

Head and Front of Railroad Lobbyists

Washington, Feb. 6.—In the lineup of the forces for and against anti-rebate legislation, Chauncey M. Depew stands pre-eminent as the most influential force on the side of the railroads. In the fight to a finish that is to be fought out at this and subsequent sessions of congress, he is looked on as the leader.

Up to within a few days ago he was chairman of the board of directors of eight Vanderbilt railway lines. His income from this source is extraordinary. His powers and responsibilities are also enormous. For reasons best known to the directors of these eight railway companies, Senator Depew retired from the chairmanship of two of them.

It was given out that this was done to combine more closely the Vanderbilt

systems and bring them under one management.

These eight roads belonging to the Vanderbilt family, to which he may be said to owe his great wealth and prestige, extend over 16,000 miles and their annual earning approximately \$158,000,000. These earnings are divided as follows:

New York Central, West Shores and Boston and Albany lines \$75,000,000; Lake Shore and Michigan Southern, \$25,000,000; Big Four, \$23,600,000; Nickel Plate, \$8,000,000; Lake Erie and Western, \$6,000,000; Michigan Central, \$21,000,000.

Chauncey M. Depew is the individual representative of all these railroads in Washington. Every president of these roads, every general counsel, every lobbyist, every votary who comes here, must report to Depew or to one of his handy men.

Depew has fifteen persons employed here as an "office force." He has four secretaries.

One man in his employ (a southerner, formerly in the railroad business) receives a salary of \$300 a month for his "influence" with members of congress. He is allowed also extravagant "expense" for entertainment and other purposes.

Nearly every railroad man who has appeared here as a witness in the hearings on the traffic-rate legislation before the committee first had a talk with Depew.

Men known as "general counsel" and who receive salaries from \$25,000 a year upward, frequent Depew's conferences, and not since the "palmy" days of the Huntington Southern Pacific contest have so many of this class had reason to visit Washington as have this winter.

Most of them have left the capital now, having done well their work, and confident that no traffic-rate legislation would be likely to cause their return or require their presence again before March 4.

They are able lawyers for the most part and clever manipulators as well. The Gould system had Winslow S. Pierce and John F. Dillon; J. Pierpont Morgan's interests, Francis L. Stetson; the Moore system of the southwest, Robert Matthew; the Burlington, James W. Blythe; the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, George R. Peck; the Baltimore and Ohio, Hugh L. Bond, jr., far western lines, Victor Morewetz.

All these and many others are in close communication with Depew. He is regarded as the head of their "Washington contingent."

Depew's influence and power in railroad circles was shown, it is stated on good authority, by the resignation of M. F. Ingalls a few days ago as president of the Big Four, his retirement being accredited to Depew, from whom, it is said by railroad men, Ingalls would not take "orders."

Depew is, incidentally, chairman of the senate committee on "revision of the laws of the United States," and a member of both the committee on commerce and the judiciary committee. He makes frequent trips back and forth to New York, usually leaving here at short notice, as if summoned on important business.—Lincoln News.

Kansas Democratic Editors

The following resolution was adopted by the democratic editors of Kansas at Topeka assembled February 22d, 1905:

We, the democratic editors of Kansas, in convention assembled, hereby endorse the action of the state central committee in providing for a banquet on this, the 22d day of February, and are in accord with the plan to hold a

like banquet each year on that date. Especially do we congratulate the committee in securing the presence on this occasion of America's most distinguished editor, citizen and statesman, the Hon. Wm. J. Bryan, who has never faltered in his courageous fight for true democracy and honest government. And we, the democratic editors, hereby

commend his work in behalf of the party and the people, and pledge to him our earnest support, and are enlisted with him until a victory for the right is won.

Resolved, That a copy of this resolution be presented by the secretary of the Association to the Hon. Wm. J. Bryan while in the city.



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