

railroads within its borders. The rate regulation bill being considered at Washington is the step which presages this final result. The attitude taken by President Ripley and other western railroad men is that the railroads can no longer endure the radical legislation, which, they claim, takes the management of their property out of their hands and it is stated to be the consensus of opinion of western railroad men that the inevitable consequence of recently enacted legislation, or that now pending, will be the retirement of private owners from the control of railroad lines. With the powers given by the new legislation, railroad officials assert the government officials may compel railroads to operate at a loss. The western railroad owners regard these laws as confiscatory and in violation of their property rights. They can only foresee long and expensive litigation to protect their property rights and, rather than incur waste in time and money and risk the destruction of rights in the storm of demands for radical action against public carriers, they are willing to sell to the government."

DANIEL WILLARD, president of the Baltimore and Ohio railroad, is another railroad chief who believes government ownership of railroads will soon be at hand. A Deer Park, Md., dispatch carried by the Associated Press says: "Mr. Willard said that he did not believe such a result would be to the best interests of the country for, on the basis of rates and service, governmental ownership or even exacting regulation, had not been proven to be such a bad thing. Freight rates, he declared, were far lower here than in any other country, and had been going downward in face of the reverse as to operating expenses. Mr. Willard announced that the policy of his administration was to be a recognition of the changed conditions regarding supervision of railroads, and a strict adherence to the statutes so long as their validity was undisturbed by judicial declaration of unconstitutionality. In urging upon the officials the necessity for complete unity in working for the company's interest, Mr. Willard pointed out that increased wages on the Baltimore and Ohio had added upwards of \$2,000,000 to expense of operations, and increased cost of all materials entering into the extensive equipment, purchases and betterment in progress had added as many millions more."

AS THEODORE Roosevelt was nearing the American shore he gave out the following public statement: "I have been away a year and a quarter. While I enjoyed Africa most, I enjoyed Europe a very great deal. In fact, I fail to see how anyone could have had a more interesting or pleasanter trip than I have had. I wish to express my very deep appreciation of the more than generous courtesy and hospitality with which I was treated by the people and the rulers of the countries through which I passed. But of course, I am very glad to get home. I appreciate deeply the kindness of a multitude of friends who have asked me to speak in different places, and hope they will understand that it is simply a physical impossibility for me even to consider accepting more than one in a hundred of these invitations. I shall not speak for more than two months, and then will speak first at the John Brown celebration in Kansas City, at the Cheyenne frontier gathering, at the conservation congress in St. Paul and possibly at one or two other places. I shall have nothing whatever to say in the immediate future about politics, and will hold no interview whatever on the subject with any one, and anything purporting to be an interview with me that may appear can be safely set down at once as an invention." Mr. Roosevelt landed in New York Saturday, June 18. He was given a monster reception, after which he retired to his home in Oyster Bay.

THE RAILROAD bill, somewhat amended, and the Arizona and New Mexico statehood bill passed congress and were signed by the president. An Associated Press dispatch says: "It can not be stated definitely when Arizona and New Mexico will come into the union under this legislation. It requires that the constitutions adopted by the proposed states must be ratified by congress and approved by the president. Conceding that the statehood bill will be in force within a few days, it will be necessary for the territories to hold constitutional conventions, which will require many weeks, submit the constitutions to the people of the territories for adoption and then return them to Washington. Provision is made against joint elections for the

adoption of the constitution, and for the nomination and election of state officers. It is impossible, therefore to specify when the people of the two territories will enjoy the benefits of statehood and many believe that it will not be before the presidential election of 1912. The railroad bill, which will be ready for the president's signature on his return to Washington, is substantially in accordance with the president's message demanding amendments to the interstate commerce laws. About the only exceptions are that it does not legalize holding agreements made by railroads, permit mergers or regulate the issuance of stocks and bonds. It creates a commerce court and broadens the scope of the jurisdiction by the interstate commerce commission as regards regulations and practices by railroads. It also broadens telegraph, telephone and cable companies within that jurisdiction. Supervision is given to the commission over increases of rates, and this section, as well as one making provision for the investigation of the stock and bond question, will go into effect immediately upon the bill being signed. Other provisions, and they are extensive, will take effect within sixty days from the day of approval."

W. T. STEAD had some caustic criticisms to offer on Mr. Roosevelt's Guild hall speech. Mr. Stead says: "I am profoundly grateful to Mr. Roosevelt for his speech. My only regret is that it is impossible for us to offer him the post of British resident in Egypt. It is awfully good of him to take so much trouble to tell us what we ought to do. In fact, since I tried to teach my grandmother to suck eggs I haven't seen anything quite like it. From the point of view of a circus, the performance is absolutely beyond all praise, but as politics—well, that is another matter. Supposing Mr. Roosevelt is right and that Sir Eldon Gorst is criminally slack in enforcing order in Egypt, upon which I express no opinion, Mr. Roosevelt's invective will render it practically impossible for Sir Edward Grey to remove Sir Eldon Gorst. We went to Egypt, twenty-eight years ago under solemn pledges to establish representative institutions in that country. We have certainly not shown ourselves in any hurry to clear out, nor have we been very precipitate in establishing representative institutions. We have moved slowly, many of us think too slowly. And an unfortunate incident happened in the assassination of Boutros Pasha. We have caught the assassin, tried him, and sentenced him to death. What more did Mr. Roosevelt do when an assassin made him president of the United States? What amuses me is to see how Mr. Roosevelt will get on when John Dillon and the Irish nationalists invite him to dinner this week, for on the principles laid down at the Guild hall any movement in the direction of home rule would be barred by such an episode as the Phoenix Park murders—to mention no later outrage. Mr. Dillon might have something to say to Mr. Roosevelt by which he might profit."

THE RAILROAD trust is, in the opinion of many people, playing a trick on the country. The Denver Times says that the railroads proposed to show the president a thing or two and adds: "Principally, what they will show is that—if they can not have everything their own way—they will smash a few things for spite. This is the same trick that Big Business played upon President Roosevelt in 1907. It was measurably, although perilously, successful at that time. Appalled by the danger of a panic, which he feared might injure the masses more than it would cost the conspirators, Mr. Roosevelt deferred some of his contemplated reform attacks and recognized the 'patriotic public spirit' of the money masters at New York, in pouring their reserve millions into the street to avert disaster. Later it became a fair suspicion that the threat and the rescue had both been parts of a plot to stay progressive legislation and resolute administration. This present announcement of the railroads seems to have a similar purpose. By withholding the increase of transportation facilities demanded by the growing business of the country, and by attributing this delay or abandonment of extensions to their inability to raise money in this time of legislative and administrative activity on railroad matters; they expect to enlist all the other commercial interests of the country on their side. Finance and trade both desire activity; and if the railroads pause in the work of improvement, both are threatened with grievous loss. But the trick is too badly battered to

serve another such turn. If the railroad combine has lost so much of conscience and gained so much of dominion in this country, that it will and can permit general prosperity only upon its own tyrannous terms; the president and the congress might as well bring the contest to a decisive issue at once."

THE McLEAN EDITORIAL

William J. Bryan is very active this year in the work of destroying the chances of the democratic party.

Matters were looking very well in Ohio a few weeks ago. Then Mr. Bryan got busy and started a division that threatens to nullify the efforts of all broad-minded democrats to hold the party together and carry the state.

Factional strife among the republicans in some congressional districts afforded an opportunity for democratic success until Mr. Bryan interfered. He is trying to prevent the return to congress of democrats who are not subservient to his ambitions. No doubt he will scatter enough discord in some districts to accomplish his purpose. He is a past master in the art of stirring up strife in his own party.

What does Mr. Bryan want? What is his purpose? Is it to rule or ruin the democratic party?

Time and bitter defeat three times administered ought to have taught Mr. Bryan that he can not be elected president. There is no credit for him in ruling the democratic party in his own behalf. He can not win. Other men, true democrats, would have stood aside after such great disasters and sacrificed their personal ambitions for the sake of their party. Mr. Bryan's plan is to ruin the party if it will not serve his interests. If any democrat appears to be gaining national popularity he finds Mr. Bryan on his back, knifing him. Governor Johnson felt the effect of Bryan's jealousy, and now Governor Harmon feels it. There must be no democratic god but Bryan. Rather let the party be destroyed and republicans placed in power forever than permit democrats to rally around a man who could win.

The democratic party suffers untold injury from the assaults of Mr. Bryan upon good men within the party. The party can not be expected to unite and do strong battle if it is continually distracted by this fire in the rear. Not only is the party divided in presidential contests, but its usefulness in the house and senate is impaired by Mr. Bryan's attacks upon democrats who are doing their best to build up a strong and united party. Thus the political ammunition that might be prepared during sessions of congress for use in presidential campaigns is lost. Democrats can not afford to devote all their time to their party when compelled to fight off Mr. Bryan's attacks. Some of the most brilliant men in the party—the more brilliant the better targets they make for Bryan—are facing defeat, not because they can not stand up against republican competitors, but because these competitors are in effect reinforced by Mr. Bryan.

When is Mr. Bryan to quit his work of destroying the democratic party?—Washington (D. C.) Post, Tuesday, June 14.

TWO GOOD STORIES

"Jimmie," said the teacher, "your face is dirty again today. What would you say should I come to school with my face dirty?" "I'd be too polite," explained Jimmie, "to say anything about it."

The man had been summoned to serve as a juror before Judge Reilly and asked to be excused because he owed the Democrat four years' subscription and he wanted to go and hunt up the publisher and pay it before he forgot it again. "Do you mean to tell this court," demanded the judge, "that you would deliberately go out and hunt up a man to pay a bill instead of waiting for him to sue you?" "I do, your honor." "Then you are excused. I don't want any man on a jury in my court that will lie like that."—Kearney (Neb.) Democrat.

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