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E. ROSEWATER, EDITOR.

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1	30,490	16	31,700
2	31,530	17	29,910
3	29,550	18	30,700
4	30,350	19	30,700
5	30,770	20	32,410
6	30,820	21	30,820
7	30,730	22	30,900
8	31,000	23	31,020
9	31,800	24	30,050
10	29,050	25	31,130
11	30,800	26	31,030
12	30,750	27	30,900
13	30,710	28	30,770
14	30,830	29	30,970
15	31,050	30	31,850

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C. C. ROSEWATER, Sec'y.

Subscribed in my presence and sworn to before me this 30 day of September, 1905.
(Seal) M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

WHEN OUT OF TOWN.

Subscribers leaving the city temporarily should have The Bee mailed to them. It is better than a daily letter from home. Address will be changed as often as requested.

The New York Hall of Fame has the merit of having saved some names from oblivion.

Registration day next Thursday. If you have not already registered put a chalk mark on the wall.

French warships off the coast of Venezuela would indicate a belief in Paris that the big stick is busy elsewhere.

Andrew Carnegie talks as strongly in favor of peace as though he had never reaped a cent of profit from armor plate contracts.

After his escapade at Hollo Lieutenant Burbank was more fortunate than Major Taggert in that his divorce suit escaped trial in Ohio.

Kansas City has the advantage of pulling off its horse show immediately after Omaha's with the styles that make a hit already set for it.

The candidacy of Prince Charles of Denmark for the throne of Norway shows that the Danish royal employment agency has not gone out of business.

Morocco will probably find that the international conference comes too late to do any good unless those captive British officers are returned in short order.

The profit to be realized by Japan from the tobacco monopoly is figured at $16,000,000 for the year. An anti-cigarette crusade in Japan would doubtless be considered treason.

By his answers to the investigation committee President McCurdy seems to make out that part of his $150,000 salary is paid for not knowing certain facts at the proper time.

A $7,000 bond has been prescribed for an outlaw charged with stealing $25,000. It is needless to say that this distorted perspective of crime comes from County Judge Vinsonhaler's court.

With cabinet officers empowered to remove civil service employes for personally known cause, several voluntary resignations may be expected from underlings who see the handwriting on the wall.

Now that the engineers have returned from the canal zone ambitious correspondents can begin to tell of the differences between the members without waiting to learn what plan any member favors.

What has become of Cathers, the ever wakeful watchdog, while all this juggling of municipal funds is being planned to piece out an exhausted police fund in direct violation of the charter provisions? Has the watchdog been put to sleep?

A new syndicate is trying to reorganize and regenerate the stock yards at Milwaukee, so as to put the Cream City on the map again as a live stock market. Milwaukee is in the wrong corner of the corn belt ever to catch up with the live stock business at Omaha.

Trust the democrats for finding a way to crawl under the tent without an admission fee. County Clerk Drexel shut the socialists out on the official ballot because they refused to pay up, but he now lets a democratic nominee for county commissioner come in without putting up a cent.

The local Bryanite organ has discovered that there is a lively municipal campaign on in New York City, and though it is not sure whether democrats should line up behind Hearst or behind McClellan, it is ready to throw up its hat over a great democratic victory, no matter which wins.

THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP SOUTH.

Today President Roosevelt will start on his southern trip, which will occupy the remainder of the present month. He is assured of a most cordial welcome by the southern people, who have as great an admiration of Mr. Roosevelt's character and as high an appreciation of what he has accomplished in statesmanship and diplomacy as the people of any other section. The president is recognized in the south, as elsewhere, as a man of national sentiment and sympathies, desiring to promote the interests and welfare of the entire country, proud of the position of the United States among the world powers and seeking in all just and proper ways to maintain that standing. The southern people, in common with a great majority of their countrymen, like the courage and firmness with which Mr. Roosevelt adheres to the principles and policies which he believes to be right and essential to the public welfare. It is true there are some in that section who have shown displeasure with his attitude toward the colored citizens, so far as concerns their political rights, but there is reason to think that this feeling is by no means general.

The president should find much enjoyment from his southern trip. All the cities he is to visit have made preparations to properly receive and entertain him. As the chief executive of the nation he will be shown every courtesy and consideration by state and municipal official and the great service he has performed in the cause of international peace will undoubtedly receive due recognition. It is a good thing for the president to go among the people and talk to them—to learn their sentiment and feeling and to tell them of the aims and purposes of those in authority. The effect is enlightening to both, the people are drawn closer to the government and the tendency is to keep active the spirit of loyalty and patriotism. Everybody will earnestly wish that President Roosevelt may find unalloyed pleasure in his trip and return to the national capital with renewed vigor for the arduous work which the meeting of congress will impose on him.

FRANCE THREATENS VENEZUELA

French warships are on the way to the West Indies and although a Paris dispatch says it is not desired there to have the assembling of the vessels, which will be at the island of Martinique, taken as a menace, there can be no doubt that it is a threat to Venezuela. It announces plainly to the southern republic that unless France receives the satisfaction demanded for the offense against her diplomatic representative coercive measures will be taken, probably a blockade of the ports of Venezuela. The French government doubtless feels that it has been sufficiently patient in this matter and that the time has come to show Castro that further trifling will not be tolerated. The Venezuelan president has little regard for international obligations. He seems to court trouble and he has kept the country in controversy with foreign nations ever since he violently seized executive authority. There is no question that he has given France sore offense, but he has obstinately refused to make any amend. He may not do so even when France shall have assembled her warships near Venezuelan waters.

Will this prove to be another case for the application of the Monroe doctrine? Venezuela is not feeling altogether friendly toward this country and perhaps would not ask it to intervene in the trouble with France, but if such a request should be made our government would very likely decline to interfere. There can be no doubt that France, if compelled to employ her warships to bring Castro to terms, will respect the spirit of the Monroe doctrine. She will not attempt to take any Venezuelan territory. A peaceful blockade would not be in violation of the doctrine and doubtless that is as far as France would go. Certainly she will avoid anything that might bring on an issue with the United States and disturb the extremely cordial relations between the two countries.

Venezuela needs a lesson in international decency. Castro, whose will appears to be law in the republic, needs to be taught that he cannot ruthlessly disregard obligations universally recognized and escape merited consequences. If he forces France into administering such a lesson no obstruction should be placed in the way of her doing so.

LAND FRAUD PROSECUTIONS.

The zeal with which the federal authorities are carrying on the land fraud prosecutions cannot be too warmly commended. A few days ago the United States court at Portland sentenced three persons, one of them Congressman Williamson, to fine and imprisonment, and there is every reason to expect that another Oregon congressman, Hermann, will be convicted and perhaps subjected to a heavier punishment, as his case is in some respects the most aggravated of them all. Not only is he charged with making improper use of the office of federal commissioner of the general land office, but when the secretary of the interior allowed him to remain for a time it is charged that he destroyed letter-press copybooks, alleged to have contained proof of his land transactions. He is under indictment in Washington on the charge of destroying government records, as well as in Oregon for complicity with the land fraud there. It is stated that Interior and Department of Justice officials have from the beginning been more confident of the conviction of Hermann, in the land fraud prosecution, than of either Senator Mitchell or Representative Williamson.

The course pursued in Oregon has been followed in the state of Washington, where six cases have just been filed in the federal court at Tacoma to recover to the government title to lands in Washington, Oregon and California, out of which the government is alleged to have been defrauded. Bribery, perjury, forgery, etc., are charged and a number of prominent persons, among them Senator C. W. Clark, are implicated. The federal authorities believe that the evidence in these cases is quite as strong as that upon which the convictions in Oregon were obtained and it is not doubted that indictments will be secured in all the cases. It is needless to say that the Interior department and Department of Justice are working in complete harmony. That whoever is found to have had any connection with the land frauds, whatever his position, will be prosecuted and if convicted will be punished, the record in Oregon gives ample assurance. The position of the president in regard to this is well known and the attorney general and the secretary of the interior are in full accord with it. The persons who have obtained lands from the government by fraud deserve an even severer punishment than the law provides. The sentences of the men convicted do not quite fit the crime.

A STRAIT-JACKET CHARTER.

When the charter bill was still under discussion last winter, The Bee took exception to the proposed section making the sinking fund the residuary legatee of all the odds and ends of municipal revenue and all the surpluses of other funds formerly carried over from year to year. It called attention to two serious defects of the plan: First, that it would make the charter too rigid a strait-jacket for emergencies, such as we have just been compelled to meet in the exhaustion of the police and fire funds, and second, that it would incite every branch of the municipal government to spend every cent at its disposal rather than show a surplus at the end of the year to be forfeited to the sinking fund.

Examination of the balance sheet discloses that this is precisely what has happened and that when the books are closed with the expiration of the fiscal year not only will there be no balance in any of the current funds, but nearly every one of them will have obligations outstanding that will become a charge upon the proceeds of the next year's levy.

With such a system in operation it is difficult to see how expenses can be materially cut down or tax levies appreciably reduced. Add to this a persistent policy of evading the charter limitations by drawing on other funds whenever the city authorities find themselves in a tight place and the safeguards of the new charter against extravagance and overlaps fall down almost completely.

When the new charter comes to be revised, as has been the invariable history of all our charters, the unsatisfactory experience with these strait-jacket clauses should not be overlooked and such modifications adopted as will insure a reasonable measure of elasticity for the future.

Taxpaying citizens of Douglas county will note that nearly $7,500 has been placed to their credit in twenty-one months by County Treasurer Fink as interest earned on current deposits of county funds, while under his democratic predecessor the interest collections for four years amounted to less than $1,750. As a matter of fact, the taxpayers of Douglas county have yet to discover just who pocketed the interest money earned by the county deposits while they were handled by County Treasurer Fink's democratic predecessor.

President McCurdy of the Mutual Life says that he believes the testimony of officials before the investigating committee should be taken in private and held confidential by the committee. Under these circumstances members of the committee might find more profit if less fame than they are now receiving. Star chamber transactions are the parents of graft.

Colleges can be built in a day, but it takes time to create traditions, and drive the roots of the tree deep into the ground. Bellevue college's twenty-five years testify not to rapidly accumulated endowments, but to a quarter of a century of usefulness in a limited sphere with steadily widening influence for good.

The register of deeds' law passed by the last legislature as part of the biennial elections legislation has finally gone up to the supreme court. It is only a question of time when every bill of that series will have to have to have the judicial stamp on it to tell whether it is good or no good.

Can't Afford to Lose Him.
Brooklyn Eagle.

Pat Crowe has stolen and blackmailed enough to hire the best legal talent, but we have an idea that they are so fond of him in Nebraska that they will keep him there for many years and will not charge him a cent for his keep, either.

Rubbing Off Ragged Edges.
Boston Transcript.

A visitor returned from the Philippines observes that most of the mistakes which have been made are due to the Anglo-Saxon failing of thinking our way the only way. We are really lucky, then, to have got beyond that other racial failing of not thinking at all.

Where Reform Shies.
Philadelphia Inquirer.

Congressman Landis of Indiana, proposes an investigation of the government printing office, with a view to stopping the printing and distribution of "worthless publications;" but as next year will be devoted to congressional campaigns, when many tons of "parts of congressional record" will be sent out, the odds are against the success of the scheme.

Young Men for Battle.
Chicago Tribune.

Admiral Dewey says that to have a navy which shall be efficient in the stress of war, there must be younger men to direct the fighting aboard the ships than those now in command. It is his opinion that the officers above the rank of lieutenant are too old for the grades they occupy. The admiral is getting to be an old man and can make remarks of this kind with a better grace than one of the juniors.

DIRECTORS MUST DIRECT.

More Active Men, Fewer Dummies, Needed on Boards.
Philadelphia Ledger.

The address of the comptroller of the currency before the American Bankers' association gives his authoritative support of the assertion that the national banks are exposed to the greatest danger from the inside, and that no system of governmental inspection or examination can prevent the occasional looting of a bank by its trusted officers. In the course of his remarks Mr. Ridgeley vindicated the efficiency of his corps of examiners, who, he says, can do little until after the discovery has been made that the banking laws have been violated and some harm has been done to stockholders or depositors, or both. "A good bank examiner does his whole duty in the discovery of such a case. It is not reasonable to ask him to prevent it."

The safety of our financial institutions and the proper execution of all fiduciary trusts lies, in the last analysis, in the integrity and financial skill of those who have oversight "on the inside." Business is conducted upon the theory that men are honest, and, compared with the trusts which are honestly and ably executed, the lapses are few, and the sums lost infinitesimal when measured by the enormous sums which are faithfuly administered by persons who would remain inflexibly faithful and honest if there were no statutes punishing those who criminally betray trusts. No law can hold all trustees to their duty. There is no substitute for plain, old-fashioned honesty on the part of those who have charge of the funds in the banks or otherwise. This is a truism, and its truth is illustrated by many examples drawn from the experience of the comptroller, the official who watches and guards to the extent of his powers the vast national banking system.

Mr. Ridgely says that there has been a determined effort to secure a more thorough co-operation between bank directors and the official supervising authority. He suggests certain improvements in the system of supervision. He has imposed greater responsibility on the directors by placing them in direct communication with the comptroller's office. Until recently criticism from that office of the conduct of a bank was addressed to the president, and was, as a rule, answered by the president or the cashier. This was a fatal course in some instances. Directors remained ignorant of irregularities, for a delinquent bank president or cashier would not scruple to withhold from the directorate knowledge of irregularities for which he was responsible. "It was a common complaint of directors that they had not been notified of things going on in the bank about which the officers had been written repeatedly." Now the directors are communicated with personally by the comptroller. The new plan has been in operation a short time, but its good results are apparent in the greater attention of directors to the details of bank management.

THE MICROBE OF GRAFT.

Thrives Best in Corporations Where the Rakeoff is Rich.
Wall Street Journal.

The microbe of graft thrives especially in corporations, public and business. A few are, indeed, immune against it, but these are rare exceptions. Nearly all are exceedingly susceptible to the growth of the microbe, and once let it obtain a secure lodgment in the body of the corporation, a loathsome and often deadly disease surely follows. The best cure is exposure to the light. There is no certain way, however, of preventing the disease, though various methods of quarantine have been established against it.

The microbe thrives in any kind of a corporation, but is most prolific in those which represent a vast financial power lodged in the hands of a few individuals who feel no due sense of obligation to anybody. The corporation that is controlled by a man who regards it as "my" corporation, and its business as "private" business, affords most fertile ground for the spread of graft. When a financier handling immense sums of other people's money gets to the point of regarding his trusteeship as a "private" business it is not long before he begins to think that their money is "my" money and then uses it in all sorts of scandalous ways for his personal profit.

When "a captain of industry" gets to the point of regarding the great railroad or public utility as a "private business" it does not take long for him to persuade himself that anything he may do is right, and that the public, or the government representing the public, has no right to "interfere in his affairs." Thus is developed a condition of egotism that approaches the vanity of czars and kings, and of irresponsible power that leads naturally to control of corporate property and business for personal profit regardless of the interests and the rights of others. Great business carried on by corporations whose powers are derived from the public cannot be private in any strict sense, nor can it be "my" business. It represents the investments of hundreds, and perhaps tens of thousands; its operations affects the interests, it may be, of millions, and its profits, especially if it be a public service corporation, are derived from franchises bestowed by legislatures and municipalities, or if a bank or insurance company, by virtue of certain privileges bestowed by law. Such a business is essentially public and rightly subject to public supervision and publicity, and when so conducted the microbe of graft can make slow progress. It thrives best and most rapidly develops the cancer of corruption in those corporations which are subject to one-man rule and controlled on the principle that they are private enterprises carried on for private gain and in which the public has no concern or rights.

COST OF LIVING.

Some Basis for Secretary Wilson's Hope of Relief.
Milwaukee Sentinel.

Good old Secretary Wilson of the Department of Agriculture steps blithely to the front to cheer us all up with a prediction of a marked decrease in the cost of living in the near future. That is important, if true, and here is about the way the secretary figures it out. Grain, especially corn, is the elementary form of nearly all our staple food commodities—meat, dairy products, poultry, breadstuffs, of course, and dozens of other articles of household consumption. In the great granary of the country, the middle west, there is a splendid all-round yield of grain, which means an abundance, and hence a reduced cost of the multiform articles of food into which grain is directly or indirectly transmitted. Especially the enormous crop of corn, used to feed and fatten cattle and poultry, and the basic principle not only of meat but of eggs and dairy products, should exercise a cheapening effect on food necessaries of life all along the line.

Corn is king in this direction and scarce and dear corn means scarcity and dearness of about everything else. So with a bumper corn crop we are fairly justified in expecting that agreeable decrease in the cost of living which Secretary Wilson confidently predicts. The secretary's deductions are fair and philosophical; he is presumably mighty careful this time about the correctness of his crop statistics, and it is hoped the pesky trusts will not manage through some hocus pocus to get between the people and the bounty of nature indicated by the figures of the Department of Agriculture. With an abundance of the natural elements of all the food staples why should scarcity prices prevail?

ROUND ABOUT NEW YORK.

Ripples on the Current of Life in the Metropolis.

Eastern people are steadily coming to a realization of the immense development of the west and the greatly increased value of western land and products. Of all localities New York should be thoroughly acquainted with this fact, for the west gives the greatest momentum to the surging currents of its life. Yet there seems to be in some quarters, regarded as intelligent and progressive, a total lack of information on this point, judging by the surprise and favorable comment provoked by the circulation of a pamphlet dealing with western progress. The author is H. W. Jones, an expert on crops. Mr. Jones shows that land values in seven representative western states has increased since 1890 nearly $5,000,000,000. He also says the corn crop will exceed 2,521,987,000 bushels, and that the United States never enjoyed crop conditions as favorable as those of this year.

This is not news to the west, but it is worth repeating as an illustration of the impressive figures the west sends down the line to arouse the somnolent east.

"All sections of the country," says Mr. Jones, "have been favored with a harvest. No crop is a failure over any large area. Wheat, corn, oats, cotton, hay potatoes, dairy products—all are good on the whole and well distributed over the states. The fodder crops are heavy, and the farmer will have a supply ample to insure full cattle feeding.

"The western railroads are already taxed to their capacity. The roads are not able to move promptly the tonnage offering. Fully one-fifth of the northwest grain elevator capacity is already filled by early marketings, and wheat deliveries by farmers as such points are being refused for the present."

Mr. Jones also declares that twenty years ago it cost about 2½ cents to move a ton of freight one mile. Now it costs about ¾ of a mill.

"It is an area of prosperity for the farmer, and, in turn, for the country. Money is abundant throughout the west. Western jobbers report good fall demand for all lines, with a tendency to purchase other than staples, which is indicative of an ability among the people to buy the smaller luxuries that contribute to farm comfort.

"The telephone and the daily paper are going into the homes of the people in the far west, and the producer is posting himself on markets as never before."

These facts will hold the east for awhile.

Two of the big hotels in New York permit their patrons to breathe filtered air, and it is surprising to note how many people go in for this sort of thing. They want to feel that they are getting a superior quality of air. Theaters are talking about installing filtering plants. "Aside from the general interest attaching to the mere fact that a barrel of dust is filtered out of the air supply of one public house every day," said the health commissioner, "the example is an admirable one for the theaters and other places of congregation. There is no question that the dust of cities is very largely responsible for the spread of disease. My experiments here, coupled with my investigations elsewhere, are such as might astonish laymen. Comparatively few persons realize that the lungs of a city dweller, of one who has lived in New York, as an instance, for three years or more, are indelibly spotted, whereas the lungs of a countryman are nomally pink and white."

"That part of Manhattan island below Fourteenth street has a week-day population of at least 1,500,000 in the rush hours," says a correspondent of the Pittsburg Dispatch. "Between 8 o'clock in the morning and 6 at night it is crowded so uncomfortably that there is no living in the quarter. One thousand bar rooms are doing a business that would scandalize believers in temperate drinking and create a condition of despair among advocates of tectotalism and prohibition. The restaurants thrive; the hat stores, the shoe shops, the shirt infirmaries, the cigar deadfalls and all the retail places of whatever description are simply little mints for the receivers of small change. At night—after 7—all is changed. A million of the population quit the quarter and go home to Harlem, to Jersey, upstate, uptown, and the Lord knows where. All is still where teeming multitudes waged their wars an hour before. The watchman and the policemen are the only ones left. One might take off his clothes under the statue of George Washington at the subtreasury building in Broad street and walk through the great financial district without scandal. He would encounter only a few dago sweepers and an occasional somnolent policeman. The streets of the financial district are so still and the acoustics from the high buildings so perfect that an ordinary voice carries a block. That is at night. At noon one must shout into the ear of his fellow pedestrian to make himself understood. There are not over two good restaurants open on Manhattan island below Fourteenth street after 8 p. m. Even the famous old Astor House is deserted after that time. A lot of cheap beaneries hold the watch for wayfarers and turn up messes of beans and ham or fried eggs in sufficient quantities to murder appetites—to satisfy is out of the question. To be below Fourteenth street at night is worse than isolation. Better far to be in Newark, N. J., or Painted Post, Kan. There is nothing doing except along Park Row, where 500 or so reporters and newspaper workers make things a little lively on their way uptown."

The voters of New York are to have an opportunity at the November election to record their wishes as to an immense scheme for better public highways. The question is whether or not the state of New York shall issue good roads bonds to the amount of $50,000,000, which is the largest amount of money that is proposed anywhere for an improvement of this nature.

Stated briefly, the plan is to give New York with its 74,000 miles of roads a system which at the end of ten years will embrace 7,400 miles of good trunk line roads, at an outlay of $5,000,000 a year.

As the law now stands the state pays one-half the cost of road improvements and the county or towns the other half. The proposed bonds are to run through a period of fifty years. An expert on the matter says: "Reports from the different parts of the state indicate that the people in the rural districts are almost unanimous in their approval of the bond issue. The granges have taken the matter up with earnestness, and many have passed resolutions in favor of it. The greatest danger is in the fact that voters in the larger cities will either not understand or appreciate the value of the measure to them."

The first thing that catches the eye of the visitor to the office of William Travers Jerome, in the criminal courts building, is a plain cardboard sign, says an exchange. It says: "Open game." The sign is a souvenir of one of the district attorney's raids on gambling houses. The little piece of cardboard was posted for a number of years over a poker table in a well known gambling house and it informed the patrons of the house that he who had the price to buy a "stack" could sit in if there was a vacant seat.

PERSONAL NOTES.

Secretary Shaw is said to have been offered the presidency of a trust company. There's something tangible in that.

If the author of "Everybody Works But Father" makes $10,000 out of his song, as predicted, it is certainly the haul of fame.

Thomas Lowry, the Twin City traction king, has purchased and presented to Minneapolis the famous old Lincoln car, which was an Omaha relic until two years ago.

Under the will of the late Frank Harvey Ceilley of Boston a bequest of $70,000 is left to the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for the equipment and maintenance of the proposed Walker memorial building of the institute.

William M. Ivins, who has been nominated by the republicans for mayor of New York, is a lawyer, author and publicist. He is about 55 years of age. When William R. Grace was mayor of New York Mr. Ivins was his official secretary.

One of the New York banks has adopted a most stringent rule against the use of intoxicants by its employes. Every man in the service of the bank has been required to sign an agreement that he will not even enter any place where intoxicants are sold.

William Kingsley, who was born in Ireland in 1783 and fought with Nelson at Trafalgar, is now living at the age of 122 near Bloomfield, Mo. He fought in the Crimean war, assisted in the taking of Sebastopol and in this country fought in the Mexican and civil wars.

William Keating is saving his board and $10 a day for ten days in the New York county jail. He was fined $100 in the court of special sessions for running an automobile at the rate of fifty miles an hour in Riverside avenue. He had the option of a fine of $100 or ten days in jail. He chose the jail.

"COMMERCIAL LYNCH LAW."

Practice Common with Railroads Denounced by Spokesman.
Baltimore American.

The most inveterate opponent of railway rate legislation must admit that the address of President Samuel Spencer, of the Southern railway, to the Newark Board of Trade, is more impassioned than convincing. Whatever may be said of the advocacy of rate legislation by President Roosevelt, no one can fairly assert that it is not sincere or that it in any sense savors of demagogism. Those organizations which practically represent the entire shipping class of the country are pronouncing in favor of this legislation, unless they happen to belong to the favored class.

To denounce rate legislation as "commercial lynch law" must keenly concentrate attention upon the causes which have led to all this discussion. If the railroads themselves had never engaged in commercial lynching the Interstate Commerce commission would never have been conceived, and there would now be no discussion of extension of the powers of that body. Railway managers have admitted discrimination in favor of certain shippers. They have admitted charges for short hauls out of all proportion to those for long hauls, and other discrepancies in rates of a varied character have been confessed by railway officials which are absolutely antagonistic to the principle of fair play, if not to the "fundamental principles of Anglo-Saxon jurisprudence," which are so dear to the heart of President Spencer.

But let railway managers take heart of grace. There is not a desire in the mind of anyone to injure the railroads. Those who believe in such legislation would relieve the railroads from that bondage to other corporations to which the managers have confessed. In any event, there can be no harm in submitting the matter to congress at a time when it may be calmly discussed in the new light which has been recently thrown upon the question. The house of the last congress passed a bill, which was not satisfactory to itself, without discussion, and merely for the purpose of shunting the problem over to the senate. The proposition will be temperately considered in all its phases, and President Spencer will have full opportunity to elaborate upon his theory of lynch law. It may be predicted in advance that President Roosevelt will be satisfied with what he looks upon as a square deal for all sides to the controversy.

Anti-American In Porto Rico.
Harper's Weekly.

If we went no farther into details than the broad general fact of the present attitude toward us of the people of Porto Rico, as compared with their attitude when we first came among them, a strong presumption would be established, not only that things had been going radically wrong in some way, but that responsibility for the wrong rested, in some degree at least, upon our own shoulders. There is now sweeping over this island a wave of anti-Americanism too intense and too widespread to be accounted for by any of the standard explanations of Porto Rican discontent.

If discontent alone, in however intense a form, fully covered, in broad characterization, the state of mind of the people here, then those standard explanations might suffice. But, unfortunately, an analysis of Porto Rican sentiment toward American administration of the island yields elements less agreeable than even the most aggravated forms of discontent. Disintegrated into its component parts, we find liberated from Porto Rican anti-Americanism a very considerable quantity of disgust and just about an equal amount of contempt.

LEGISLATIVE HOLDUPS.

Process of Sandbagging Corporations and the Remedy.
Chicago News.

There is, unfortunately, only too much reason to credit the statements of James M. Beck, special counsel for the Mutual Life Insurance company, when he complains that the insurance corporations are blackmailed and sandbagged by state legislatures. The public is prepared to admit that corruption is rife in many of these bodies and to take its own share of the blame for this condition. It may be readily believed, also, that the companies in their dealings with the legislatures have for their chief object not the purchase of favorable legislation, but the prevention of legislation adverse to their interests. Mr. Beck continues:

"Censure if you will the hapless passenger in a stagecoach who puts a premium upon robbery by surrendering some part of his valuables rather than be killed, but let our stern moralists visit their greatest condemnation upon the legislative highwaymen who hold up these great business interests and, above all, upon an indifferent people who clothe these highwaymen with the power to hold up their victims."

Mr. Beck's metaphor implies that the life-insurance companies have been meeting the legislative plunderers upon their own terms. They have yielded to the demands made upon them. Accepting his view that they were forced to this extremity in self-defense, what have they been doing toward remedying bad conditions? Their proper course, plainly, lay in taking active measures to bring about the detection and exposure of the highwaymen and to stimulate a popular movement for legislative reform.

It does not appear that the life insurance companies have taken this course. Subject to the predatory attacks of lawbreakers, they not only have submitted to be robbed, but have failed to exert themselves for the apprehension of the robbers. They have fought corruption with the weapons of corruption, instead of aiding and guiding the public in efforts to extirpate it.

That corporations should be subjected to blackmailing operations is infamous, of course. But the way for them to protect themselves is by moving against the blackmailers, not by silently submitting to the extortion and thus encouraging it. Business considerations apart, these companies are under legal and moral obligation to lend their influence toward destroying the corruption of the legislatures. When they have taken this stand the apology Mr. Beck offers on their behalf will carry much more force and conviction than it does at present.

PASSING PLEASANTRIES.

First Broker—Dropping a million yesterday didn't seem to disturb Smallfunds a particle.

Second Broker—No; he tells me his wife has had a pretty good week at bridge.—Houston Chronicle.

"De preacher wuzn't feelin' good las' meetin' day, an' he made de stove preach de sermon."

"Made de stove preach?"

"Yes—made it redhot fum top fer bottom an' den tol' de sinners ter take a good look at it an' go ter thinkin'!"—Atlanta Constitution.

New Englander (visiting in Kansas)—Why don't you raise punkins out here?

Kansan—We tried it, but the soil is too rich for 'em. The vines grew so fast that the punkins got all skinned up draggin' over the ground.—Judge.

Columbus was arguing that the world was round.

"Otherwise," he declared, "some woman would certainly have made the four corners cosey ones."

Clearly convinced Ferdinand withdrew his opposition.—New York Tribune.

"Some grocers," remarked the customer, "have an offhand way of weighing sugar, but I notice you're not one of them."

"Offhand way? How do you mean?" asked the grocer.

"I noticed you kept your hand on the scales just now while you measured out that five pounds for me."—Detroit Free Press.

Old Hunks was paying his gas bill, which amounted to $2.65.

"It's only about half what I thought it would be," he said. "I guess your inspector must have made a mistake."

"Well, if that's so," the cashier answered, "we'll even it up with you next month."

"Not much!" chuckled old Hunks. "Not with me. I've sold the place."—Chicago Tribune.

THE CANDIDATE.

New York Sun.

Blithely the candidate
Puffs his cigar,
Making each handy date;
Bright is his star!
Fame—why the fist of her
Points at him straight.
Jiminy Christopher,
Isn't it great!

Mark with what fluency
Rolls his address.
Wise constituency
Likes it, I guess.
After strong passages
Comes the glad news:
Acres of sausages,
Oceans of booze.

Fame, with a toss of her
Head, leads the way;
Barroom philosopher
Simply gets gay
Drinking the health of him
Gladly 'mid cheers—
Swiftly the wealth of him
Melts into beers.

Tickling his vanity—
Innocent soul!
And with urbanity
"Touching" his "roll."
Graft for the cityful,
Signing the check,
Every committee full
Up to the neck.

Henchmen say breezily
That he will win;
Then, oh, so easily,
"Touch" him again.
Still though he's cheerily
Moving about,
Oft he asks wearily:
Will it pan out?