cattle Growers' association of Nebraska, who has been in Washington for the past ten days looking after the interests of the cattlemen, so far as national legislation is concerned, left for Coronado, Cal., Thursday. Before leaving for the west Mr. Richards said: "I am greatly encouraged in believing we will secure some sort of legislation permitting the leasing of public lands during the present session of congress. I have outlined a bill, which was submitted to the Nebraska delegation last night, and to a representative of the government, and I have reason to believe that the president and secretary of the interior will give the measure their support. I anticipate that there will be a united delegation from Nebraska in its favor, and I am confident that Chairman Lacey of the public land committee of the house will also lend his assistance. The states contiguous to Nebraska are interested in the scheme of making the bill apply only to Nebraska, and they watch with much interest the manner of its working out. Of course, I do not pretend to say that the scheme as proposed is the best that can be devised. I do say, however, it is the fairest measure yet presented and safeguards the interests of the government and the cattlemen. The bill in all probability will not be introduced until after the holiday recess, but after that time you can look for some tall hustling on the part of the cattle growers of Nebraska to bring about its passage."

SOME ARBITRATIONS.

Responses from Interventions Regarding

WASHINGTON.—Secretary has received partial responses from the governments of Great Germany and Italy regarding the proposal to arbitrate their difficulties.

Great Britain is favorable to arbitration with proper safeguards, but accepts arbitration in principle, but finds a multitude of objections to be made before the agreement; Italy, on the other hand, is favorable to arbitration, but would be bound by the agreement.

As far as England is concerned, the safeguards referred to relate to the guarantee, which is full of connection with the responsibility for any arbitration.

If this can be the United States government what it States to reduce the

The feeling here that the Hague tribunal agreed to. Mr. Bowen, it is wished to personally effect with the resident ambassador, but, while the agreement makes no statement regarding this plan with the disputes out that in such a situation. Such, for instance, as the British and German legation rests of confidence.

The United States government inclines to the position to any judgment by the arbitrators. It is the force of public opinion absolutely in-

Vote on Protective Plan.

Has been re-received at the Amalgamated

Workers' Steel and Tin Workers' plan for making Steel case plants stockholders many will be pre-holders convention at Columbus, the now being considered, the puddlers and finisher some stockholders, the scheme will be and it ratification. The officials decided that if the company men will be given plan to the board of directors.

Roundup Ladronez.

MANILA.—The roundup of Ladronez in Risil province is proceeding. A large force of constabulary is in the field and the Manila police are co-operating with it. They are cordoning the north part of the city to prevent the Ladronez entering. The United States fleet is assembled for the evolutions which are to commence tomorrow and continue for a fortnight. They will consist largely in landing tactics and the seizure, fortifying and supplying of a naval base on the west coast of Luzon, near Subig. The battleship Kentucky is here and the Oregon is expected daily.

Statehood Report is Out.

WASHINGTON.—The testimony taken by the sub-committee of the senate committee on territories on the house omnibus statehood bill has been printed as a senate document and was made public Monday night. It makes a book of 394 pages, with maps, and includes quotations and answers of many people examined with reference to the size, population, resources, schools and churches, business, moral and other characteristics of the people of the three proposed states, and miscellaneous information.

FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE GRAIN MEETING.

Called at Lincoln, Nebraska, Jan. 22nd, 1903.

THE FARMERS' GRAIN ASS'N, of

Benedict, Neb.

D. W. BAKER, Pres.

E. E. WATTS, Sec'y.

THE FARMERS' GRAIN ASS'N, of

Thayer, Neb.

R. B. PRICE Pres.

T. C. PRATHER, Sec'y.

THE FARMERS' BUSINESS ASS'N, of

Shelby, Neb.

H. THELEN, Pres.

H. H. HEWITT, Sec'y.

MRS. GRANT LAID TO REST.

Simple and Impressive Services Attended by Many Friends.

NEW YORK.—In the mausoleum on Riverside Drive brief and simple services were conducted over the remains of Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant. In addition to the members of the family there were present among the 500 persons to whom invitations had been sent: Governor Odell, Mayor Low, Secretary Root, Rear Admiral Barker and staff, General James Grant Wilson, General Grenville Dodge, General Horatio King, General Charles F. Roe and staff, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Carnegie, and many federal and municipal officers and officers of the army and navy stationed in the city.

General Frederick D. Grant and other members of the family occupied seats overlooking the crypt. The services were conducted by Bishop E. G. Andrews of the Methodist Episcopal church and the Right Rev. Alexander Mackay E. Smith, bishop coadjutor of Pennsylvania, and opened with the hymn, "Lead, Kindly Light," after which the burial services of the Methodist Episcopal and the Protestant Episcopal churches were read. The services were closed with the reading of a poem, "The Land Beyond the Sea," which had been a favorite of Mrs. Grant, and the singing of the hymn, "Abide With Me."

SIGNALS ARE DISREGARDED.

Collision in Which Many Lives Are Lost Results.

BRYON, Cal.—Sixteen persons were killed and twenty-seven injured in the collision last night between the south-bound Los Angeles "Owl" and the Stockton flyer. The engine of the local plowed its way into the last coaches of the "Owl," which were filled with Fresno people. The passengers were hurled to the fore part of the coach and hemmed in by a mass of debris, their suffering and danger intensified a hundred fold by clouds of scalding steam that poured from the shattered boiler of the Stockton engine.

After the "Owl" left the Oakland mole it was noted that there was a leak in the flue of the engine. This increased to such an extent that it was deemed advisable to take up a freight engine for relief. The train officials knew that the Stockton local was following half an hour behind and sent a flagman down the track to give warning.

It is said that the Stockton train got the warning signal in time and gave the usual response with whistle blasts. Why the incoming train was not checked, however, has not been thus far explained, the men who could tell being among the badly injured.

If a rooster were as big as his crow a whole family could dine on one for two weeks.