

FRANCE'S STATE RAILWAYS

Judge Van Wagenen writes to the Sloux City Journal as follows: Sloux City, Ia., April 17, 1911.—To the Editor: In your Sunday issue there appears a news article on government ownership of railways in France, the headlines of which are not exactly incorrect, but are misleading. The article, if read closely and with an understanding of the situation over there, is very fair. It should first be borne in mind that all the railways in France will soon revert to the government. The charters of the private companies all provide that upon their expiration the roadbed goes to the state free of cost. The state has to purchase the rolling stock at a reasonable price. The first charter expires in about six years, or in 1917. It is certain

that the government will take over the railways as fast as their charters expire, if not sooner. Very naturally those companies whose charters expire in the next fifteen or twenty years are refusing to make betterments, and are providing such maintenance only as is absolutely necessary to keep their lines working profitably. Every dollar they put into permanent improvements goes to the government, and it is not to be expected that the private owners and managers will donate anything to the state that they can avoid.

Government ownership of railways is the settled policy of Europe, and there is no thought that the French government will waive any of the charter provisions. This situation has, of course, caused a very wreat deterioration in the physical condi-

tion of the French railways as the time of expiration draws nearer.

In addition to this there is a strong demand for immediate nationalization. The attitude of the corporations, as above stated, has caused the people of France to become restless when they observe every other country in continental Europe, including even Italy, making such an unqualified success of government ownership. This is especially true of Germany, where electric power is more successfully used than elsewhere, and France's German neighbors are enjoying rapidly increasing and the most modern facilities for travel and transportation.

The Clemenceau ministry came into power in 1906 pledged by public promises to bring about the nationalization of all the railways of France without waiting for charter expirations. They failed to carry out the policy until at last public indignation became so great that one system, the Western railway, was taken over in 1909. This company had been pursuing the selfish policy most consistently. Its system was in a frightful state of dilapidation. The ministry has not shown the enterprise which it ought in the matter of putting this railway in shape. The time has been short, it is true, but the officers could have done better.

If France should fail it would be an exception among nations, but France will not fail. That country has made the most signal and singular success of government ownership and operation. In the article referred to this story is partly told. In an early day the private railways induced the French government to build certain small disconnected lines, feeders, as we all call them in this country. The most exorbitant burdens were laid upon them by the private lines with which they were connected. These small lines, none of them reached any seaport, Paris or any large commercial center. It was not dreamed that they could ever be made to pay.

The government shortly made such a financial success of these disconnected fragments of railways that in time the private companies desired to get control of them. By this time the private companies had on hand a still worse lot of scraps of railways, which were a source of annual loss to them. They traded this job lot to the government, and in doing so felt sure they had handed government ownership a lemon that would kill it in France at least. The government still owns these bits of railways; they are a splendid success, and that is the reason why public sentiment is so overwhelmingly in favor of not waiting for the expiration of the charters with their attendant vexations.

A. VAN WAGENEN

THE INCOME TAX IN NEW JERSEY

In a special message urging the New Jersey senate to pass the resolution ratifying the federal income tax amendment, Governor Wilson said:

"This amendment has no partisan color whatever. It was suggested by a republican president and passed by a congress of which both houses were republican, but it received the cordial support of democrats in both chambers of the federal congress and has been indorsed by the national platforms of both of the great political parties of the country."

The popular branch of the legislature adopted the resolution unanimously. That it is, as Governor Wilson says, "sustained by the public opinion of the nation," is a fact as well worth pondering in New York and Massachusetts as in New Jersey. —New York World.

PATENTS SECURED OR FOR RETURNED.

Free report as to Patentability. Illustrated Guide Book, and List of Inventions Wanted, sent free. VICTOR J. EVANS & CO., Washington, D. C.

PATENT your invention. Send for free examination offer. MILO B. STEVENS & CO., Est. 1864. 680 F St. Washington; 391 Monadnock Bldg., Chicago

PATENTS Watson E. Coleman, Patent Lawyer, Washington, D.C. Advice and books free. Rates reasonable. Highest references. Best service.

Patents No Fee until allowed. Free Books FULLER & FULLER, Washington, D. C.



FAULTY METABOLISM AS A COMMON CAUSE OF DISEASE, is the subject discussed in Bulletin No. 1 of the Shafer Pathological Laboratory. The Bulletin is sent free on request and will prove interesting to everyone in Pain and Poor Health. Address: John F. Shafer, M. D. 214 Penn Ave., Pittsburg, Pa.

EYES CURED Without the Knife

Grateful Patients Tell of Almost Miraculous Cures of Cataracts, Granulated Lids, Wild Hairs, Ulcers, Weak, Watery Eyes and all Eye Diseases—many have thrown away their glasses after using this magic remedy one week. Send your name and address with full description of your trouble to the H. T. Schlegel Co., 5536 Home Bank Building, Peoria, Ill., or fill out the coupon below, and you will receive by return mail, prepaid, a trial bottle of this magic remedy, that has restored many almost blind to sight.

FREE. This coupon is good for one trial bottle of Schlegel's Magic Eye Remedy sent to you prepaid. Simply fill in your name and address on dotted lines below and mail to the H. T. Schlegel Co., 5536 Home Bank Building, Peoria, Ill.

RHEUMATISM

Don't Take Medicine, But Let Me Send You a Pair of My Pain-Soothing Drafts, Which Are Bringing Prompt Relief to So Many Thousands TO TRY FREE.

SEND ME YOUR NAME TODAY

Just write me that you will try my Drafts (a postal will do) and I'll send you a One Dollar Pair by return mail, prepaid for you TO TRY FREE.



FREDERICK DYER Cor. Sec'y

I wish I could tell you the remarkable history of these Magic Foot Drafts, perfected through two generations until we believe they are today the safest and surest, as well as the most widely sold rheumatic remedy in the world. From our offices in this country and Europe they are distributed to every quarter of the globe.

We have many thousands of letters on file here telling of cures, some almost unbelievable. But getting benefit yourself is even more convincing than hearing the testimony of others. Just write me that you are willing to be convinced and I'll send the drafts to you by return mail, postpaid. Then, if you are satisfied with the benefit received, you may send me One Dollar. If not, simply say so and they cost you nothing. I take your word and trust you for a square deal. The scientific way in which these Drafts reach the source of rheumatic troubles is fully explained in our illustrated book, sent free with the trial Drafts. Don't delay, but write now. Address Magic Foot Draft Co., XC19 Oliver Bldg., Jackson, Mich.



SIX ASTONISHING BARGAIN OFFERS

For a Limited Time, Your Choice of These Six Big Offers with Each Yearly Subscription to The American Homestead at 25c

OFFER NO. 1 With every yearly subscription (new or renewal) sent to The American Homestead within the next 30 days, at the regular yearly price of 25 cents, we include without extra cost, a full one year's subscription to the KANSAS CITY WEEKLY STAR, one of the leading weeklies of the country for the farm and home.

OFFER NO. 2 With every yearly subscription (new or renewal) sent to The American Homestead within the next 30 days, at the regular yearly price of 25 cents, we include without extra cost, a full one year's subscription to the WOMAN'S WORLD, a large monthly magazine for the woman and home, containing the best stories, fashions, etc.

OFFER NO. 3 With every yearly subscription (new or renewal) sent to The American Homestead within the next 30 days, at the regular yearly price of 25 cents, we include without extra cost, a full one year's subscription to the PEOPLE'S POPULAR MONTHLY, a big magazine for home and family which should be in every household.

OFFER NO. 4 With every yearly subscription (new or renewal) sent to The American Homestead within the next 30 days, at the regular yearly price of 25 cents, we include without extra cost, a full one year's subscription to THE AMERICAN POULTRYMAN, a big monthly poultry journal that will be useful and instructive.

OFFER NO. 5 With every yearly subscription (new or renewal) sent to The American Homestead within the next 30 days, at the regular yearly price of 25 cents, we include without extra cost, a handsome collection of TWENTY-FIVE BEAUTIFUL POSTCARDS, in exquisite floral and friendship designs, embossed and colored.

OFFER NO. 6 With each yearly subscription (new or renewal) sent to The American Homestead within the next thirty days, at the regular yearly price of 25 cents, we include, without extra cost and prepaid, a LUCKY HORSESHOE BANK (shown in illustration.) Smallest and most satisfactory bank made. May be worn on watch chain, key ring, as a locket, or carried in pocket. Holds 10 dimes. When full it opens automatically. Snap shut and it is ready for use again. Made of heavy nickle plated brass. Lasts a life time. Get one of these banks and save your dimes.



Choice of Any Offer For 25 Cents

Take your choice of any of the above offers at 25 cents, fill out and mail coupon with your remittance in money order, stamps or coin securely wrapped. Remember, each offer calls for 25 cents each, or any four for \$1, and is limited to 30 days. If you are already a subscriber for any paper in these offers your subscription will be extended for the time mentioned. Papers will be sent to different addresses if desired.

Do not fail to get one or more of these bargain offers by sending in your order at once. MAIL TODAY if possible—before you forget it or lose the coupon. Make all remittances to THE AMERICAN HOMESTEAD, Lincoln, Neb.

Coupon for Special Limited Offers

- The American Homestead, Lincoln, Neb. Offer No. 1—I enclose 25c for the Kansas City Star and The American Homestead, both one year. Offer No. 2—I enclose 25c for the Woman's World and The American Homestead, both one year. Offer No. 3—I enclose 25c for the People's Popular Monthly and The American Homestead, both one year. Offer No. 4—I enclose 25c for the American Poultryman and The American Homestead, both one year. Offer No. 5—I enclose 25c for The American Homestead for one year and a set of twenty-five post cards. Offer No. 6—I enclose 25c for a Lucky Horseshoe Bank and The American Homestead one year.

Name .....

P. O. ....

Mark Offers Wanted—Send Coupon Today.