# EXONERATE UNION OFFICIALS

**Committee Exculpates Mitchell and Wilson from Charges.**

## STATEMENTS DAMAGE THE ORGANIZATION

**Say that Miss Meredith's Accusations Do Irreparable Injury to Reputation of the United Mine Workers' Association.**

INDIANAPOLIS, Jan. 23.—The United Mine Workers' convention today took up the reading of a partial report of the committee on resolutions, which was considered, item by item.

The resolutions were presented by the committee as it had received them, together with its recommendations. The first was that the United Mine Workers' Journal be printed in the Slavonic as well as in the English language. The committee recommended against this and the convention supported the committee.

A second resolution was to the effect that two pages of the Journal be printed in the Polish language. This led to a prolonged discussion.

President Mitchell explained that the experiment of printing two pages of the Journal in the Slavonic language had been tried without good results, it costing the organization $1,040 to employ a man to set those two pages, when the foreign circulation was only 1,000.

When the convention met it was expected that the special committee appointed to investigate charges preferred by Miss Mollie Meredith against President John Mitchell and Secretary-Treasurer W. B. Wilson would report during the day.

Prominent delegates received the understanding that the report would completely exonerate the two officers of the charges that they misrepresented to the miners the extent of ex-Secretary-Treasurer Pearce's financial errors and that the true facts concerning Pearce's misdoings were withheld.

The foreign speaking delegates, particularly those who represent miners of the Polish tongue, made a strong plea to have the Mine Workers' Journal printed in the Polish tongue, but the committee, which did not favor printing the Journal, or any part of it, in any foreign language, was supported. All resolutions asking for the documents in any but the English language were voted down.

A resolution that every local union of the mine workers' organization be furnished a copy of the verbatim reports of all proceedings of the national convention failed of adoption.

**Seek to Bar Men Who Do Guard Duty.**

The convention refused to concur in a resolution providing that all men doing guard duty, "taking part in a private army," in the service of any coal corporation should be eternally debarred from becoming members of the United Mine Workers' organization.

There was a difference of opinion as to whether this resolution would debar militiamen from membership in the miners' organization, but President Mitchell said it would not do so. The discussion gave opportunity for the most burning criticism of guards who protect non-union miners.

Another resolution provided for "the establishment of a fund for the purpose of helping all miners over 50 years of age and disabled miners, and that each and every member of the United Mine Workers of America be assessed for that purpose." The resolution was tabled on account of sentiment against assessments for such purpose.

A resolution that the organization sympathized with women labor organizations and would extend its aid whenever possible to such organizations was adopted.

A resolution to increase the mine workers' salaries by the same per cent as the mine workers obtained an increase in wages failed of adoption.

This having finished the partial report of the resolutions committee, the committee was continued. Then the committee took up the report of the special investigating committee.

**Exonerate the Officers.**

This report was submitted to and adopted by the miners' convention by a rising vote today:

To the Officers and Members of the Thirteenth Annual Convention of United Mine Workers of America:

Gentlemen—We, your committee appointed to investigate the charges and countercharges that have been passed between Mollie Meredith, and officers of our organization, beg leave to make its report.

We find there was no foundation in fact in the charges presented by Miss Meredith and beg leave to submit these resolutions:

Whereas, Where one Miss Mollie Meredith has issued circular letters containing statements and making allegations derogatory to the personal and official honor of the president, the secretary and other officers of the United Mine Workers of America, and

Whereas, We believe that such statements coming from any source whatever are liable irreparably to damage our organization, and should be and are hereby condemned; that if any person or persons feel or know that officers or members of the United Mine Workers of America are derelict in their duty, charges should and must be preferred in the proper manner and have the guilty parties properly punished; and,

Whereas, Said statements were intended and calculated to injure the president, the secretary and other officers of the United Mine Workers of America; and,

Whereas, We believe and know that the national officers of our organization did all that honorable men should do to protect our organization and its funds at the time Mr. Pearce was removed from office; and,

Whereas, We have every confidence in the honor, integrity and faithfulness of our officers; therefore, be it

Resolved, That this convention, by a rising vote, indorse in every particular the action of its officers in the Pearce matter. Respectfully submitted,

Signed by James E. Heenan, president; W. D. Ryan, secretary; W. H. Haskins, S. S. Lynch, T. Gilbert, J. D. Wood, William Dodds, Lawrence Love, T. D. Nichols.

**Mitchell Expresses Thanks.**

After the report had been unanimously adopted there were loud cries for Mitchell. The president stepped to the front of the platform and said:

There is very little that my feelings will permit me to say. I thank you for this evidence of continued confidence in me. I thank the committee for its ruling. A great wrong has been done Mr. Wilson and myself. It has been repaired as far as you can repair it. But it has not been wholly repaired. From one end of the country to the other your fellow-craftsmen have heard the report that charges have been preferred against your national officers. Many who have heard the accusations believe them to be true.

I can only say that whether I shall serve you a day, a year or the rest of my life, I shall ask no more than to speak in my defense before my craftsmen. I never knew a man or a body of men that I feared to face. I know men talk behind my back. For those who do this I have nothing but the most supreme contempt. My fellow-craftsmen, I thank you for the unanimous vote showing your confidence and trust.

The convention rejected a socialistic resolution to the effect that a political party should be organized having for its purpose the welfare of the laboring people of the country in "fighting for government ownership."

Miss Mollie Meridith, who made the charges against the mine workers' officers, gave out the following signed statement tonight:

One year ago the United Mine Workers of America awarded me a medal. I received this after almost five years of efficient service. At least the organization thought it so efficient as to vote me a medal, which I now wear. It is rather strange that, after my years of service, in which I demonstrated my ability to discern right from wrong and had the courage to expose wrong when it came under my observation, even when that wrong was committed by one who had been my friend, in less than two weeks after the medal was presented to me the inefficiency that had been unobserved for five years, and I might say until I discovered dishonesty in others, was not observed by any officers of the United Mine Workers. When the United Mine Workers of America presented my with a mark of esteem and appreciation for my services I felt that I was in duty bound to tell them anything and everything that I knew as to the workings of the office in which I was a subordinate. Zeal sometimes overcomes discretion and if my zeal to show my appreciation of what the organization had done for me led me to do anything that calls for condemnation it was because I knew I was right and did not realize that the power of a weak woman was not sufficient to contend with those whom accident has placed in the position of officials. However, they and I are living and some day when enthusiasm gives way to common sense justice will be done to them and me and I do not fear the result.

MOLLIE MERIDITH.

# BRING THEM NEAR FREEDOM

**Reports Say Miss Stone and Mme. Tsilka Will Be Free in Few Days.**

LONDON, Jan. 24.—The artist-correspondent of the Graphic, who has been following the case of Miss Stone, the captive American missionary, telegraphs from Djoumai Bala, Salonica, that the captives are now in Bulgaria, eight hours distant from the frontier.

The correspondent says that M. Gargiulo, the dragoman of the American legation at Constantinople, who is negotiating for Miss Stone's release, is convinced that, owing to the strictness of the Turkish cordon, nobody can clandestinely cross the frontier. He has therefore begged the American legation at Constantinople to ask the porte to instruct Ibriham Pasha to relax his vigilance, so as to induce the brigands to bring the captives over the frontier.

The correspondent concludes with saying it is probable that Miss Stone and Mme. Tsilka will be free within a few days.

# NEGRO ADMITS THE CRIME

**Pleads Guilty to Brutal Assault and is Sentenced to Hang.**

LYNCHBURG, Va., Jan. 23.—Joseph Higginbotham was convicted today of criminal assault upon Mrs. Ralph Webber and was sentenced to be hanged on February 24. He pleaded guilty. Four witnesses, including Mrs. Webber, testified to the circumstances of the crime.

A large number of the state militia were here and the courthouse and jail were surrounded by a guard, but there was no disorder. The negro was taken back to Roanoke to remain until the date of his execution.

Higginbotham, on January 11, committed the assault upon Mrs. Webber, and then attempted to murder her by cutting her throat.

# DEATH RECORD.

**W. L. Morgan.**

YORK, Neb., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—In the death of W. L. Morgan, which occurred this morning, the city of York and York county lose a pioneer resident and a business man who has done a great deal toward the building up of the city of York. Mr. Morgan was one of York's contractors and had more than a local reputation. The many large business blocks, public buildings and modern homes in York and many of the surrounding towns were built by him. The last work done by him was the new brick and stone public library building, which is nearly finished. He was highly respected by all. He served two terms as mayor and held other offices, and his loss is severely felt by the community, and his death is mourned by all. Since the death of his only child, a son, Walter Morgan, a member of last year's High school graduating class, caused by being accidentally struck on the head in the York athletic field grounds, by a heavy hammer, the father has mourned the loss, which is believed to have hastened his death, which was the result of stomach trouble. Mr. Morgan lived in York twelve years and was 49 years old. He leaves a wife and many intimate friends, who mourn his loss. He was one of York's well-to-do business men, owning considerable property here.

**Major A. J. Holmes.**

BOONE, Ia., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—Major A. J. Holmes, formerly representative in congress from the Tenth Iowa district, died Tuesday at the asylum for insane at Clarinda, where he had been for nearly a year. He was a major in the army, county attorney, sergeant-at-arms in the United States senate and an attorney of ability. His mind failed about a year ago and he has been at Clarinda for treatment ever since. The funeral was held at 2:30 today and was attended by the Odd Fellows, Grand Army of the Republic and Sons of Veterans, the local camp having been named after him.

**John L. Harders.**

WOOD RIVER, Neb., Jan. 23.—(Special.)—John L. Harders, seven miles northeast of Wood River, died yesterday of quick consumption. He was 47 years old and well known throughout the county. He was a member of the Ancient Order of United Workmen and the Plattdeutsche Verein. The funeral will be held from his home tomorrow morning.

**Chester Griswold.**

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—Chester Griswold, president of the Crown Point Iron company and vice president of several other manufacturing concerns, died here today after a few hours' illness. He was born in 1844. His father, John A. Griswold, was one of the builders of Ericsson's monitor.

**Rev. D. H. Devor.**

ASHLAND, O., Jan. 23.—A cablegram received here tonight announces the death of Rev. D. H. Devor, a Presbyterian missionary from this place, which occurred January 17 on the west coast of Africa, of fever. Rev. Devor was 30 years of age. He had been in Africa about two years.

**Colonel Griffin, Churchman.**

LONDON, Jan. 23.—The death is announced at Hampstead of the prominent Baptist layman, Colonel Griffin. He had been president of Baptist union, was born in the United States and fought and obtained his rank in the civil war.

**Thomas Fentress.**

PIERRE, S. D., Jan. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—Thomas Fentress, one of the pioneers of this county, died at his home in this city last night from heart trouble.

**Michael Sheehan, Centenarian.**

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 23.—Michael Sheehan, who was the oldest person in Kansas City, is dead at his home here, aged 103 years.

**William Leroy Brun.**

AUBURN, Ala., Jan. 23.—William Leroy Brun, president of the Alabama Polytechnical institute, died suddenly today.

*The Non-Irritating Cathartic*

Easy to take, easy to operate—

*Hood's Pills*

# TO ENJOIN GREAT NORTHERN

**Action Begun by Stockholders Against Hill's Proposed Merger.**

## POWERS ATTORNEY'S BRING THE SUIT

**Petition States that Northern Securities Company is a Conspiracy and the Projected Combination Fraudulent.**

MINNEAPOLIS, Jan. 23.—The attorneys of Milton L. Bouden and Sophia Barth Chapman filed a petition for an injunction in the state district court today against the Great Northern railway and its directors to prevent a transfer of its stock to the Northern Securities company.

Bouden holds 400 and Mrs. Chapman 100 shares of Great Northern stock. The attorneys are the same as those who, in behalf of Peter Power of New York, are seeking in the United States district court to have the retirement of the Northern Pacific preferred stock declared illegal.

The bill of complaint sets up the well-known facts as to the attempted merger of the Great Northern, Northern Pacific and Burlington systems, alleges that it is contrary to the statutes of Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana and Washington, and intends to destroy all competition, and charges that separate organizations maintained are merely nominal and intended to deceive the public, the real management and control being vested in the Northern Securities company.

It is claimed by this action that the Great Northern directors have rendered the charter of the road subject to forfeiture at the suit of the state of Minnesota and the license of operation in the other states traversed subject to revocation, and further that many such suits are imminent, whereby the company will lose valuable rights and privileges unless the directors are permanently enjoined from carrying out the merger.

Judgment is demanded on eleven points—that the merger is fraudulent and contrary to the laws of this state; that the Northern Securities company is a conspiracy; that the Great Northern directors and agents be enjoined during the pendency of the suit and permanently thereafter from registering any transfers of stock to the Northern Securities company; from recognizing or according any privileges to that company, or from receiving any votes in its meetings; from entering into any combination whatsoever with the Northern Pacific which shall disturb the independent integrity of the defendant company; that the defendant directors be enjoined from holding any office in or participating in any affairs of the Northern Securities company or from paying any dividends on stock held by that company. The defendants have been given time in which to answer.

# INVESTIGATE RAILWAY MERGER

**Interstate Commerce Commission Prepares for the Chicago Hearing.**

CHICAGO, Jan. 22.—Members of the Interstate Commerce commission arrived here today and began making preparations for investigating the Northwestern Railway merger. Rumors to the effect that J. J. Hill and E. H. Harriman, who have been subpoenaed to testify before the commission at its opening session tomorrow, would not appear owing to their absence in the east during the supreme court hearing of the Northern Securities case were lightly set aside by the commissioners. Commissioner J. D. Yeomans stated today that the investigation into the result on the rate situation by reason of the consolidation would be begun tomorrow and that he had been assured personally of Mr. Hill's presence. Later the question of grain rates will be resumed, and he said it was probable the question on packing house rates would be gone into again. Mr. Yeomans said he had heard nothing of the agreement made between presidents of the western railways and the big packers to maintain legal rates.

# MELLEN OBEYS THE SUMMONS

**President Northern Pacific Complies with Interstate Commerce Commission's Subpoena.**

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 23.—President C. S. Mellen of the Northern Pacific today, when asked if he had been served with a subpoena from the Interstate Commerce commission to appear before that body tomorrow in Chicago, replied in the affirmative. When asked further if he would recognize the summons and attend the session of the commission, Mr. Mellen replied:

"Of course I shall attend. The commission has made the summons and I have no right to refuse, even if I had been so inclined."

Mr. Mellen will go to Chicago tonight, and other railroad officials also probably will go.

Mr. Mellen said there was nothing contained in the summons to indicate the character of the investigation.

# PASSENGER MEN FIX RATES

**Transcontinental Association Arranges Schedule for Summer Excursion Trips.**

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 23.—The Transcontinental Passenger association completed its labors today and will hold its next meeting at Hotel Coronado, San Diego, Cal., in April. The interchangeable mileage ticket was left in the hands of a committee. A round trip rate of $47.50 was made from New Orleans and Chicago for the Shriners and United Workmen at Los Angeles. A rate of $52.50 from New Orleans and $47.50 from St. Louis was made for the Travelers' Protective association convention at Portland, Ore., with an addition of $11 to these rates for a trip to San Francisco.

# REPORT OF RAILROAD MERGER

**Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern Road to Consolidate with Rock Island System.**

CHICAGO, Jan. 23.—It is reported on what appears to be reliable authority that the Burlington, Cedar Rapids & Northern road will be consolidated with the Rock Island system and operated as part of it, says the Post. Seventy-five per cent of that road's stock is now owned by the Rock Island and 25 per cent by the Burlington. The new Moore interests, which are now admittedly in control of the Rock Island, are said to have reached the conclusion that the road can be more advantageously operated as part of the Rock Island system and by Rock Island officials.

**Protest Against a Change.**

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 23.—The Red Cross society of California, through its president, Mrs. E. A. Harrington, has sent a telegram to President Roosevelt, stating that "in the opinion of this society the present method of government transportation from this port to the Philippines cannot be changed without grave injury to the health and comfort of the officers and enlisted men of the army."

This protest has been referred to the secretary of war, who acknowledged its receipt for the president.

# ELECTS NEW SET OF OFFICERS

**Bowling Congress Declares Peace—Indianapolis Gets Next Convention.**

BUFFALO, N. Y., Jan. 23.—The warring factions in the American Bowling Congress came together tonight and settled their differences. The election of officers held yesterday was reconsidered and a new set of officials elected. Major Charles A. Bookwalter of Indianapolis is the president of the congress for the ensuing year. The convention and tournament of 1903 also goes to Indianapolis.

The clause in the constitution regarding the admission of proxy votes at the annual convention, which caused all the friction, was eliminated. A substitute offered by Bernard J. York of New York, providing that no delegate shall have more than one vote, was adopted unanimously. Other officers elected are:

First vice president, W. B. Thompson of Chicago; second vice president, F. W. Pryor of New York; secretary, Samuel Karpe of Dayton, O.; treasurer, George M. Stearns of Iowa.

It took hours of argument to bring about an amicable settlement of the strife which threatened to disrupt the national body. Committees composed of Delegates York of New York, Hills of Cleveland, Engel of Buffalo, Starr of New York and Cordes of Brooklyn, representing the east, and Anson of Chicago, Stearns of Iowa, Worden and Thompson of Chicago and Karpe of Dayton, O., representing the west, met this evening. Both sides to the controversy were willing to make concessions in the interest of bowling and preserve the American Bowling Congress.

It was finally agreed that Mr. Pasdeloup should resign and that the name of Mr. Ebitts, the east's candidate for the presidency, be withdrawn. An entirely new set of officers would then be elected. A slate was then prepared, headed by Mayor Bookwalter of Indianapolis, and it was elected by the unanimous vote of the congress at midnight.

McClean and Steers of Chicago won first prize in the two-man class. Their score of 1,237 is a new record. The other prize winners were: Second, Krug and Dyinger, Los Angeles, Cal., 1,220; third, Ellwert and Funche, Belleville, Ill., 1,169; fourth, Graff and Gardener, Indianapolis, 1,152; fifth, Kiene and Peterson, Chicago, 1,151; sixth, Franz and Martin, Cleveland, 1,133; seventh, Werden and Brill, Chicago, 1,123; eighth, Jackson and Whitbeck, Brooklyn, 1,126; ninth, Clinch and Shiman, New York, 1,125; tenth, Voorhees and Starr, New York, 1,123; eleventh, Reiskey and Hafner, Rochester, 1,123.

# CLEAN KNOCKOUT FOR FORBES

**With a Fierce Jab in the Jaw Danny Daugherty is Finished.**

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 23.—Danny Daugherty of Philadelphia was knocked out in the fourth round by Harry Forbes of Chicago at the West End club tonight of what was scheduled as a fifteen round bout at 115 pounds for the bantam championship of the country.

Both men were in first-class trim and the fight was fast and clean. Daugherty did not show to the advantage hoped for by his seconds, his leads being ill judged and his blows lacking steam. On the other hand, the Chicago lad showed to superb advantage, his blows being well timed and his ring generalship of high order. Daugherty did some good work in the third round, but Forbes did not mind his punches in the least and the round ended with honors even. In the fourth round, at the termination of a lively interchange Forbes feinted with his left and then sent a straight to Daugherty's jaw, giving him his quietus.

Young Corbett, the featherweight champion, witnessed the contest and was accorded an ovation by the big audience. In a brief speech he said he would defend his title to the best of his ability.

Telegrams were read from Austin Rice and Tom Quigley, challenging the winner of tonight's bout.

# TWENTY-ROUND GO TONIGHT

**Joe Leonard Meets Adam Ryan Before the Twin City Athletic Club.**

At Koutsky's hall in South Omaha tonight the Twin City Athletic club has to offer what promises to be a very fast go, in the shape of a twenty-round fight between Joe Leonard of Buffalo and Adam Ryan of Chicago. These men are lightweights and will weigh about 126 pounds. Both are experienced fighters, and though they have never met before, the fact that each has fought Ole Oleson a draw would indicate an even match.

Leonard has gone through fifty-two fights and has never been knocked out. He has some high-grade contests on for this winter, notably one with Eddie Santry before the Interurban Athletic club at South Bend, Ind., February 15. He will also fight the winner of the Sims-Duffy match. He hopes to make such a good showing this year that he can meet Frank Erne for the lightweight championship before the winter is over.

# WILL WRESTLE WITH LOCH

**Frank Greenman Accepts Modified Terms Offered for Saturday Night's Match.**

Frank Greenman has finally accepted the inducement offered by Peter Loch for the consummation of their bout as planned for a preliminary at the Whittaker-Smith affair at the Trocadero Saturday night. The match was first to have been best two out of three falls. Greenman sprained his thumb and said he could not go on. Loch then offered to throw Greenman twice in an hour for the same money, $50 a side and a purse of $50. Greenman accepts this offer, and says he will wrestle thumb or no thumb.

Another preliminary has been arranged for that night and that makes six events in all, a battle royal, two boxing bouts, two wrestling events and the main go. The latest addition is a fifteen-minute wrestling match between Terry Mustain and Bert LeBron.

# PLAYERS FOR THE AMERICAN

**President Hickey Reports One Hundred and Ten Men on Salary List.**

ST. JOSEPH, Jan. 23.—(Special Telegram.)—President Hickey of the American Base Ball association returned today from an extended northern trip. When asked about the new league's prospects, he said:

"We have signed 110 men and are getting more and better talent every day. The men are looking for the high salaries and that is where we win them. Many extra men are being signed, to be turned over to the eighth club, which, you know, will be Omaha. Our prospects could not be brighter."

Mr. Hickey will remove to Chicago soon, having secured headquarters in the Cable building in that city.

**Gate Citys Win.**

The Gate City team took two bowling games from the Krugs last night on the Gate City alleys. Score:

GATE CITYS.

| | 1st. | 2d. | 3d. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Huntington | 156 | 180 | 154 | 490 |
| Hartley | 179 | 158 | 209 | 546 |
| F. Conrad | 170 | 179 | 192 | 541 |
| Sheldon | 147 | 174 | 187 | 508 |
| Seaman | 237 | 153 | 147 | 537 |
| Total | 889 | 844 | 889 | 2,622 |

KRUG PARK.

| | 1st. | 2d. | 3d. | Total. |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Connery | 160 | 175 | 178 | 513 |
| Neilson | 140 | 159 | 177 | 476 |
| Zitzman | 160 | 168 | 159 | 487 |
| F. Krug | 121 | 181 | 164 | 466 |
| Bengele | 195 | 185 | 205 | 585 |
| Total | 776 | 868 | 883 | 2,527 |

**Boxing and Wrestling Matches.**

NEW YORK, Jan. 23.—The national championship committee of the Amateur Athletic union has completed arrangements with the Penn Athletic club of Philadelphia for holding the Amateur Athletic union boxing and wrestling championships. The preliminaries will take place February 27 and 28, and the finals March 1. The following classes have been decided upon: Boxing, 105 pounds, 115 pounds, 125 pounds, 135 pounds, 145 pounds, 158 pounds and over 158 pounds; wrestling, 105, 115, 125, 135, 145 and 158 pounds. Entries close February 20. The championships are only open to those registered at the Amateur Athletic union.

**Tommy Ryan Accepts.**

KANSAS CITY, Jan. 23.—Tommy Ryan tonight wired his acceptance of a proposition he received from Harry Corbett, matchmaker for the Yosemite Athletic club of San Francisco, to fight the winner of the Rack Root-George Gardner fight, scheduled to take place before that club January 31, if a date satisfactory to all parties concerned can be arranged. Corbett proposed that Ryan fight the winner of the Root-Gardner match on February 28, but Ryan does not want to engage in such a contest before March 15.

# DISCLOSES GREAT ABUSES

**Interstate Commerce Commission Details Railroad Rate Manipulation.**

## POWERLESS TO CORRECT THE EVILS

**Recites Disclosures in Handling of Packing House Products and Western Grain—Special Rates to Favored Ones.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The annual report of the Interstate Commerce commission, which was transmitted to congress today, renews the declaration made in previous reports that in its present condition the act to regulate commerce cannot be enforced. As to remedial legislation the commission renews the statement made in its previous annual report that it "has little to suggest and nothing new to propose."

The feature of the report is the almost sensational statement of the relations existing between the railroads and a comparatively few heavy shippers. Referring to the commission's recent investigations into the amount of packing house products and of grain and grain products the report says:

"The facts therein developed are of such a character that no thoughtful person can contemplate them with indifference. That the leading traffic officials of many of the principal railway lines, men occupying high positions and charged with the most important duties, should deliberately violate the statute law of the land, and in some cases agree with each other to do so; that it should be thought by them necessary to destroy vouchers and to so manipulate bookkeeping as to obliterate evidence of the transactions; that hundreds of thousands of dollars should be paid in unlawful rebates to a few great packing houses; that the business of railroad transportation should to such an extent be conducted in open disregard of law, must be surprising and offensive to all right-minded persons. Equally startling at least is the fact that the owners of these packing houses, men whose names are known throughout the commercial world, should seemingly be eager to augment their gains with the enormous amounts of these rebates, which they receive in plain defiance of a federal statute."

That there are palliating circumstances under which railway traffic officials act the commisson is not unmindful and the opinion is expressed that existing laws should be so amended so that railway managers who desire to observe them can do so without risk of sacrificing their property.

The application of the remedy, the report says, is fraught with dangers to the public and it should not be applied unless the public is fully protected. In view of those great combinations which have been formed and are now forming, by which railway competition, which upon the present theory of this law is greatly relied upon to secure just and reasonable rates and facilities, will be largely eliminated, some method should be provided by which the government can exercise in fact that control over railway rates and operations which courts without number have asserted that it possesses, and that many persons suppose that it now exerts. The commission believes that the whole law should be revised upon some correct theory and some workable basis.

In view of the gross violation of the act, the commission suggests that if it is not possible to amend this law in its more essential features, it ought at least to be possible to deal with those coercive features of the act which are intended to prevent practices of this character.

**Punish Wrong Party.**

Referring to the court decisions that penalties cannot be imposed upon corporations violating the act, and that only their agents can be punished, the commission says:

"Now, the object of rate cutting is to get business and make money, and the corporation, if any one, profits by the illegal act. It is the real offender, and ought certainly to pay the penalty, as well as its officer. If every illegal act of that character subjected the carrier to a substantial forfeiture, so that the money result of the transaction was likely to be the other way, the inducement to commit such offenses would be greatly diminished."

Taking up the difficulty of making corrections in cases of rate cutting, the report says:

"To convict for paying a rebate it is necessary to show not merely that the railway company paid a rebate to a particular shipper, but it must also be shown that it did not pay the same rebate to some other shipper with respect to the same kind of traffic moving at the same time under similar conditions. It is always impossible. Departure from the published rate is the thing which can be shown and the thing which should be visited with fitting punishment.'

It is urged that the twentieth section should be amended so as to open the books of the carriers to the inspection of the agents under proper restrictions to prevent the misuse of information. Some method should be devised by which such orders as the commission can make should be enforced within a reasonable time.

Summarizing the results of its investigation of the handling of packing house products, the commission says:

"Sometimes rebates were paid, sometimes the freight was billed at the cut rate, and sometimes the published rate was reduced when the freight money was paid. The important fact disclosed from the testimony is that packing house products are habitually carried from points of origin to the seaboard at rates below the published tariff of 5 to 10 cents per 100 pounds."

Then, discussing the evil effects of this state of affairs, the report says:

"The commission required the carriers to file statements showing the number of cars shipped and the rates actually charged. When these are received, the gross amount of the rebates can be attained; at present it can be said to reach hundreds of thousands of dollars. While the general public probably receives some benefit from the lower rates, in the main the sums swell the profits of the packers. The great concerns number only about five or six, and little distinction in the rates appears to have been made between them. The effect is to give them an enormous advantage over smaller competitors located at other points. Already these competitors have mostly ceased to exist. The disclosures afford a pregnant illustration of the manner in which secret rate concessions are tending to build up great trusts and monopolies at the expense of the small, independent operator."

The additional statement is made that all the traffic officials who admitted that these secret low rates were being given the favored shippers, maintained that the published tariff rates exacted of smaller shippers, were too low.

**Discriminate Against Flour.**

The commission found also, in investigating complaints made by western millers, that the carriers east of Chicago made no serious attempt to maintain the export rates on wheat, and that the carriers had agreed among themselves upon a rate from Chicago 2½ cents below the published tariff, resulting in a discrimination of from 2½ to 4 cents against flour. The open wheat tariff from Kansas City to Chicago has been 12 cents, and the actual rate as low as 5 cents.

Taking up the practice prevalent in the west, of allowing some particular individual a concession which enables him to handle practically all the grain transported upon a particular railway, the report says:

"While the investigations of the commission have not fully covered this aspect of the case as yet, it is a matter of common information, and we know from repeated complaints received that some one firm or some one individual purchase substantially all the grain which is handled by a given line of railway, and the claim is made, and the inference is almost a necessary one, that this firm or individual must receive concessions which enable it or him to underbid other buyers in the same market. These different lines, in an effort to obtain a share of this business and to divide it up among different competing routes, deem it necessary to drive out of business the small buyer and to operate through a single large concern. One effect of this is to put the miller out of the market as an independent buyer."

Dealing with the traffic associations, the committee states that the secret "agreed" rates have been manipulated through these agencies and says:

"It is not the business of this commission to enforce the anti-trust act and we express no opinion as to the legality of the means adopted by these associations. We simply call attention to the fact that the decision of the United States supreme court in the Transmissouri and Joint Traffic association cases have produced no practical effect upon the railway operations of the country. Such associations, in fact, exist now as they did before those decisions and with the same general effect. In justice to all parties we ought probably to add that it is difficult to see how our interstate railways could be operated with due regard to the interest of the shipper and the railway without concerted action of the kind afforded through these associations."

J. P. Morgan has not been subpoenaed and will not be here. At the request of Attorneys Spencer and Grover, representing the Morgan-Hill roads, and Attorney Baldwin, representing the Harriman lines, the commissioners, it is stated, have agreed to ask neither Hill nor Harriman anything that might prejudice the case now in the supreme court involving the validity of the Northern Securities company. In view of this, it is said, the inquiry that may be pursued will be on lines that will bring out the effect of commissions and consolidations on rates.

# WANT PROFITS TAX SUSPENDED

**Bankers Ask Commissioner Yerkes to Set Aside Ruling Pending Court's Action.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—A delegation of New York and Chicago bankers today had a conference with Commissioner Yerkes of the internal revenue bureau and requested him to suspend the operation of his ruling to the effect that undivided bank profits should be taxed the same as other bank surplus. It was represented that the questions involved were now before the court for determination and that it was only fair that no further collections of this character should be made until the court had rendered its decision.

In the course of the conference Mr. Yerkes cited a number of cases where banks, presumably with a view to avoiding the tax, had taken large sums from their surplus and transferred them to the account of undivided profits.

The bankers present expressed their strong disapproval of such a proceeding and were of opinion that such cases could and should be prosecuted. However, they only asked delay in the execution of the ruling until the law questions involved could be judicially determined, and said in the meantime they were quite willing to make their returns to the internal revenue as at present required.

The commissioner said he would take the matter under advisement.

# DAIRY INTERESTS PREVAIL

**Friends of Pure Butter Carry Their Point Before House Committee.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23.—The friends of the measure for rigid restrictions on oleomargarine and kindred products carried their point before the house committee on agriculture today and by a vote of 12 to 5 ordered the report of a bill which is even more restrictive than the original Grout bill, reintroduced by Representative McCleary of Minnesota.

The subject has been under consideration for the last ten days, all of the various interests having been granted hearings. Before the meeting today the friends of rigid restriction held a conference and decided on several amendments. The original bill placed a tax of 10 cents per pound on oleomargarine and butterine colored to imitate yellow butter. The word "yellow" was stricken out, thus making the restriction apply to imitations of white or any other kind of butter.

Another change makes these who take uncolored butter and color it subject to all the taxes and penalties of manufacturers. When the committee met these amendments were agreed to by the foregoing vote.

**Building Permits.**

The following building permits have been issued by the city building inspector: John Murtey, Twenty-ninth and Hickory, frame dwelling, $1,000; F. R. Palmateer, Twenty-fifth and Laird, frame dwelling, $1,000.

SPECIAL NOTICE

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# CONDEMNS COERCION POLICY

**Redmond Defends Ireland Against Compulsory System of Land Trading.**

## SAYS ALL HIS PEOPLE OPPOSE ENGLAND

**English Member of Parliament Replies to the Arraignment and Declares His Intention to Fight for Liberty.**

LONDON, Jan. 23.—The debate on the address in reply to the speech from the throne was resumed in the House of Commons today by John Redmond, the Irish national leader, who offered an amendment raising the whole question of Irish grievances. He declared that instead of remedying admitted wrongs, the government had fallen back on the old methods of coercion. The Irish people would yet teach Mr. Wyndham (the chief secretary for Ireland) to repent his rash refusal to grant the reasonable demands of Ireland in regard to the compulsory sale and purchase of land.

There was no country in the world where crime was less frequent than in Ireland, yet the coercion act had been resurrected after a decade and had been ruthlessly applied. Scores, including members of the House of Commons, had been unjustifiably imprisoned and trial by jury had been abolished.

The whole intellect of Ireland was against the government, and in such circumstances resistance to the government was a duty and rebellion became merely a question of expediency. Though 100 years had passed since the union, English rule of Ireland still rested upon force and corruption. The Irish would never be well affected until they were the masters of their own country.

John H. Hayden (Irish nationalist) seconded the amendment.

Replying to Mr. Redmond, Mr. Wyndham traversed almost all of his statements and declared that no government expected to settle the Irish question, but only hoped to do a little toward improving it. He said the land act of 1881 was too drastic a measure, having produced a litigious war, which had ruined many people.

The strongest argument against introducing compulsion into the purchase and sale of land, Mr. Wyndham said, was that such action would provoke every landlord and every tenant to fight from court to court on every disputable point. He reiterated his conviction that the power of the United Irish league was declining; that it had only seventy-four branches, and that it was having a prejudicial effect upon economics. The present agitation, declared Mr. Wyndham, was the work of a few determined persons, and no man who was not a cur would hesitate to take such steps as were open to him to suppress this wretched form of bullying the government. He was determined, he said, while dealing justly with Ireland, to fight for liberty and the protection of property.

**Frank Shannon for Kansas City.**

BOSTON, Jan. 23.—The Boston American league team will go to Augusta, Ga., for spring training. Charley Nichols today signed Frank Shannon for his Kansas City club.

*No External Symptoms.*

The blood may be in bad condition, yet with no external signs, no skin eruption or sores to indicate it. The symptoms in such cases being a variable appetite, poor digestion, an indescribable weakness and nervousness, loss of flesh and a general run-down condition of the system—clearly showing the blood has lost its nutritive qualities, has become thin and watery. It is in just such cases that S. S. S. has done some of its quickest and most effective work by building up the blood and supplying the elements lacking to make it strong and vigorous.

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"We regard it a great tonic and blood purifier."—J. F. DUFF, Princeton, Mo.

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SUNDAY MAT. and NIGHT—The FRAWLEY CO. in "SECRET SERVICE"

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SEATS ON SALE TODAY FOR MARY MANNERING IN JANICE MEREDITH

Tuesday, Wed. Mat. and Night, Jan. 28 and 29.

Prices—50c, 75c, $1.00, $1.50.

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