A PASS IS A BRIBE!

So, in reply to a rather pointed letter from Judge W. H. England, Governor Mickey admits that he has been accepting "courtesies," as he terms them, but what all honest people know are bribes, from the railroads in the form of passes. It is due him to add, however, that he promises the people, if re-elected to the office of governor, that he will accept no more, if the people do not like it, and that he will sign a bill forbidding the use of passes by the railroads to public officials, "if" "but" and "provided." These ifs, buts and provisos are dangerous things to handle. Better let them alone and elect an honest man to the governorship who is pledged to stamp out this iniquity, without any ifs, buts or provisos.

A railroad pass is a bribe. It is intended as such by the railroads. A little thought upon the subject will convince anyone that such is the case. Under what obligation, honestly speaking, is a public franchise corporation to any public official? Why should it be under any such obligation? If a public official does his exact duty to the public and to the different financial interests of the state, it is nothing more more than is expected of him and what he is paid for. When he accepts any special favors from any particular interest, it is bound to influence him a little more in favor of that interest than toward others. That is the deliberate intent of the interest granting the favor. It is intended to protect that interest from "hostile" legislation and from the execution of that legislation by the executive.

Railroads and all public service corporations are entitled to justice at the hands of all public officials. They buy that justice when they pay their share of taxes and perform other lawful acts. If, therefore, they are entitled to that justice, they should not have to buy it, with passes, any more than a grocer should have to donate provisions to the governor to secure his share of justice.

It would probably be incorrect to say that the governor of this great state ever allowed a pass from a railroad company to influence him. Of course, he has not. But the stubborn fact remains, however, that as a member of the state board of equalization he has refused to allow the franchises of railroads to be taxed. Why has he so refused? Does he believe that it is wrong to tax these franchises? Suppose he does think so, what right has he to decide such a question when the constitution of this state makes it mandatory upon the state to tax these franchises? The constitution is the voice of the people. They have said therein that these franchises shall be taxed, and until the people revoke their former decree, the governor and all other state officials are under oath to execute that decree. Why do they not do so? Of course, it is not because they have accepted these little "courtesies." Who would say so?

Even this revenue law that so many are condemning provides that the state board of equalization "may" tax these franchises. Its only defect here is, that it does not provide that the board "shall" tax them. Why did it not so provide? Was it because the committee that reported it to the house had been accepting these little "courtesies?"

Now it must not be forgotten that the franchise of a railroad company is really its most valuable asset. Take from any public service corporation the franchise that it controls, and that corporation would have to discontinue business. The franchise is secured from the people. It is the granting to the private corporation the exclusive right to use the public highway and to build a highway wherever it sees fit. In order to do this it possesses the right of eminent domain so that it may not only use the public highway, but that it may condemn and take private property for the purpose of laying tracks, pipes, wires or any other use necessary to its operation. It is this right, this franchise, that establishes the real value of all public service corporations. This franchise is secured from the people without compensation to them. It is a valuable asset which the people should never grant, but since they have granted it, it is only [illegible] tax its value into the public [illegible] fail to do so, is to grant [illegible] some that can not be [illegible] luable properties [illegible] state board of [illegible] the men[illegible] ments that may never be paid, and upon not only all things he has, but upon everything he may or may not secure in the future, and then allow these public franchise corporations to go untaxed? Is it because these merchants and manufacturers have not been shrewd enough to send the members of the various boards of equalization a suit of clothes, or groceries, or some other thing of value?

A pass is a bribe, and it can not be dignified by the use of such terms as "courtesies."

A PASS IS A BRIBE.

Under this revenue law there is every favor shown to the largest properties. The railroads come first, by this "may be taxed" proposition. Then the largest enterprises come next, though by no means in the same proportion. The farmers and small home owners suffer most in proportion. Why should this be so? Why should it be possible to tax a farmer or small home owner upon 100 per cent of the value of his property and then other properties, beginning with the railroads as the most favored (being about 15 per cent), at less than 100 per cent values?

This whole revenue system is so adroitly framed that the nearer to the "throne of grace" one gets the smaller is his proportion of taxes. And while the farmer and small home owner are down upon the soil, they must bear the greatest proportional burden. Why should this be so? Is it not because of fundamental errors in the system? Is it not because of the machinations of those twins, Cupidity and Stupidity?

One of the first reforms that the next legislature will have to deal with in the framing of a new revenue law, is to follow the example of New York state in requiring assessors to divide land and landed improvements In that state all lands, city and rural, must be appraised at separate values, from the improvements upon them. By the fact that improvements of all kinds there are appraised at their own value and the land by its separate value, the people are enabled not only to see the relative values of these properties, but boards of equalization are thereby enabled to better adjust all taxes.

Why should the thrifty who build and improve be taxed for the benefit of idle holders and speculators? The present law that classes improvements with the real estate operates to the disadvantage of those who add wealth and enterprise to the community, but favors the indolent and all who monopolize land, especially valuable city land, and keep it out of use. Let all this property be divided, and then at least one step will have been taken to a more just and equitable distribution of the burdens of taxation.

Another evil that must be corrected in the new revenue law to be enacted next winter, is not to discriminate in favor of the railroads in the form of assessing them. The present law leaves it optional with the state board of equalization as to everything relative to assessment of railroads, but there is no option on the part of the assessor in appraising other properties. All other property must be assessed at its market or selling value. And the law specifies just how an ass[illegible] shall determine its selling value. When he comes to appraise land, for instance, he must base that valuation upon the selling values of land in the vicinity. Here is a city lot. Adjoining this lot is another lot, say of equal value that has just been sold for $500. This $500 fixes the value of the remaining unsold lot, and the assessor must take that figure in appraising the value of the other for taxation. It is the same with farm lands.

Now this is a just and perfectly fair basis. In fact it is the only fair basis of arriving at the true value of any property. But the question is, W[illegible] have the railroads and other [illegible] franchise corporations been fa[illegible] not making the same prov[illegible] their assessments? Why sh[illegible] not be assessed at their se[illegible] Why does this present [illegible] mandatory upon assess[illegible] certain course in app[illegible] of the farmer, the h[illegible] business man, and [illegible] tional with the [illegible] zation in ap[illegible] corporations [illegible] be for the [illegible] legislat[illegible] the [illegible] th[illegible] r[illegible]

be just to you if they carry this bribe in their pockets. See that they are pledged not to accept any favors from any of these corporations. Then you may hope for justice.

A RAILROAD PASS AND ALL SIMILAR FAVORS ARE BRIBES.

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Q.

He is Proud of It

Editor Independent: There c[illegible] longer be any doubt that the [illegible] movement in New York an[illegible] states is one of great for[illegible] of the men connected [illegible] the city and the up[illegible] are the names of [illegible] in this great [illegible] no doubt, [illegible] ment be[illegible] to be p[illegible] are n[illegible] go[illegible] it was at last [illegible] fight against [illegible] Stillman, R[illegible] class, unde[illegible] party. M[illegible] are ast[illegible] me c[illegible] tir[illegible]

A PASTOR'S WIFE CURED OF PELVIC CATARRH

She Suffered for Years and Felt Her Case Was Hopeless—Cured by Pe-ru-na.

MRS. ANNA B. FLEHARTY, recent Superintendent of the W. C. T. U. headquarters, at Galesburg, Ill., was for ten years one of the leading women there. Her husband, when living, was first President of the Nebraska Wesleyan University, at Lincoln, Neb.

In a letter written from 401 Sixty-seventh street, W., Chicago, Ill., Mrs. Fleharty says the following in regard to Peruna:

"Having lived a very active life as wife and working partner of a busy minister, my health failed me a few years ago. I lost my husband about the same time, and gradually I seemed to lose health and spirit. My daughter is a confirmed invalid, and we both felt great need of an invigorator.

"One of my neighbors advised me to try Peruna. A bottle was immediately secured and a great change took place in my daughter's as well as in my own health. Our appetites improved very greatly, the digestion seemed much helped, and restful sleep soon improved us, so that we seemed like new women.

"I would not be without Peruna for ten times its cost."--Mrs. Anna B. Fleharty.

Mrs. Anna B. Fleharty.

What used to be called female diseases by the medical profession is now called pelvic catarrh. It has been found by experience that catarrhal diseases of the pelvic organs are the cause of most cases of female diseases.

Dr. Hartman was among the first of America's great physicians to make this discovery. For forty years he has been treating diseases peculiar to women, and long ago he reached the conclusion that a woman entirely free from catarrhal affection of these organs would not be subject to female disease. He therefore began using Peruna for these cases and found it so admirably adapted to their permanent cure that Peruna has now become the most famous remedy for female diseases ever known. Everywhere the women are using it and praising it. Peruna is not a palliative simply; it cures by removing the cause of female disease.

Dr. Hartman has probably cured more women of female ailments than any other living physician. He makes these cures simply by using and recommending Peruna.

Mrs. Esther M. Milner, DeGraff, Ohio, writes:

"I was a terrib[illegible] sufferer from female weakness and had [illegible] headache continuously. I was no[illegible]le to do my housework for myself a[illegible] husband. I wrote you and described [illegible] condition as near as possible. You [illegible]ommended Peruna. I took four bottle[illegible] and was completely cured. I think [illegible]runa a wonderful medicine."—Mrs. [illegible]ther M. Milner.

Congressman T[illegible]l. M. Mahon, of Chambersburg, P[illegible] writes:

"I take pleas[illegible] in commending your Peruna as [illegible]ubstantial tonic and a good cat[illegible]rh remedy."--- T. M. Mahon

If you do not rece[illegible] prompt and sa[illegible] factory results from [illegible] use of Per[illegible] write at once to Dr. [illegible]rtman, gi[illegible] full statement of you[illegible]se an[illegible] be pleased to give yo[illegible] is v[illegible] vice gratis.

Address Dr. Hartm[illegible] The Hartman Sanit[illegible] Ohio.