

(Continued from Page 11)

numbered classes from Cincinnati and the Ohio river crossings to the south are unreasonably high, and as they enter into the through rates from Chicago, that those rates, as well as the rates from Cincinnati, are excessive."

And then after prescribing what in its opinion were reasonable rates from Cincinnati to Atlanta, the commission says:

"If the rates by the eastern seaboard lines be taken as the standard of comparison, the rates in these tables will be found to make, in the main, due allowance for the estimated effect on those rates of water competition via the Atlantic."

The commission's finding in the Cincinnati case shows that upon a most thorough investigation it was discovered that the discrimination in rates against our city was actual and real and not simply apparent as you state. Furthermore, if you are informed on the subject, you are aware that at a meeting of the executive officers of the Southern lines held in New York on December 1 and 2, 1904, a basis was adopted for making new rates from New York to Atlanta, Ga., which practically ignored water competition. You are also aware that the people of your home city have spent eighteen millions of dollars to build a railroad from Cincinnati to Chattanooga in order to reach the south under equitable freight rates, and that they have paid an additional twelve million dollars in taxes to meet the interest on Cincinnati Southern railway bonds over and above the rental income. Yet in your Bellefontaine speech there is an apparent attempt to nullify all of the benefits which should accrue to your fellow townsmen from their vast expenditure of money, many sacrifices and great efforts in the building of the Cincinnati Southern railway.

While the wholly unjustifiable statements you made in your Bellefontaine speech and more recent interview apparently show a disregard for the interests of your fellow townsmen in favor of the railroads, yet we are slow to think that you would deliberately take such a position. You certainly cannot afford to oppose the efforts our citizens are making at the present time for a redress of grievances and fair play at the hands of the railways. As the representative of the people, your proper place is on the side of the people, safe-guarding their rights against the encroachments of corporations. There can be no straddling on this question, you must either be with us or against us. We will be glad to have you espouse our cause in this struggle, —we recognize your powerful influence in the senate and admire your great abilities, but if you turn away from us the fight will still go on. This assertion is made with the confidence that there is a man in the presidential chair who has the people behind him and with him to the extent that has never been the case in any previous administration. He is chief magistrate of the nation and of the whole people, and the people believe they may look to him to cross swords even with the senate of the United States, with the assurance that as their champion, he will come off victor in the contest.

You intimate that you have in mind a plan which, in your judgment, is better than the plan to confer upon the interstate commerce commission the power to substitute a reasonable rate for a rate, which, after a complaint has been duly made and after a full hearing, has been found and declared by the interstate commerce commission to be unreasonable or unjustly discriminatory.

We would like for you to answer fully the following questions: Under the present law the courts have decided that while it is permissible for several lines to make

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supplies or materials you may need for contemplated improvements about your place. History repeats itself, and now after having dismantled every exposition of modern times, including the Chicago World's Fair, 1893; The Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, 1901; The Trans-Mississippi Exposition at Omaha, 1898, and innumerable public buildings, we have purchased the

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new, painted on both sides, most durable and economical roofing for houses, barns and sheds—in fact for all buildings.

\$1.50 PER 100 SQUARE FEET.

This is our No. 15 grade, semi-hardened, flat, 24x24 inches.

Corrugated, V Crimped or standing seam, per sq. ft., \$1.60, also comes in 6 and 8 foot lengths at 50c per sq. more.

Beaded Ceiling and Siding, per sq. ft., \$2.25

Imitation Brick Siding per sq. ft., \$2.25

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2 " " " " " " 1.15
2 1/2 " " " " " " 1.40
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2 Ply "Eagle" Brand Ready Roofing without supplies, per sq. ft. 60c

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Galvanized Rubber Roofing, extensively used on high grade buildings, practical for lining purposes. Nails, caps, cement, furnished complete, 100 sq. ft., \$1.50

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Beautiful Kitchen Cabinets just like illustration, all nicely golden oak finished, each, \$8.75

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Best selected oak, with finest Golden Oak finish, top 48 inches, pillars 7 inches thick, hand carved, 6 ft. extension, each, \$10.25

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joint through rates, they are not required to do so. Under the plan which you have in mind, could the carriers be required to make reasonable joint through rates? If so, how? Under your plan, if it was determined that the rates from Cincinnati to Atlanta, Ga., were unreasonably high and discriminatory as compared with the rates from Richmond, Va., to Atlanta, Ga., and the carriers were required to make a reduction in the rates from Cincinnati, what would prevent the carriers from Richmond, Va., to Atlanta from making a reduction corresponding to that made from Cincinnati?

Under your plan, could either a maximum, minimum or absolute rate be substituted therefor to apply for the future? If so, how? Assuming that the rates from Cincinnati to Chattanooga are unreasonably high and discriminatory as compared with the rates from New York to Chattanooga to the following extent:

1	2	3	4	5	6
25	16	20	22	20	13

in cents per hundred pounds, how could a discrimination of this character be effectively removed under your plan?

It is clear to us how this kind of a discrimination can be done away with if the interstate commerce commission is authorized to substitute a

reasonable rate for a rate, which, upon complaint and formal hearing, is found and declared to be reasonable to the above extent, but what the Cincinnati shipping public is interested in, is how this same sort of discrimination can be effectively removed under your plan.

There are other questions which we may ask you to answer later.

Yours truly,
R. W. WEST,
President.

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