

POLITICS OF THE DAY

The Nebraska Platform.
The Democracy of Thomas Jefferson, which would support the State governments in all the rights and powers reserved to them by the Constitution, and preserve the general government in its whole constitutional vigor as the sheet anchor of our peace at home and abroad, is clearly voted in the platform on which the Democrats of Nebraska have endorsed William Jennings Bryan for the Democratic nomination for the presidency by the Denver convention.

There is nothing of the theorist or the doctrinaire in the tariff plank which demands immediate reduction of the monstrous import duties by which one class of industries in this country is enabled to levy tribute upon all others. It is exactly in line with the traditional Democratic maxim that there shall be equal rights for all, special privileges for none. Its demand that articles entering into competition with articles produced by a trust or monopoly created by the tariff be admitted free of duty would place only a reasonable restraint upon the greed of concerns which would take advantage of the revenue laws to make unjust exactions upon consumers.

True Democracy meaning individualism, and manhood citizenship, the Nebraska Democrats speak the language of true Americanism when they demand that corporations be forbidden by effective laws to meddle with politics to the extent of giving money to promote the success of one political party or another.

It is in accord with the Democratic principle of State rights that a foreign corporation licensed in any State shall abide by the conditions of its license. If a domestic corporation has no special privilege in the matter of removing its litigation from the State to the Federal courts, the foreign corporation should have no higher privilege. The Nebraska plank on this subject will meet with general Democratic approval.

This being a government of law created by the people, for the people, the Nebraska Democrats have the approval of Democrats throughout the country in their demand for stricter laws against the admission to the privileges of American institutions of persons who avowedly prefer anarchy to law. But the National Democracy cannot go with the Nebraska plank in the demand that the States surrender to the Federal government the right to tax inheritance in order to restrict inordinate fortunes or for any other purpose.

The prohibition of railroad passes and of rebates is part of the Democratic policy for securing the square deal and the equal chance for all. The demand that favoritism be not shown by the treasury in distributing its deposits among the banks of different parts of the country is of the same principle. The Nebraska plank is to be congratulated upon proposing the best solution yet advanced of the Philippines problem. We cannot abandon those islands until there is stable government there, and we would be false to a trust if we gave them up before their neutrality is secured by treaties with other Powers. Of course, we must keep our naval stations there.

The Nebraska convention has not written the platform for the Democratic national convention to be held in Denver in July. That convention will assuredly add to and subtract from the declarations put forth at Omaha. But the Denver gathering will be glad to draw from the Nebraska platform much that will help the Democracy of the nation in its fight for the re-establishment of Jeffersonian government in this country.—St. Louis Republic.

The Tariff Commission.
The specific tariff measure which the National Association of Manufacturers favor is the Beveridge-Stearnson bill, which provides for a non-partisan tariff commission to gather information, make suggestions, and guide Congress in revising the Dingley schedules. This wonderful commission is to be appointed by the President, a Republican, with a view to carrying out his own Republican policies. The people who are arguing it say that they are Republicans and protectionists, but assume that the poor, fleeced, abused, insulted, racked and ruined multitude will regard them as non-partisan and entirely disinterested, in spite of their confessions to the contrary. We assume that their proposition is both unconstitutional and inexpedient. It is unconstitutional because "all bills for raising revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives," while the bill in question originated in the Senate; and because it would have the effect of putting the initiation of tariff bills in the hands of a commission "appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate," and thereby deprive the House of its prerogative in this vital matter.

This scheme is an attempt to take away from the representatives of the people the power of taxation secured to them by the Constitution of the United States.

It is not only an unconstitutional measure, but a deceptive, hypocritical

measure. Its authors and backers know that any commission appointed by a Republican President and confirmed by a Republican Senate would be a Republican and partisan commission. They know that the question of high tariff and low tariff—the question of protection and monopoly—is a party question. They know that the Democratic doctrine is to take away artificial props and supports from monopolies, to remove the legal obstacles to wholesome competition now existing, and to get down as soon as possible to a system in which every tub shall stand on its own bottom, in manufacturing and commerce. They know that the Republican doctrine is the antithesis of this. They know that it is impossible to find any honest man who can be non-partisan on this question. And, therefore, they know that they are engaged in a huge bunco game.

Even if the bill should pass, the courts will refuse to give it the effect designed by its advocates.

Fooling the People.
The Republican leaders have the tariff revision issue all fixed up to their satisfaction with the evident intention of fooling the people again. No such dangerous method as a tariff commission is to be attempted, but the whole matter is to be within the keeping of the standpatrollers of the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Finance Committee of the Senate. According to the New York Tribune, which is undoubtedly in the confidence of the Republican leaders, the tariff program is to be carried out by Congress giving those committees authority to "hold sessions in the recess and conduct such examination into the tariff schedules as may be deemed wise in view of the approaching revision." This is the way the Washington correspondent of the Tribune understands the ploy has been set up. President Roosevelt is to "contribute his share" of this Republican conspiracy for revising the tariff higher by detailing a committee of appraisers, collectors and "other treasury experts" to supply statistics and "suggestions."

That will be what the Republicans call revising the tariff by the friends of protection, and we have the assurance of Secretary Root and the other Republican leaders that the intention is to add to the present schedules, maximum rates to be imposed on the products of those countries with whom no reciprocity treaties exist. What is the use of promises of tariff reduction if the revision is to be in the hands of those who would revise the tariff higher?

Prosperity for the Few.
In spite of the panic and the prolonged business depression there are three institutions that have been remarkably prosperous during the past year. The First National Bank, controlled by J. Pierpont Morgan, proposes to declare a special dividend of 100 per cent. The undivided profits of the bank are reported to the Comptroller of the Currency to be \$19,553,900, while the capital of the bank is \$10,000,000. The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad reports the most prosperous year in the history of the company; the net earnings after paying all charges were \$10,089,128. The surplus was equal to 38.4 per cent on the common stock and after payment of 20 per cent in dividends still left \$4,849,328 surplus.

Another corporation, the Standard Oil Trust, has paid dividends for the year of 40 per cent and still has a vast surplus. So here we have a bank, a railroad and a trust making millions for those who control them, while ordinary business men have found difficulty in securing the necessary funds to carry on their business and numbers have failed to keep their heads above the troubled business water. Such prosperity for the few at the expense of the many is the boasted Republican prosperity.

Republican Indicts His Party.
When you come to analyze it and think about it, Governor Black's indictment of his party is as severe as it is true. Governor Black nominated Roosevelt for Vice President at Philadelphia in 1900. He has been one of the national leaders of the Republican party for many years. Therefore, when he expresses an opinion of his own party that opinion may justly be regarded as a just and fair statement. Now Governor Black recently said: "We have seen . . . the independence of the courts, the fixed and salutary boundaries of co-ordinate functions, the guarantee of fair play, the scrupulous regard for the limitations of official power, all staggering under blows inflicted by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate." And since all the blows under which these things are staggering have been rendered effective only because the Republican party has by a vast majority made them effective by its unqualified approval, surely the party is as rotten and reckless as its leader.

Why shouldn't our war vessels be constructed at government navy yards?

ROOSEVELT AGAIN PETITIONS CONGRESS

President Sends Special Message to Congress, Urging Legislation.

POSTAL SAVINGS BANKS
On This and Other Important Matters, Executive Renews His Recommendations—For Permanent Waterways Commission.

Washington, March 25.—Emphatically urging action on the important legislative matters before it, including tariff revision, Sherman anti-trust law, the currency measures and the labor problems, President Roosevelt today sent to Congress another special message.

The president devotes most of his attention to the proposed amendment to the Sherman anti-trust law, making some important suggestions as to its revision.

The message in full follows: To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I call your attention to certain measures as to which I think there should be action by the Congress before the close of the present session. There is ample time for their consideration. As regards most of the matters, bills have been introduced into one or the other of the two houses, and it is not too much to hope that they will be taken up by the other on these bills at the present session. In my message at the opening of the present session, and, indeed, in various messages since that time, I have repeatedly suggested action on most of these measures.

Child labor should be prohibited throughout the nation. At least a model law for labor bill should be passed for the District of Columbia. It is unfortunate that in the one place solely dependent upon Congress for its status, the children should be whatever to protect children by forbidding or regulating their labor.

I renew my recommendation for the immediate enactment of an employment liability law, drawn to conform to the recent decision of the supreme court. With the limits indicated by the court, the law should be comprehensive and should embrace every class of employe to which the power of the Congress can extend.

In addition to a liability law protecting the employes of common carriers, the Government should show its good faith by enacting a law to protect the employes of its own employes for injury or death incurred in its service. It is a reproach to us as a nation that in both federal and State legislation we have afforded no protection to public and private employes than any other industrial country of the world.

As to Injunctions.
I also urge that action be taken along the line of the recommendations I have already made concerning injunctions in labor disputes. No temporary restraining orders should be issued without notice, and the petition for a permanent injunction upon which such temporary restraining order has been issued should be made public. The same should be done within a reasonable time—say, not to exceed a week or thereabouts from the date when the order was issued. It is especially important that the public be given greater confidence in the impartiality of sentences for contempt if it is required that the issue should be decided by another judge, and that the injunction, except where the contempt is committed in the presence of the court, or in other case of urgency, should be made public. There is a real need of amending the interstate commerce law and especially the anti-trust law along the lines indicated in my last message. The interstate commerce law should be amended so as to give railroads the right to make traffic agreements, subject to these agreements being approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission and published in all of their details. The Commission should also be given the power to make public and to pass upon the issuance of all orders of receivership by railroads doing an interstate commerce business.

A law should be passed providing in effect that when a receiver is appointed to place a common carrier or other public utility under the control of a receiver, the attorney general should have the right to appoint at least one of the receivers; or else in some other way the interests of the stockholders should be consulted, so that the management may not be wholly controlled by the man or men the failure of whose policy may have necessitated the creation of the receivership. Receiverships should be made public, and the receiver should be as possible to pay their debts and return them to the proper owners.

Amend Anti-Trust Law.
In addition to the reasons I have already urged on your attention, it has now become imperative that there should be an amendment of the anti-trust law, because of the uncertainty as to how this law affects combinations among labor men and farmers. It is the combination of such tendency to restrict interstate commerce. All of these combinations, if and while existing, are engaged in the promotion of the present and the future of the country. As I have repeatedly pointed out, this anti-trust law was a most unwise drawn statute. It was perhaps the worst piece of legislation that has ever been enacted in this country. The right remedy is the first attempt to provide such should be made; and it was absolutely imperative that some legislation should be enacted by the Congress to amend the public, the business use of the enormous aggregations of corporate wealth that are so marked a feature of the modern industrial world. But the present anti-trust law, in its construction and working, has exemplified only too well the kind of legislation which, under the guise of being through, is really a device for sweeping forms as to become either ineffective or else mischievous.

In the modern industrial world combinations are everywhere. They are necessary among business men, they are necessary among laboring men, they are becoming more and more necessary among farmers. Some of the combinations are among the most powerful of all instruments for wrongdoing. Others offer the only effective way of meeting actual business needs in a mischievous and unwholesome way to keep upon the statute books unmodified a law. Like the anti-trust law, which, while in practice only partially effective against the vicious combinations, has nevertheless in theory been construed so as sweepingly to prohibit every combination for the transaction of modern business, the law should be amended along this line. But the time has come when it is imperative to modify it. Such modification is urgently needed for the sake of the business men of the country, for the sake of the wageworkers, and for the sake of the farmers. The Congress can not afford to leave it on the statute books in its present shape.

Suggests Changes.
It has now become uncertain how far this law may involve all labor organizations and farmers' organizations, as well as all business organizations, in conflict with the law. It is a general compliance with the law, how far it may result in the destruction of the organizations necessary for the transaction of modern business, as well as of labor organizations and farmers' organizations, completely check the wise movement for securing business co-operation among farmers and put back half a century the progress of the movement for the betterment of labor. A bill has been presented in the Congress to remedy this situation. Some of the changes suggested in this bill are of interest of all engaged in the industries which are essential to the country's well-being. I do not pretend to say the exact shape this bill should take, but the suggestions I have to offer are tentative; and my views would apply equally to any

other measure which would achieve the desired end. Bearing this in mind, I would suggest, merely tentatively, the following changes in the law.

The substance part of the anti-trust law should remain as at present; that is, every contract in restraint of trade or commerce among the several States or with foreign nations should continue to be declared illegal; provided, however, that some proper government authority (such as the commissioner of corporations acting under the secretary of commerce) and labor be allowed to pass on any such contracts. Probably the best method of providing for this would be to enact that any contract, subject to the provisions contained in the anti-trust law, into which it was desired to enter, might be filed with the bureau of corporations or other appropriate executive body. This would provide publicity. Within, say, 60 days of the filing—which period could be extended by order of the department whenever for any reason it was not given the department sufficient time for a thorough examination—the executive department having power might forbid the contract, which would then become subject to the provisions of the anti-trust law, if at all in restraint of trade.

If no such prohibition was issued, the contract would be valid. The law should be based on the ground that it constituted an unreasonable restraint of trade. Whenever the period of filing had passed without any such prohibition, the contract or combination could be dissolved or forbidden only after notice and hearing by a reasonable provision for summary review of the court. The court should be organized, farmers' organizations, and other organizations not organized for purposes of profit, should be allowed to register with the executive department, making out the head office, the charter and bylaws, and the names and addresses of their principal officers. In the interest of all these organizations, the law should give farmers' organizations alike—the present provision permitting the recovery of threefold damages should be abolished, and as a substitute therefor the right of recovery allowed for should be only the damages sustained by the plaintiff and the cost of suit, including a reasonable attorney's fee.

The law should not affect pending suits; a short statute of limitations should be provided so far as the past is concerned, not to exceed a year. Any recovery hereafter should be brought only on the contract or combination complained of, and should be limited to the damages sustained by the plaintiff. The law should not be construed so as to affect suits heretofore brought by the Government under the anti-trust law have been in cases where the combination or contract was in fact unfair, unreasonable, and against the public interest.

Strikes Legal.
It is important that we should encourage trade agreements between employer and employe where they are just and fair, and where they are not, the law should be so amended that the process of conciliation and arbitration as a substitute for strikes, violence, coercion, and coercion, when committed in connection with strikes, should be as promptly and as sternly repressed as when committed by other means. But strikes themselves are, and should be, recognized to be entirely legal. Combinations of workmen have a peculiar reason for their existence. The very nature of individual employe, and still more the very wealthy corporation, stand at an enormous advantage when compared to the individual workman. The result is that there are many cases where it may not be necessary for laborers to form a union, in many other cases it is indispensable. The individual workman, and the thousands of thousands of individual workmen, will be left helpless in their dealings with the one big unit, the big individual or corporate employe.

Twenty-two years ago, by the act of June 29, 1886, trades unions were recognized by law, and the right of laboring people to combine for lawful purposes was formally recognized. This right, including combination for mutual protection and benefit, the regulation of working hours and conditions of labor, and the protection of the individual rights of the workmen in the prosecution of their trade or business, and in the act of June 29, 1886, strikes were recognized as legal. In the same provision that forbade participation in or instigation of force or violence against the property of another, it attempted to prevent others from working by violence, threat, or intimidation. The business man must be protected in person and property, and so must the individual and the wageworker; and as regards all alike, the right of peaceful combination for all lawful purposes should be explicitly recognized.

Establish Postal Banks.
The question of financial legislation is now receiving such attention in both houses that we have a right to expect action before the close of the session. It is urgently necessary that there should be such action. Moreover, action should be taken to establish postal savings banks. These postal savings banks are imperatively needed for the benefit of the wage workers and men of small means, and will be a valuable adjunct to our whole financial system.

Revise Tariff.
The time has come when we should prepare for a revision of the tariff. This should be, and indeed must be, preceded by careful investigation. It is especially imperative that the President, and indeed peculiarly the province of the House of Representatives, to originate a tariff bill and to determine upon it, and that it fully recognize the fact that before the close of this session provision should be made for collecting full material which will enable the Congress to act intelligently and immediately after it comes into existence. This would necessitate some action by the Congress at its present session, perhaps in the shape of directing the proper committee to gather the necessary information, both through the committee itself and through government agents who should be appointed to investigate and lay before it the facts which would permit it to act with prompt and intelligent fairness. These government agents, if it is not to appoint individual investigators from outside the public service, might with advantage be members of the executive departments, designated by the President, and to be reported on or on the request of the committee, to act with it.

I am of the opinion, however, that one change in the tariff could with advantage be made forthwith. Our forests need extra protection, and one method of protecting them would be to put upon the forest wood pulp, with a corresponding reduction in the tariff on wood pulp, when they come from any country that does not put an export duty upon them.

Waterways Commission.
Ample provision should be made for a permanent waterways commission, with whatever power is required to make it effective. The reasonable expectation of the people will not be met unless the Congress provides at this session for the beginning and prosecution of the actual work of waterway improvement, and for the Congress should recognize in the fullest fashion the fact that the subject of the conservation of our natural resources, with which this commission deals is literally vital for the future of the nation. Numerous bills granting water power rights on navigable streams have been introduced. Some of them give the Government the right to make a reasonable charge for the valuable privileges so granted. In view of the fact that water power privileges are equivalent to many thousands of acres of the best coal lands for their production of power. Nor always do the time limits which should always be done in such cases. I shall be obliged hereafter, in accordance with the policy stated in a recent message, to provide for a time limit and for the right of the president or of the secretary concerned to fix and collect such a charge as he may deem just and reasonable in each case. Theodore Roosevelt, The White House, March 25, 1908.

COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL

CHICAGO.
Trade conditions in Chicago for the week are summarized by R. G. Dun & Co. as follows:

"Reasonable conditions have imparted a more hopeful tone to industry, and new demands make an improving exhibit in iron, steel, metal and woodworking, there being also steady additions to the machinery and hands employed. Building operations and heavy construction open promptly, the work in sight assuring a busy year, with heavy capital investment, and the outlook strengthens the buying of structural needs, lumber and quarry products. Navigation between nearby lake ports is effected, thereby widening the general movement of freight, which aggregates heavier tonnage by rail than a month ago, although marketing of grain has slackened. Farm reports indicate widespread preparatory work and improvements.

"A healthy indication of the improvement under way is a better offering of commercial paper and an easier tendency in the cost of money. Currency shipments to the interior have fallen behind those at this time last year, but larger sums are being reserved for use in manufacturing and other property extensions, while savings deposits are on the upturn. Few commodities disclose any significant decline in prices.

"Mercantile collections generally reflect increasing promptness, and credits are less disturbed by the lower commercial mortality this week. Retail trade progresses encouragingly, and is relatively very good at outside points, where higher temperatures have prevailed. Wholesale dealings in the principal staples include a very satisfactory gain in the volume of new accounts, and the aggregate sales of textiles, footwear, men and women's wear, food products and hardware compare favorably with a year ago, although many buyers anticipated forward requirements more conservatively.

"Failures reported in the Chicago district number 32, against 30 last week and 20 a year ago. Those with liabilities over \$5,000 number 10, against 11 last week and 6 in 1907."

NEW YORK.
Improvement in sentiment and in actual demand continues, but it proceeds under the check rein of conservatism, which limits buying to small lots of staple goods. Spring trading has apparently passed its zenith with a total trade larger perhaps than was expected some months ago, but smaller by far than a year ago. Fall trade is four to six weeks late in opening up. As hitherto, the chief activity has been in dry goods and allied lines, especially millinery, which, so far as spring trade preparations are concerned, makes relatively one of the best showings. In industrial lines there is a good deal of irregularity. About 80,000 mill hands in New England have had wages reduced in the past ten days, and production is only 65 to 75 per cent of the full possible output. The reduction in output in all textile lines has been so great as to cause question as to its being overdone. As regards the future, it might be said that while the outlook is hopeful, prospects seem to indicate a fluctuating trade in forthcoming months, or at least until probable crop yields can be pretty well measured.

Business failures in the United States for the week ending March 19 number 298, against 278 last week, 137 in the like week of 1907, 170 in 1906, 204 in 1905 and 215 in 1904. Canadian failures for the week number 39, as against 31 last week and 32 in this week a year ago.—Bradstreet's Commercial Report.

THE MARKETS

Chicago—Cattle, common to prime \$4.00 to \$6.65; hogs, prime heavy, \$4.00 to \$5.00; sheep, fair to choice, \$3.00 to \$6.25; wheat, No. 2, 94c to 96c; corn, No. 2, 64c to 65c; oats, standard, 52c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 89c to 81c; hay, timothy, \$9.50 to \$16.00; prairie, \$8.00 to \$12.00; butter, choice creamery, 25c to 29c; eggs, fresh, 14c to 17c; potatoes, per bushel, 63c to 74c.

Indianapolis—Cattle, shipping, \$3.00 to \$4.25; hogs, good to choice heavy, \$3.50 to \$4.45; sheep, common to prime, \$3.00 to \$5.00; wheat, No. 2, 96c to 97c; corn, No. 2 white, 62c to 63c; oats, No. 2 white, 53c to 54c.

St. Louis—Cattle, \$4.50 to \$6.40; hogs, \$4.00 to \$4.90; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.50; wheat, No. 2, \$1.00 to \$1.02; corn, No. 2, 62c to 64c; oats, No. 2, 52c to 53c; rye, No. 2, 83c to 84c.

Cincinnati—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.85; hogs, \$4.00 to \$5.05; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.50; wheat, No. 2, \$1.01 to \$1.02; corn, No. 2 mixed, 60c to 61c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 2, 58c to 57c.

Milwaukee—Wheat, No. 2 northern, \$1.07 to \$1.09; corn, No. 3, 63c to 64c; oats, standard, 53c to 54c; rye, No. 1, 58c to 51c; barley, No. 2, 89c to 90c; pork, mess, \$11.90.

Buffalo—Cattle, choice shipping steers, \$4.00 to \$4.10; hogs, fair to choice, \$3.50 to \$5.25; sheep, common to good mixed, \$3.00 to \$5.00; lambs, fair to choice, \$5.00 to \$8.25.

New York—Cattle, \$4.00 to \$5.45; hogs, \$3.50 to \$5.00; sheep, \$3.00 to \$5.50; wheat, No. 2 red, 95c to \$1.01; corn, No. 2, 68c to 70c; oats, natural white, 57c to 60c; butter, creamery, 25c to 27c; eggs, western, 13c to 15c.

Toledo—Wheat, No. 2 mixed, 95c to 7c; corn, No. 2 mixed, 62c to 65c; oats, No. 2 mixed, 53c to 55c; rye, No. 2, 57c to 58c; clover seed, prime, \$12.00.

STATES' POWER LOST BY HIGH COURT'S ACT

Rate Laws of Minnesota and North Carolina Knocked Out by Supreme Tribunal.

FEDERAL CONTROL WIDENED.

Justice Harlan, Alone Dissenting, Predicts Disaster from Sweeping Decision.

A smashing blow at State's rights was delivered by the Supreme Court of the United States Monday when the tribunal knocked out the railway rate laws of two commonwealths. Dividing eight to one, the court, in a decision rendered by Justice Peckham, sustains the federal side absolutely in the Minnesota and the North Carolina cases, in which the clash between the authority of the United States and the State courts formed an issue that was nation wide in the interest attracted.

Justice Harlan was the dissenting member of the court in each case, expressing the opinion that the decisions rendered marked a new era in the relationship between the States and the federal government and between the federal and the State courts, and predicting that the result would be disastrous.

The Minnesota freight and passenger rate laws are declared unconstitutional on their face by reason of the excessive penalties imposed. The opinion in the Minnesota case was declared to apply also to the North Carolina case, although the processes by which the two cases were brought before the Supreme Court were different.

The right of railroad corporations or stockholders in such corporations to appeal to the federal courts to test the constitutionality of rate laws enacted by a State Legislature is clearly set forth. Beyond that the essential thing laid down is that when such test is made the right of injunction lies with the federal court to restrain administrative State officers from proceeding to enforce the provisions of the laws through the machinery of the State courts, until the constitutional question has been finally determined.

In short, the federal courts are given what really amounts to the power to pass upon the reasonableness of railroad rates fixed by a State for interstate traffic. The decisions greatly minimize the power of the States to deal with the regulation of railroads even within their own borders. The question of the constitutional right of the States to legislate at all on this subject was not brought directly before the Supreme Court, but in view of the decision rendered, there is a strong possibility that once this question is raised it may solve the problem completely by denying absolutely the States' power to regulate rates in any degree.

Justice Harlan deemed the cases of sufficient importance to justify a 12,000-word dissenting opinion, taking strong ground in support of the theory that the proceeding in the Minnesota case was a suit against the State and therefore not permissible under the constitution.

HURT LITTLE BY PANIC.

Railroads' Net Income Larger in Last Half of 1907 than 1906.

Every indication points to an improvement generally in the railroad and industrial situation of the country according to reports made by the great railway systems of America to the interstate commerce commission. These reports are to the effect that, while the railroads suffered to some extent by what has come to be referred to as the "October panic," the loss was by no means so serious as generally has been supposed.

It appears from the reports that the effect was felt particularly by the eastern lines and by the lines in the southeastern part of the country, while western and transcontinental roads have not suffered materially. The figures available to the interstate commerce commission indicate also that the general condition in the country is improving materially, with a prospect that it soon will be normal or better.

NORTHWEST NUGGETS.

The Mile Lacs Chippewa Indians most of whom live on the White Earth reservation in Minnesota, will soon share in a division of \$6,500 received from the government.

The commission which has charge of the awarding of the Carnegie hero medals is investigating a rescue by a South Dakota young man named Earl Vauscohart, who saved the life of John Flockhart, a companion, while the two were skating on the Missouri river, near Greenwood.

Disregarding the shrieks of warning from the locomotive whistle, and refusing to leave the track upon which he was walking, an unidentified lumberjack deliberately permitted himself to be struck by a switch engine at the junction near Tower, Minn., and was instantly killed.

The farm home of John Donthit, near Westboro, Wis., was destroyed by fire while the mother was outside. The stove exploded and her three small children, one four years old, one two years old and a baby, were burned to death. The father was away from home working in a lumber camp.