

RATE BILL IS PASSED

ALL VOTE FOR IT EXCEPT FORAKER, MORGAN AND PETTUS.

It Permits the Interstate Commerce Commission to Determine and Fix Reasonable Rates—Words "in its Judgment" Eliminated.

Washington, May 19.—After seventy days of almost continuous deliberation, the senate passed the railroad rate bill by the practically unanimous vote of 71 to 3. The three negative votes were cast by Senators Foraker (Rep., O.) and Morgan and Pettus (Dem., Ala.). The bill has received more attention from the senate and from the country at large than any measure that has been before congress since the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman act, in 1893. The debate has at all times been earnest and animated, but for the most part devoid of personality as between senators, the past few days, however, having called out some caustic criticisms of the president by Senators Bailey, Tillman and Rayner.

In addition to passing the bill, the proceedings consisted in concluding the consideration of the amendments as such and the delivery of a number of speeches on the bill. The only amendment adopted was the one offered by Senator Teller, eliminating the words "in its judgment" from the power given to the interstate commerce commission to fix rates.

Provisions of Rate Bill.

The principal purpose of the railroad rate bill is to permit the interstate commerce commission to fix rates. The provision to permit this authority is found in the fourth section of the bill, which amends section 15 of the interstate commerce law so as to accomplish this result. That section directs the commission to investigate complaints of unjust and unreasonable charges on the part of the common carriers in the transportation of persons or property or of regulations or of practices affecting such charges. It also authorizes an inquiry as to whether the rates or practices are "unjustly discriminatory or unduly preferential or prejudicial or otherwise in violation of the act," and in case any of these conditions are found to exist the commission is empowered to determine and prescribe what will be the just and reasonable maximum rate and what regulation or practice is just, reasonable and fair. Further authority is given the commission to enforce its orders and they are to go into effect within thirty days and continue in force for two years, unless suspended, modified or set aside by the commission or by a court of competent jurisdiction. Other powers conferred by this section are: To apportion joint fares, establish through routes and maximum joint rates and prescribe their division.

Section 16 of the present law is so changed as to provide for an award of pecuniary damages to complainants found entitled and in case payment is not promptly made in accordance with this award the beneficiary is authorized to file suit in a United States circuit court to compel compliance. The finding of the commission is to be received as prima facie evidence of the facts in such suits and the petitioner is absolved from all liability for costs. Another provision renders legal the service of the orders of the commission through the mails and provides that these orders shall take effect thirty days after service, unless suspended or modified by the commission or set aside by the courts. A penalty of \$5,000 for each offense in disobedience of the order is imposed, and the penalty is to accumulate at the rate of \$5,000 a day in case of continuous violation. Orders other than those for money payments are to be enforced by the federal courts through writs of mandamus or injunction, and in case of appeal to the supreme court these cases are to be given precedence over all others, except those of a criminal character.

Senate Amendments.
The bill was amended by the senate so as to give the United States circuit courts jurisdiction to entertain suits brought to annul or change the orders of the commission and to provide against the granting of interlocutory decrees without hearing and making appeals from such orders direct to the supreme court.

Senate amendments include oil pipe lines, express companies and shipping car companies under the head of common carriers, and make them amenable to the requirements of the bill. Other senate modifications prohibit the issuance of passes or the granting of special favors to one class of passengers over another, prohibiting railroad companies from transporting commodities produced by themselves; require such companies to put in switches at the reasonable request of shippers; prohibit the granting or acceptance of rebates, and reinstate the imprisonment penalty for violation of the law.

There are also changes in the law relative to the reports to be required of common carriers, and a penalty of \$100 a day is imposed for failure to

comply with the report requirement. Circuit and district courts of the United States are given jurisdiction over all complaints by the commission of failure to comply with its orders, and such courts are required to issue writs of mandamus compelling such compliance.

Death From Heat at St. Louis.
St. Louis, May 19.—An unidentified man was found on the street, suffering from heat prostration. He died without regaining consciousness.

CHURCH GOES OUT OF BUSINESS.

Utah Mormon Society Will Dispose of Holdings in Industrial Concerns.

Salt Lake, May 18.—The Mormon church is going out of business, according to a local morning paper. Its principal holding in Salt Lake, the Utah Light and Railway company, is to be taken over by a \$25,000,000 corporation, composed of English and American capitalists.

Simultaneously the announcement is made that the Salt Lake and Los Angeles railroad, another church property, has been sold to a local syndicate for \$500,000. This road is thirteen miles in length and runs from the city to the lake.

President Joseph Smith of the Mormon church is quoted as saying that the divorce of religion from business is made on account of the fact that the Mormons whom the church sought to protect years ago no longer need the protection of the church in business affairs. The church entered business to assist converts and strangers belonging to the church, but as they are now on a firm footing, the church withdraws from business entirely.

If this policy is completely carried out the sale of the traction interests will be followed by the sale of stocks in banks, sugar factories, the great Zion Co-operative Mercantile Institution department store and many smaller enterprises. It will be nothing less than a commercial revolution, which will profoundly affect the political and social life of the state.

ADMIT COAL STOCK GRAFT.

Officials Who Distributed Cars Testify to Receiving "Presents."

Philadelphia, May 19.—After hearing much additional testimony concerning donations of stock to officials and employees of the Pennsylvania railroad by soft coal mining companies, the interstate commerce commission adjourned until next Wednesday, when it will resume its sessions in this city and proceed with its inquiry into alleged discrimination by the railroads in the distribution of cars.

F. L. Sheppard, general superintendent of the United Railways of New Jersey, was examined as to his stock holdings in coal companies and alleged pier privileges given the Berwind-White company at Tidewater. F. M. Gross, western manager of the Keystone Coal and Coke company, told of men in the motive power department of the Pennsylvania who owned stock in the various coal companies.

Edward Pitcairn, trainmaster on the Pittsburgh division, admitted having accepted stock in coal companies, and R. B. Freeman, another trainmaster, said he received Christmas presents of money from coal companies.

Major Richard Coulter, during his testimony, said that Frank Thomson, a former president of the Pennsylvania railroad, had participated in stock distribution.

BERKMAN SERVES HIS TERM.

Man Who Assaulted Frick Completes Prison Sentence.

Pittsburg, May 19.—Alexander Berkman, who made an attempt on the life of Henry Clay Frick during the great steel strike at Homestead, Pa., in 1892, was released from prison. Berkman was sentenced to twenty-three years' imprisonment, but earned commutation of sentence by good behavior, which reduced his term to fourteen years.

In an interview Berkman said he had never regretted his act and would have had no regret if he had succeeded in killing Frick. It was a matter of principle, not personal feelings, which prompted the deed. The conditions, he said, had changed, and he had nothing against Frick and never expected to see him again. Continuing, he said: "I do not know what I will do until I get to St. Louis. I am going there this afternoon on the first train. There is one thing I want to deny, that I am to become a leader of anarchists in this country and take Herr Most's place. There is nothing in that. I am going to lead a quiet life and try to make an honest living, and I have no doubt that I can do so."

Declines to Accept Jap Hospitality.

London, May 21.—The Chronicle's Melbourne correspondent says that Senator Dawson, former minister of defence, has declined to accept the hospitality of the Japanese admiral of the training squadron visiting Australia. He explained that he did not wish to be discourteous, but that he would not be a hypocrite, and said he believed the Japanese came to spy on the land. Senator Dawson prophesies that Japan some day will endeavor to

seize Australia. The correspondent adds that Mr. Dawson's action is condemned, but that his views reflect the secret fear of many Australians.

Warmer Weather Helps Trade.
New York, May 19.—Bradstreet's says: Retail trade has expanded with warmer weather and the settlement of labor troubles. Jobbing reorder business is in full seasonable volume, San Francisco demand being a feature; fall orders are equal to, and in many cases in excess of last year at this period. Industry, except in some sections of the soft coal field, is as active as ever before and the return tide of currency from the country is evidenced by increasing western bank deposits and perceptibly easier money.

Ice "Trust" Officers Indicted.
Cleveland, 19.—The grand jury returned indictments against President Harry Norvell and thirteen directors of the City Ice Delivery company, known locally as the ice trust.

Boy Rescues Lad From Drowning.
Papillon, Neb., May 22.—At the risk of his own life, Willie Dereup, eleven years of age, of this city, jumped into the whirlpool inside the mill dam and rescued from drowning ten-year-old Paul Ehlers. The heroic act of the boy was witnessed by several men, who, believing the Ehlers lad could save himself by swimming, hesitated before offering assistance.

Chamberlain Is Found Guilty.

Auburn, Neb., May 21.—Charles M. Chamberlain was found guilty of the charge of embezzling \$10,000 from the Chamberlain banking house of Tecumseh. The jury was out about two hours and a half. The case has occupied the attention of the district court for about two weeks. This was the third trial of the case. Following the failure of the bank nearly five years ago Chamberlain fled. He was indicted and two years later returned voluntarily for trial.

Small Boy Shoots Farmer.

Gothenburg, Neb., May 21.—George W. Morrison a farmer living sixteen miles north of town, died from the effects of a bullet wound in his stomach, fired by the thirteen-year-old son of Morrison's neighbor, C. W. Dennis. The trouble originated over the moving of a fence between their farms, and when the boy attempted to take the fence down Morrison ordered him to stop, and is said to have shot at him. The boy had a small rifle with him and shot Morrison in the bowels.

Suicide on Eve of Marriage.

Nebraska City, May 22.—C. M. Stallman, Missouri Pacific car inspector in this city, committed suicide by shooting himself in the mouth with a revolver. His body was found on the railway track near the passenger station. The revolver was clasped in his right hand. Stallman was to have been married in Lincoln today to Miss Mae Clinkenbeard, a former resident of this city. He had furnished a home here for his intended bride, but a few days ago he received orders to report in Kansas City for duty and had completed his plans for taking his bride to that city.

Northwestern Lets Out 22 Men.

Fremont, Neb., May 21.—Twenty-two employes of the Northwestern, brakemen, firemen and switchmen, have been dismissed from the service. Most of them are men who have made their headquarters in Fremont. All are to be replaced by men who are arriving from Sioux City, Norfolk and other points. The official axe commenced to swing Friday night, when five brakemen were discharged. Saturday and Sunday the others were dismissed as they came in. Several who anticipated that they were on the list for summary discharge sent hurried resignations to Trainmaster Leppla's office. It is said by the men that "spotters" have been at work and that the "general cleaning" was looked forward to for some time. The employes who are thus let out are said to have had various charges brought against them, including that of frequenting saloons, being drunk, insubordination and lack of ability.

MANY WITNESSES CALLED.

Richardson and Comstock Land Deals Under Investigation.

Omaha, May 22.—One hundred and fifty-two witnesses arrived in Omaha from the northwestern part of the state, principally from Alliance, Crawford, Chadron, Hay Springs and Rushville, to go before the federal grand jury. It is supposed the grand jury will investigate land transactions of Bartlett Richards and William G. Comstock, the cattle kings.

The witnesses are largely soldiers' widows who filed on homesteads with

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in the Richards-Comstock inclosure, which comprises something like 400,000 acres in Sheridan and Cherry counties. A force of fifteen secret service men is on duty in Omaha.

Thus far the grand jury has returned twenty-seven indictments. Two of these were in land fraud cases, the persons indicted being Mahaffey and Hatch in Hooker county. Only one arrest has been made on an indictment, and that is Joseph Crow, foreman of the last grand jury.

OMAHA CONVENTIONS END.

Several Organizations Wind Up Their Yearly Meetings.

Omaha, May 19.—The State Photographer's association closed its annual meeting with the selection of Lincoln as the gathering point next spring and the election of officers. The officers chosen are as follows: President, John F. Wilson of Pawnee City; first vice president, T. M. Mackey of Hastings; second vice president, W. S. Soper of Plattsmouth; treasurer, W. P. Fritz of Fremont; secretary, Alfred A. Anderson of Kearney.

The election of officers and the selection of Grand Island as the place of the next meeting practically concluded the business of the grand lodge of the Sons of Herman. The election of officers resulted in the choice of the following: Grand ex-president, Fred Viopp of Scribner; grand president, John Mattes, Jr., of Nebraska City; first grand vice president, F. J. Freitag of South Omaha; second vice president, Albert (v. d.) Heyde of Grand Island; grand secretary, J. H. Johannes of Columbus; grand treasurer, J. E. Melcher of Wisner; grand trustee, L. H. Lohmann of Bloomfield.

The three days' session of the annual council of the Episcopal clergy of the diocese of Nebraska closed with the election of Victor B. Caldwell of Omaha as treasurer and the appointment of the standing committee.

Different.

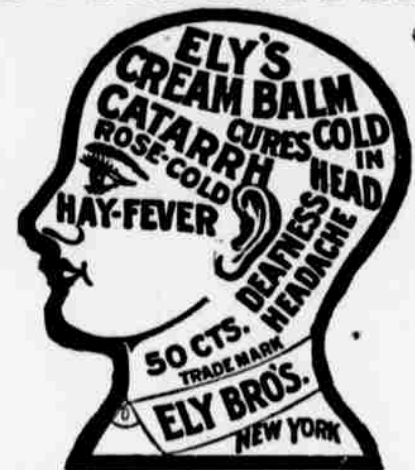
"Why don't you elope with her?"
"But, good gracious, man, if you are perfectly willing for me to marry your daughter I cannot see any object to be attained by our eloping."
"Can't you? How will it be if I offer you half of what I save on the wedding?"—Houston Post.

The Main Point.

"What do you think? That boss politician says he has divorced himself from politics."
"Then I'll bet he secured alimony."—Baltimore American.

Common sense in an uncommon degree is what the world calls wisdom.—Coleridge.

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