

## TRAIN TRAVEL MORE SAFE HEREAFTER

Stricter Supervision of Employees is Urged by the Commission Because of so Many Accidents and Violations of Simple Rules—Fewer Violations of the Rebate Laws.

Its investigations into railroad wrecks and the results thereof are discussed at length by the Interstate Commerce Commission in its annual report to congress, just made public.

Congress is asked for legislation empowering the commission to make regulations aimed to prevent accidents and for a law prohibiting the use of any but steel coaches on high-speed trains after a certain date, the act ultimately requiring all coaches to be steel or steel underframe construction.

**Cause Three-Fourths Accidents.**  
A total of 76 train accidents were investigated by the commission during the year. Of these the report says:

"Fifty-six of the accidents investigated, or nearly 74 per cent, were directly caused by mistakes of employees. These mistakes were of the same nature as those noted by the commission in its last annual report. Their persistence, leading always to the same harrowing results, points inevitably to the truth of one or the other of the following alternatives: Either a great majority of these deplorable railroad disasters are unavoidable or there exists a widespread lack of intelligent and well-directed effort to minimize the mistakes of employees in the operation of trains.

"It is not believed that all these accidents which are caused by the mistakes of employees are unavoidable.

"It is quite true that man is prone to error, and as long as absolute reliance is placed upon the human element in the operation of trains accidents are bound to occur, but until it can be shown that all reasonable and proper measures have been taken for its prevention no accident can be classed as unavoidable.

**Violation of Simple Rules.**  
"All of the mistakes noted above are violations of simple rules, which should have been easily understood by men of sufficient intelligence to be entrusted with the operation of trains.

"The evidence is that in the main the rules are understood, but they are habitually violated by employees who are charged with responsibility for the safe movement of trains.

"The evidence also is that in many cases operating officers are cognizant of this habitual disregard of rules and no proper steps are taken to correct the evil. Many operating officers seem to proceed upon the theory that their responsibility ends with the promulgation of rules, apparently overlooking the fact that no matter how inherently good a rule may be, it is of no force unless it is obeyed.

**Some Roads Lack Supervision.**  
"On very many railroads there is little or no system of inspection or supervision of the work of train-service employees so far as pertains to these matters which vitally affect safety.

"This lack of supervision and inspection with respect to matters affecting the safety of trains is unacceptable when the careful supervision of all matters directly affecting the revenue of the roads is considered.

"The auditing and checking systems used for detecting the dishonesty of employees are marvels of ingenuity and careful attention to detail, but means of determining whether trains are operated in accordance with the requirements of safety and in conformity with the rules are almost entirely lacking."

**Would Save Both Life and Money.**  
"The report points out that the roads seek to economize by careful inspections on oil, fuel and supplies, and continues:

"The prevention of accidents by a strict observance of operating rules means not only the saving of human life but of large sums of money as well. It would seem, therefore, that adequate inspection and supervision of the work of employees to insure safety in operation would be amply

justified from the standpoint of economy alone.

The record abundantly proves that even splendid signal equipment and admirable discipline, coupled with long experience and high moral character on the part of employees, cannot prevent the occasional man failures which produce such fatal accidents.

**Favors Automatic Train Control.**  
"These facts are brought to the attention of the congress, with the suggestion that these man failures indicate the necessity for the development and perfection of some system of automatic train control to be used in connection with existing signal systems.

"In its annual reports for several years past the commission has called attention to the desirability of legislation requiring the use of the block-signal system."

The commissioners recommended standardization of operating rules by federal legislation.

**Rebate Laws Respected.**  
Vigorous enforcement of the Elkins and Hepburn acts has led to a decided decrease in violations, the report says, although much evasion by shippers was noted along with failure of railroads to collect proper demurrage charges in order to get around these laws.

The commission reported progress in the physical valuation of railroads, and asked to be relieved of its duties in connection with the parcel post, or to have them more explicitly set forth by law.

## BREAKS RECORD AT STATE PRISON

Arrival of Federal Prisoners at Moundsville Brings Population Up to 1,175.

Five federal prisoners arriving from Toledo, O., last night, swelled the population of the Moundsville penitentiary to 1,175, establishing a new population record for the institution.

The institution is already overcrowded, and Warden Brown fears that he will be compelled to refuse federal prisoners within the near future.

About a year ago when improvements were started at the federal prison at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the Leavenworth prisoners were scattered throughout the United States, each state institution volunteering to accept a certain number. As an accommodation Warden Brown offered to accept federal prisoners until the 150 mark was reached. Nearly this many prisoners have been received at the institution already, and as prisoners from throughout the state have been coming rapidly, it is feared very few more federal prisoners can be secured.

Similar conditions are said to exist throughout the country, and as the new Leavenworth prison is only well under way, the problem of taking care of the federal prisoners is becoming a grave one. The Leavenworth prison will be the largest in the United States, when completed.

## ELEVATOR FALLS BREAKS MAN'S LEG

Walker Dennis Badly Hurt This Morning at the New Thorn Building

Walker Dennis, colored, employed on the new Thorn building at the corner of East Martin and North Spring streets, met with an accident Saturday, which will incapacitate him from duty for several weeks. He was engaged in running the elevator, and after tiding it with two wheelbarrows, one filled with mortar and the other brick, he started for the top of the building.

He had almost reached his designated place when the wire rope broke and the elevator with its cargo fell to the first floor, a distance of more than thirty feet. The impact of the fall was so great that the wheelbarrows were almost driven through the floor of the elevator and Dennis sustained a fracture of his right leg just above the knee. He was removed to the Kings Daughters Hospital, where Dr. Spenseller reduced the fracture.

## TO TRY A WOMAN FOR CONSPIRACY

Rebecca Robinson on Trial for Aiding in Violating the White Slave Act.

Charged with conspiracy in bringing Ruth Steele from Irontown, Ohio, to her house of prostitution in Charleston, Rebecca Robinson is on trial in the United States district court. George Jordan was convicted three weeks ago for transporting the girl to Charleston, and the testimony on behalf of the government was similar to that in the Jordan case. The Steele girl, still weak from bichloride of mercury poison, taken with suicidal intent following the indictments, testified that she received a telegram from the Robinson woman to the effect that Jordan would come for her.

## MARSHALL TO GET \$300 PER LECTURE

Vice President Writes That Secretary Bryan Broke no Precedent in Taking Platform

CHICAGO, Dec. 20.—It was announced yesterday by a lyceum bureau here relative to the fact that Vice President Thomas R. Marshall has signed a contract to lecture at least four weeks, that Marshall will take the platform after the close of the present session of congress. The vice president will receive \$300 a lecture, according to the announcement. His tour, it is said, will cover cities in the middle west.

In an article to appear in the next number of the magazine published by the bureau a statement by Mr. Marshall will criticize severely the newspapers which found fault with Secretary of State Bryan for going on the public platform.

Mr. Marshall's statement, according to the lyceum management, tells that he has examined all the records, and finds that there is nothing in the constitution or in any precedent for objection, official or otherwise, to his taking to the lecture platform.

## YARDMASTER ILL.

Mr. Clifton H. Mock, B & O. yardmaster at Cumbo, is confined to his home, 630 North Queen street, suffering with an attack of grippe.

## ANNUAL FEAST AT THE STATE PRISON

Warden of State Penitentiary Orders 145 Gallons of Oysters for Christmas.

Warden M. L. Brown, of the state penitentiary at Moundsville, has ordered 145 gallons of oysters to be served to the convicts for dinner on Christmas day. In addition to the oysters the convicts will have several side dishes, dessert and all the trimmings of a good oyster feed.

The oysters will be stewed, that being considered the most digestible form in which to serve oysters. At present there are 1,176 convicts confined in the penitentiary, and the entire number will be assembled in the large dining room of the institution.

The day will be a holiday, all work but the caring for the stock on the farm being suspended. In the morning the convicts will be entertained with a musical recital and concert by Mrs. Emma More Scott, of Moundsville, and in the afternoon a band concert will entertain them.

Last Christmas there was nearly a carload of Christmas presents, consisting principally of edibles, sent to the prisoners at the institution, and as they are allowed to accept such offering it is likely the coming season will prove no exception to the rule.

Some poor child in the Aid Society's school is branded as feeble minded because he defined "mother" as "what you chop wood for." Yet the reply shows accurate perception.—New York World.

## DISCUSS VIRGINIA DEBT CASE.

Counsel For Commission Hold Conference at Lynchburg.

Attorney General Samuel W. Williams, William A. Anderson, and Randolph Harrison, counsel for the Virginia debt commission, held a conference at Lynchburg, on Thursday, over plans relative to Virginia on the debt question.

It was stated that the final argument will be before the Supreme Court in Washington, April 13, 1914.

## COUNTY ASSESSOR SELLS FINE HORSE

J. W. Dodd Disposes of His Gray Stallion, Jouter, to Jefferson County Company.

Friday County Assessor John W. Dodd sold his fine imported percheron gray stallion, Jouter, to a number of Jefferson county gentlemen, who will organize a company, and hereafter have the horse in their control. The sale was made at Moler's Cross Roads, near Bakerton, the purchase price being \$2,000.

Mr. Dodd has owned the horse for some time and last year made his first appearance in Berkeley county. Jouter is one of the finest and best bred horses that ever came here, and the farmers are expecting some splendid colts. He is registered, his number being 87,290.

The gentlemen buying the horse are Dr. S. T. Knott, George M. Knott, T. E. Howell, Lester E. Staley, William L. Banks, D. H. Moler, A. M. Best, M. S. R. Moler, D. F. Koontz and J. S. Rider Moler. In a few days they will perfect an organization.

## HOW THE GOVERNOR GOT IN COMMITTEE

Exact Status of the Governor is a Little Difficult to Understand

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The exact status of Gov. H. D. Hatfield in the meeting of the Republican National Committee is a little difficult to understand. It is understood he was extended the courtesy of sitting with the committee in place of the regularly elected committeeman, William Seymour Edwards, who was unseated by the national committee some time ago on the grounds that he had left the Republican party and affiliated with the Progressive party.

The governor was not elected to fill the vacancy but was accorded the right to represent the Republican party of West Virginia on the committee so that the state should be represented in the conference of the party and the deliberations of the committee. He was placed on the committee to draft and publish a statement as to the action of the national committee.

West Virginia will not be affected by the revised plan of representation in the Republican national conventions, as adopted by the national committee here. It is one of the few states which will have the same representation under the new plan as before.

## ROUND THE WORLD BY WIRELESS SOON

Arlington Radio Station Will Send Spark on New Year's Eve.

At 11:45 Dec. 31, the giant radio station at Arlington, Va., will send a spark around the world to mark the death of the old year and the birth of the new year. All the ships of the American navy will pick up the signal and send it on, and all the big shore stations of the navy and private corporations will also pick it up.

Westward the spark will travel by the way of the Hawaiian Islands and Guam, and eastward by way of Liverpool and Paris. As the big instruments at Arlington spark the clock at the Naval Observatory will automatically register the wave.

## FIRE BURNS HOUSE ON CONNER STREET

House Occupied by Colored People is Almost Destroyed by Blaze Last Night.

Shortly before midnight Friday a house owned by X. Poole on Conner street, and occupied by some colored people, was almost destroyed by fire. Several colored people were there at the time, and their version of the story is that a lamp exploded, and before the department could arrive the building was doomed.

The department believing the fire was extinguished returned to the station, but a second call about 4 o'clock this morning caused them to return, but it required only a short time to subdue the flames. The loss on the building is estimated at \$400 partly insured. A part of the furniture was saved.

## WILSON INTENDS TO TAKE VACATION

Secretary Tumulty Says Executive Needs Rest—He Desires Three Weeks.

Although his physicians declared that the President was fully recovered from his attack of grip, the President is not at the Executive offices today.

He will probably continue to work in the White House study the remainder of the week.

Secretary Tumulty said the President is planning a three weeks' vacation to be begun as soon as the currency bill is disposed of. He hopes to be able to sign this measure early next week.

"The length of the time of vacation," said Tumulty, "will, of course, depend on the plans made by Congress for its holiday recess. It is likely, however, that Congress will adjourn immediately after the currency bill is out of the way until about January 12.

"This would enable the President to get away from the capital for at least three weeks and secure the rest which it is admitted he badly needs. Just where this vacation will be spent has not been finally decided.

"The President and Mrs. Wilson are considering a number of places, and will finally agree on the one which promises the best opportunity for rest."

## HOBSON HAS "SIDESTEPPED"

Challenge to House Debate, Declares Donovan and the Encounter is Off.

Prospects of that joint debate between Representative Jeremiah Donovan, of Connecticut, and Richmond Pearson Hobson, of Alabama, vanished into thin air yesterday.

Mr. Donovan, in issuing his challenge to Mr. Hobson, stipulated that the debate should be on the question of whether a member of the house in good health has a right to be constantly absent from his seat and still draw his salary.

In accepting the challenge, Mr. Hobson notified the Connecticut member that the discussion should involve the "question of criminality to include appearances before grand juries on charges of irregularities in the liquor traffic."

"The general captain" said Mr. Donovan yesterday, "is sidestepping as usual. He does not accept my challenge, but evades the issue.

"The issue between us is absenteeism, and there has been no evasion on my part. Capt. Hobson may pass his record of the first session of the Sixty-third Congress. Instead of being present seven days he may get down to seven hours." Mr. Donovan didn't understand reference to the liquor traffic or juries, never having been mixed up with either.

More votes would benefit the G. O. P. more than more convention delegates.—New Bedford Times.

## REPORT

Of Secretary of State Shows Many Corporations Were Chartered

The report of the secretary of state for the month of November contains the following:

Amount received from increase in capital stock, \$676. Amount received from foreign corporations \$350. On resident corporations, \$536. From tax on seal, \$215. From sale of books \$278. From fees, \$1,251.55.

One resident company, the Petroleum Products Co., was chartered with a capital of \$1,500,000. The Hammock Egg Carrier company has a capital of \$2,500,000. The total collections for the month from that office were \$4,388.55.

## REV. SUTHERLAND IS ARMY CHAPLAIN

Vice President Marshall's Former Pastor is Assigned to Fort Sill.

The Rev. Alexander D. Sutherland, who resigned as pastor of the Presbyterian Church at Berkeley Springs to accept a chaplaincy in the army, has been assigned to the Fifth field artillery, now stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. He will leave for his station January 15. He is having a short temporary duty at present at Fort Benjamin Harrison.

The Rev. Mr. Sutherland is the former pastor of Vice President Marshall at Indianapolis, and the Vice President at the present time has his little son, Thomas Marshall Sutherland, as a visitor. He will take the lad to his parents this week.

## BUGGY COLLIDES WITH AUTOMOBILE

John Parkinson, of Berkeley Station, Has Bad Accident on North Queen Street

Because of the congested condition of North Queen street this afternoon John Parkinson, of Berkeley Station, had his buggy badly wrecked by colliding with an automobile. Mr. and Mrs. Parkinson were driving south, and when near Minor's store the buggy struck the auto with such force the right front wheel was completely demolished, but the occupants escaped injury. The horse became frightened, but several men ran to the rescue and prevented it from doing any harm. Mr. Parkinson purchased a new wheel and started for home.

North Queen street has been badly crowded all day, and it is surprising that more accidents have not occurred.

## PAID THE BILLS

The Board of Affairs, with all members present, held their regular meeting last night. The usual bills were paid, and routine matters received attention.

**Settling With Jailer.**  
The county is spending the day making a settlement with Jailer W. M. Miller and transacting routine business.

## SHOPLIFTER WAS NOT QUICK ENOUGH

Thief at Houseworth and Zimmerman's Store Failed to Succeed in Stealing Muffler.

A shoplifter in Houseworth and Zimmerman's store Saturday was not smooth enough to get away with his work. Mr. Zimmerman was alone when the stranger entered the store and asked to be shown some sweaters. While Mr. Zimmerman was preparing to exhibit the goods the would-be purchaser slipped a muffler into his pocket. It was detected immediately, and after it had been surrendered the thief was assisted to the door and sent on his way.

There have been several reports of shoplifting during the week, and in some instances valuable goods taken and but few recovered. Many merchants have suffered heavily. If the merchants would follow the example of Mr. Zimmerman there would be less stealing and more goods saved.

## SENATE PASSES CURRENCY BILL

Conferees to Hurry Work, That President May Sign by Tuesday at Latest—Seven Republicans Help—Hitchcock Fighting Up to the Last Minute. Also Comes Over on Final Test.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20.—The long and bitter struggle in the senate over the currency bill ended last evening with the passage of the measure by a vote of 54 to 34, seven Republicans coming to the support of measure at the wind up, and Senator Hitchcock, of Nebraska, the only Democrat who fought the proposed legislation consistently through all its earlier stages, turning in at last with his party and helping to put it through.

The seven Republicans who voted for the bill were Crawford and Steihs, of South Dakota; Jones and Poinceter, of Washington; Norris, of Nebraska; Perkins, of California, and Weeks, of Massachusetts, the last named being one of the best informed men on financial matters on the Republican side.

His course was a surprise to his party colleagues and he justified it in the closing moments of the debate by declaring that, while the legislation was not, in his opinion, all that it should be, it was a distinct improvement on our present currency system. He said that 75 per cent of the provisions of the bill were good and only 25 per cent objectionable. He expressed the belief that the good features of the measure would show immediate beneficial results on the business of the country, and hoped the effect of the bad features would be minimized by wise administration.

**Last-Moment Amendment.**  
At the last moment, when the senate was ready for the final vote, Senator LaFollette arose and offered two amendments, the first of which was adopted by the senate and the second rejected. The former provided that no member of the house or senate should be a member of the Federal Reserve Board or an officer of the Regional Reserve or member banks. His second amendment related to interlocking directorates, and was rejected in pursuance of the Democratic policy of dealing with that subject in separate legislation.

As soon as the result of the vote was announced, the bill was sent to conference and nine conferees were appointed on the part of the senate. These conferees, six Democrats and three Republicans, are Senators Owen, O'Gorman, Reed, Pomerene, Shafroth, Hollis, Nelson, Crawford and Bristow.

Preparations for the conference between the two houses are already far advanced and an outline of what each house will give and take is understood to have been sketched out in order that the measure may be put through its final stages and sent to the President for his signature at the earliest feasible moment. To expedite the conference work, the house met this morning at 10 o'clock. It is hoped the conferees can complete their work by Monday and the bill go to the President by Tuesday, at the latest. In that event it is expected congress will take a holiday recess of two weeks at least, and perhaps three weeks. Congressmen, the President and cabinet members alike are eager for a rest after the long strain of the special and regular sessions.

The passage of the bill is a source of profound satisfaction to the President and to Democrats in both branches of congress, as it makes a record for prompt fulfillment of party pledges on questions of the first importance, involving sharp controversies within the party lines and intricate problems touching the most vital interests of the country. Within ten months of the beginning of the Democratic lease of power, to have put through two such measures as a bill completely revising the tariff and no less completely recasting the monetary system of the country is pointed to by Democrats as a record that no other party has made in this generation. It absolutely silences the often-made charge that the Democratic party is a party of opposition and not a constructive force in legislation.

Bitterly as Republicans have com-