REVIEWS STATES' COMMERCE

Commission Transmits Annual Report to Congress.

WHAT THE VARIOUS ROADS ARE DOING

Gross Earnings and Operating Expenses Are Summarized and Compared with Showing of Previous Years.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—Following is a synopsis of the seventeenth annual report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, transmitted to congress today:

The preliminary income account for the year ending June 30, 1903, shows railway returns for 201,457 miles of line, which is approximately 98 per cent of the entire mileage in the United States. Gross earnings for that year amounted to $1,880,150,679, or $9,282 per mile of line. Operating expenses aggregated $1,348,520,482, or $6,197 per mile, leaving net earnings of $641,630,196, or $3,186 per mile. Fifty-three million dollars in taxes are not included in this statement of operating expenses. Compared with the previous year the net earnings are greater by some $34,000,000 and stock dividends are greater by $10,000,000. In 1897 the gross earnings averaged only $5,112 and operating expenses $4,106 per mile of line.

Railways' Gross Earnings.

To present concisely the results of railway operations the commission issues each year a preliminary proof on the income account of operating roads, which is published in advance of the full report on railway statistics prepared by its statistician. For the past fiscal year this report comprises returns for roads repesenting 201,457 miles of line, or about 98 per cent of the mileage that will be included in the final report. The chief results of this compilation are given in the following statement:

The gross earnings of the railways for the year ending June 30, 1903, on the mileage stated, were $1,880,150,679. The gross earnings for the previous year, on 200,154 miles, as shown in the final report, were $1,726,380,297. Passenger earnings amounted to $508,683,009 and freight earnings to $1,325,768,581. Miscellaneous earnings connected with operation were $45,699,089. Gross earnings from operation averaged $9,282 per mile of line. This average is $737 larger than the average as shown in the complete report for 1902. Of the gross earnings per mile of line $2,523 were assignable to the passenger service and $6,630 to the freight service. The operating expenses of the roads totalized $1,348,520,482. This aggregate is equivalent to an expenditure of $6,197 per mile, or of $820 more per mile than was shown in the complete returns for 1902. The net earnings thus shown for the year 1903 were $641,630,196. Those of essentially the same lines for the year 1902 were $607,647,926. On the same mileage basis the net earnings averaged $169 more per mile for 1903 than for the previous year.

Their Net Income.

The total net income of the roads included in this advance report was $734,709,435. This amount includes $93,079,239 received as income from corporate investments and miscellaneous sources. The aggregate of the deductions from income was $641,546,723. The principal items comprised in these deductions were interest on funded debt, rents of leased lines, permanent improvements charged to income, taxes (which were $52,000,000) and dividends. The resulting surplus from operations was $91,162,712. The full report of 1902 showed a surplus of $94,355,083.

The dividends declared during the year ending June 30, 1903, by the railway companies for which returns appear in the preliminary report amounted to $159,216,010. This sum exceeds that representing the dividends of corresponding lines for 1902 by $9,989,700. It should be understood that the preliminary report, being compiled from the returns of operating companies only, does not include any statement of the dividends that are declared by those subsidiary companies which have leased their property to others for operation. The income of these companies is almost wholly derived from the rentals which they receive from their lessees and from which they make their own corporate expenditures, including dividends. The lessor companies distributed as dividends among their stockholders in 1903 probably about $35,600,000.

SAY GREENE MUST BE TRIED

Advance Report Issued on Decision of Commissioner to Be Rendered Today.

BINGHAMPTON, N. Y., Dec. 18.—It is said that when the Greene case is again called tomorrow Commissioner Charles S. Hall will render his decision that Senator Greene must stand trial on five indictments found against him in connection with the alleged postoffice frauds. As soon as this decision is rendered Mr. Greene's present bondsmen will be released and he will furnish new bonds for his trial at Washington.

Movements of Ocean Vessels Dec. 17.

At New York: Arrived—Teutonic, from Liverpool; Armenian, from Liverpool. Sailed—La Savoie, for Havre.

At Queenstown: Arrived—Arabia, from New York. Sailed—Westernland, from Liverpool, for Philadelphia.

At Liverpool: Arrived—Cambroman, from Portland; Noordland, from Philadelphia; Ivonia, from Boston, via Queenstown. Sailed—Canada, for Portland, Me.; Pretoria, for Halifax and St. Johns, N. B., via Moville; New York, for Boston.

At London: Arrived—Meechan, from Tacoma, via Hong Kong. Sailed—Amasis, from Hamburg and Antwerp, for San Francisco.

At Cherbourg: Sailed—Kron Prinz Wilhelm, for New York.

PERSONAL PARAGRAPHS.

Captain W. S. Askwith, commandant of the Soldiers' Home at Grand Island, is in Omaha on business connected with his property here.

A. L. Davis and daughter of Seattle, W. Spencer of Chadron, S. H. Baker of Denver and J. M. Penney of Wood River are at the Iler Grand.

John H. O'Neil of Portland, Ore., has been the guest of his father-inlaw, William Coburn, on his way to Ohio to spend Christmas with his mother.

F. Nelson of Hartington, Mrs. M. McFarland of North Platte, J. H. Edmundson of Aurora, B. W. De Ford of Hastings and O. H. Swingley of Beatrice are registered at the Murray.

E. H. Ridenour of Palisade, E. T. Thomas of Sioux Falls, J. A. Benedik of Fremont, George Webret, Fred Max, Miss Rose Yates and Miss Rose Barnes of Bushnell are at the Merchants.

Thomas V. Kirk, United States immigration agent, late inspector at Wichita, Kan., has been transferred to Omaha, and will made this city his headquarters under Inspector McCabe, chief inspector of this district.

Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Rose of Denver, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. McIntosh and Grace McIntosh of Sidney, J. S. Morey of Nebraska City, Mrs. W. H. Harrison of Rosebud, S. D., and L. B. Sylvester of Monte Vista, Colo., are at the Paxton.

NOTES ON OMAHA SOCIETY.

Complimentary to her guest, Mrs. James Williams of Denver, Mrs. W. J. Burgess gave the first of a series of afternoon card parties Thursday at her residence, 101 South Thirty-third street. American Beauty roses and deep red carnations trimmed the rooms, where nine tables were placed, and six-handed euchre was the game of the afternoon. The lone hand prize was won by Mrs. Frank Gaines, first prize by Mrs. Luther Kountze, second by Miss Jane Orcutt and third by Miss Caroline Purvis. Sixty guests were present. Mrs. Burgess is entertaining again this afternoon.

Mrs. Morris McKay was hostess at yesterday's meeting of the Thursday Afternoon Kensington club.

The High school class of '88 held a reunion last evening at the home of Miss Helen Brandeis, 205 South Thirty-fifth street.

Mrs. A. D. Marriott entertained fifty guests at high five yesterday afternoon at her residence, 1720 South Thirty-second street. Mrs. C. H. Walworth and Mrs. C. B. Horton winning the prizes. The house was handsomely trimmed with cut flowers and the hostess was assisted by Miss Blanche Howland, Miss Daisy Rogers and Miss Erd of Council Bluffs.

Wednesday evening last the Local Freight Agents' Association Card club of Omaha was entertained by Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cavers at their residence, Twenty-sixth and C streets, South Omaha. The prize winners were: Miss Laverty and Mr. E. R. Woods, Mrs. J. J. Sherlock and Mr. J. M. Tanner. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Tanner, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Sherlock, Mr. and Mrs. M. Loftus, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dietrick, Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Case, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Woods, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Scott, Mr. and Mrs. A. T. Jackson, Mr. and Mrs. George Strawn, Miss Laverty, South Omaha. The next meeting of the club will be held Wednesday, January 13, at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Dietrick, 2419 California street.

Mrs. David Degen was hostess of two of the card parties of the week, Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, at her home, 2523 Jones street, twenty-six guests being entertained on each occasion. The rooms were prettily trimmed with holly, and following the game luncheon was served from the small tables. Tuesday afternoon Mrs. Lasv of Milwaukee and Mrs. B. Cohn won the prizes, and Thursday the awards went to Mrs. E. Fischel and Mrs. Sol Degen.

Temple Israel sisterhood gave a very enjoyable whist party for its members Wednesday afternoon in the vestry rooms of the temple.

The High School class of '99 will hold its annual reunion at the home of Miss Blanche Rosewater, 1711 Douglas street, Monday evening, December 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kountze will entertain at dinner, followed by a box party at Boyd's this evening, complimentary to Miss Lindsey and Mr. Peek.

Miss Mabel Stuht will entertain the Herrick-Uriau bridal party Monday evening.

The Misses Frances Gibb and Frances Manning leave tonight for Winnipeg, Manitoba, where they will spend the holidays.

The December party of the Winfield club will take place at Metropolitan club Saturday evening, December 26.

Miss Minnie Hiller, who is a student at Vassar, will spend the Christmas holidays visiting her uncle, Mr. Riegelman of New York.

Mr. Ben Rosenthal has gone to New York City, where he will spend the holidays with his family at the hotel Bolleciane, Seventy-seventh and Broadway.

Mr. Herbert Alonzo Herrick of Denver, whose marriage to Miss Alma Uriau will take place December 24, is expected Monday.

Miss Hermione Blessing will leave Saturday for Boston, where she will spend Christmas the guest of Miss Gertrude White, who is at Wellesley.

On Wednesday at 4 p. m. the marriage of Miss Ada May Gilbert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Gilbert, to Mr. William F. Kurtz took place at All Saints' church, Rev. T. J. Mackay officiating. The wedding party then repaired to the home of the bride's parents, where a wedding supper was served. They will be at home to their friends after January 1 at 1935 South Thirteenth street.

LOCAL BREVITIES.

Frank L. Priest wants a divorce from Nellie J. Priest on the ground of abandonment.

Judge Dickinson has granted Lenora I. Mahaffey a divorce from Joseph L. Mahaffey on the ground of abandonment and failure to support.

Charles Daniels was convicted of the theft of a sheepskin overcoat from Thomas Walsh in police court and subjected to pay a fine of $15 and costs.

A decree of divorce has been made by Judge Dickinson in the case of Sarah Winthroup against Louis Winthroup. It was alleged that the defendant had abandoned his wife.

Michael Malina has instituted an action for damages against the Union Pacific Railway company. Malina alleges that he was struck in the back by a freight car and he sues for $1,999.

Several young married couples surprised Mr. and Mrs. George T. Mills with an informal gathering at their home, 2648 Dodge street, Thursday night, it being a birthday anniversary of Mr. Mills.

Lorenz Mulfinger has brought an action for $1,800 damages against Andrew C. Lund. It is alleged that on November 29 Lund struck the defendant with some clubs, sticks and a whip stalk, thereby seriously injuring him.

Fred Johnson, colored, has been apprehended on the charge of appropriating a valuable overcoat from the wardrobe of J. H. VanDusen of South Omaha and pawning the same. The pawn ticket was found on the negro when Detectives Heitfeld and Donahoe arrested him in the bad lands.

Pending a lengthy argument before Judge Fawcett the case of Nelson McLane against the Omaha & Council Bluffs Street Railway company has been taken from the jury. The defense claims that the petition or claim for damages is defective, and also that the trial of the case to a jury is prejudicial to the best interests of the defense.

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Nothing is more appropriate or appreciated as a gift for any occasion than a beautiful ring. We are showing hundreds of beautiful rings, heavy gold filled—warranted to wear for years—set with magnificent, sparkling Barrios Diamonds. Exact duplicate of rings

Worth $25.00 to $175.00—Our Price, $1.50 to $4.50.

Our Guarantee: We guarantee each and every stone to retain its brilliancy forever and the mountings to give perfection. We will give $10,000.00 to any charitable institution if it can be shown that we ever refuse to replace a stone that does not give satisfaction. Barrios Diamonds will stand acids, heat, alkali, etc. In fact they can be washed and cleaned like ordinary diamonds, and so nearly do they resemble them that Government Experts have been deceived.

BARRIOS DIAMOND COMPANY.

Small Marquise Ring. Beautiful white and brilliant stones, with Ruby, Emerald or Turquoise centers. Each stone set by hand. A positive beauty and cannot be distinguished from a ring worth $75. Our price **$3.00**

Three-Stone Tiffany. A marvel of beauty and splendor. Three white, perfectly brilliant stones, evenly matched. Set high and finished throughout with the greatest care. A magnificent ring at a special bargain. Our price.. **$3.00**

Engraved Belcher Ring. Hand made, exquisitely engraved. Large, pure white, perfectly brilliant and sparkling stone, guaranteed to retain its brilliancy forever. Mountings guaranteed for years. Cannot be distinguished from genuine with $75 —our price.. **$2.50**

Cluster Ring. Pearl, Amethyst or Sapphire center. Beautiful, pure white and sparking outside stones. A beautiful ring that should be worth at least $25.00. Our price . **$2.50**

Twin Ring. A graceful and stylish design. Two exceptionally white and sparkling stones, perfectly matched, or combinations of any color. Cannot be told from the genuine. Worth $150. Our price . **$2.50**

Twin Cluster Ring Ruby, Emerald or Turquoise center, surrounded by selected & extraordinarily brilliant pure white stones. A ring well worth $25.00. Our price . **$4.50**

Five-Stone Hoop Ring. A dainty and popular design. Five evenly matched and perfectly brilliant stones, mounted by hand in exquisitely finished heavy gold filled. A ring actually worth $15.00. It absolutely defies detection. Our price . **$3.00**

Triple Serpent Ring. A unique and beautiful design. Set with any combination of stones, Rubies, Emeralds, Turquoise or pure white, perfectly brilliant Barrios Diamonds. A ring that should sell for $20. Our price . **$3.00**

Round Belcher. The most popular ring of the times. Warranted for 15 years. This ring cannot be told from a ring set with a genuine diamond worth $12.50. Our prices $2.00 and.. **$1.50**

Large, Small Cluster Ring. An exact copy of ring costing $185.00. Emerald, Ruby or Turquoise centers. A magnificent jewel, warranted for 15 years. A special bargain at..... **$4.50**

Five of the most beautiful stores in Chicago, all on State Street, are devoted exclusively to the sale of Barrios Diamonds. The Barrios Diamond Company own and operate stores in Denver, Seattle, St. Louis, Detroit, Cleveland, Pittsburg, New York, Paris, London, Berlin, Buenos Ayres and scores of smaller cities in the United States.

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DO NOT confound Barrios Diamonds with Rhinestones, Bolivia, Alaska, La Perla, Transvaal, Sumatra, or in fact, any other imitation Diamonds, no matter what the name may be.

Barrios Diamonds are the only stones which will positively retain their brilliancy. All other imitations are made of chemicals, cheap glass or paste.

Barrios Diamonds have never before been sold in your city. Any one who may have sold you imitation diamonds as Barrios has grossly deceived and cheated you.

HAYDEN BROTHERS.

AT THE PLAYHOUSES.

"Polly Primrose" at the Boyd.

A little love story, with one or two incidents out of the commonplace, is the thread on which Paul Wilstach has hung five rather talky acts for Miss Thurston and her assistants in "Polly Primrose." It isn't sufficient to hold the interest, because the end is so very apparent, and the way thereto so direct that the listener isn't even piqued to the point of curiosity. It deals with the affairs of a family of rebel sympathizers at Georgetown during the war whose son has been rescued by a Yankee captain who took him prisoner and then brought him home. The daughter returns home from school and, of course, she and the captain fall in love. In the meantime the father and some of his friends are plotting to turn Washington over to General Lee. The Yankee captain learns of the plot, thwarts it, saves the family from exposure and marries the daughter. That's all there is to it.

Miss Thurston is advertised as "dainty" and all that sort of thing, and really tries to be. In a measure she succeeds, but it is only in the last scene of the fourth act that she shows any particular ability. For a few moments she exhibits the natural interest one would expect of a girl whose lover was in imminent peril. Just for a moment at the close of the piece she relapses into a natural state, but during the greater part of the play she is acting in a desperate attempt to live up to the name her press agent has made for her. She undoubtedly has ability, but she is at present concealing it in an unsuccessful effort to be great.

In the company supporting Miss Thurston are several capable people. Mr. Brinsley Shaw acts the role of a "man's man" with much taste and effect. Mr. Kerby mars his part of the villain by a too obvious effort to make the audience understand that he is the "bad" man of the piece. The engagement was but for one night.

"The Gamekeeper" at the Krug.

Mr. Thomas J. Smith sang his way through the four acts of the Irish play at the Krug last night to the apparent satisfaction of an audience that didn't test the capacity of the theater. This piece tells the old familiar story of an estate and a missing heir, the imposter who not only seeks to get away with the property, but tries to ensnare the affections of another man's wife as well, only to be baffled by the lowly but faithful servants of the missing "master." It moves along well worn grooves from a conventional beginning to a certain ending. Mr. Smith has a good singing voice and renders several songs with good effect. The acting required by the piece is done tastily and with sufficient vim to bring out the points of the story. "The Gamekeeper" will be the bill the rest of the week.

CHEKIB BEY TELLS HIS STORY

Informed Report Will Not Stop Proceedings, as it is Not Confirmed.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18.—When Chekib Bey, the Turkish minister, called at the State department this afternoon with a telegram from the sublime porte with the information that the American consul at Alexandretta, Mr. Davis, had treated the police in a rough way, he was politely informed that his explanation did not agree with the facts as the State department had learned them. It was plainly indicated to the minister that the explanation sent by the porte was far from satisfactory and that if it had been presented in the hope of tempering the vigorous policy already begun by the State department to obtain reparation and apology, the hope was a vain one.

Although the visit from an official standpoint was anything but satisfactory, the minister was received with cordiality, personally, as he is thoroughly persona grata to the State department officials.

WANT BOATRIGHT'S MONEY

Claimants File Suit Against Bankrupt Foot Race Promoter for More Than $100,000.

KANSAS CITY, Dec. 18.—Suits amounting to more than $100,000 were filed in the circuit court here today against Robert Boatright of Joplin, Mo., who two years ago was a promoter of alleged fake foot races in southwestern Missouri. Boatright has filed a bankruptcy petition in the federal court at Joplin and the filing of the suits here is to assist the referee in making a division of such assets as may be produced by Boatright.

FIGHT AT MINERS' MEETING

Revolvers Are Drawn at Pueblo, but Police Avert Serious Trouble.

PUEBLO, Colo., Dec. 18.—At a meeting held tonight, at which Mother Jones and President Moyer of the Western Federation of miners were the principal speakers, a riot was almost precipitated by a Cripple Creek miner named Donald McKenzie, who interrupted Moyer's address, charging him with responsibility for the strike and conditions at Cripple Creek. In the excitement which followed knives and revolvers were drawn, but prompt action on the part of the police and the cooler heads in the audience prevented bloodshed.

QUEST OF THE HOLY GRAIL

Father Stritch Delights Large Audience with His Scholarly Lecture.

Sacred Heart church, Twenty-third and Binney streets, was well filled Thursday to hear Rev. M. I. Stritch, S. J. Professor of literature at Creighton university, deliver the first in a series of five lectures to be given during the winter in aid of the new school to be established in Kountze Place by Father Judge. Father Stritch delighted his audience with his pure diction and easy flow of rhetoric, and held the closest attention during his short address.

His subject, "The Search for the Grail," fraught with great interest to all and especially all Catholics, was dealt with in the abstract and much that has been regarded as mere superstition, handed down from medieval ages, in regard to this wonderful cup of the Christ, was made clear. Its significance was particularly explained and its bearing on the literature and art of this and previous ages was unfolded in Father Stritch's characteristic style. Some of the epoch poems written to the Holy Grail in medieval times were more voluminous and quite as worthy of perusal as "Paradise Lost," the speaker declared, and the influence of the Grail on all art and literature of Germany, France, England, Ireland and America, had been duly felt and appreciated by the masters.

According to the legend of medieval ages the Holy Grail, or Sengrael, a name derived from the Latin, was the cup used by Christ at the last supper and from which He and His apostles drank at the feast. It had originally been a jewel in the crown of Lucifer, but on his expulsion from heaven it had dropped to earth. It had fallen into the hands of a merchant, who had fashioned it into a cup, and was used for the first time at the Lord's supper. Joseph of Arimathea came into possession of the cup and at the crucifixion of Christ caught in the cup a few drops of His blood. The Grail then passed to Britain and was finally taken up to heaven. Since that time it had appeared to the faithful and pure in Christ. Thousands had searched for the Grail with varying success, for, the speaker declared, the finding of the Grail meant the finding of Christ

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