

THE GAME WILL NOT WORK.

The Interstate Commerce Commissioners... Washington special: "The railroad people who have been preparing to paralyze the interstate commerce commissioners with their thousands of hypothetical cases and unnecessary questions are going to slip up on their little game. The commission remembers the adage which implies that it is a good deal easier to ask questions than to answer them, and is going to sit squarely down on this sort of thing. I was talking with one of the commissioners yesterday about it."

"That is too much of a good thing," he said. "We can't consider hypothetical cases. There will be enough real ones. We can't permit people to come and ask us to pass upon cases which don't exist, any more than a judge could act upon an imaginary case, or give legal advice to every body who might come along and ask for it. You might as well go and consult a judge of your local court at every business step to ask a commission of this sort to construe law and pass upon imaginary cases when there are more than we can attend to of real ones."

"You look for a good deal of work, then, of a legitimate character?"

"Yes, I think we shall be kept pretty busy, and especially during the first few months."

"Do you think it is going to take such a tremendous force of clerks and assistants as is being predicted?"

"No, I don't expect it will. Of course we shall have to have some clerical aid, but not so large a force, at first at least, as has been represented."

At the afternoon session the interstate commerce commission made a ruling on the points contained in the petition of the Southern Railway & Steamship association, in which authority was asked to allow the present rates to continue for the present, in order to prevent a great disturbance of business interests, and the interests of the different lines in the association.

After referring to the petition in detail, the ruling of the commission is as follows:

It appearing to the commission, after investigation of said petition and facts presented in support thereof, to be a proper case for a temporary order authorizing the existing rates to be maintained for the time being, until the commission can make a complete examination of the matters alleged in said petition as reasons for relieving said common carriers from the operation of said section of said act; it is ordered that said application be and the same hereby is granted temporarily, subject to modification or revocation by the commission at any time upon hearing or otherwise, and said common carriers are hereby temporarily relieved from the operation of the fourth section of said act to the extent specified in the recitals of this order and for the period of time not greater than ninety days from this date, subject, however, to the restriction that none of said common carriers while this order remains in force shall in any case charge or receive compensation for the transportation of property between stations on their respective lines more than the rates in effect for a longer haul, which shall be greater than the rates in force and charged and received by said carriers respectively on the 31st day of March, 1887, the schedules of which have been filed with the commission. It is made further a condition of this order that a printed copy hereof shall be forthwith publicly posted and kept with the schedule of rates, fares and charges at every station upon the lines of said common carriers, where such schedules are by law required to be posted and kept for use of the public; and it is further ordered that the commission convene at Atlanta, Ga., on the 26th day of April, 1887, at 3 o'clock, p. m.; and thereafter at Mobile, Ala., April 29; New Orleans, May 2, and at Memphis, Tenn., on May 4, for the consideration of the subject matter of said petition, at which places and times said common carriers or any of them may appear and present application for said relief with evidence in support thereof; which applications in each case must show the precise relief desired, facts upon which the same is claimed, and the extent to which the relief from the operation of said act is asked for; and at the same places and times all persons interested in opposing any such application may also appear and be heard, and at any time prior to May 6, 1887, the commission will receive printed or written communications in support of or in opposition to the relief asked for by said petitioners.

This announcement respecting time and places of hearing, and the method of procedure, is subject to change or enlargement in the discretion of the commission.

For the commission:

T. M. COOLEY, Chairman.

PISTOLED IN THE PULPIT.

A Parson Fired at While Preaching a Sermon.

Pittsburg special: A most cowardly attempt to assassinate the Rev. W. F. Lowry, pastor of Brown's African Methodist Episcopal chapel, Allegheny City, was made last Sunday night. While the reverend gentleman was in the midst of his discourse a rifle ball, evidently aimed at Mr. Lowry's head, crashed through the window at the head of the pulpit, passed but an inch from his head, and embedded itself in the opposite wall. Had the leaden messenger struck against the side wall and deflected in its course the slightest mistake would have received a fatal wound. The only possible place from which the bullet could have been fired was the roof of the building on the opposite side of the alley. For some months the members of the church have been disputing over the session of a valuable piece of property. Mr. Lowry, having established the legal right of the church to the property has incurred the enmity of several members of his flock, prominent among whom is a Mr. Bruce and a Mr. Kinney. The latter has ceased attending church, but Mr. Bruce has been in constant attendance until Sunday night, when his absence was the subject of much remark. Lowry, who is now confined to his room by illness, says he cannot believe that either of the two parties would attempt to take his life.

THE COW-BOY IN THE EAST.

Buffalo (N. Y.) dispatch: A pistol shot this evening drew a large crowd to a spot, where it was found that a young man had been attacked and badly beaten by citizens who had followed him out of the lurch room near by when it appears that he calls himself George Caldwell, a cowboy of Glenwood Springs, Col. He entered a lurch room and began to flourish a pistol in the people's faces and ordered them to go through all sorts of motions after the style of a border terror. They were thoroughly scared, and made no resistance until he turned to leave when they descended on him with awful result. He resisted the capture of his pistol and in the struggle it went off in the crowd, but nobody was hurt. This is the first appearance of the storied cowboy here. He was locked up.

NO OFFENSE TO THE CAR.

Rome, April 6.—The pope, in view of the hostility of the Catholic clergy in Russia, has instructed the congregation for ecclesiastical affairs to examine the question of Pan-Slavism in relation to the church, in order to be able to give instructions to the bishops of Russia without offending the czar's government.

MONEY / WASHINGTON.

The Crisp New Bills With Which Uncle Sam Pays Hired Men.

Washington special: The sergeant-at-arms of the house and his subordinates are busy to-day sending out checks to the members of the Fiftieth congress. They are the first month's salary of each member of the house for the Fiftieth congress. To a hundred or so of them the experience of receiving these checks will be new and novel. Each check is for \$416 and a fraction, this being the amount of the salary for each month. What a big lump of money this will be to a good many of 'em, and how they will wonder what they have done to earn it. And so do some other people wonder about the same thing. It does seem a good deal, don't it, to pay a fellow for staying at home and doing nothing. Yet there are some iconoclastic individuals who insist that the money could be paid with much greater business propriety if they should continue to stay at home. Any way, the example set today, the close of the first month of the life of the Fiftieth congress, is to be followed month by month during the two years that it is to continue in existence.

Multiply the monthly stipend of a member by 400, the number of members of the house and senate, and what do you get? One hundred and sixty thousand dollars for a month's services when no services have been performed. Over \$5,000 a day we pay congressmen for staying at home and letting the country take care of itself. They will probably be eight or ten monthly payments of this sort, aggregating \$1,500,000 before the country gets any services out of the new congress. The payments of salaries of congressmen at this time, when there is no session and the members are all out of the city, is made by warrant on the treasury, and sent to the residence of the congressman. The Ohio members, for instance, receive warrants on the treasury at Cincinnati; so do the Kentucky members. Those of Illinois and Wisconsin and Iowa receive warrants drawn on the Chicago sub-treasury, and they are forwarded to the members by mail and by them are usually turned in at some local bank, for they are recognized as being "as good as wheat." From the bank they are sent to the sub-treasury and there are cashed.

During the session, when members are here, they get their money direct from the sergeant-at-arms or his deputies, at the capitol. At each end of the building, just by the senate, is a room fitted up like the business part of a bank, long marble-topped counters with heavy wire screens in front, big safes of the most approved make, and all the paraphernalia of a miniature banking establishment. On the desk outside the railing are blank warrants which the member has only to fill up when he wants a lump of his salary. He may draw all that has accrued up to a given time, or he may draw as much or as little of it as he sees fit, and leave the balance to his credit, just as though it were a bank deposit. If he wants to pay some money to a fellow member, or any body else, such as a poker debt, for instance, he may give him a check for a certain amount, and a good many of 'em do it, too. It is related that the entire salary of one of the Kentucky members used to go for months at a time, on orders of this sort, to one of the sweetest looking, most demure members of the Ohio delegation, one whom they all suspect of knowing a card from another. Sometimes it happens, but very rarely, however, that a member gets to such desperate straits that he gives orders for more than his month's salary, or, in other words, duplicates his pay accounts. This may be said with satisfaction, does not often occur. Sometimes they ask to overdraw, but this is a very difficult thing to accomplish.

Some of the wealthier members, who are not dependent on their salaries for current expenses, not only permit their salaries to accumulate in the office of these sergeant-at-arms, but add to them, from time to time, money that happens to bring with them or receive while here. The sergeant-at-arms' office is close at hand, more convenient than the bank, and equally safe, and it often becomes a bank deposit, some times for quite large sums. One wealthy member of the house from the west, who is used to have, it is said, sometimes as high as \$40,000 or \$50,000 at a time in the big safe in the office of the sergeant-at-arms. These are, however, exceptional cases. As a rule the average member keeps his salary drawn pretty close, and not often in excess of a small margin to his credit. Sometimes outside parties, those not in the employ of the government, make use of these banking facilities. If you have a check that you want cashed at the capitol you can be accommodated at the sergeant-at-arms office by first getting some money to invest in the check for you. The payments which are made over the counter at these congressional banks are usually in crisp new bills or bright silver dollars. The money comes, in most cases, direct from the treasury, and a great many of the bills are entirely new, fresh from the printing press of the bureau of printing and engraving. In fact this is a peculiar and pleasing feature of most of the money that is afloat in Washington. The thousands of government employes, forming a large percentage of the population, get their salaries in crisp new money, and the local banks usually trade their worn currency for new at the treasury, and the result is bright, clean, crisp money everywhere.

FUGITIVE MORMONS HEARD FROM.

Salt Lake special: The fifty-seventh annual conference of the Mormon church convened at Provo this morning and will last three days. There is a large attendance from all parts of the territory. The usual epistle from the first presidents, John Taylor and George Q. Cannon, who are in hiding and have been for a year past, will be read to-morrow. It is said to be quite a lengthy document, and to deal largely with the righteousness of the Mormon taking the test oath recently put in force by the operation of the Edmunds-Tucker bill. There is considerable anxiety manifested as to what position the Mormon leaders will take in the matter. There seems to be little or no doubt, however, that the monogamous saints will be counseled to take oaths prescribed by the Edmunds law which exacts an oath that they intend to obey the act, and refrain from practicing polygamy and unlawful cohabitation and other crimes named therein.

AN OKLAHOMA SCARE.

Washington special: Word has reached the authorities here that as soon as settled spring is established an invasion of the Oklahoma territory will take place that in its proportions will exceed anything that has yet been done under Payne's leadership. Certain interested parties have been speaking a rumor that the Oklahoma country has been thrown open to settlement and the Indian bureau has been overwhelmed with letters during the past few months asking if this were true. The secretary of the interior has addressed communications to the secretary of war looking to placing the entire country in the Oklahoma section under the control of one command. It is now divided up between three or four officers and it is now considered that it should be in control of one officer.

It is now estimated that there are 8,000 idle carpenters in Chicago.

DISCHARGED AND KILLED.

An Indian Agent Shoots His Farmer in Self-Defense.

Washington dispatch: Indian Commissioner Atkins has received the following letter from Indian Agent E. C. Osborne at the Ponca, Pawnee and Otoe Agency, Indian Territory, under date of April 2, 1887:

With a profound sense of regret I have to report that in discharging yesterday E. M. Smith, a farmer at the Otoe Agency, for general bad conduct upon the agency, but chiefly because of his ungovernable temper, which was continually being turned loose upon both employes and Indians, I had to kill him in self-defense. He repeatedly threatened to kill the clerk in charge, who reported his bad conduct and asked that he be discharged. I went to Otoe to explain to him my reasons for discharging him, to hear his defense, if he had any, to pay him his salary for the past quarter, and to dismiss him. While very calmly and quietly performing this duty he made a violent attack upon the clerk in charge, whom he wounded on the arm, and then turned upon Mr. Justice, the agency blacksmith, who was continually being turned loose upon both employes and Indians, I had to kill him in self-defense. 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