

## RATE BILL IS PASSED.

### THE HEPBURN MEASURE GOES THROUGH THE HOUSE.

Opposed by Only Seven Votes—Embodies Ideas of the President and Will Increase Powers of Commerce Commission.

The House Thursday passed the Hepburn railroad rate bill by a vote of 346 to 7. Those voting against the bill were Littlefield, McCall, Perkins, Sibley, Southwick, Vreeland and Weeks.

Following Mr. Cochran's address and the speeches of Messrs. Mann and Hepburn, the House spent until 7 o'clock Wednesday evening trying to amend the measure. But after an exciting session it was left intact, despite a flood of amendments launched against it.

For three hours amendment after amendment was offered, but all went down in defeat. These contained all manner of propositions, such as regulating preferentials, the long and short haul, passes, court procedure, whole rate bills and parts of bills.

The minority leader, Mr. Williams, summarized the bill and all that had been done by Congress, and went over the ground that had been debated at length during the last ten days. He concluded with an expression of the hope that the House would stay in session until the beginning of the next session before it would yield to an amendment which might be put on in the Senate the effect of which might be to weaken the bill.

Mr. Hepburn, in his concluding speech, took up in turn the points made in opposition to the bill. First he deprecated the effort to claim political credit. He reviewed the progress and development of railroads during the last twenty years to show that the interstate commerce act of that time had not impeded railroad progress. Touching the construction of words which had been made a point of opposition, Mr. Hepburn showed the utter futility of getting unanimity on that point. He asserted not a member of the House could write a twenty-word sentence that would not be capable of two constructions.

#### Provisions of the Bill.

Congressman Hepburn explained that his bill was intended and did, so far as it could be made to, comply specifically with the recommendations of President Roosevelt on the rate question. It gives the Interstate Commerce Commission authority, when a rate has been complained of as "unreasonable" by a shipper, to investigate that rate, state whether or not it is unreasonable, and if found to be unreasonable, to name a rate which is to be just and reasonable and fairly remunerative, which is to be the maximum rate to be charged.

This rate so fixed is to go into effect thirty days after it is announced by the commission, subject during that time to be set aside or suspended by the commission or by the courts. After it has gone into effect it is to remain the rate for three years. During this time the opinion has been expressed by those who have participated in the debate that the rate may also be reviewed by the courts and if found to be in conflict with the terms of the act or with the Constitution, by being confiscatory, can be set aside by the courts.

Another important feature is the definition of the words "railroad" and "transportation" in a manner to exclude all auxiliary instrumentalities of the common carrier and to bring them within the control of the commission. This power to name a reasonable rate and the inclusion of the auxiliaries within the jurisdiction of the commission are said to be the new features. All other provisions are modifications of existing law. They include publicity of railroad methods, which is to be aided by prescribing a system of book-keeping and enlarging the commission to seven members and increasing their salaries to \$10,000 a year.

## IN A NUTSHELL

George Edwards of London has completed arrangements to take the entire Gaiety company to America, opening in New York Sept. 1.

Dr. Simeon S. French of Battle Creek, Mich., claims to be the oldest Odd Fellow in the State. He was one of the founders of the Republican party.

Mrs. Frank W. Shattuck, wife of the pastor of the Advent Christian church of Whitman, Mass., was burned to death in the parsonage by the overturning of a lamp.

A consignment of American school readers printed in Japanese, believed to be a violation of the copyright laws, are held by the customs collector in San Francisco, Cal.

The House committee on public lands has decided to make a favorable report on the Burnett bill setting aside 90,000 acres of mineral land in Alabama for school purposes.

The trustees of the Carnegie school of technology in Pittsburg, Pa., have received a letter from Andrew Carnegie thanking them for naming the woman's department after his mother.

Mrs. Sarah Bernhardt was given a gold medal by the Circle Francis of Harvard university in recognition of her services to French drama. She is the first woman to be so honored.

In the case of Mayor McCarthy of Richmond, Va., for calling a News-Leader reporter a liar in the police court and placing himself in contempt he was fined \$20 by the justice. He took an appeal.

## CONGRESS

The first formal reading of the state-hood bill was begun in the Senate Friday, but Mr. Teller objected, and consideration of the measure was postponed. The shipping bill was the subject of considerable debate, Mr. Patterson attacking and Mr. Gallinger and Mr. Perkins supporting it. The provision prohibiting vessels from receiving subsidies for more than ten years was struck out. One hundred and fifteen pension bills were passed. Another measure adopted provides for a survey for a new deep harbor on Lake Michigan. The Senate adjourned until Monday. Speeches on the railway rate bill occupied the House for six hours. Mr. McCall of Massachusetts attacked the measure, while Messrs. Burton of Ohio, Russell of Texas, Thomas of North Carolina, Burke of South Dakota and Goulden of New York supported it.

Various phases of the railroad rate question were thrashed over in the House Saturday in the course of nine speeches which occupied six and one-half hours. Messrs. Clayton (Ala.), Henry (Texas), Esch (Wis.), Kennedy (Ohio), Crumpacker (Ind.), Ellis (Mo.), Hogg (Colo.), Floyd (Mo.) and Page (N. C.) spoke. There was no session of the Senate.

The Senate was treated to a sensation Monday when Mr. Patterson (Colo.) introduced a resolution in effect declaring the action of the Democratic caucus against the Santo Domingo treaty Saturday to have been contrary to the federal constitution. Consideration of the resolution went over. It was decided that a vote should be taken on the shipping bill Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 5 p. m. Mr. Teller made a speech against the measure. Several bills were passed and the Senate adopted a resolution calling on the Postmaster General for information as to the number of postal clerks killed in railroad accidents during the last five years. Considerable fault was found with the railroad rate bill in the House. Mr. Littlefield (Me.) opened the session with an attack on the measure. Mr. Grosvenor (Ohio) ridiculed the alleged popular demand for the legislation. Ten other speeches were made, all favorable to the bill. The fortifications appropriation bill was reported.

The Senate Tuesday gave up the entire session to a revival of its prerogatives in the framing of treaties. The question was raised by Mr. Bacon in a speech on his resolution requesting information concerning the Algeciras conference. He was followed by Mr. Spooner, and there were several sharp clashes between them. The discussion of the Patterson resolution concerning the Democratic caucus action went over. A resolution directing the committee on immigration to make an investigation of the Chinese boycott was adopted. The House fixed the end of the general debate on the rate bill at 4:30 p. m. Wednesday, and then seventeen speeches were made, all of them for the measure. Mr. Gillespie (Texas) expressed dissatisfaction with the reply of the interstate commerce commission to his resolution concerning the Pennsylvania railroad combination, and announced that he would address a request to the President to have the commission make a thorough investigation along indicated lines.

The Senate chamber Wednesday was made the scene of an effort to administer party discipline to a member of that body and the proceedings were filled with dramatic interest. Mr. Patterson was the subject of the effort and Mr. Bailey the instrument of the Democratic party. The proceedings arose in connection with Mr. Patterson's resolution of remonstrance against the Democratic caucus action opposing the Santo Domingo treaty, and although the subject was thrashed over thoroughly no vote was taken. The House concluded all preliminary steps to the passage of the railroad rate bill, ordered a roll call on the measure, and put off the final action until Thursday at noon. The closing speeches were made by Bourke Cockran, Mr. Mann (Ill.), Minority Leader Williams and Mr. Hepburn. The time for amendment came at 4 o'clock and for three hours scores of changes were offered, but all were defeated. The test came with the first one and the vote on this was 119 to 146.

The Senate devoted a short session Thursday to routine business, the caucus question being sidetracked temporarily. Mr. Tillman again made reference to the charge that the railroads in West Virginia were discriminating against private coal mines and had read a letter from the Governor of the State, which was referred to the committee on interstate commerce. The urgent deficiency appropriation bill was reported and the railroad rate bill was received from the House. A number of bills were passed, including the following: Placing telegraph operators of the Civil War on a pensionable basis; authorizing the use of \$1,000,000 for the reclamation fund for the drainage of lands in North Dakota; authorizing the construction of a dam across Rock river at Grand Detour, Ill., and a large number of private pension bills. The House passed the railroad rate regulation bill by a vote of 346 to 7. The pension appropriation bill, carrying \$159,000,000 for pensions and \$1,245,000 for administration, also was passed. Other measures passed were as follows: To prevent leaks in government crop reports; calling on the Secretary of the Interior for information regarding charges of irregularities in the Kingsfisher, Okla., land office; to open for settlement 505,000 acres of land in the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache reservations in Oklahoma.

Notes of the National Capital. The House committee will report bill carrying army appropriation of \$70,000,000.

President Roosevelt urges Senators to insist on the passage of rate bill similar to the Hepburn measure.

Senator Carter, speaking for the ship subsidy bill, declared it is favored by the entire Rocky Mountain region.

Secretary Root, after reading the Calhoun Venezuelan report, sent word to Minister Russell to insist on Castro settling the asphalt claims.

## TREATY HAS A JOKER.

Makes \$7,000,000 Worthless Domingo Scrip Good.

The attention of Secretary Root and of members of the Senate committee on foreign relations has been called to a "joker" in the Santo Domingo treaty and, according to a Washington correspondent, it is causing them worry.

The "joker" is in article 1, which reads: "The United States undertakes to secure an arrangement of all obligations of the Dominican government, foreign as well as domestic; the arrangement for payment and the conditions of amortization; the consideration of conflicting and unreasonable claims and the decision as to the validity and amount of all pending claims already liquidated and accepted or which may be established."

It was the original intention of the President that the money collected from the Dominican customs should be used in settlement of the foreign claims only. Under the heading of domestic claims will come between \$8,000,000 and \$9,000,000 of scrip of "La Dauda Deforida," the deferred debt. This scrip for forty years has been of practically no value—not worth five cents on the dollar because of the doubt whether it ever would be redeemed.

Now, the officials of the Dominican government have bought all this scrip they could reach, paying all the way from 2 to 30 cents on the dollar. Emilio Joubert, the minister from Santo Domingo, himself has admitted that he would not now sell the scrip he holds for 75 cents on the dollar, as he believes it will be paid in full. He says it will be worth par the minute the treaty is ratified by the Senate of the United States.

This "deferred debt" is the outgrowth of the Dominican revolutions of the last forty years, which, except the last one headed by Morales, all have been successful. Whenever a revolutionary chief while operating in the field requisitioned cattle or services a voucher was given. After the revolution was won this voucher would be exchanged at the capital for scrip of "La Dauda Deforida," duly registered in the treasury books. The obligations of both sides always were recognized because no successful faction was ever sure it would not be among the "outs" the next day.

Scrip also has been used by the government in the payment of the salaries of officials and many influential men of the republic now have considerable sums of this paper. Revolutionary chiefs have used it liberally to reward friends for "services."

## ARMY SNOB SCORED.

President Says that Special Consideration Is Due Enlisted Men.

That the uniform of an enlisted man in the army or navy is a badge of honor which entitles its wearer to peculiar consideration is the position taken by President Roosevelt. The President himself made it known in a letter to Secretary Taft commenting on the court martial of Lieut. Roy L. Taylor, who was reduced twelve files recently for ordering an enlisted man in his command to change his seat in a theater because he was seated in front of the lieutenant's party.

The President in his letter said in part: "In my judgment Lieut. Taylor committed one of the most serious faults which any officer can commit. I am glad that he was reduced twelve files. It is a pleasure to record the fact that his offense was altogether exceptional in the body to which he belongs."

"There is no body of men in this country of similar size which merits so well of the country as the body of officers and enlisted men in the army and navy of the United States. Not only should the country as a whole jealously guard the interests of these men and regard their honor as being identified to a peculiar degree and in a peculiar sense with his own, but the members of the body should themselves feel the same jealous eagerness to uphold the honor and standing of all connected with it. Above all this should be the object of the officers as regards the enlisted man."

"To strive to discriminate against him in any way is literally an infamy; for it is in reality one of the most serious offenses which can be committed against the stability and greatness of our nation. If a hotel keeper or the owner of a theater or any other public resort attempts such discrimination, everything possible should be done by all good citizens to make the man attempting it feel the full weight of a just popular resentment, and if possible legal proceedings should be taken against him."

## AWFUL MURDER RECORD.

With Exception of Italians, Americans Are Most Homicidal Nation.

According to the unofficial statistics gathered in 1905, as in previous years, by the Chicago Tribune, there were 9,212 homicides committed in the United States during the twelvemonth just ended. This country remains on the bad eminence it has long occupied in the history of crime; indeed, we have increased our lead, for the number of homicides was greater by 840 in 1905 than it was in the previous year. The record constitutes a shocking indictment.

With the single exception of the Italians, the American people are the most homicidal nation in the civilized world. In fact, we are running neck and neck with Italy with respect to the ratio of violent crimes resulting in death. In the latter country the homicides number 105 per million of inhabitants per year; in this country last year the ratio was 115 per million.

A comparison with the criminal statistics of other leading nations will serve to emphasize the indictment and make it positively terrifying. Thus the annual average ratio of homicides to population is 13 per million to German, 19 per million in France and 27 per million in the United Kingdom.

## Destructive Irrigation.

Irrigation on the western Colorado river has reached a point where the stream is creating a big lake not wanted and that will be destructive. Engineers are trying to get the current back into the old bed, and say it is a difficult problem. The science of reclamation ought to be sure it is right before going ahead.

A society, headed by the Rev. Dr. Charles E. Jefferson of the Broadway tabernacle, New York, was formed for the promotion of the movement for peace and arbitration.

## THE COQUETTE



You'll know her by her winning ways,  
A droop of eye, a truant smile,  
A heart that is reversible  
And up to any woman's wile.

You'll know her later by the way  
She apes an air of girlish art;  
And turns the old reversible  
To any flaming crucible,  
In glad exchange for any heart.

## The Resurrection of a Valentine.

By Mary Wilson.

"Well, I believe everything's ready for the Valentine Festival! I've baked and iced heart cakes till I can see them, no matter where I look." Serena Allen bustled about her bright kitchen busily. She was a large, fair woman, handsome and energetic and capable. She was packing baskets with all manner of things good to eat. Her mother watched her with quiet interest.

"I hope we'll make enough to pay off the church debt, this time. Is that my buggy?" She went over to the window and looked out. "No; it's Mr. Billy Harrison. You remember him, don't you, mother? He was laid up with rheumatism when you were here last winter. They say his boys are powerful good to him. He rents his place to the Masons and boards with them, since his wife died. He has no daughter, and you know what living with daughters-in-law is like; but I'm not saying but what Katherine and Marie are not as good to you as they know how to be. They don't realize your diseases."

Mrs. Bently was leaning over, looking out of the window. She was a plump, sweet-faced little woman, with wavy, white-touched hair and gentle, brown eyes. "Serena," she said, timidly, "I don't feel as if I have any disease at all, and I should meet a lot of old friends if I could go with you over to the school house to-day."

Serena looked up from the last basket. "Why, mother, I wouldn't be guilty of letting you go out in this snow for all the festival is worth. Think how cold it is, and you had that bronchial affection in November! A person of fifty-five has to be awfully careful."

"I did want to go," Mrs. Bently said, as she sat down.

"I wish you could, but it's bad enough for me. I'm too old to be so foolish. Serena laughed in her comfortable way.

"I don't know why being old should make any difference," Mrs. Bently said. She felt very old and miserable and useless. "It is a terrible thing to be fifty-five. I hope I'm not rebellious, Serena, but somehow I don't feel ready to be set aside."

"I'm not surprised, mother, after the way Marie and Katherine treat you. Well, I'm ready now. You won't have a thing to do—here's the wood right at your hand, and your tea will keep nice and hot here on the hearth, and the table is all set for your dinner. And now there's the buggy, your dinner. And Serena took her little mother into her arms and kissed her.

Mrs. Bently went over to the window and watched her daughter climb into the buggy and draw the lines over the back of the fat gray horse. "I might have gone," she said, wistfully. "It isn't so very cold."

The newly fallen February snow lay in light drifts and patches over the brown fields, and hung in pretty wreaths and festoons among the dark-green pines and yellowing willows and little naked shrubs. "It looks all lacy, like a valentine. It wouldn't have been too cold, I wish it hadn't been too cold. And then the soft, could have gone." And then the soft, could have gone. Mrs. Bently's look was gone from her brown eyes and a little spark like the gleam of fire shone in them. "Here I am, fifty-five years old, and I can't remember a single day when I did exactly as I please, without thinking of what somebody wanted me to do. I reckon I must be awfully wicked and rebellious, but—I'm not going to take a dose of Serena's medicine to-day." She threw the window open and slowly emptied the glasses that Serena had so carefully filled. "It must be terribly wicked," she said, pouring the liquid upon a little mound of snow, "but somehow I don't seem to care if it is. Perhaps I shall be sorry when Serena comes."

Mrs. Bently started guiltily. Somebody was knocking at the front door. She closed the window and patted back the little curls of iron-gray hair that the wind had loosened. A quick color came into her cheeks. She felt nervous and guilty. But she hurried to open the door. A man, tall and broad-shouldered, wearing a fur cap and long, shaggy overcoat, stood on the piazza. When he looked at her she saw that it was Billy Harrison. The twinkle in his merry blue eyes brought the hot blood to her cheeks, just

as it had always done. She held out her hand to him.

"Why, Calidonia, is it you? I expected to see Mrs. Allen. I didn't know you were in the neighborhood. It's like old times to be shaking hands with you, and it's been a long time. Strange how a body remembers! The years have been good to you; they haven't hurt you. I declare, you look younger than Serena."

She laughed profusely and led the way to Serena's pretty sitting room. "Serena's gone over to Sugar Bottom school house. There's a Valentine Festival there to-night; she's helping to decorate, and all that. It's for the church, and she won't be home till late bedtime." Mrs. Bently explained as the tall old man slipped out of his cap and coat and sat down before her fire.

"And are you going?" Mr. Harrison looked at her with his smiling eyes. Somehow the twinkle in Billy's eyes had always brought an odd little quiver to her heart.

"No," she answered; "Serena wouldn't let me go out in the snow."

"Such a little bit of a snow, too! You want to go, don't you?" he asked.

"I should have liked it, but I'm too old now to feel disappointment. Perhaps you will leave a message for Serena, unless you expect to go to the festival," she said.

"Maybe I may go. You see, I drove over to Mrs. Burton's to see if I could get a picture that my son John wants. John's an artist, and he has a fancy for family portraits. He wants one of my mother. I thought Annie might have an old picture, but she hasn't. She thought she'd seen one here, and I stopped to ask Serena."

"I'm glad you did. I have a picture of your mother, and I reckon Annie saw it when I lived here with Uncle Hiram. You know he willed the place to Serena. It's a picture of your mother and yourself. You were a little boy, and she had you standing by her. I'll bring it right now." She hurried out of the room and returned with a little box in her hands. "I can't turn the key; the lock is rusty. I thought you might unlock it. It hasn't been opened—since before Jasper and I moved to East Bend.

Mr. Harrison took the box. She brought a bottle of oil and a feather, and the two gray heads were bowed together over the little black box. He worked patiently, turning the box this way and that and shaking the little key in the rusty lock. Suddenly the lid fell back while the box was upside down and the contents were scattered over the carpet.

"That's too bad," he laughed. "I've

poured all your little keepsakes out." His face was suddenly grave and he stooped and picked up a little worn baby shoe.

"It was Bennie's," she said gently, as he laid it in her hand. "I didn't keep anything else when he died. He was my first baby." She began to gather up the fallen articles and he helped her.

"Here's the picture, Billy," and she held up to him a beautiful old daguerreotype in a quaintly carved case. She wiped the glass with a corner of her apron and turned the curiously evasive picture so that he might see it. "Your mother always looked like that to me, and that is you beside her; I could always see the favor. You look like it yet."

He took the picture and went over to the window and she gathered up the things that had been in the box.

"I thank you for this, Calidonia. John shall return it. I know you loved my mother," the old man said.

"Yes, I loved her."

"Did this come out of the box?" He was crossing over to her. "See here, Donie, did you keep this in the box?"

"What is it?" Her face was crimson and she sat down in Serena's little sewing chair.

"It's this." He held out a little yellowed, lace-edged valentine. She looked at it silently. Inside the paper lacework a wreath of forget-me-nots was held together by two extremely fat cupids, who sat upon a scroll, on the flying ends of which was inscribed a tender little verse. Inside the wreath lay a large crimson heart with a tiny tongue of flame at the top. "Was it in the box, Donie?"

"It was under the paper at the bottom. I never could bear to burn it up. It didn't hurt anybody," she said, an odd little quiver in her voice.

"I remember how pretty it looked to me when I bought it over in Atlanta. It's been a long, long time, Donie, but I remember. I reckon you've been happy; you look like it. You are as pretty as ever, Donie."

"Everybody has been good to me. The children are too good. You don't know the boys." She was nervous and she felt safer, somehow, when she could speak of her children. "Actually they do tire me with kindness. At Charlie's they never do anything without consulting me. It wears me all out. And at Dick's they are so considerate, and here"—she glanced at the medicine glasses and laughed. "It is only that I am growing old," she said.

"I know what it is, Donie. We've missed—"

"I reckon younger people don't understand what older folks need," she said quickly.

"Why should they think us different from themselves?" he asked.

"I don't know." She had taken the paper from the bottom of the box and was wiping a speck of dust away. He looked down at the little old valentine.

"Are you going to keep it, Donie?"

"Yes."

"For the sake of old times."

"They were good old times, Donie."

"I don't know. I often feel sorry for the poor little girl"—her voice broke.

"She was the dearest and prettiest little girl in all the world."

"She didn't know it; nobody ever told her so."

"That was because she would not let them; she was such a shy little girl." He laughed softly. "Donie, why didn't you answer my valentine? We've done the best we could, we've had our joys and sorrows, but through it all, Donie, I have wanted to know if I was mistaken in the old days when I thought you cared for me. I wanted to know why your cheeks used to flush. Tell me, why didn't you answer my valentine?"

She caught her breath sharply. "Why, Billy, there was no question—"

"No question! Donie—" He took the valentine in his hand and raising the fat red heart revealed a written line.

"'Donie, I love you. Will you marry me? I'll come for you to-night.' You went to the party with Jasper," he said, reproachfully.

"I didn't know—that—the heart—lifted up!" she said.

"Now you know," he said simply.

"We are old people now." She was trembling.

"We are not. That is you and this is I. Give me my answer, Donie." He smiled down into her eyes.

So that was how it happened that Serena Allen, looking up from her pink and white heart cakes, saw her mother radiant and smiling in the midst of the Valentine Festival!

"Why, mother, what have you done?" Mrs. Allen cried, and the blushing little woman looked up helplessly.

"Why, I suppose, my dear, that we've eloped; haven't we, Billy?"

"That's it," Mr. Harrison laughed. "We've run away and got married, Serena; and see here, boys, it all came from a valentine. They are good things, only—don't set them with the fuse too long."

—Ladies' World.

The beauty seen, is partly in him, who sees it.—Borce.

## A PLATFORM FOR OFFICIAL AND CITIZEN ALIKE.

