

TRACTION LOBBY PLANS OPEN FIGHT FOR HIGHER FARES

Interests Which Failed to Win
by "Trick" Last Year Try-
ing New Methods.

(Special From a Staff Correspondent
of The Evening World.)

ALBANY, Jan. 19.—The battle is on
against the traction interests in their
fight for higher fares, and the lobby
lead up on the outer walls of the
Legislature has found a force already
arrayed against it from within, and
this force is arming itself for the fray.

The Jenks "grab" bills, which were
the scandal of the closing days of the
session last winter, are scheduled to
be introduced again this week. Mr.
Jenks of Broom, who still occupies
his position on the Judiciary Com-
mittee of the Assembly, has an-
nounced that the bills to be fathered
by him are identical with those which
were defeated by a close margin last
April.

At that time "technical trickery"
was resorted to in that the bills were
introduced so late in the session that
it was thought by those behind them
that no public hearing could be had.
The time had lapsed for further con-
sideration of bills in committee for
the reason that all bills in committee
had to be turned over to the Rules
Committee.

The engineer of the Jenks grab
measure had overlooked the fact that
the Judiciary Committee had been
granted an extension on account of
the Socialist ouster, which was still
in its keeping. The Evening World
shrew the light of publicity on the
situation and forced a public hear-
ing. The bills were specially framed
in the interest of the New York
Central Railroad, and had they
passed would have placed the public
completely at the mercy of those
combined interests.

Learning by bitter experience that
the bills can't be sneaked through the
Legislature, the "interests" have re-
solved to come out this time in the
open, certain that they have the
necessary men in both Houses to spend
them through in defiance of public
opinion and public loss.

The Brooklyn delegation, which
yesterday got together as a unit to
gather and put before the Legislature
all information with regard to the

HOUSING INQUIRY FOES TO AVOID HEARING TO-DAY

Legislators to Hear Unter-
myer and Lockwood Late
This Afternoon.

By Joseph S. Jordan.
(Special Staff Correspondent of The
Evening World.)

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 19.—All the
arguments on the resolution broad-
ening the powers of the Lockwood
Housing Committee that will be heard
this afternoon and evening before the
joint session of the Senate Finance
and Assembly Ways and Means Com-
mittees will be in favor of the resolu-
tion but, notwithstanding, everybody
here is on the tip-toe of expectation
as to the outcome.

Contrary to all big fights in the
Legislature, the opposition, which
usually leads the fight, continues un-
der cover. The ominous silence of the
opposition is regarded in some quar-
ters as an indication that the work of
the banks, insurance companies and

workings of the B. R. T., its franchise,
its receivership, the methods of opera-
tion, the discontinuance of a number
of its lines to the discomfort and in-
convenience of the public, in the
possession of the fighting force arrayed
against the traction interests and
their allies up the State.

The people of Brooklyn fail to
reconcile the crowded condition of
the cars with the clamor of the B.
R. T. that it is losing money on the
operation of its various lines. In
their fight to secure the desired in-
formation the delegation realizes that
the roads and their receiver have the
United States courts behind them,
but cannot see where they are going
to be prevented from viewing and
studying public records.

In the end it is the Legislature,
representing the people of the State of
New York, and not the United States,
which must grant or refuse increased
fares, and the Brooklyn delegation
counting on the support and co-opera-
tion of the representatives of the
rest of Greater New York, believe
that they can make their fellow rep-
resentatives from up-State see the
situation as it really exists and block
the Jenks "grab" bill or any other
legislation which has for its object
increasing fares for the traction in-
terests and the New York Central

other financial institutions which will
be affected by the resolution has al-
ready been done.

In the absence of the opposition, it
is not improbable that members of
the joint committee will cross-ex-
amine Senator Lockwood and Mr.
Untermyer. It is not only their priv-
ilege, but their duty to do so, and
nothing would please both these gen-
tlemen better, for it would serve the
purpose of emphasizing points they
will make.

The State Bank Association has
been busy in its efforts to smother
the resolution or to emasculate it. So
have the insurance companies, as well
as other financial institutions, who
fear that the Lockwood committee
may delve too deeply into their af-
fairs. These institutions have, through
their branches and repre-

sentatives throughout the State, tried
to reach every Senator and Assembly-
man with their arguments against the
broadening of the committee's power.
How many they have reached is prob-
lematical, as well as how many ad-
herents they have in the joint com-
mittee, which can be told only by
the vote.

New York needs all the help it can
get both in the joint committee and in
both Houses. But it is feared that
the Finance Committee will be
lacking in the three Democratic votes
of New York, those of Senators
Walker, Boylan and Twomey. That
was the situation this morning, all
three men having made other ar-
rangements before they were noti-
fied of the hearing. With regard to
the three members on the Ways and
Means Committee, Minority Leader
Charles Donohue said that they would
be on hand. They are Hamill of New
York, Leininger of Queens and Deas-
ley of Erie.



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