

# THE MONITOR

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### THE PEOPLE PAY THE BILLS

**R**ATE increases granted the railroads by the interstate commerce commission are designed to give carriers an annual net operating income of \$1,134,000,000, or \$241,000,000 more than the standard return allowed by the government.

This is \$34,000,000 more than the roads made in the record year of 1916, but is \$99,000,000 less than the \$1,233,000,000 net operating income they sought.

This enormous sum was granted to the railroads supposedly to absorb the wage increase of \$600,000,000 recently given their employees. Let us see what this means when applied to our every day living. For example: the present fare from Omaha to Philadelphia is \$42.74. Pullman \$8.76, \$51.50. When the new scale goes into effect the ticket will be \$51.29 and Pullman \$13.14. Or where one paid \$51.50 for the trip he must pay \$64.43, an increase on this trip of \$12.93. In addition to this freight rates advanced 33 per cent which means an addition to the price of the things that must be freighted.

This is certainly to make the already high cost of living soar higher and the public must pay the bills. This is the way it will come to us: About \$15 per capita will be added to our bills. The public will pay the bills. If we reason by the same process that the railroads do and apply that reason to the manufacturers, wholesalers and jobbers in which cases we may expect them to make a 98 per cent profit over and above the cost we may well set ourselves to pay at least 75 per cent more when it gets to us.

In the case of the railroad fare to Philadelphia the roads clear \$32.22 out of a total of \$64.43. Can we count on the merchants being more charitable than the railroads? All of these increases will appear in our weekly table bills and we shall have them to pay.

This paper has always stood strongly for reasonable wages and good working conditions for the working man. It believes there is some justification in the present demand for higher wages. We are also in favor of a fair revenue readjustment by the roads to absorb a reasonable wage increase; but we cannot see the slightest reason for the roads of the country taxing the public \$1,134,000,000 in order to absorb a wage increase of only \$600,000,000. In other words we do not see the excuse for the excess revenue of \$534,000,000 in this instance.

The consumer will have to pay the bills in any event. He will have to pay it if the present rates were continued and large deficits continued to mount up which the government would be obliged to repay and to raise the money required by taxation. He would have to pay it in larger measure if the government owned and operated the roads if the inefficiency which characterized the bureaucratic rule of the last few years. So in any event the public must pay the bills. There is no call for pyramiding in the matter as seems to be the intention of the roads.

### "LITTLE NARROW MEN."

**W**E note with interest and mingled humor, Mr. Roosevelt, the democratic vice presidential nominee's characterization of those senators whose "minds did not go along with" Mr. Wilson's on the league of nations issue. We say with humor, because of its nearness to the style of the president in characterizing those whose minds do not go along with his own in any matter. It seems as if the two democratic candidates have copied and divided between themselves all of the pet phrases of their chief and have made them their weapon of attack against the republicans. But both ought to refresh themselves on the disastrous result of their chief's method in the use of these words. The president characterized the senators as a "little willful group." Cox calls them "iniquitous," "despicable," "brazen," all of which are splendid examples of their chief.

Mr. Roosevelt may be excused on the ground that he is still but a novice at big campaigning, and that he is still a member of the Wilson cabinet, walking in the shadow of the Lansing episode, but we find no grounds whatever on which to excuse Mr. Cox. The election is still three months away, which will be time enough for all such mud slinging to have been exhausted and when this is done the people will decide.

We harbor no animosity against either candidate as men, and we trust that they will soon see the bad judgment in the use of such tactics. We hope to see the campaign fought out on principles and clear cut issues and not persons and personalities. We hope the democratic nominees will see that they cannot win on invectives. They ought to see that in every breath they condemn senators for using their own minds instead of being a mouth-piece of the president, they are fast establishing the belief in the public's mind that to vote a democratic ticket means to vote for the establishment in Washington of an autocratic regime such as we have had for the past eight years. If we are to take the candidates at their word, they believe in a muzzled congress. They brand a large and representative body of men as oligarchs because they did not submit to the dictates of an autocrat. We do not believe that one could find hardly 1,000 people in the country who would like to see another term of the Wilson type of the presidency, and it is very safe to assume now that a Cox election means a repetition of that remarkable regime.

### CONGRATULATIONS, SMITH

**T**HE Monitor extends congratulations not only to Harry C. Smith, editor of the Cleveland Gazette, for the magnificent vote he received in the recent primaries for secretary of state, but to our race in Ohio for the loyal support given him. In the first place, it is noteworthy that a man of our race had the courage to become a candidate for the second highest office in the gift of the state. Hitherto we have been content to become supplicants for some appointive job, such as janitor or doorkeeper, or in the case of elective office, to file for some minor office, which in our modesty we believed no one would have very serious objection to our securing. This year noticed a radical change. Everywhere members of our race decided to file for positions hitherto unthought of. Smith filed for secretary of state in Ohio. He received over 50,000 votes and lost the election only by a small margin, which in itself was a great victory. It demonstrates what can be done. It points the way for the future. A united vote by our people in almost any community where we are found in large numbers can and will eventually elect our own candidates to almost any position for which they may be competent and to which they may aspire. It is about time we stopped begging for appointive jobs, which we seldom get, and begin electing men to the offices we desire them to have. It can be done.

### Proverbs and Paragraphics

**B**BETTER is a handful of quietness than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit. Prov. 4:6.

Thou shalt not pry into thy neighbors' affairs, lest while so doing thine own will be sadly neglected.—Busybody.

EXCESS is the arch enemy of success.

Carelessness and failure are twins.

The great thing in the world is not so much where we stand as in what direction we are going.

Honking your horn does not help half so much as steering your machine wisely.

### GLIMPSSES OF PORTO RICO

Some Interesting Facts About the Country and People.  
(By Grace Morris Hutten.)

#### SAN JUAN

San Juan, the largest city, has a population of 120,000. It is built on the slope of a small hill. The narrow streets, which run parallel to each other and cross at right angles, are perfectly straight, and run down to the bay, where the steamers dock. It was formerly enclosed by strong fortifications and walls on all sides, which rendered the place impregnable, but in 1897 the entire eastern and southern sections of the wall were torn down. Portions of the demolished eastern wall are still in evidence, extending from San Cristobal in the rear of the new Casino of Porto Rico.

In 1533, the "Fortaleza," now the governor's palace, was built. It was the first fortification on San Juan. The palace is impressive and massive and great vaults that formerly served as a hiding place for treasure en route from the new world to Spain.

Casa Blanca, or the White House, was built in 1523 for Louis Ponce de Leon, son of Juan Ponce de Leon. It is the oldest building here and is a splendid type of old Spanish architecture. It extends along the water front, rising above the ancient city wall, which is 30 feet thick.

At Muraflores Island, opposite San

Juan, is situated the U. S. quarantine station, completely equipped with hospital and sleeping quarters for passengers arriving from suspected plague and yellow fever infected countries. Here is a unique cement reservoir 90 feet long, with deflecting walls, built by the Spaniards in 1780.

The school buildings are mostly of the modified Spanish type of architecture, nearly all constructed of cement, are pleasing in appearance, well lighted and ventilated. The course of study for the graded schools can be compared favorably with that of the better public school systems in the United States.

I may say the most beautiful school building in Santurce, a fashionable suburb of San Juan, has a colored principal. Under his supervision are 30 teachers, and five of these are white Americans from the U. S. He is considered one of San Juan's most successful principals.

The oldest church in San Jose, which was built in 1533. The cathedral was commenced in 1540. Within rests the ashes of Ponce de Leon, surmounted by a magnificent sculpture, emblematic of Spain kissing the casquet of De Leon. Here I met a very interesting colored man. He said he was 89 years old and he had taken care of this church since he was 10 years old. Now he escorts all visitors around, pointing out the interesting and historical data concerning the interior. This is considered one of the most beautiful and the largest cathedral in the western hemisphere.

(Continued next week.)

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