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The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, AUG. 19, 1890.

THE USUAL RESULT.

The sale of the Beaver Marginal Railroad to the Pennsylvania Company, which is reported in our news columns, affords a new illustration of the result which frequently follows where individual ownership or personal antagonisms are relied upon to maintain the independence of competing railroad enterprises.

There is little to interest the public in the mere victory of one railroad corporation over another in securing control of this marginal railroad; but the effect of it on the community which it aims to serve is of importance. The value of such an enterprise to the public was that it would give all competing railroads, present and future, equal access to the various manufacturing establishments along its line. It was for the purpose of preventing any single corporation from obtaining exclusive control of the traffic that such an enterprise had its greatest public value. The presumption from the reported purchase is that this purpose will be entirely defeated when the road passes into the hands of one or the other of the contending railroad corporations.

The fact that the late owner of the Beaver Marginal was supposed to be in antagonism to the Pennsylvania Company was relied upon to preserve it from absorption.

But experience has shown, time and again, how utterly unreliable such personal ownership always is. The condition that the road should be open to the equal use of all competing corporations could have been made a part of its charter, or could have incorporated in its grants of rights of way, or its franchises in the streets, so as to have been completely binding. But the fatality which in all such efforts to preserve the independence of corporations leads to the choice of the futile method, seems to have prevailed in Beaver; with the result that the Beaver Marginal now becomes a mere side-track of the Pennsylvania Company.

Some time or other, cities and towns will learn that they have no business to grant valuable franchises to corporations except upon conditions which will permanently secure for the public the advantages of equal access for all competing corporations. But they seem a long way from learning the lesson as yet.

A FISHERMAN'S FRIEND.

Fish Warden John W. Hague is just the sort of officer the State needs. If all the servants of this Commonwealth did their duty as intelligently and faithfully as Mr. Hague does his not nearly so many laws would be dead as there are to-day. The fishers and the fishermen have been greatly benefited by the enforcement of the act of 1880. Mr. Hague after making it very hot indeed for law-breakers on the Allegheny gave his attention to the Monongahela. He made the inspection in a canoe, and his report of the fishing on that river is encouraging. The fishers are respecting the law. There is a general demand for an open season of two months for cutlins. The fishing clubs camping out in the summer want to be relieved of the terrible anxiety of watching poles. The sufferers should be relieved.

THE WORK OF FOREST DESTRUCTION.

A very remarkable indication of the destruction of our forests is referred to by the New York Tribune as having been given by a circular announcing that "the Grand Rapids Binding Works have discontinued their business on account of the scarcity of timber in that locality." This is a most cogent evidence of the disappearance of white oak and hickory, from what within the memory of every middle-aged person was the center of the Michigan forests. The same process which has swept away the pine forests of New England, New York and Pennsylvania, and the black walnut, maple and beech of Ohio and Indiana has been repeated with the timber lands of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota.

The way in which this has been done is an example of what American energy can accomplish; but it is also an illustration of the far less creditable American quality of not looking ahead into the future. Railroads have been built into these Northwestern forests for the express purpose of hauling away their lumber by the million feet. A great lumber marine has plied the lakes to aid in the work of getting rid of the forests. Statistics place the entire cut of lumber in Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota last year at 9,000,000,000 feet; and that rate has reduced the timber of supply of Lower Michigan, which in 1880 was placed by the census at 29,000,000 to less than one-tenth that total. The estimated timber supply of the three States is now 10,000,000,000, or a little over a single year's cut.

The mere fact of wastefully running through that part of our national wealth would be wanton foolishness by itself; but that is not half the injury resulting from the destruction of American forests. Not only have vast tracts of land, useless except for the growth of trees, been reduced to sterility by their denudation, but the secondary results are well established by science.

The effect of forests upon rainfall has been clearly established; and we have permitted an injury to the country at large, the full results of which have been seen in older countries, to go on without check. Our forests, which are the breeders and equalizers of rain, the storage reservoirs of moisture, the protectors of adjacent cultivated lands from drought and of the water courses from alternate exhaustion and flood, have been wiped out by two generations for the sole purpose apparently of making the best possible race against time.

The proper understanding of this subject can hardly fail to point out that this de-

struction has been stimulated and encouraged by the mistakes idea that the lumber industry needed protection. The policy of protection is based upon the supposition that the industry to be fostered will add to and increase the national wealth. But the industry of cutting down our forests and sawing them up is now shown by experience to have been destructive and wasteful, and the result of its encouragement and the prohibition of imports from Canada has been to bring us face to face with the impending danger of the failure of our timber supply.

It is too late to undertake any restoration of forests for the benefit of the present question. Oaks, pines and walnuts do not grow in a few years. But with the forests gone, that only a few years ago we thought inexhaustible, the nation will soon be forced to recognize the necessity of planting on a large scale for the sake of generations yet to come. The man who takes a square mile of barren land and plants it with young timber will not enjoy the benefit of it himself, but he will leave just so much more wealth for his grandchildren.

TRANSGRESSION ON BOTH SIDES.

The New York Central strike has arrived at that stage when stone-throwing on the part of the crowd is responded to by shooting on the part of the guards; and the reply to that is not infrequently a mob attack on the guards, with brutal beatings, that by his happy chance, rather than any respect to the principles of good order on either side, fall short of actual murder. No such wholesale riot as took place in 1877 has yet developed itself; but it is clear that the strike has proceeded to the stage where all the ugly phases of force and brute strength, short of actual and destructive riot, have been displayed.

Without any reference to the question involved in the wages dispute, it is necessary to say that such proceeding as those reported from Albany during the past two days are clearly due to the determination of both sides to forcibly carry out their purposes, without regard to the preservation of order and maintenance of government by law. The DISPATCH has too often insisted that the public would give all competing railroads, present and future, equal access to the various manufacturing establishments along its line. It was for the purpose of preventing any single corporation from obtaining exclusive control of the traffic that such an enterprise had its greatest public value. The presumption from the reported purchase is that this purpose will be entirely defeated when the road passes into the hands of one or the other of the contending railroad corporations.

The fact that the late owner of the Beaver Marginal was supposed to be in antagonism to the Pennsylvania Company was relied upon to preserve it from absorption. But experience has shown, time and again, how utterly unreliable such personal ownership always is. The condition that the road should be open to the equal use of all competing corporations could have been made a part of its charter, or could have incorporated in its grants of rights of way, or its franchises in the streets, so as to have been completely binding. But the fatality which in all such efforts to preserve the independence of corporations leads to the choice of the futile method, seems to have prevailed in Beaver; with the result that the Beaver Marginal now becomes a mere side-track of the Pennsylvania Company.

At the same time there is an equal disregard to the fundamental spirit of the law in the resort to Pinkerton guards by the corporations. Corporations and employers are entitled to protection, and disorder should always be suppressed. But it is a fundamental requisite that the officers of the law who undertake to enforce order and arrest rioters should represent the people and be responsible for the proper performance of their duty. If they cannot quell disorder and restore the rule of law, they have the resort to the militia. These are the constitutional and legal means for suppressing disorder, and they should be relied upon. The employment of hired guards, who are generally not even citizens of the place where they are to exert armed authority; who represent not the law but one of the parties in the dispute; and who are frequently irresponsible and reckless, violates almost every reasonable requirement for the officials who are to enforce the law. Strikers should take care to keep clear from such proceedings, and the only way to do it is to assist in the detection and punishment of anyone who resorts to acts of riot in which those face is not white.

LUCKY MR. QUAY!
The talk is now that Senators Hoar, Edmunds and others of the high and dry element in the Senate have persuaded President Harrison to exert his influence against Mr. Quay. It is not surprising that the President is warmly attached to the Federal election bill, but it argues a short memory and a disregard for favor to come in the White House luminary if he is ready to take the aggressive against Senator Quay. The diversion of patronage from the Republican manager and his followers is to be the President's thumbprint. At the same time there is an equal disregard to the fundamental spirit of the law in the resort to Pinkerton guards by the corporations. Corporations and employers are entitled to protection, and disorder should always be suppressed. But it is a fundamental requisite that the officers of the law who undertake to enforce order and arrest rioters should represent the people and be responsible for the proper performance of their duty. If they cannot quell disorder and restore the rule of law, they have the resort to the militia. These are the constitutional and legal means for suppressing disorder, and they should be relied upon. The employment of hired guards, who are generally not even citizens of the place where they are to exert armed authority; who represent not the law but one of the parties in the dispute; and who are frequently irresponsible and reckless, violates almost every reasonable requirement for the officials who are to enforce the law. Strikers should take care to keep clear from such proceedings, and the only way to do it is to assist in the detection and punishment of anyone who resorts to acts of riot in which those face is not white.

A CLOTHES-PIN DECORATION.
The pin was the emblem of the big improvements at the popular amusement house in Allegheny or the drawing power of the only skeleton dude, Mr. Coffey, the World's Museum could hardly hold the crowds which flocked to it yesterday. The museum has been greatly improved and the list of attractions this week contains several novelties.

SENATOR EMERY A FIGHTER.
But the Issue Will be Suspended Until He is Heard From.
From the Philadelphia Times.

Senator Emery is a fighter from away back, and when he proposes to the public to do something he will understand that he won't tire their patience by any four months' or four weeks' delay. The people have heard Senator Emery's accusations against Senator Delamer; they have also heard Senator Delamer's rejoinders and answers. They have been fully informed of the standing room only sign having been put in position at the door at an early hour of the morning. Many men have inaugurated a much-needed reform, having opened a new box office for the sale of seats in the upper gallery. The entrance to the main hall and entrance of much of the awful crowding that has been such a nuisance in former seasons.

HARRY WILLIAMS' ACADEMY.
Last night marked the opening of Harry Williams' Academy for the season of '90-'91. The popular home of Vandebilt's school and the impressionable and attention-seekers made in the course of the year past, is now the favorite of the famous "Cattle King." The scenery carried by the cattle king is very good, and the animals are well taken care of.

A BUSINESS CALL.
H. H. had a cloth-bound volume under one arm and a map rolled up under the other.

Not one of the three lawyers at their desks, nor even the office boy reading a novel, deigned more than a glance at him.

"Ahem!" he began. "Fine morning, Will you be kind enough to—" "We're very busy, don't you see?" snarled one attorney. "We have no time for missionary work."

"I am not a missionary, a book agent, a canvasser, a solicitor, a hawker or peddler; I want to see a lawyer on business."

Immediately the three lawyers sprang for the stranger, seized and held him, while the office boy grabbed a chair and pushed it under him.

"Give me a pin and a string, Sir," said he, "I've got a map for you."

"Three doors below!" screamed the office boy, as the lawyers hunkered back to their desks.

THE WORLD'S MUSEUM.
Whether it was the fame of the big improvements at the popular amusement house in Allegheny or the drawing power of the only skeleton dude, Mr. Coffey, the World's Museum could hardly hold the crowds which flocked to it yesterday. The museum has been greatly improved and the list of attractions this week contains several novelties.

PAPA GETTING IN HIS WORK.
"FATHERLINDA, darling," murmured the enraptured young man, "this is the happiest moment of my life. I have been waiting for you to come for sometime with a patent automatic clothes-pin clinging to the rear rim of his helmet. The prettily decorated chairs seated a large audience, while the newly carpeted aisles were crowded with scores, who had to content themselves with the floor. The scene was spiritual. Each one has his own witness, which can prove only truths of its own department. If I should try to argue against my reason that the one is very probable, but on the other hand, Mr. Heckel differs with himself, but also with the majority of the audience. In particular, it is then no wonder that under the circumstances lesser minds cannot comprehend and believe in this.

"Heckel," he exclaimed reproachfully, "do you mean to tell me I have not eight spoons? You know I have eight spoons, Hannah."

"Hannah," the Major repeated, "two spoons." Hannah's malady was obstinate.

"Hannah," cried the Major, as he was being led out of the room, "you know I have eight spoons."

"Major," whispered Hannah, "there are no more spoons."

"Major," he said, "he is in aside, 'two spoons.' Hannah had become deaf.

"Hannah," he would say with his English accent, "we can't eat that, you know. What's the use of trying to kill us, Hannah?"

"Major," he said, "he is in aside, 'two spoons.' Hannah's malady was obstinate.

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