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PITTSBURGH, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16. TWELVE PAGES. THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S ACTION. The bill in equity filed by the Attorney General with reference to the leases and agreements and that they are all competing for the legal issue in a clear form. There has been some dispute as to the course the administration would take in this matter, but the action of Mr. Hensel energetically followed up will characterize Governor Patterson's second term with the same sturdy defense of public rights against corporate aggression as his first.

The bill sets forth that the railroads combined and controlled by the leases and contracts are parallel for certain portions; that the principal ones have, prior to the agreement, competing for freight and passengers and that they are all competing in the transportation and sale of anthracite coal. It might have averred that the purpose of the leases and consolidation was the suppression of competition; but it meets the same end by pointing out that the securing of the control is in violation of the Constitution, against public policy, and void.

This bill will bring the question before the courts authorized to pass upon it. Unless the corporations are able to show a very different state of affairs than that disclosed by the Attorney General's bill, the decision of the same court in the South Penn case leaves a little doubt that the leases will be declared void. But, while securing such a decision will be as decided a credit to Attorney General Hensel as the first case was to Attorney General Cassiday, that will not finish the work. Mr. Hensel should see that the Constitution is obeyed and that the rulings are not nullified in actual practice, as was done in the South Penn case.

If Attorney General Hensel presses this issue to a complete victory the second term of Governor Patterson will fittingly complete the good work of his first term.

INDISCREET ILLUSTRATION. The Philadelphia Inquirer, in its weekly cartoon on current events, gives a prominent place to Mr. Dalzell's Senatorial aspirations. That the Inquirer should represent Dalzell delivering a speech in the Senate, standing in shoes as much too large for him as those of a full-grown man would be for a six-year-old boy, and that his fellow-Senators should be represented as stopping their ears, is a natural consequence of the Inquirer's character as a Quay organ. But the entire picture is in pictorially representing the character of Mr. Dalzell's occupying Mr. Quay's place. Moreover, as that possibility represents a Pennsylvania Senator occupying his place in the Senate and displaying the ability to speak for both Pennsylvania and National interests, it is calculated to create an overwhelmingly popular demand for Dalzell. The esteemed Inquirer will have to cultivate discretion as an organic quality.

THE WORLD'S FAIR APPROPRIATION. The following inquiry propounded to THE DISPATCH is worthy of full consideration: To the Editor of THE DISPATCH: The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania having appropriated the sum of \$200,000 toward the expenses of the World's Fair in some of the poorest cities that this money is not so readily spent. THE DISPATCH would favor a number of its readers by giving its opinion, and if, on the contrary, any benefit to the State itself will be derived, please give a statement what can be expected.

A POLITICAL. Taking the subjects inquired upon in their natural order, the benefit Pennsylvania will obtain from the World's Fair will be in proportion to the value and attractiveness of her exhibition. People come from all parts to exhibit, and it is the purpose of learning new things in the arts and sciences from the collected enterprises of all sections. Enterprise especially comes there to learn if there is anything in machinery, inventions or improvements of any kind that can be adapted to its section.

Now, if Pennsylvania has anything in the line of manufactures, minerals or natural products to sell to other portions of the country or world, the best opportunity for bringing the fact home to others is by an exhibit of our products and resources which will command the attention of all observers. To suppose that Pennsylvania can gain nothing from such an exhibition is to allege that she has nothing worth selling to other people; to doubt whether the exhibit can be made attractive is to doubt Pennsylvania's ingenuity. Neither idea can be admitted by any true Pennsylvanian.

As the money is judiciously expended, that \$200,000 will be the best investment ever made out of the public funds of the State. As to whether the methods adopted are the wisest, and best calculated for the greatest results, that can be most accurately predicted when we have seen the exhibit.

NOT BALFOUR'S FAULT. The unmistakable signs of Tory defeat which pervade the English political situation have led to an evident attempt on the part of most members of that party to make Balfour the scapegoat. An outcry too unanimous not to suggest prearrangement is heard that Mr. Balfour as a leader of the House is a failure, and that the uncomfortable position in which the Cabinet now finds itself is due to his incompetency.

As a vigorous member of the Ministry Balfour has his share of responsibility for the situation. It is also true that the man

agement which put the Government in the unique position of supporting the right of Conservative members to vote for measures in which they are peculiarly interested indicated beyond doubt that some one had lost his head. But the attempt to put the burden exclusively upon Balfour's shoulders will fail, for the simple reason that the presages of Tory defeat antedate Mr. Balfour's leadership.

Balfour assumed the leadership under circumstances which justify the application of Captain Pearson's epigram, "Paul Jones. He fights with a halter about his neck." The doom of the Tory party had been recorded in the bye-elections for nearly a year before Balfour succeeded Smith in the leadership of the House. Stubborn fighter as he is, Mr. Balfour could not, nor could any other man, overcome the demoralization and disintegration of a party which knows that its further life is only a question of months. The cause of the Tory defeat is the Tory policy. Balfour has his share of responsibility for that policy, but he cannot be made the exclusive scapegoat.

A TIMELY SUGGESTION. In a discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of electric railways propelled by the overhead wire system, the Philadelphia Press makes a pertinent and timely suggestion. It takes the same view as THE DISPATCH, namely, that as long as the trolley wire is the most practicable and economical method of electric propulsion its advantages must be conceded as balancing its disadvantages. But the Press suggests that grants of the privilege to put up overhead wires should be made on the condition "that the trolley wires shall go under ground just as soon as any reasonable and economical and practical method can be devised." The Press further specifies that the authority to decide whether any new method is practicable shall rest with the city.

There is no doubt of the propriety and necessity of such a condition. No electric railway desiring to yield a show of respect for the public safety and public right could object to such a condition as a part of the grant to it of a valuable privilege. If the business of cities was carried on with even a fraction of the foresight necessary for the successful conduct of private business that condition, with others, would have been so obvious as to make its public suggestion unnecessary. But, as the granting of privileges in the streets rests on a very different basis from business principles, the Press performs a valuable public service in calling attention to its justice and necessity.

But it is worth inquiry whether, even if such a condition is not specifically made in the grant, the right to order a change is not inherent in the city. The power of directing an electric railway to remove the overhead wires when some better method appears is a regulative power. It is a principle of law that the grantor of a franchise on the public highways not only retains a regulative power over it, but cannot, even by express contract, alienate that power. The city has the right to forbid a man to erect on his own private property a building dangerous to the public; and it would be a much less extreme exercise of the same power to require railways occupying public streets to remove overhead wires when it is clear that they are an acceptable substitute.

The condition suggested is a good one to incorporate in all grants; but as soon as storage batteries or underground wires demonstrate their practicability, City Councils that are inspired solely by the public welfare can enforce the change, condition or no condition.

UNCLE SAM AS A LANDLORD. Senator Vest, of Missouri, with an apparent determination to distance the liberality of other Senators in the matter of public buildings, submits a proposition to fit out 988 towns with buildings, no one to fit out to cost over \$20,000. As the precedents of public building grants make it clear that no self-respecting village or town would permit itself to be put off with less than the limit, the investment of Government funds in bricks and mortar here proposed is \$19,760,000.

Yest's proposition seems to be a grade better in the quality of equitable distribution than the grants now in fashion for one place at a time. But it deserves a little figuring. A Government list gives the total rentals of postoffices in nearly twice that number of towns at \$744,000, or about \$887 for each. Capitalized at five per cent and making no allowance for care of building, this would represent an average of \$7,700, or a little over a third of the proposed limit. This suggests to the New York Evening Sun that "the argument will be easy and simple that the Government shall build a bigger house than it needs and get back its interest in rentals to business men. It will be difficult to carry out Mr. Vest's scheme without gradually making the Federal Government a great landlord."

But why stop there? When that point is reached the solution of the social problem will be in sight according to no less than two schools of social theorists. Henry George is the leader of the school which would abolish landlordism. While this means of doing it is not the road he has selected, it is plain that the Government should go a step further and undertake all classes of buildings landlordism would be effectually abolished by merging it into the hands of the Government. The ultra Socialists, who believe in a community of property, can find the most direct method of reaching their goal in the same proposition.

Mr. Vest need only enlarge his bill to the extent of having the Government build everything to land the million on the brink, or verge, of the millennium as contemplated by Mr. George on one hand and the Socialists on the other.

had signed a reciprocity treaty with us, that Nicaragua had done likewise, and that Spain had withdrawn the opposition to our agreement with Cuba.

KARNE WILHELM has ordered the exclusion of Panich from his list of literature; this is one respect in which he and the American public agree, though for vastly different reasons.

Now that Hill has nominated Harrison as the undoubted Republican candidate for the Presidency, it only remains for Harrison to return the compliment and the matter will be decided. Benjamin really owes David something for the kindly patronizing tones the latter has used in speaking of him and his administration.

The Paris police force may be effective enough in capturing criminals, but it appears to be remarkably unsuccessful in preventing crimes most seriously affecting public safety.

There is a proposition that the Harrison delegates should go to the Minneapolis convention in hats of the style which caricatures his features. This would be all very well for the hat manufacturers, but there should be no hiding of lights under bushels, and it takes a Harrison head to support a Harrison hat.

The Louisianaist who lynched a colored girl for 15 for a too indiscriminate use of "nigger naps" went far to vindicate her action in treating them as vermin.

If the experience of the delegation which went to bury the late Representative Kendall, of Kentucky, teach Senators and Representatives the necessity of improvement in country roads, the inconveniences suffered will be very small price to have paid for the lesson learned.

Trolley wires are under debate in Philadelphia, but the probability is that they will make their appearance overhead before long.

WOMAN is rapidly progressing toward an absolute equality with man in facilities for higher education. Yale in this country, and St. Andrew's in Scotland, are both to be congratulated on the revival of antiquated and unreasonable discriminations between the sexes.

The attempt to burn a heretic in Peru is quite in keeping with the advance of civilization in our own progressive Texarkana.

WHAT an outrageous misconception of justice it is to shut down an officer of the law in a jail, to keep him a prisoner without trial! Districts which show such ignorance of the duties and rights of citizenship are unfitted for the responsibilities of self-government.

The monopolist's professed love for the public is only exceeded by his real desire to fill his pockets from their purses.

AFTER the news that the Louisiana lottery will seek to be located in Mexico, it is highly appropriate that Jay Gould should negotiate for the purchase of a castle in the same country. There are varieties of gambling, but all are united by a strong family likeness.

THERE is no increase of intemperance in Pittsburgh, but there are more people than usual chasing growers just now.

DOUBTLESS, if the assault of a German Consul by a mob in Ecuador should lead to international trouble, the United States would rush into the breach to support the shagreened republic. The Consul did not wear our uniform, nor was he an Egan or McCree.

At a conference of the Democratic members of the Ways and Means Committee to-day, it was decided to press a vote on the wool bill in advance of the taking up of the silver special order, but to resume consideration of the wool bill after the special order relative to the Bland bill is disposed of.

The Senate to-day confirmed W. H. Lawrence, of Pennsylvania, as Secretary of Legislation at Rio de Janeiro.

SECRETARY ELKINS has issued a general order for the establishment at Fort Riley, Kan., of a school of instruction for drill and practice for cavalry and light artillery.

The President has recognized Nefal: Guerrero as Consul General of Chile at San Francisco, Cal.

The Judiciary Committee of the House agreed to-day unanimously to report to the House the bill which was introduced to-day upon the table, a resolution looking to the impeachment of Hon. A. P. McCormick, Judge of the District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, who was introduced by Representative Bland. The committee is of the opinion that the charges contained in a resolution introduced to-day do not present a case for impeachment, and that the bill should be reported without the evidence before the committee showing the charges to be unfounded.

THE Senate, in executive session to-day, listened for two hours to arguments by the Hon. Stephen P. Duggan, in opposition to the confirmation of a nomination by Mr. Hoar's defense of the nominee. The Judiciary Committee had in its report placed Judge Woods' name at the head of the list of nominees for the position of Justice of the peace, and it was understood that the other nominations to be acted upon until the Woods case was disposed of.

CONGRESSMAN BELKNAP is about to introduce a bill which has for the cause of its existence the article on "The Numerical Strength of the Confederate Army" by A. R. Caswell, in the March Century Magazine. Mr. Caswell, now a member of the Board of Pension Appeals, was formerly special agent of the Pension Bureau. During his investigation of the Confederate army, he discovered that the numerical strength of the Confederate army had never been correctly reported, because of the imperfect records kept by the Confederates.

The bill provides that the Secretary of War shall cause to be enumerated the names of all soldiers who served in the Confederate army, to have the totals thereof tabulated by States, and that the Secretary of War shall cause to be prepared in respect to such rolls as he may have occasion to believe are defective to procure, through any agents or persons, all such information and supplemental evidence tending to show the total number of men who served in the Confederate army during the late civil war.

BISHOP AND MINISTER. Sensational Remarks of a Maryland Methodist Clergyman.

Baltimore, March 15.—At the regular weekly meeting to-day of the Methodist ministers, the Rev. J. J. Dugan, in the relation of the bishop and elder to the minister. What responsibility has the presiding elder? None. Yet he is the man who is chosen to come between the minister and the bishop, and there is a secret message, as it were, and me, my brethren, in that back, without having the courage to come forward and say so, or even the manhood to come to us and invite us in so that we can defend ourselves like men. I tell you, my brethren, in that secret chamber, plots are laid and laid to ruin the reputation and character of the minister, by the presiding elder, while the bishop fusses them by "Don't you say anything about this." There is no law in the church that allows the bishop to muzzle the elder, but it is the practice that has been in vogue for years and is carried out to this very day. At the meeting of a secret meeting that went on some six years ago, in this self-polluted cabinet that should I expose it now? It was held in Baltimore, and I had against me a presiding elder, and I never heard of it until Saturday last. I went to appeal to my manhood, but sat there and that dark, secret chamber, and then said: "The presiding elder, and the bishop, they are all wrong. There is no law in the church that allows the bishop to muzzle the elder, but it is the practice that has been in vogue for years and is carried out to this very day. At the meeting of a secret meeting that went on some six years ago, in this self-polluted cabinet that should I expose it now? It was held in Baltimore, and I had against me a presiding elder, and I never heard of it until Saturday last. I went to appeal to my manhood, but sat there and that dark, secret chamber, and then said: "The presiding elder, and the bishop, they are all wrong. 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