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EXPRESS COMPANY LAW-DEFIANCE

All the express companies doing business in Nebraska have undertaken by concerted action to ignore the rate reduction legislation enacted by the late state legislature, which has just gone into effect, and to defy all authority over them vested in the State Railway commission.

The attitude of law defiance assumed by the express companies is more readily understood in the light of their origin and present makeup. These express companies are simply rings within the railroad ring—the railroads in disguise.

By way of illustration, official reports show that the Union Pacific owns \$2,400,000 of the \$6,000,000 of stock authorized for the Pacific Express company, while the remainder of the stock is held by two other railroads.

The methods by which the express companies do business with the railroad companies confirm the assertion that they are "in and in" with one another.

The issue raised by the express companies is the same issue involved by other rate regulation laws and will have to be fought out in the same way.

KING OF THE BANDITS

It is America's turn to laugh over the latest news from Morocco. The outside world had a lot of fun at our expense in 1904, when Raisuli, a clever Moroccan and recognized head of the Bandit trust, gobbled up and held for ransom one Ion Perdicaris, who showed American naturalization papers.

Now Raisuli has pulled off another dramatic coup. He got into bad favor with the Morocco authorities some time ago and had to take to the tall timber.

It is no reflection on the healthfulness of Texas that many life insurance companies are leaving that state. The location seems to be very healthy for everybody except life insurance folks who cannot swallow Texas laws.

Suppose the railroads net only submit to the 2-cent fare laws enacted in the various western states, but also put in a 2-cent interstate rate without losing money by the change—where would that leave Governor Hughes of New York with his 2-cent fare veto?

Spain will be drawn into the mess by reason of their responsibility, under the terms of the Algeciras treaty, for the policing of Morocco. This makes Raisuli's latest achievement all the more notable.

Looking through a telescope at the long-drawn murder trial in Idaho, an eastern reviewer of current events declares that "Idaho is conducting a perfectly fair trial, which ought to shame a good many people who indulged in wild talk only a few weeks ago."

Everyone knows that while a case is up for hearing, the attorneys on both sides regularly make it a practice to jolly the jury members for no other purpose than to curry their favor.

Fairness is largely a comparative attribute depending entirely on the point of view. In matters of court proceedings, it also depends greatly whether one is talking before or after the verdict.

GIVING NAMES TO FARMS

A new law passed by the Missouri legislature encourages the naming of farms and protects the use of names adopted. It provides that upon the payment of a fee of \$1 to the clerk of the county court the farmer in any county may secure a certificate setting forth the name and location of the farm and the name of the owner, and that when such name is properly registered it cannot be used as a designation for any other farm in such county.

There is more than a sentimental value to this legislation. The products of the dairy, orchard or stables of a farm may command a commercial premium after a reputation has been established. A distinctive name for an estate is much to be preferred to the present system of designation by section, township and range numbers.

OKLAHOMA IN WAR PAINT

If Oklahoma and the Indian Territory do not secede from the union and send an army of 50,000 men against the city of Washington, it will be because the people of those territories have greater powers of self-repression than has been attributed to them.

Former Senator Peffer of Kansas claims to have formulated the first railway rate bill offered in congress. Perhaps, but no one is going to wade through all those bills Peffer offered in order to confirm or disprove his claim.

Every saloon in Los Angeles was closed during the funeral of Francis Murphy. No greater tribute could have been paid to the man who devoted his life to an unrelenting yet unflinching fight against intemperance.

Eugene Schmitt announces that he will be a candidate for re-election as mayor of San Francisco and that he believes the labor organizations will stand together in his support.

men and women carving out their fortunes in the new country. The people are honest, industrious, wholesome and decent and the employes of the census or any other department in Washington would be benefited rather than injured by association with them.

PEACE ON THE PACIFIC

President Roosevelt's decision to send a large fleet of battleships to reinforce the naval squadron on the Pacific is not to be taken as a war move, although prompted by the persistent talk of war with Japan.

The hysterical literature on the Japanese question, however, has served to emphasize the state of military unpreparedness that marks Uncle Sam's position on the Pacific coast.

ACCIDENT PUBLICITY

Following up the original suggestion of Mr. Kruttschnitt Mr. Harriman has initiated a system of publicity under which full reports of accidents on the Union Pacific, Southern Pacific and Oregon lines will be given to the press, and investigations of mishaps will be conducted in co-operation with outsiders who may attend the hearings held by the railroad officials and make formal reports of such character as they see fit.

An Ohio mayor has vetoed an ordinance increasing his salary from \$1,100 to \$1,500 a year, asserting that he does not earn the money and therefore is not entitled to it.

The declaration of President Woodrow Wilson of Princeton university in favor of imprisoning wealthy officials of law-breaking corporations is likely to cause Harper's Weekly to expunge his name from its list of eligibles for the democratic presidential nomination.

PRODIGIOUS GULLIBILITY

Up to the hour of going to press no protest has been filed by the city of Lincoln against Governor Sheldon taking an Ak-Sar-Ben degree, but its formal remonstrance may be expected by special delivery any minute up to the administering of the sacred rites.

Wonder how much of that \$24,000,000 dividend distribution of the Adams Express company would have been held out if the law reducing rates to 25 per cent on shipments by express between points in Nebraska were enforced.

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organizations in San Francisco and elsewhere are usually united for their common good, but they have not yet shown any disposition to rally to the support of crooks or criminals.

Postponements Won't Go

The president is willing that some of his policies go over as unfinished business, but he is not willing to see them remain in any such condition.

Mavericks Branded

Definitions of the word "democrat" are numerous but unsatisfactory. A democrat seems to be almost anybody not a prohibitionist who is opposed to the republican party.

The Millionaire

When the poor and the rich get the same justice in the courts of nations, the fool and philosopher will drink from the same cup, eat from the same plate and sleep in the same bed.

A Prophet Who Knows

Although the Pennsylvania democrats refused to endorse him, Colonel Bryan is so optimistic in temperament that he would accept the nomination even with a prospect of not carrying Pennsylvania.

Uncle Sam and His Melon

In reply to numerous correspondents we would say that although there is a surplus of \$7,000,000 in the treasury the Uncle Sam Mutual Benefit company will not imitate the Adams Express company by cutting a melon.

Simple, but Effective

Multitudes of men wherever the English language is spoken will have tears of gratitude for Francis Murphy, who, by persuasion, induced them to give up strong drink. His was a simple method, old as the world, but effective.

The Limit

Woman's inhumanity to woman is almost universal. Two hundred Missisippi members of the gentler sex have signed a petition asking clemency for Mrs. Birdson, who merely murdered a man in cold blood.

Army Officers and Their Oratory

Every army officer who makes a speech has to make another explaining the first. But General J. Franklin Bell has come out of his explanations with flying colors. He said the other day that there was a feeling in the army that there was something wrong. At once the War department desired to know whether he made the remarks attributed to him and if so what he meant by them.

Policy of the Overland Route Commends Public Approval

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At present minor employes are encouraged in laxity by the expectation that their carelessness will be known only to a few railroad men and it will be leniently punished. On the other hand, managers and superintendents often suffer somewhat unjustly from public censure, which ought in many cases to be directed toward an unfaithful subordinate.

The impression is gaining ground in The Hague conference that dudum bullets are not eligible for a Carnegie medal as peace prizes.

As an honorary member of the American Humorists' association Mr. Rockefeller was in duty bound to give the process server a merry run for his money.

Twenty-foot sharks and ten horse-power mackerels open up the midsummer catch of fish stories with a rush. If the Florida tarpons and California tunas will now come in, the versatility of marine nature fakers will be put beyond reach.

A proud though poor Missouri farmer disputed the right of a motorist to the whole road and was invited to go to the did. He went to the motorist and in 'tween changed the motorist's face so that his mother-in-law didn't know him.

He is the biggest sucker ever born," as he was described by one of his despisers. He lost something like \$100,000 in bunco games in New York, and how he did it was told in a magistrate's court in Pittsburg.

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Diamonds on Credit

Advertisement for Mandelberg's Gift Shop. Features an illustration of a man and a woman, and text: 'CLOSE EXAMINATION Of my credit plan and of the diamond market will prove that you can buy a diamond on the "Dollar-a-Week Plan" now and get them for much less than the so-called "Spot Cash Prices."'

DOMESTIC PLEASANTRIES. 'Hello—Did he pop the question? Hello—Only "Is it not enough for you?" New York Sun.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE. Anyhow, the valor of Young America stood the annual test fairly well. Old Bol was slow in breaking into the game, but he is getting there just the same.

ECONOMY! SATISFACTION!

These two words express the desire of every man in search of a piano. Come to the Hooper store, where you will find both. No matter where else you go, no matter how you inspected the stock and the prices in every piano house in America, you could not find better opportunities for the purchase of a safe, economical, satisfactory piano than those offered in Omaha's big music store.

A. HOOPER CO., 1513 Douglas. We do expert Piano Tuning and Repairing.