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## DEFY LAW OF KANSAS

### RAILROADS FIX RATES TO SUIT STANDARD OIL.

Action Intended to Affect Disastrously the Independent Interests Which Have No Pipe Lines and to Help the Rockefeller Monopoly.

Kansas City, Mo.—Representatives of all the railroads of Kansas met here and fixed a new schedule of oil freight rates in Kansas in defiance of the maximum freight rate law passed by the last Kansas legislature. The schedule agreed upon amounts to an increase of 50 per cent of the present schedule, which has been in effect since the passage of the maximum freight rate law.

#### Will Help Standard

The new rate will be about the same as the one in effect before the maximum rate law was passed. It is said that the action of the Kansas railway traffic officials will affect the independent oil shippers of Kansas more disastrously than any of the other patrons of Kansas railroads. The Standard Oil company, having a monopoly on oil tanks and pipe lines will not suffer from the new schedule of freight rates as will the independent oil men who are forced to ship their oil in barrels.

#### Rogers' Time Coming

New York.—Application for an order requiring Henry H. Rogers to answer the questions which he has refused to answer in the Missouri-Standard Oil inquiry was made to Supreme Court Justice Gildersleeve by Henry Wollman, representing the state of Missouri. Justice Gildersleeve put the case over until next Monday, asking that Mr. Wollman at that time have ready a certified copy of the decision of the Missouri court in a case similar to this one.

## RAILROAD PASSES IN ITALY

### Free Transportation and Reduced Rates Cause Discussion

Italy, like the United States, is in the throes of a free pass agitation. Only what makes the situation so difficult to deal with here is the fact that the railroads are in many instances owned by the government.

According to the latest decisions of the officials in charge of the state railways, many changes in the free pass system have already been made. The privileges of free passes will be given to all senators, deputies and their families. The term family in this and in other cases is held to comprise wives, mothers and fathers or grandparents, sons up to the age of twenty-five, unmarried or widowed daughters and daughters-in-law, as well as two servants. It will be given

to the wives and widows of all Knights of the Order of the Annunziata and to a few court officials, under-secretaries of state who are not members of parliament, the president and the sectional presidents of the councils of public works, railway functionaries and ex-functionaries above a certain rank and to the first secretaries of the prime minister and minister of public works. It should be remembered that the railway pass of a senator or deputy carries with it the rights to a reserved carriage. Free passes upon particular railways or portions of railways are given to officials and functionaries connected with them or with other railways apart from actual members of the railway administration; also to orphans of railway agents for the purpose of instruction.

In addition, Italian journalists and correspondents of the chief foreign newspapers have a right to three railway tickets at reduced rates in the course of the year, and to one free ticket in the same period which will also be available for their families. The minister of public works has in addition the right to issue every month sixty gratuitous tickets—each available for five people—for a single journey, and 100 tickets every month at reduced rate, which may be given to persons who have deserved such privileges by reason of services rendered to the state or the railway. This order, if enforced as it stands, will greatly restrict the number of gratuitous travelers.

## VICE FIGHTS THE REFERENDUM

### Gambling and Liquor Elements in San Diego Fear It

There is an interesting fight going on in San Diego, California, on the constitutionality of the referendum system for cities in that state and the legal controversy has been appealed to the supreme court. The "wide open" element are endeavoring to incorporate in the laws of the municipality a provision legalizing gambling and another provision to overcome the referendum vote approving the regulation of the liquor traffic.

The opponents of the referendum system nearly always have axes to grind to be used for grafting purposes on the taxpayers or people.

## UNION PACIFIC TO CUT MELON

### Plan Being Considered to Distribute Some of the Surplus.

Although leading directors of the Union Pacific railroad insist that no special distribution to stockholders will be made in the near future, it is learned that a definite plan is under consideration for such a distribution later on.

The Union Pacific company has treasury assets amounting to more than \$180,000,000 and about one-half of this amount is to be distributed among the shareholders sooner or later probably in the form of a scrip dividend. Each stockholder of record may possibly receive 35 or 40 per cent of his stock holdings in new Union Pacific 4 per cent preferred stock.

Official denials that no important

developments need be expected in Union Pacific affairs are technically correct, for the reason that this plan is being considered informally and is yet in an unfinished state.

The principal stockholders of the company, it is asserted, favor the distribution of preferred stock rather than cash for the reason that the Union Pacific will require an expenditure of about \$75,000,000 of cash to carry on new construction and to pay for its share of the expense of building the Los Angeles Salt Lake and Pacific railroad.

It is understood that the Union Pacific company has sold almost all of its holdings of Great Northern and Northern Pacific. A profit of nearly \$80,000,000 was realized on the original purchase of Northern Pacific stock made during the memorable May corner four years ago.

## KAISER TO MAKE CONCESSIONS

### Prefers to Grant Some Claims Rather Than Go to War

Berlin.—The German government has decided to make a further concession to the French views on the Moroccan question provided France will also yield something. The extent of Germany's proposals will become known only at Algeciras, where they will be communicated to the French delegates. Emperor William Chancellor von Beulow, it is understood, would rather make another effort to reconcile the French aims and Germany's interests than allow the serious situation to drift.

Some effort has been made here by certain small financiers to create a war scare out of the emperor's reply to the congratulatory address of the generals yesterday on the occasion of his majesty's silver wedding, in which the emperor remarked that he prayed God that war would not come, but if it came he was convinced that the army would daquit itself as efficiently as it did thirty-five years ago.

The tone of the bourse was not affected by these efforts although the market was weaker, owing to the uncertainty over the effect of the new German tariff and the commercial treaties going into effect March 1.

#### Grosvenor is Defeated

In the convention of the Eleventh Ohio congressional district, Albert C. Douglas of Chillicothe defeated Charles H. Grosvenor for the republican nomination on the first ballot by a vote of 78 to 20.

The "Sage of Athens" has been shorn of power. The halls of congress, which have held him for twenty years, will no more resound with his oratory. In the seventy-third year of his eventful life and the thirty-fifth of his public service, he was forced into retirement.

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## RATE ISSUE IN SENATE

### SENATOR TILLMAN LEADS IN BATTLE FOR REGULATION.

Unprecedented Honor Conferred Upon the Aggressive Southerner is Regarded Curiously in View of his Recent Attack on the President.

Washington, D. C.,—(Special)—If there was any irresolution on the part of democratic members of the senate interstate commerce commission it did not appear when the vote was taken on the rate regulation bill passed by the house. All the democratic members voted solidly to report the Hepburn bill and were supported by three republican members, Dolliver, Clapp and Cullom. Elkins, Aldrich, Kean, Foraker and Crane, as was expected, cast their votes against the house measure. The minority were able to add to the resolution recommending the Hepburn bill a clause which gives all the members of the interstate commerce committee freedom of action on the floor of the senate.

#### Sensitive to Public Opinion

After the committee meeting four of the minority senators sought to forestall criticism by announcing that had the bill contained a provision for review by the courts of the commission's findings they would have voted with the majority. This sensitiveness has created no little amusement among those who understand the "essence" of rate legislation. No measure can take from the railways the constitutional right to enjoin unreasonable rates and to appeal to the courts. So great is this power that the friends of rate regulation fear that it will render even the Hepburn measure, if it becomes a law, too weak to cope adequately with rate abuses. A special provision for review by the courts, such as was advocated by the minority, would, in the opinion of many, make the new law less effective than the present interstate commerce law. Therefore the announcement by the minority is considered by democrats a fatuous effort to hoodwink the public.

#### Foraker Unshaken

Senator Foraker remained consistent to the last. He did not join with the sensitive four in trying to cover up his trail. He stoutly opposes any rate regulation and will favor no compromise. While his corporation tendencies are not admired by democrats, or for that matter by the republicans who stand with the president, he is given the credit of not adding hypocrisy to the list of his offenses.

To Senator Tillman was assigned the honor of reporting the Hepburn bill to the senate. It is an unpre-