

PICKING UP PATCHES

To Place on the Inter-State Commerce Law This Session

AFFORDS MR. CULLION OCCUPATION

Several Amendments Needed Because of Gresham's Decision.

ANOTHER LAW TO BE ALSO REPAIRED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Mr. Cullion, chairman of the Senate Committee on Interstate Commerce, is not permitting many hours to go to waste during the holiday recess. He is at his committee room almost daily, and is devoting a great deal of time to the consideration of the numerous bills amendatory to Interstate Commerce law that have been introduced in the Senate this session.

Immediately after the recess of Congress he will call the committee together and urge the consideration of the measures that have been proposed, many of which are intended to vitalize and add strength to the law, upon which heavy interests have been made by recent Federal court decisions.

"These bills were reported to the Senate at the earliest practicable day," said Mr. Cullion this morning, "and I intend to insist upon their consideration by the Senate. The measures proposed are of great importance, and I contemplate some very material changes in the existing statute. The general law is to be amended so as to protect witnesses in order that they may be compelled to testify. The old statute of 1885, under which the law operates, is held not to be broad enough, and for it must be substituted an amendment to the interstate commerce law that will give absolute protection to the witness in the case of an incriminating testimony. The law should be amended in the interest of other prosecutions.

How Gresham's Decision is Contrived.

"The decision of Judge Gresham is to the effect that the Federal courts of the country cannot be required to give testimony to act as aids to an administrative body in the prosecution of its work. However, the decision indicates that a law will be constitutional which provides a penalty for refusing to testify or produce books, and the penalty could be prosecuted in a Federal court. The proper remedy thus suggested in the decision of Judge Gresham can be supplied in an amendment that has been introduced.

A decision made by Judge Brewer has been taken up by other courts and made the basis for decisions that are apparently not in harmony with the original opinion, but which will be reversed and law will be returned, and perhaps the best way to avoid any entanglements is to amend the law at the outset. The decision referred to is perhaps right in itself, but the dictum makes a declaration as to what is a railroad line, or what comprises a line, and it is more than less bearing upon the construction of the 'long and short' clause. This dictum is wrong, and legislation is required to define what a 'line' is.

"Another bill the railroads are interested in," continued the Senator, "is the general amendment popularly known as the bill to prevent pooling. It is not, properly speaking, such a measure, but it is intended to give railroads authority to pool, or not, with competing lines, subject to the approval or disapproval of the inter-State Commerce Commission.

Mr. Regan Changes His Mind.

"The original Senate bill, passed in 1885, had a provision authorizing the commission to investigate the question whether pooling was advisable, and report to Congress. When the measure came before the conference the House conferees insisted on the elimination of the clause, and Mr. Regan was especially persistent and refused to agree to the report in its amended form. I have noticed recently that Mr. Regan has experienced a change of sentiment on this subject, for I heard that he is out in a letter in which he favors the granting of authority to competing roads to make contracts for division of freight, subject to approval by the commission."

Mr. Cullion does not say whether he favors the pooling of lines or not, but the inference is that he would be opposed to it. The committee is not a unit on the amendment, for there are some members who believe it would be a good thing and would mitigate much of the evil now existing, or, at least, claimed by the railroads to exist in the matter of freight rates, and would be a sure remedy for that discrimination which is said to be exhibited by some of the trunk lines in favor of the large and against the small shipper.

A Child Enjoys The pleasant fawn, gentle action and soothing effects of Strychnine with its need of laxative, and if the mother be feeble and costive or bilious, the most gratifying relief is found in its use. It is the best family remedy known and every family should have a bottle.

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One dozen cabinets and a large crayon for \$3 only. Hendricks & Co.'s photo crayon gallery, No. 55 Federal street, Allegheny. Cabinets, \$1. No extra charge for family groups.

Men's Pants.

See them in our windows, they are wonderful. We mean those fine pants we sell at \$1.95; never wear better pants in Pittsburgh. Grant and Diamond streets.

MEETINGS AND NOTICES.

ANNUAL MEETING—THE ANNUAL MEETING of the stockholders of the Monongahela Electric Company will be held at the office of the company, No. 5 West 10th street, on THURSDAY, January 1, 1923, at 2 o'clock p. m. For the election of directors, and the transaction of other business.

NOTICE—THE MEMBERS OF SMOKEY CANYON Camp, No. 119, Jr. O. U. M., are requested to meet at their hall on WEDNESDAY, December 28, at 8 o'clock p. m. to attend the funeral of our deceased brother, P. C. Thomas, who died on December 27, 1922. All members are invited to attend. By order of WILLIAM MCCORMACK, C. A. A., 119 W. 10th St., R. 3.

OFFICE OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA EXPOSITION PICTURES

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE LIFE AND SAVING ASSOCIATION will be held at the office of the association, No. 5 West 10th street, on THURSDAY, January 1, 1923, at 2 o'clock p. m. For the election of directors, and the transaction of other business.

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