

here and regarded as one of the most courageous and honest senators, and as such he enjoys the highest respect of the people at this capital both inside and outside of congress.

The confidence of Senator Aldrich that he will win out in the end for an amendment that will be satisfactory to himself, and the reports that are current here that President Roosevelt is figuring with his party leaders upon some compromise amendment that will unite the party, has the effect of throwing a wet blanket over the enthusiasm of the friends of an unamended bill. It is well known among the senators and members of the house that the kind of a bill that will finally pass rests absolutely with the president. If he stands firm senators must yield to him on this measure, because the people are with him, and to oppose him would be to destroy their own future political prospects. Again if the president will stand it is certain that he will receive the entire democrat vote with possibly one or two exceptions, which will be sufficient.

It seems a little strange that just at the time when the newspapers of the country are proclaiming the fact that President Roosevelt has succeeded in having the masses think about the great issues involving their welfare without inquiring the attitude of their party concerning the same, and that through his efforts party lines are disappearing before a higher intelligence and a broader patriotism, that any fears should be entertained by any one, that the president himself would be the means of disappointing the country by considering the compromise of a righteous measure before congress in the interest of party harmony.

The war between the house and the senate is as bitter as ever with no prospects of improvement in sight. Speaker Cannon is determined to give a demonstration of his power, and has chosen the statehood bill as one involving as many difficulties as possible as the one that will consequently afford him the most glory, if he triumphs. The house insurgents are again active and more determined than ever, and the chances are that the speaker will fail. Never in the history of congress was there so much demoralization of a general nature including both branches of congress. Much has been undertaken and very little accomplished so far, with the prospects of little being accomplished in the future. It all comes of a reform measure in the form of a rate bill, being thrust upon a congress where it has no friends in the majority party, those who assume to be friends are doing so because the necessities of the case compel them to stand by a president who carried the district or state represented by the member or senator by so great a majority that their constituents demand that they support the president. It must be conceded that it is difficult at the present time to forecast the outcome of the measures now before congress.

Republican politicians are harassed with doubts and fears over the prospect of the coming congressional election, and the next presidential election. One of the most astute republican politicians in the United States, said to me last week, when I asked him what effect the passage or non-passage of the rate bill would have on the future of his party, that it was a case of being damned if they did and damned if they didn't. That the people demanded the passage of the bill, and will strike the party down if it refused to pass it, and that the railroads would not let their senators support the measure so that the passage of the bill involved a split in the party that would be fatal in the coming elections as the interest of the public was centered upon the action of the senate, and explanations would not go with them, this time, they were demanding what the party could not respond to, which was good faith.

EARNINGS OF RAILROADS

Net Earnings of All Roads of \$3,215 Per Mile for the Entire Mileage of the United States

The United States interstate commerce commission reports the earnings and operating expenses of the railways of the United States as follows:

This report covers the statement of income and expenditures of 752 operating companies. It includes the returns of all railways whose reports were on file with the commission on or before December 6, and represents an operated mileage of 214,477.82 miles, which is not far from 99 per cent of the mileage to be covered by the final report for the year in question.

The gross earnings of the railways for the year ending June 30, 1905, on the mileage already stated, were \$2,073,177,325. This total comprised earnings from the passenger service amounting to \$1,449,182,702, or 69.90 per cent, and other miscellaneous earnings amounting to \$51,885,257, or 2.50 per cent. According to this preliminary report, the gross earnings from operation averaged \$9,666 per mile of line. This average is considerably larger than the like average for any other year for which a statistical report has been published by the commission. The final report for the year ending June 30, 1904, showed that the total gross earnings of the railways, on 212,243.20 miles of line, for that year were \$1,975,174,091, being equivalent to \$9,306 per mile. Of the gross earnings per mile of line the passenger service contributed \$2,667 and the freight service \$6,757. In a general way it may be said that the several per mile averages shown in connection with the preliminary reports are likely to be somewhat larger than similar averages in the corresponding final reports, in consequence of the fact that the latter include returns for additional roads in which the ratios of the items to the respective mileages are less than the general averages.

The operating expenses of the railways embraced in the current preliminary report amounted to \$1,383,584,404, thus averaging \$6,451 per mile of line. For the year ending June 30, 1904, the operating expenses reported finally were \$1,338,896,253, or \$6,308 per mile. This advance report indicates that the ratio of operating expenses to earnings for 1905 was 66.74 per cent. The final report for the year 1904 gave for this item 67.79 per cent. This preliminary report shows that the net earnings of essentially the same roads were, for the year ending June 30, 1905, \$689,592,921, and for the year ending June 30, 1904, \$634,674,561. The railway companies for which returns are included in this advance report also received \$114,636,642 in the form of income from investments in the stocks and bonds of railway and other corporations, and from other miscellaneous sources. The net earnings, as stated above, must be increased by this sum to obtain the entire income which these operating lines had at their disposal for corporate expenditures and for reserve or surplus funds as well. The total income, consequently, was \$804,229,563. The aggregate of all the deductions chargeable against such total income was \$713,994,800. The principal items included in these deductions were, interest on funded debt, rents (which were \$58,533,381), and dividends, \$196,080,237, as described below. It thus appears that the surplus for the year resulting from the operations of those roads which the preliminary report covers, was \$90,234,763. The complete or final report for the year ending June 30, 1904, covering both operating and leased roads,

showed a surplus of \$56,729,331, and the like report for the year 1903, showed a surplus of \$99,227,469.

ISLE DEVASTATED BY VOLCANO

Savaii, in the Samoan Group, Visited by Disastrous Eruption

Honolulu.—The officers of the steamer Sierra, which arrived here from Sydney, via Samoa, reports that the eruption of the volcano on the island of Savaii of the Samoan group continues on a large scale. Three villages have been destroyed, including Malaeola, where was located the finest cocoa plantations on the island.

The residences of A. King and C. Barleley have been reduced to ruins. The lava from the volcano is flowing into the ocean in a stream three-quarters of a mile wide and twenty feet deep.

The government has chartered the steamer Maori to remove the women and children from the danger zone. The ship's officers also report that there has been no communication with Tahiti since the recent disastrous hurricane.

SUMMARY OF NEWS

Minnie Adams won the iCity Park Derby at New Orleans.

Chicago registration is nearly 50,000 heavier than that of last October.

Corporal Tanner, head of G. A. R., in protest against low pay for aged clerks.

Peoria, Ill., grand jury told three jurors in drainage damage case got \$500 each.

Warrants issued for arrest of fifty men as result of charivari in Perryopolis, Pa.

Volcano on island of Savaii, in Samoan group, pouring rivers of fiery lava into the ocean.

Louis De Lange a playwright, is found with his throat cut in his room in a New York hotel.

Paris paper asserted France has insisted on minimum rights in Morocco and cannot modify them.

Congress decided to take steps to end rapacious policy of powder trust; government plant assured.

Pure food bill adulterated by injection of "joker" which gives specialists supreme power, injuring measure.

Joint conference of operators and miners at Indianapolis depends on rescinding of Ryan resolution by miners.

Senator Bruce scored labor unions in debate on child labor measure in Iowa senate; bill passed by a vote of 46 to 4.

Delegation of Missouri jobbers asked Western Trunk Line association executive committee to reduce through freight rates.

Alton B. Parker in address before Mississippi legislature declared it democracy's duty to wage war on corporate privilege.

Two hundred and eighty-one midshipmen declared to be guilty of hazing; house committee censured Rear Admiral Brownson.

John Alexander Dowie cabled the Chicago Tribune that he remains supreme head of Zion; story of his wife's separation denied.

Iowa legislators call on Governor Cummins for proof to sustain his charge that railroad influence was used corruptly to defeat the primary bill.

Maximum age of applicants for positions on Chicago police force reduced from 35 to 30; minimum height raised from 5 feet 7 inches to 5 feet 8.

Oil magnates tell Attorney General Hadley of Missouri they will give no information willingly. Charges that the Standard corrupts railway employees are made in the Kansas City hearing.

Strong protests against the proposed law providing for an age limit in the government service is contained in a

letter written by "Corporal" Tanner to Chairman Tawney of the house appropriations committee.

The Jews have been ordered to leave the city of Vladivostok in three days.

The majority of the workmen are boycotting the elections at Samara, Russia.

A Nashville, Tenn., doctor has been accused of killing a woman for her money.

The president will make no immediate appointment of a justice of the supreme court.

The congressional free seed distribution is coming to be looked upon as a species of graft.

The saloons of Chicago are not likely to increase in number since the license fee is raised.

The department of agriculture is closely looking after the forest reserves of the nation.

There is a prospect that the house will pass the bill abolishing the rank of lieutenant general.

Democratic senators have conferred over the railroad rate bill and favor non-suspension of rates.

Europe takes two-thirds of the exports of the United States and supplies one-half the imports.

With a population of only 3,315,343 Switzerland has a foreign trade of more than \$400,000,000 a year.

A German baroness committed suicide at the quarters of her son, a lieutenant, at Fort Leavenworth.

President Mitchell has sent a reply to the letter of the coal barons rejecting the demands of the miners.

A snowslide near Ouray, Colo., destroyed half a million dollars worth of mining property and killed one man.

The workmen in twenty-two out of thirty-seven factories at Kharoff, Russia, have declined to participate in the elections.

The new president of the New York Life Insurance company was censured for endeavoring to secure a continuation in office.

Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst criticises the message of President Roosevelt congratulating General Wood on the victory at Jolo.

Colonel Knight, Major General Wood's chief of staff, has returned from a reconnaissance of the situation in China. He reports that there is absolutely no danger of trouble and that tranquility prevails.

The constitutional democrats at Moscow are developing strength at the elections. A railroad man selected as a delegate refused to give his name to the authorities until he was guaranteed immunity from arrest.

Attack on the republican party as responsible for the abuse of government taxation, which is the cause of graft, is made by former Judge Alton B. Parker, who, in a speech at Jackson, Miss., warns the democratic party against radicalism.

Senator Depew, so seriously ill that no one but members of his family is allowed to see him, is in strict seclusion at the country home of a friend near New York, and it is reported that he will not be able to go back to the senate this session.

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ODDS AND ENDS

In 1905 486 new national banks were organized.

The present population of Vienna exceeds 1,800,000.

Mahomet's tomb is covered with jewels worth \$12,500,000.

The Mexican lap dog is the smallest member of the dog family.

Germany has considerably more than one-half of the coal still stored in Europe.