

THE RATE QUESTION.

To reach a definite conclusion on any important subject it is well to have a few facts pertinent to the subject. This is true even in the matter of railroad regulation. Our legislature has before it several "railroad regulation" bills. Two of them are for reduced freight rates, and one of them is for a railroad commission clothed with ample regulating power. The railroad commission proposition would not be matured for several years, even if it were started now. Meanwhile, should not one of the freight rate bills be passed? If our legislators look into freight rate statistics, they will not find cause to look upon American railroads as robbers. They will find cause to view with pride the fact that the United States enjoys the lowest freight rates of any country in the world, taking into consideration the average rate for long and short hauls for the whole country. On the other hand they will find local freight rates in Nebraska much higher than in Iowa and many times higher than the average rate for the whole country.

The following table shows the average rate per ton per mile in the leading countries of the world in 1901: United States, .75; Germany, 1.40; France, 1.48; Great Britain, 2.10. With reference to the "railroad commission" proposition, our legislators can find some very interesting statistics in the latest report of the Interstate Commerce Commission. This report shows that in 1902, thirty states had railroad commissions. Twenty of them were "strong" commissions, having authority to control freight and passenger rates; ten of them were "weak" commissions, not possessing that power. In 1930 there were only fifteen "strong" commissions, as against thirteen "weak" ones.

Relative to these facts the report says: "During the past twelve years, so far as the expressed will of legislatures is concerned, the tendency is in favor of more effective control over rates." The railroads present the argument that there is no use granting the interstate commerce commission power to enforce their decisions from the fact that only a few cases have been decided in which the railroads did not comply with the ruling of the court, and the further fact that the decisions rendered have been expensive to the public. It would seem, rather, that this is an argument why the railroads should not oppose the movement in favor of giving the commission power. If there are no decisions in favor of complaints and the cost of the commission is so large the railroads should be grateful and at any rate should not fear a commission which accomplishes so little. If, however, the carrying corporations honestly desired that the people should receive more for their money, as they imply, they will undoubtedly be accommodated when shippers are assured that their efforts to get equal rates will be of some avail. The fact that at present the commission is powerless to enforce its decisions is sufficient to prevent the filing of complaints with the consequent effort that such suits mean to the person or persons doing the prosecuting.—Norfolk News.

APOLOGIZE.

The World-Herald and the Telegram both take occasion to call our attention to Mr. Bryan's denial of any connection with the notorious Foster lease of the Standard Oil Co. As usual, the Telegram wants somebody to apologize. Right at this moment we cannot remember a time when the Telegram didn't want somebody to apologize for something. The article of the Journal said expressly that the article of the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Tribune, and furthermore our article closed with these words: "It will doubtless develop that Bryan is an innocent partner of Rockefeller in this alleged fraudulent lease."

We call upon the Telegram to apologize to Grover Cleveland, to President Roosevelt, to Secretary Morton, to Governor Mickey, to Congressman McCarthy, to Postmaster Kramer, to Superintendent Kern, to Rev. Ulmer, to Principal Britton, to Editor Burness. Against each and all of these gentlemen the Telegram has made accusations which have been denied. Its charges, moreover, were not given as telegraphic news reports, were not backed by any authority, and did not contain a pious hope that they might prove to be untrue. They were made on the authority of the Columbus Telegram, without reservation. And yet they have been denied.

When one man says something about another man and the other man categorically denies it, somebody's liar. On the logic of this conclusion we challenge the world. Such cases arise, and when they do arise it is merely a question of honesty and veracity between the parties to the incident. In the one case herein noted it is up to the Chicago Tribune and Mr. Bryan. In the other it is up to the Columbus Telegram and the gentlemen above enumerated.

TOM WATSON'S MAGAZINE.

"Tom Watson's Magazine" has been launched. And it will not be launched as any grace which characterizes the launching of our great battle ships. The ropes were all cut at once and the huge bulk of political warfare dropped into the troubled sea of democracy starting billows that will test to the utmost the strength of the very few democratic craft that are still afloat. The old cracked liberty bell and a small circle around which is written "Equal Rights to all," "Special Privileges to None," adorn the title page which announces that the magazine will appear monthly and be sold for ten cents a copy or one dollar a year.

The editor announces the purpose of his magazine in these words: "This magazine is founded for the purpose of making them an independent, energetic effort to create a public sentiment which will bring the enlightened conscience of the nation to the making of its laws." Then he proceeds with a paragraph which will weaken, and should weaken, the moral effect of all his editorial utterances. People are suspicious of the public man who says "I am the only perfect man, behold me!" And every intelligent man in America knows that Tom Watson does not speak the truth when he says: "It is known to all men that the Free Press which our ancestors were so proud of, and from which they expected so much, is no longer free. Almost without exception, those newspapers which control public opinion are themselves controlled by corporate influences which are hostile to the people and dependent for their ill gotten wealth upon the class legislation and special privileges which are ruinous to the general prosperity of the country."

WILL THEY PUT IT BACK?

Will they put it back? County Attorney Latham was asked by the Platte county supervisors for an opinion touching the charge made by the Journal to the effect that Supervisors Ernst and Bender had drawn more than the law allows for supervisors' services. Mr. Latham's opinion was read before the supervisors this morning and the editor of the Journal objected to "driving" during the reading of it. Mr. Latham's opinion agrees in every detail with the Journal's statement of the law. He says that the law limits a supervisor to \$300 a year and that he can not legally draw more than that amount. The opinion was placed on general file without debate and without any offer to "put back" the amounts drawn in violation of law.

Several questions naturally suggest themselves at this time. Why did the supervisors wait for the Journal to make these charges before asking for the opinion of the county attorney? Why did they not ask for it last October when Supervisor Dietrich made a motion to disallow Mr. Ernst's bill for services, on the ground of illegality and when this same motion failed to receive a second? If Mr. Dietrich knew that Mr. Ernst had at that time overdrawn his legal allowance, how does it happen that the other supervisors would not even second Mr. Dietrich's motion? And why, when Mr. Dietrich voted against the allowance of Supervisor Bender's last bill on the same ground, did Mr. Bender cancel his name from the resolution previously signed by him, endorsing the work of Mr. Dietrich on the board? Does it look as if the supervisors have not had sufficient notice that these bills were being paid contrary to law. Will they try to set up their resolution calling for Mr. Latham's opinion as a plea of ignorance of the law or as an evidence that they themselves started the investigation which has uncovered their illegal practices? It matters not how the questions are answered. The important thing is that the democratic county attorney has placed himself on record to the effect that the supervisors who have drawn more than \$300 for a year's services on the board, owe the county the difference between that amount and the amounts they have actually collected. The question is, will they pay it back?

Now if these supervisors offer the excuse that they have earned more than \$300 by actual work, our answer is that they could not earn more than the law allows any more than the President of the United States could earn more than his legal salary. A supervisor who cannot afford to accept the job at the legal salary should turn down the job. If the job is worth more, let us all get together and change the law. The Journal will help.

Meanwhile we suggest that the supervisors ask for the county attorney's opinion on the following questions: Does the law provide for the printing of the supervisors' proceedings at five-fourths of the legal rate? What is the relation between the supplies furnished the county by the Telegram Company, and the supplies called for in the contract? Are there evidences of fraud in the matter of making estimates for and the furnishing of said supplies? When these questions are answered, we have more to ask.

COLUMBIANS.

We wonder if a doctor looks through the same glasses when he examines one of his good friends for life insurance and then for a pension.

Forecast for Columbus: Fair and colder, with snow and rising temperature; partly wet in sidewalk portion.—J. M. Curtis, forecaster.

According to the Lincoln Star, a Des Moines minister recently preached a sermon on George Washington. Alluding to the well known fact that the father of our country used to swear like a trooper, on occasion, the minister said: "Good, strong oaths, used in condemnation of wrong, are commendable and leave no stain on the character of the man who utters them." Of course this does not prove the case, being merely the opinion of that particular preacher.

The man who in this vale below
Doth rave and rant and swear,
Because misfortune, want and woe
Attend him everywhere,
From me no sympathy will get,
I here and now declare,
As long as he will go and bet
His coin upon two pair.

Who doth not know what misery,
What brimming sorrow's cup,
Awaits the man who thinks that he
Can bluff with aces up!
Behold him stake his hard-earned dough,
The toll of many days—
When lo! some heartless skunk doth show

Three measly little trays,
Talk not to me of mortal grief
Or sinful tempter's snare
That leads to sorrow's rocky reef
And maelstrom of despair,
The woes that to this flesh belong,
I solemnly declare,
Are due to women, wine and song
And betting on two pair.

Cheap one way rates to California
Paget Sound and the Northwest country,
March 1st to May 15th. Very
cheap round trip rates to the South
and southwest, February 1st, March
7th and 1st. Also cheap one way rates
to the same country February 1st and
March 1st.

Low "home-seekers" excursion rates
February 1st and March 7th and 21st
to eastern Colorado, the Big Horn
Basin and North Platte Valley where
there is excellent chance of getting on
the ground floor ahead of the crowd
and pick up bargains in irrigated land.
Cheap rates set to Washington, D.
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printed matter and write for information.
Describe your trip and let me
advise you at least cost.

L. F. Foster, Ticket Agent,
L. W. Wakeley, General Pass Agent,
Omaha, Neb.

The 4th of March will be interesting, not only because it will mark the beginning of Mr. Roosevelt's second term, but also because it will witness the close of some prolonged Senatorial careers, and the breaking of all records for continuous and combined service in Congress and in the Senate by Mr. W. B. Allison, of Iowa. On the day named Mr. Cockrell, of Missouri, will have served thirty continuous years. Mr. Stewart, of Nevada, who will vacate his seat at the same time, was a member of the Senate earlier but for twelve years was absent from the body. Mr. Mitchell, of Oregon, was also a member of the Senate when Mr. Allison took his seat March 4, 1873, but the former's service has not been continuous, there having been a gap of ten years. On March 4 Senator Allison will have sat continuously in the Senate just thirty-two years, having previously been a member of eight years of the House of Representatives. The record that he breaks is that established by Senator Morrill of Vermont, who died on December 28, 1859, and who, had he lived two months and one week longer, would have served continuously thirty-two years.—Harper's Weekly.

The strict letter of the law forbids the county supervisors to perform any bridge work at a cost of three hundred dollars without first advertising for bids. The women take four weeks. The flood carried away the north approach to the Loop river bridge south of the city. People of the city and farmers beyond the river suffer great loss and inconvenience. Why does the bridge lie out? Our two supervisors in this district, Louis Held and Julius Ernst, view the situation from a horse sense standpoint. They know that a technical construction of the law would forbid repairing the bridge without advertising for bids. They also know that delay would work great hardship and loss upon the public. They do not wish to get permission of the Columbus Journal. They have ignored all technicalities, and already have a large force of men at work repairing the damage done by the flood and within a few days they will have the bridge ready for travel. Columbus is fortunate in having a pair of supervisors like Held and Ernst, who have the courage to do the right thing at the right time. Of course they will be criticized by a few persons, but they may be assured of the endorsement of a great majority of people on both sides of the river.—Columbus Telegram.

THE BRIDGE QUESTION.

In discussing this article of the Telegram we wish to preface our remarks with the statement that the Journal always has and always will in the future stand with the supervisors regardless of their political faith in every legal, honest and reasonable transaction performed in the interests of Platte County. On the other hand the Journal has criticized in the past, and will continue in the future to criticize the supervisors, regardless of their political faith, for every illegal, dishonest and unreasonable transaction performed in hostility to the interest of Platte County.

In the first place the Columbus Journal most earnestly favored the immediate repair of the bridge in question, and the Journal editor's name on the petition requesting immediate action stands as proof of that statement. In fact the editor of the Journal was requested to carry the petition to the supervisors, but a Columbus business man advised against it. He said: "You better not. They would probably 'table' it if you presented it, just as they did your request for a copy of the supervisors' proceedings, to print free of charge to the county—the same work for which the taxpayers are paying more than the legal rate of democratic newspapers."

So much for the Journal's attitude toward the supervisors in general and the work on the Loop bridge in particular.

Now let us examine the Telegram's statement that "the strict letter of the law forbids the county supervisors to perform any bridge work at a cost of 300 dollars without first advertising for bids" and its opinion that "Columbus is fortunate in having a pair of supervisors like Ernst and Held" because it assumes these supervisors overstepped the technical provisions of the law, in their eagerness to subserve the public good.

If the Telegram states the facts and the law correctly, the Journal wishes to endorse every word of its commendation of Ernst and Held. If the Telegram mistakes the facts and the law in order to throw undeserved boasts to cover up other known unlawful transactions of these same supervisors, then the Telegram is guilty either of unexcusable ignorance or of willful falsifying for political effect.

What are the facts and the law in the case?
1. Platte county has a yearly contract with the Standard Bridge Company for the building and repair of all bridges. The county would therefore be liable in damages to this company if it should "advertise for bids," as the Telegram suggests.
2. The term "three hundred dollars" which the Telegram uses, does not appear in the bridge statute. The Telegram editor must have had in mind the statute which limits the salary of supreme supervisor Ernst to \$300. Perhaps Ernst and the editor of the Telegram have been laboring under the impression all along that the \$300 belonged in the bridge statute. Possibly that explains why Mr. Ernst has overdrawn the legal limit for his services and the editor of the Telegram has failed to perform his function as a "reform" editor by calling attention to that fact.
3. Even if Platte county did not have a contract covering the repair of the bridge in question, still the law does not require the supervisors to advertise for bids, in case of emergency. Here is the law: "Provide" further that if any bridge or bridges may need immediate repairs on account of the same having broken down or on account of extraordinary high water or fire or other cause an emergency shall exist, the county board shall have the power to declare that the public good requires immediate action to prevent inconvenience and damage and may proceed to buy material and hire labor and repair any such bridge or bridges."

Another section of the law provides that in case of such emergency, upon written notice of three taxpayers, the supervisors may be compelled by mandamus to proceed to make repairs within twenty-four hours of receipt of said notice.

It is evident, therefore, that these supervisors whom the Telegram berates with boasts, not only did not display "cowardice" in waiting for a petition signed by the editor of the Journal and others, before proceeding to perform this emergency work, but that the "technical" requirements of the law could have been employed to force them to do the work several days sooner.

We are "not criticizing these supervisors for the few days of unwarranted delay. In fact they are entitled to credit for acting according to law. But we are not in favor of 'throwing bouquets' at officials on the theory that they are violating the 'technical' provisions of a law for the public good, when as a matter of fact they are simply doing what the 'technical' requirements of the law command.

It is pretty tough to read reports from Russia these days but it is a great compensation to be able to look in the next column and read that the heathen little Japs have made one more score in the process of wiping the present Russian government off the face of the earth.

A. M. POST
Attorney at Law
Columbus, Neb.

J. D. STINES
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Office, Olive St., fourth door north of First National Bank.
COLUMBUS, NEBRASKA.

DR. CHAS. H. PLATZ
HOMEOPATHIC
Physician and Surgeon.
P. O. Block : : Columbus

G. J. GARLOW
— Lawyer —
Office over Columbus State Bank Columbus, Neb.

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LOUIS SCHRIEBER.

Wine of Cardui Cured Her.
213 South Prior Street, ATLANTA, GA., March 21, 1903.
I suffered for four months with extreme nervousness and lassitude. I had a sinking feeling in my stomach which no medicine seemed to relieve, and losing my appetite I became weak and lost my vitality. In three weeks I lost fourteen pounds of flesh and felt that I must find speedy relief to regain my health. Having heard Wine of Cardui praised by several of my friends, I sent for a bottle and was certainly very pleased with the results. Within three days my appetite returned and my stomach troubled me no more. I could digest my food without difficulty and the nervousness gradually diminished. Nature performed her functions without difficulty and I am once more a happy and well woman.
OLIVE JOSEPH,
Times Square, Friday Night Club.
Secure a Dollar Bottle of Wine of Cardui Today.

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We have an endless assortment of strictly up-to-date Clothing. They are sold right. Don't go shabby when for a few "plunks" you can look well and feel well. Good fit guaranteed.

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FARMERS! It will pay you to take your disc apart and ship it by freight to our shop and have it rolled on our new SKOWS ROTARY DISC SHARPER. We and the manufacturers guarantee that it will do better work and stay sharp twice as long. The reason is, in rolling a disc it is made 2 to 3% of an inch larger and the steel is made hard and smooth, making it cut easier. We will pay your freight one way, or if you will take your disc apart and bring in only the blades, we will allow you 25% off the bill. The price is 25c per blade. We also handle the New I. D. Flow—a plow that we guarantee in every way—to work where any plow will work and to pull easier than any plow made.

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Of Duroc-Jersey & Poland China HOGS
Registered, and as good hogs as can be found anywhere in the country. Consisting of 45 HEAD BROOD SOWS, 30 HEAD FALL PIGS, and Some BOARS.
20 Head Cattle, Bulls and heifers, 7 of which are pedigreed Poll Durham, as follows:
Four Cows, 4 years old.
One Bull, 2 years old.
One Bull Calf 10 months old.
One Heifer Calf, 10 months old.
Selected from two of the best herds in Iowa.
For Catalogues address C. G. Johnson after Feb. 12.

Wine of Cardui Cured Her.
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I suffered for four months with extreme nervousness and lassitude. I had a sinking feeling in my stomach which no medicine seemed to relieve, and losing my appetite I became weak and lost my vitality. In three weeks I lost fourteen pounds of flesh and felt that I must find speedy relief to regain my health. Having heard Wine of Cardui praised by several of my friends, I sent for a bottle and was certainly very pleased with the results. Within three days my appetite returned and my stomach troubled me no more. I could digest my food without difficulty and the nervousness gradually diminished. Nature performed her functions without difficulty and I am once more a happy and well woman.
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Times Square, Friday Night Club.
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Registered, and as good hogs as can be found anywhere in the country. Consisting of 45 HEAD BROOD SOWS, 30 HEAD FALL PIGS, and Some BOARS.
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