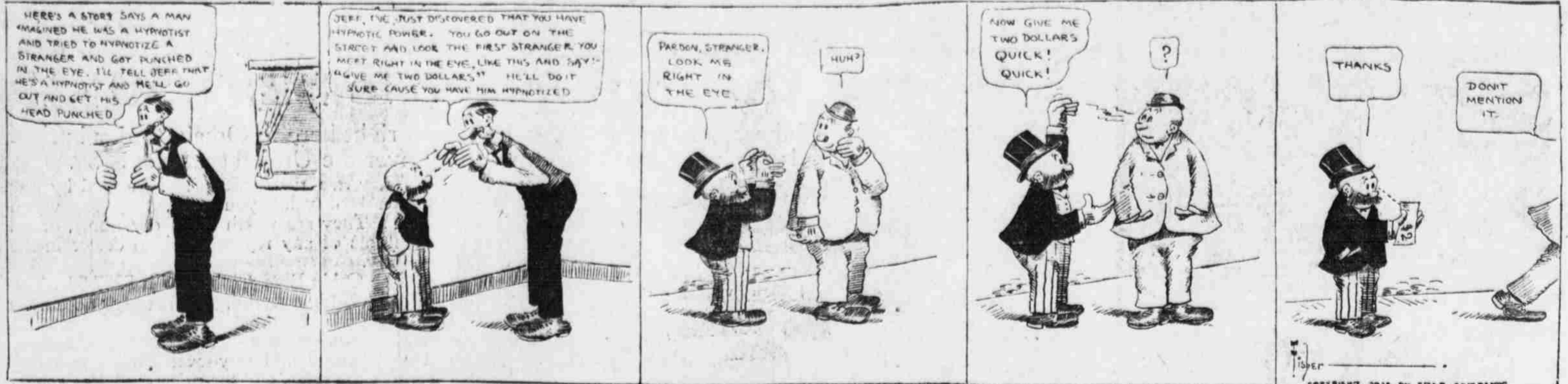


Mutt and Jeff--Jeff Might as Well Have Had Five Drawn for The Bee by "Bud" Fisher



SAFETY SHOULD COME FIRST

Commerce Commission Discusses Cause of Train Wrecks

EIGHT THOUSAND DERAILMENTS

Defective Track, Defective Equipment, Mistakes of Employees and Demand for Speed Are Big Factors.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—"Safety first" is the paramount rule of train operation suggested by the Interstate Commerce commission in its twenty-sixth annual report submitted today to congress. Discussion of disasters on American railroads during the last year constitutes an important feature of the report.

It is pointed out that many of the accidents resulting in fatalities might have been averted by the exercise of proper precaution or the employment of suitable devices and good equipment. Figures given show that of the total of 8,215 derailments during the year, 1,877 were caused by defects of roadway and 3,847 were due to defective equipment. This indicates an increase over the previous year of 92 in the derailments due to bad roadway and 1,023 due to bad equipment.

The investigation by the commission itself of railroad accidents involving loss of life, the report says, "has proceeded far enough to indicate the need of more effective measures than thus far have been taken to secure safety of railroad travel." While the previous suggestions of the commission as to the adoption by the railroads of all-steel, or steel-under-frame, cars are being adopted "as rapidly as conditions will permit" and "the danger from the use of unroad cars is gradually disappearing," the serious danger of defective roadway and the use of unroad rails still remain, as the result of which derailments are likely at any time to occur. Concerning its investigations, the commission says:

"Of the thirty-one derailments investigated, fourteen were either directly or indirectly caused by bad track. In five of these fourteen cases the derailments would probably have been avoided had existing speed restrictions been properly served; but in all the remaining cases no adequate speed restrictions were in force, and in three cases the track conditions were so obviously unsafe that derailments were likely to occur even at low speed. In one serious derailment an examination of the track in the vicinity of the accident disclosed 900 rotten ties within a distance of 147 rail lengths. Under many of the rails there were as many as eleven bad ties, and under each of two rails there were twelve ties so badly decayed and broken as to be totally unfit for service. In many of these ties the spikes were so loose that they were easily removed by hand, the wood having no longer any holding power. The track in the vicinity of this accident was poorly ballasted and was unsafe for the passage of trains at ordinary speed. This derailment occurred on a street track while the train was running at thirty miles per hour."

Mistake of Employees.
The report says that "the most disquieting and perplexing feature in the problem of accident prevention is the large proportion of train accidents caused by dereliction of duty by the employees involved. The commission believes, as a rule, there are no men that have a keener appreciation of the responsibilities than railroad trainmen and engineers," and yet it is pointed out that 61 per cent of the whole number of accidents investigated were caused by mistakes on the part of employees.

"There is a disposition in some quarters," continues the report, "to charge these lamentable errors to failure of discipline and to hold employees wholly responsible for such failure. This is a superficial view which contains no promise of effective remedy."

"A remarkable increase in the speed and weight of trains within recent years and the crowding of tracks and terminals caused by the movement of an enormously increased volume of traffic, have greatly increased the duties and responsibilities of train service employees and multiplied the chances of error on their part. Notwithstanding these added duties and responsibilities which the conditions of modern railroading have imposed upon employees, the methods of discipline and regulations calculated to insure safety in train operation have remained practically unchanged."

"To prevent railroad collisions adequate measures must be taken, first, to reduce the chances of human error to a minimum and second to neutralize the effects of such error when it occurs. The recommendations previously made by the commission for legislation requiring the standardization of operating rules and the use of the block system were designed to reduce the probability of mistakes by employees, and these recommendations are again more insisted for consideration of the congress. Uniformity and consistency in operating rules are necessary to secure safety, and it is not probable that a satisfactory code which will meet the demands of modern operating conditions can be secured without appropriate action by the federal government."

Excessive Speed is Factor.
The commission points out that excessive speed has been an important factor in many train accidents, and that conditions of safe operation are often ignored in the effort to bring fast trains

HE WILL MANAGE YANKEES NEXT SEASON.



Frank Chance, the Peerless Leader, new pilot of the New York Yankees. The general belief is that Chance will put the Hill Toppers among the contenders for the pennant almost in fig time.

in on time. This is a bad practice, for which the traveling public is largely responsible, and it should be discontinued. Adequate measures should be taken to compel low speed wherever conditions require it whether schedules are maintained or not.

"The total number of casualties on steam roads, during the year ended June 30, was 198,132, of which 10,585 were persons killed and 187,547 injured. These figures indicate an increase over the previous year of 109 killed and 19,379 injured. Of the total number of casualties, 406 railway employees were killed and 92,963 injured through "industrial accidents"—happening incident to railroad business, but not due to the operation of trains.

An analysis of the figures furnished by the steam roads shows that of the number of persons killed, 218 were passengers, 3,055 employees and 6,632 other persons, trespassing and not trespassing, indicating an increase of thirty-three in the total number of employees killed, a decrease of thirty-eight in the total number of passengers killed and an increase of 194 in the total number of persons killed other than employees and passengers. In the last class were many victims of grade crossings.

Of the persons injured, 16,386 were passengers, 142,442 employees and 10,710 persons other than passengers and employees. Elaborate details are given in the report of the routine work of the commission during the year. Generally, it shows a large increase. The number of formal complaints filed was 736, a decrease of 128, as compared with the previous year; 778 cases were disposed of, an increase of 128. The commission conducted 1,154 hearings, as compared with 943 the previous year, and took 125,000 pages of testimony.

Express Rates Unreasonable.
The investigation of rates and practices of express companies, which, the report says, "is probably the most important single piece of work ever done by the commission," was practically completed during the year. "As a result," says the commission, "it appeared that many of the practices of express companies were utterly unreasonable. That their methods were archaic and their rates discriminatory and unreasonable. The report of the commission has worked a revolution and renovation in the methods and rates of express companies."

AMELIO PRICE, BLACK HAND LEADER, IS SHOT

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.—Amelio Price, said by the police to be a notorious Black Hand leader, was shot and killed early today in a bakery in upper New York. According to the story told by the police by employees of the shop, he had just demanded \$100 of Joseph Gallucci, the owner, when he was shot by Gallucci's nephew, who escaped.

The police say that Price has four times been under suspicion of having done murder. In each case the police found witnesses by whom they expected to send Price to the electric chair, but when the grand jury was ready to hear the evidence, the witnesses were strangely missing. The police believe several of them were murdered.

Price's name had long been a by-word in the Italian colony. If children were naughty parents were accustomed to warn them that Price would be called in.

SHEEP HERDER FOUND IN CREEK PROBABLY MURDERED

DEADWOOD, S. D., Dec. 16.—(Special.)—According to information received here, William Cody of near Hixby, north of here, is at Bison, the county seat of Perkins county, investigating the circumstances connected with the death by drowning which occurred recently, of his son Earl. The drowning took place in Carson county, where young Cody was herding sheep for T. B. Veal of Chance and was supposed to have been accidental, but marks were later discovered on the body which led to the suspicion that Cody may have been "roped" to death by another sheep herder. A deep gash on the head and blue marks about the throat, together with conflicting stories of those connected with the affair, led the father to investigate. No arrests have yet been made, but Mr. Cody has employed attorneys and believes that foul play may be discovered.

ATTEMPT MADE TO LYNCH PERU COMMISSIONERS

LIMA, Peru, Dec. 16.—On attempt was made yesterday by the populace of Putumayo to lynch the two judicial commissioners, Senor Valcarlos and Dr. Remulo Pavones, appointed by the Peruvian government to investigate the atrocities in the rubber fields made public by Sir Riger Casement, British consul general.

According to a wireless dispatch from the town of Iquitos on the upper Amazon, the people on the rubber fields were incited by agents of the brothers Arana, the principal proprietors, to assault the commissioners. The prefect of the district who was present, made no move to suppress the disturbances.

FIRED FOR ACCEPTING HOSPITALITY OF JOHNSON

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—That he accepted the hospitality of Jack Johnson, the negro prize fighter, in the allegations which resulted in the dismissal of Edward C. Mahan, a deputy United States marshal, it was learned today.

It is held that it was improper for a deputy marshal to associate with a man who faces trial in a United States court as does Johnson, for alleged violation of the white slave law.

GALLINGER AND BACON WILL PRESIDE IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The chair of the presiding office of the senate, vacant when that body convened today, was filled for the rest of the session by the adoption of a plan, through which Senators Gallinger and Bacon will alternate in terms of two weeks each as president pro tempore until March 4. The resolution carrying that plan into effect was adopted against sharp opposition, led by Senator Borah.

PAUL CHARLTON LEAVES THE INSULAR BUREAU

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Paul Charlton, United States judge for Porto Rico, has resigned. Judge Charlton was law officer of the insular bureau when appointed judge by President Taft in 1911. He is father of Porter Charlton, now in a New Jersey jail, charged with murdering his wife at Lake Como, Italy, two years ago, and awaiting decision of the supreme court as to whether he shall be surrendered to Italy for trial.

Doyle Will Scout for Comiskey.
CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—Jack Doyle, former first baseman and manager of the New York Nationals and later of the Chicago Nationals, was signed by the Chicago American league club today to act as a scout. Doyle was an umpire in the International league last season.

PLAYS BASKET BALL AS WELL AS BASE BALL.



Hal Chase, the star Yankee first baseman, is also an expert on basket ball. He has organized a team in Philadelphia and according to reports will take it to Washington this winter to play several matches with the best teams in the capital.

Farmer Tells How He Came to Nebraska

"I am not a bit sorry I came to Nebraska," said Frank Tannehill of Norfolk, vice president of the Country Life Congress. "I had lived on my farm south of Norfolk for the last twenty-four years, and I expect to die there. Thirty years ago I came to Nebraska. Forty years ago from the ages of 16 to 22 came on that train from Indiana. A capitalist back there had considerable land in Nebraska, and he told six young men if they would get married he would send them to Nebraska and set them up on some Nebraska land. They did so."

"My sister married one of these young men. She was afraid to go away out to wild and woolly Nebraska unless I, her brother, would go with the young couple. In like manner other young couples took other young fellows along to work as hired men on the new farms out here. We went to Stanton, where my young brother-in-law and sister located. I expected to stay with them a year and go on into some of the western states, for none of us thought Nebraska amounted to much. I stayed a few years and began to like the country."

NO COLD WEATHER THIS WEEK PREDICTION AT WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—The indications are that temperatures above the seasonal average will prevail throughout the country during the coming week, according to the weather bureau, with the precipitation generally light and confined principally to the northern border states, the northwest and the Pacific states.

MAN FALLS THIRTEEN STORIES IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—A thirteen-story fall from a scaffolding brought instant death to Dennis Hoovard, a painter, in the heart of the downtown district today. Hundreds of persons witnessed the accident. August Folk, who was on the scaffold when the cable parted, clung to the rope and was saved by comrades who hauled him in at the thirteenth floor.

PROGRESSIVE PARTY IS SECOND IN COOK COUNTY

CHICAGO, Dec. 16.—The progressive party succeeds the republican as the minority party in Cook county, according to a decision of Judge Owens in the county court today. The election commissioners are instructed by the court to recognize the progressives instead of the republicans in selecting judges and clerks of election.

The Perseverant and Judicious Use of Newspaper Advertising is the Road to Business Success.

WORTH NEARLY TEN BILLION

Government Makes Final Estimate of Value of Farm Output.

ACREAGE OF CORN INCREASED

Increase in Production Makes Total Crop Worth More Than Last Year Despite Decrease in Price.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—Final estimates of production and value of eleven of the important crops which go to make up the enormous grand total of \$5,322,000,000, the wealth produced on farms through the soil and farmers' live stock during 1912, as stated by the secretary of agriculture, were announced today by the crop reporting board, bureau of statistics, Department of Agriculture. The figures are the official government estimates for the important crops and indicate the acreage, production, value based on prices paid to farmers on December 1. These eleven crops are only a portion of the production of the soil which the secretary of agriculture estimates will amount this year to \$4,137,000,000. The secretary estimated the total value of the animal products of the farms in 1912 to be about \$1,205,000,000. The estimate of today, with comparisons for 1911 and 1910, follows:

Corn—Area harvested, 107,083,000 acres, compared with 105,825,000 acres last year and 104,005,000 acres in 1910. Production, 3,124,796,000 bushels, compared with 2,531,485,000 bushels last year and 2,386,200,000 bushels in 1910. Farm value December 1 per bushel, 48.7 cents, compared with 45 cents last year and 46 cents in 1910. Total value of the crop, \$1,530,454,000, compared with \$1,545,325,000 last year and \$1,284,817,000 in 1910.

Wheat—Area harvested, 36,571,000 acres, compared with 36,162,000 acres last year and 37,238,000 acres in 1910. Production, 796,918,000 bushels, compared with 490,656,000 bushels last year and 494,142,000 bushels in 1910. Farm value, December 1 per bushel, 80.9 cents, compared with 85 cents last year and 86 cents in 1910. Total value of the crop, \$231,706,000, compared with \$279,351,000 last year and \$321,315,000 in 1910.

Oats—Area harvested, 37,817,000 acres, compared with 37,763,000 acres last year and 37,548,000 acres in 1910. Production, 1,434,837,800 bushels, compared with 1,221,256,000 bushels last year and 1,136,341,000 bushels in 1910. Farm value, December 1 per bushel, 21.9 cents, compared with 25 cents last year and 24 cents in 1910. Total value of the crop, \$462,469,000, compared with \$414,633,000 last year and \$408,588,000 in 1910.

Potatoes—Area harvested, 3,711,000 acres, compared with 3,613,000 acres last year and 3,763,000 acres in 1910. Production, 1,434,837,800 bushels, compared with 1,221,256,000 bushels last year and 1,136,341,000 bushels in 1910. Farm value, December 1 per bushel, 76 cents, compared with 87.4 cents last year and 85 cents in 1910. Total value of the crop, \$555,280,000, compared with \$548,065,000 last year and \$561,051,000 in 1910.

Hay—Area harvested, 45,520,000 acres, compared with 45,240,000 acres last year and 51,016,000 acres in 1910. Production, 72,631,000 tons, compared with 74,915,000 tons last year and 69,778,000 tons in 1910. Farm value, December 1, per ton, \$11.78, compared with \$14.23 last year and \$12.14 in 1910. Total value of the crop, \$836,056,000, compared with \$734,556,000 last year and \$842,552,000 in 1910.

Hay Nearly Billion.
Hay: Area harvested, 45,520,000 acres, compared with 45,240,000 acres last year and 51,016,000 acres in 1910. Production, 72,631,000 tons, compared with 74,915,000 tons last year and 69,778,000 tons in 1910. Farm value, December 1, per ton, \$11.78, compared with \$14.23 last year and \$12.14 in 1910. Total value of the crop, \$836,056,000, compared with \$734,556,000 last year and \$842,552,000 in 1910.

Wool—Area harvested, 1,235,800 acres, compared with 1,012,800 acres last year and 1,395,100 acres in 1910. Production, 5,622,535,000 pounds, compared with 5,061,000 pounds last year and 4,103,415,000 pounds in 1910. Farm value, December 1, per pound, 16.3 cents, compared with 15 cents last year and 13 cents in 1910. Total value of the crop, \$104,963,000, compared with \$85,210,000 last year and \$102,142,000 in 1910.

Values of other crops, estimated by the secretary of agriculture, are: Cotton lint, \$758,000,000; cotton seed, \$117,000,000; beet sugar, \$67,000,000; cane sugar, \$34,000,000; hops, \$11,000,000; sorghum syrup, maple syrup and syrup industries, \$15,000,000.

GOVERNOR OF SOLDIERS' HOME QUILTS AFTER INQUIRY

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 15.—Colonel E. J. Cochrane, governor of the Sawtelle Soldiers' home, has forwarded his resignation to the board of managers of the National Soldiers' home. Colonel Cochrane's management of the home was the subject of a recent senatorial investigation.

Rain, Rain, Rain.
But it makes no difference to the autoist or pedestrian if he is insured by the Omaha Rubber Co., at 1608 Harney St.