

INTERSTATE COMMERCE

Commission Is Not Authorized to Fix Arbitrary Rates.

For many years the merchants of Chicago trading with the South have had to contend against unjust discriminations in freight rates set up against them by the Southern railroads.

Although the mileage is greater from New York to such central Southern points as Atlanta, Chattanooga and Knoxville than from Chicago, the freight rates from Chicago to those and like points have been greater than they are from New York, and this discrimination has enabled New York to hold the Southern trade against Chicago.

After the establishment of the interstate commerce commission the attempt was made to get the commission to establish equitable rates, and finally the commission promulgated a schedule from Chicago to Southern points and ordered the roads to adopt it. They refused and suit was brought to compel them to obey. The case was first heard two years ago in the United States Circuit Court at Cincinnati and decided against the commission. The appeal was now being determined in the Supreme Court of the United States and the judgment of the lower court affirmed.

The case is of more than ordinary interest, not only as a construction of the interstate commerce law in respect to the supposed power of the commission to establish maximum freight rates, but also as indicating the difficulty of drawing a law that will firmly hold in control the elusive railroad. Most certainly one of the evils that the interstate commerce law was intended to restrain and interdict was such discrimination as this of which Chicago merchants complain. It was passed to compel the roads to deal justly and equitably with all, but the court finds that the law does not authorize the commission to fix and establish a tariff of rates for any railroad.

The opinion of the court is delivered by Mr. Justice Brewer, and his reasoning is undoubtedly weighty. He holds that the commission is an administrative and judicial body, with highly important duties to discharge, but having no legislative powers. To prescribe a schedule of rates, or to change, is a legislative power which Congress has not delegated to the commission, and it is a function of so much importance and delicacy that in the absence of express words authorizing its exercise it is not to be presumed. Moreover, the right of the carrier to fix rates is recognized in the law in clear language, so that there can be no inference that Congress intended that the commission should fix the rates, though it is one of its duties to see that all charges by the railroads are reasonable and just.

If Congress did intend to place the power of fixing the maximum charges to be made by interstate railroads it will now have to try it over again and amend the law.

No great law ever becomes fixed on the statute book until it has been tried and tested many times and in many ways. It is said of the statute of frauds that every line of it has cost a king's ransom, and it is possible that the same will be said of this law before its terms and scope are finally settled. It has not come up to the expectation of its advocates, but its usefulness has been established. And it may become all that is hoped for if it is amended from time to time as experience and judicial decision dictate.—Chicago Times-Herald.

"The Vampire."

Rudyard Kipling's recent verses, "The Vampire," suggested by young Burne-Jones' picture of that title, have made an impression. Burne-Jones' picture is of the mythical vampire that sucks the life-blood of her victim. Kipling's verses are of the woman, in real life, or that many men think in real life:

A fool there was and he made his prayer
(Even as you and I),
To a rag and a bone and a hank of hair
(We called her the woman who did not care);
But the fool he called her his lady fair
(Even as you and I),
Oh, the years we waste and the tears we waste,
And the work of our head and hand
Belong to the woman who did not know
(And now we know that she never could know)
And did not understand,
A fool there was and his goods he spent
(Even as you and I),
Honor and faith and a sure intent
(And it wasn't the least what the lady meant);
But a fool must follow his natural bent
(Even as you and I),
Oh, the toil we lost and the spoil we lost,
And the excellent things we planned
Belong to the woman who didn't know why
(And now we know that she never knew why),
And did not understand,
The fool was stripped to his foolish hide
(Even as you and I),
Which she might have seen when she threw him aside
But it isn't on record the lady tried),
So some of him lived, but the most of him died
(Even as you and I).

It is not hard to account for the success of these lines. It is not exceptional literary merit. It is simply the boldness of Kipling in giving expression to what others think but dare not say.

The type of woman here described is a common type, whether one chooses to believe that she actually exists or exists merely in men's imaginations. She is sketched in many forms in fiction; she is glimpsed in poetry; she is rough-hewn in the drama; she is sketched in French wit; but nowhere is she so boldly, brutally, mercifully revealed as in these lines of Kipling. That is why people are talking about them—condemning, approving, welcoming them.

It is one secret of Kipling's vogue that he defies social and literary conventionality, and in his rude, strong way strikes straight at the heart of human nature and lays its bare in its blackness or beauty. That is why men and women read "The Vampire" more than once.—Louisville Courier-Journal.

Domestication of the Buffalo.

It will be surprising to many to know that the buffalo can be domesticated. Had the government prohibited the killing of wild buffaloes years ago and provided in some way that they might be captured and bred for domestic uses, the United States would today be hundreds of millions of dollars richer and there would be a new breed of cattle used by man. The buffalo crosses itself readily with domestic cattle, and it is shown that the half-breeds are much harder than the ordinary stock, much larger, and that they produce good meat and milk.

Buffaloes have been used as oxen. They are easily tamed and they could have been of great value in logging camps and for the handling of heavy burdens. They do not need much to eat, subsisting on the same things as other cattle, and being much faster and more active than the ordinary ox. Half-breed buffaloes can stand the cold of the open prairie during our severest winters where the thermometer is from thirty to forty degrees below zero. They are very prolific, the cows having calves every year. Such animals are almost as large as the buffalo, being covered with the same woolly hair, though the hair is not so long nor so thick. When it is remembered to-day that a buffalo hide is worth at least one hundred dollars, it can be seen that the having a herd of buffaloes, of which the increase would be regularly estimated, would be of no small value to the owner.

On the Ocean Wave.

A well-known admiral has asserted that, even with a moderate gale and sea, an armor-plated cruiser, if going against the wind, will find herself in conditions similar to those of a storm—at least the crew will have that impression.

The movements of the stern of the ship are violent and very disagreeable. The waves, pushed by the advancing prow, sweep continually over the ship from bow to stern. All windows and portholes must be closed, and all reaches the lower decks, when the heat here is unbearably, only through the artificial ventilators. With the exception of the specially protected command bridge, all the uncovered portions of the ship are impassable; thus the whole crew must bear as well as they can the inferno of the closed decks.

In such a ship no one can feel comfortable, and when there is a storm, in which a sailing ship would feel comparatively at ease, the crew of an armor-plated ship imagines itself to be in a heavy hurricane, which threatens destruction at every minute.

The long, narrow fore part of the ship—which is not borne lightly by the water, and is rendered extremely heavy by the ram and the armored deck, and the cannon and torpedoes—forces the ship in a high sea to pitching and rolling which are of a kind that cannot be described.

Strange African Race.

Queer stories are told of the Dokos who live among the moist, warm, bamboo woods to the south of Kaffa and Sussa in Africa. But four feet high, of a dark olive color, savage and naked, they have neither houses, temples, fire, nor human food. They eat mice, and serpents, diversified by a few roots and fruits. They let their nails grow long like talons, the better to dig for ants and the more easily to tear in pieces their favorite snakes.

The Dokos used to be invaluable as slaves, and they were taken in large numbers. The slave raiders used to hold up bright-colored cloths as they came to the woods where these human monkeys still live, and the poor Dokos could not resist the attractions offered by such superior people. They crowded around them, and were taken in thousands.

These people have a queer habit of speaking to Yer with their heads on the ground and their heels in the air. Yer is their idea of a superior power, to whom they talk in this comical way when they are dispirited or vexed, or tired of ants and snakes. The Dokos seem to come nearest of all people yet discovered to that terrible cousin to humanity, the ape.

A Satire.

It is not generally known that "Humpty-Dumpty" was not originally a nursery rhyme, but a political satire at the expense of James II. of England—Humpty-Dumpty being, of course, James himself, the wall the throne, and the king, whose men and horses are in vain brought into requisition, Louis XIV. of France. It was originally written in French.

Chile Is Prosperous.

Chile is the most prosperous agricultural country of South America. There are more than 7,000,000 acres under cultivation of which 1, 100,000 are irrigated. For many years the product has averaged 450,000 tons of wheat and 150,000 of other grains.

An Old Citizen.

By way of maintaining its reputation as a health resort Los Angeles announces the death of one of its citizens at the age of 117 years.

We always wonder at this time of the year if there is any way for gathering statistics on the number of worms one eats in cherries, strawberries, blackberries and raspberries.

A woman in a shirt waist and store skirt makes us think there has been a fire somewhere, and that she has gotten into something hurriedly.

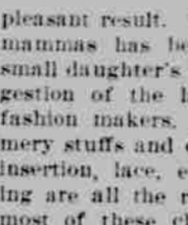
GOWNS FOR THE GIRLS

LITTLE FOLKS ATTIRED MUCH LIKE THEIR ELDEKS

Styles for Women Are Tactfully Adapted to the Requirements of Little Girls—Latest Decrees of the Fashion Makers Are Suggested.

Modes for the Miss.
New York correspondence.

So tastefully are the styles for women adapted to the requirements of little girls' dresses, that the small fashions of this season are attired much more like their elders than is usual. Ordinarily to copy adult fashions at all closely is to make their small wearer seem like a prematurely old dot, which is surely an unpleasant result. So the rule with wise mamma's has been to have in their small daughter's dresses merely a suggestion of the latest decrees of the fashion makers. But just now summery stuffs and delicate trimmings of insertion, lace, embroidery and tucking are all the rage for adults, and most of these characteristics can be transferred to half-size gowns without making them seem too elaborate or dominated by freakish fads. Muslins, organdies, lawns, nullo and liberty silks are the popular materials for Miss Tot's best gowns, gingham, prints, and challies are much used for her morning and afternoon dresses; and all have very much similar treatment to that given to big sister's dresses from such stuffs. Take the little dress of this first picture as an example; it was pink liberty silk, crossed in skirt and blouse with white lace insertion, tucked for the entire length of the sleeves, and



A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD IN CLOTH.

or garden. One of these hats is pictured here, a rough white straw, in high crown encircled with a plaiting of muslin alternating with ribbon and lace, a pretty bow of these materials rising at the side. The wide brim was faced with doubled rose pink taffetas and this again was faced with plaited muslin.

Patent leather toes and fancy tops buttoned and laced shoes, and dainty gaiters are the usual wear, though now and then something like the old fashioned buckled slipper is worn. No lace, embroidery or needlework is too fine or too elaborate to put into Miss



A TWELVE-YEAR-OLD IN CLOTH.

Eight-Year's best dress. The left hand one of the two in the next illustration was made of white batiste and lace and consisted of a jaunty skirt tucked several times near the wide hem, which was finished with a lace ruffle. The bodice was pleated and cut out at the neck, where it was completed by a lace ruffle. The belt was a band of lace insertion, and narrow lace frills finished the small sleeve puffs. The skirt of the other dress was a deep flounce of embroidered batiste lined with



BOTH DRIVER AND STEED IN STYLE.

finished with dark red sash and yoke. Your ambitious maid of 20 would hardly plan her gown more elaborately, and she certainly would be fortunate if the result were prettier.

So great is the elaboration in tots' wear that dressmakers and milliners complain of it. They say the advent of the first little daughter many times spoils the mamma as a customer, because she pays so much attention to the child's get-ups. There are tales, grewsome to dress and hat makers, of mothers sacrificing their swell hats to



LIKE A FOG IN A FLOWER GARDEN.

the craze for decorating the little daughter. But, after all, where is the satisfaction in getting under your own great hat when little Adele will look a perfect dream in it? Adele is wearing hats as big as her mother's, and made in just about the same way. They are all fluff, knife pleating, and great bows of ribbon, else a dainty mesh of brilliant straw, with a lot of wild roses shadowing it and a cloud of tulle caught in passing, like a fog in a flow-

WOMAN AND HER WAYS.



Women Crowdin—Men

THE work and wages of men, women and children in this country has been undergoing an investigation from Uncle Sam. In showing the conjugal condition of the female employees of the establishments included in the investigation, the figures regarding New Hampshire are curious. Nearly one-fourth of the working women of that State are married. This is an unusually large proportion. New York married women who work form only one-sixteenth of the whole. No other State, New England or otherwise, makes such a showing. Why so many New Hampshire husbands should require the aid of their wives in supporting the family is not explained. Take the whole country, and over 13 per cent. of the women employed are married. Nearly 950 establishments were covered by the Government investigation. In ten years the male employees over 18 years of age have increased 63 per cent, and females 91 per cent, while of those under 18 years the males have increased 80 per cent, and the females 89 per cent. The figures show what everyone knows, that women, to some extent, are entering into places at the expense of the men. The gain is shown in all classes of occupations except domestic and personal service, where the proportion of women dropped from 42 per cent, in 1870 to 38 per cent, in 1890, and the percentage of men so employed rose in the same period from 57 to 61. Whereas, 13 per cent. of the country's children under 15 years old were working in 1870 and 16 per cent, in 1890, only 8 per cent, had to neglect school on this account in 1890. As to earnings, there is a well-developed tendency to pay men well, simply because they are men, even though women and children do the same work and are exactly as efficient. This is the fact in 76 per cent, of the cases of difference in pay. On the other hand, women get more pay than men doing the same work in 16 per cent, of the cases. But the difference in pay is wide. Men are overpaid 50 per cent, while women are overpaid only 10 per cent.

aim in a fair fight. Men prefer as wives distinctly feminine women. You never know what to expect of such a woman, and she is always interesting. You love to study her womanish moods and outbursts. Never a day passes but what you hear some man say, "She is so deliciously feminine!" Not once out of a hundred times are those words applied to a big, buxom woman."

The Subject of Bustles.

In despairing tones, women are asking each other, "Will they really come?" and each quiver in her heart nurses the horrible certainty that they will. There is no doubt that very strenuous efforts are being made to re-introduce the hideous fashion of bustles. It is a fashion almost bound to follow the revival of the trimmed skirt, but we may safely lay the comforting



unction to our souls that it will be a long time before bustles are universal worn, and it will be a much longer time before they assume the unsightly proportions they once had. There are figures which are greatly benefited by a little fullness at the back, and yet this same fullness would be a disfigurement to a well-rounded form. Of course, if the draped skirt should succeed in gaining a foothold in favor, the bustle would be a necessity. Some modelers, when the figure is unusually hollow at the base of the back insert stiffenings in the folds of the skirt at the top, which gives all the bouffancy needed.

What Women Owe the Wheel.

Family physicians are being daily questioned by solicitous husbands and fathers as to the effects of wheeling on wives and daughters. The all but unanimous answer is that women do well to ride the wheel, that reasonable indulgence in the pastime means a stronger, healthier race of men for the coming generation. Said one such doctor: "American women are prone to be morbid. It is a result of the busy life of the nation. They have stayed indoors too much and have gotten into the habit of thinking about themselves, worrying and fussing when there was really no need of it. Now the bicycle gives them inducement to go out into the open air, to enjoy the country, to be in touch with other people. It gives them opportunity to breathe and to breathe means better blood. They leave off their corsets when they ride, though they will not do so at any other time. Perhaps the bicycle will kill corsets. That would be a grand victory for the wheel. Another most important result of wheeling will become evident if only women will ride in an erect position. Consumption will begin to disappear. I firmly believe. No amount of preaching about dress reform had the influence of the bicycle. Theory is good and logic is good, but putting a woman on a wheel and letting her go out on our smooth roads, where she has a freedom she had not thought of before, is an argument that is effective. It wins her to reform. She gives up corsets and heavy clothing; she begins to see that clothes may be governed by intelligence, and as a result she is healthy."

Great Variety in Belts.

For any one who enjoys owning a great variety of belts there is a new summer variety of crocheted silk in Afghan stitch made firm and close. These are easily made and are handsome when finished with a silver or gold buckle. This belt may be made as wide as desired, and cling close to the form, giving a neat appearance.

A Hero's Wife.

In a modest house near Fifth avenue in New York City, lives the sad-faced widow of the gallant General Custer.

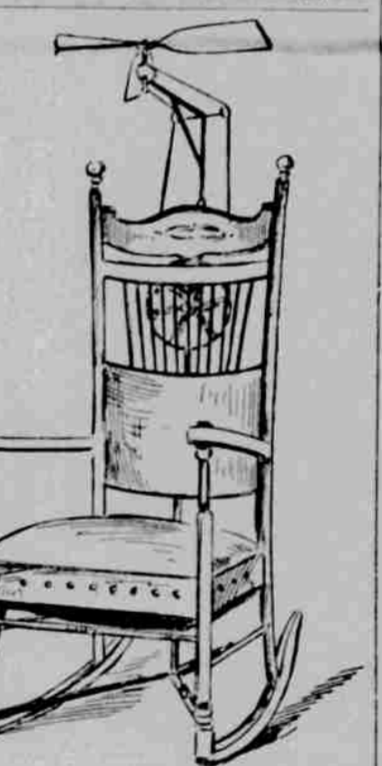


MRS. CUSTER.

whose tragic death on the Little Big Horn River in 1876 has been vividly recalled lately by the Cheyenne uprising in that same region. Mrs. Custer has made quite a name for herself by her writings, the chief among them being stories of army life in the far West.

A Rocking Chair Fan.

A wide-awake Jerseyman has invented a fan that can be worked simply by rocking the chair. Part of the apparatus



ROCKING CHAIR FAN.

consists of a Y-shaped frame, whose prongs are fastened to the front ends of the rockers with wood screws. To the back of the chair is secured, in the same manner, another frame, on which is mounted a three-bladed fan. This fan can be slowly revolved by means of a cord or belt running over pulleys at the angles and down around a wheel on the chair back. A lever, reaching up from the floor frame and made to shove up and down by the rocking motion, drives the wheel.

It is possible that this particular arrangement has been patented, but almost any ingenious mechanic can construct a gear which will evade the patent and do the business. A wife or mother could thus be rendered very comfortable on a hot day. There are men, too, who would not be above taking a quiet smoke in such a chair themselves.—New York Tribune.

A Mother's Devotion.

A very touching instance of the devotion of a mother occurred recently at Colchester. The wife of a sergeant-major of the King's Dragoon guards was wheeling her baby in a perambulator in the cavalry barracks when the carriage and its occupant were knocked down by a restive horse ridden by a soldier. The mother crawled on her hands and knees and had scarcely covered the infant with her body when the horse backed on to her and trampled on her. The brave woman had saved the child.

Distinctly Feminine Wives.

Said a bachelor the other day: "If you ask the average man, in his sane moments, whether he prefers a large woman or a dainty little creature, he will choose the small one every time. Men like to be protectors, and not protected, and a man certainly can't feel that he must care for a great, big, strapping woman, who could throw