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ELKINS ON RATE BILL

West Virginian Favors Measure in Senate.

LAW MUST REMEDY MANY DEFECTS Senator Is For Radical Cure of Injustices, Abuse and Wrongs Practiced by the Railroad Companies.

WASHINGTON, April 7.—In making an effort to get the senate to agree upon a date for taking a vote on the railroad rate bill Mr. Tillman made the important statement that next week would probably exhaust the general debate on the measure. He failed, however, to secure the consent of Mr. Aldrich, who said that he would not be willing to agree to vote on the bill until it was more nearly perfected than it now is.

There were several speeches on the rate bill. The first of these was made by Mr. Elkins, who, while expressing the opinion that the situation demands legislation, indicated many defects in the pending bill.

Mr. Elkins was frequently interrupted, and several spirited colloquies marked the progress of his remarks.



SENATOR ELKINS.

and adequate remedy for the evils, injustices, abuse and wrongs of every kind practiced by railroads or in any way growing out of their operations," but he said that, while he favored the pending bill, he wanted to make it "better and stronger."

"I stand first for the interests of the people of my own state," he went on, "and after that for the interests of all the people of the United States. I have no interest that can affect my judgment or prevent me doing my duty as a senator as I see it. My desire and highest purpose is to secure and serve the public interest. Because of my supposed interest in railroads it is charged and believed that I favor the railroad side of this question. This has been so often repeated that I am sure it will be pardonable if I say, in justice to myself, that my interest on the side of the shipper is ten times greater than on the side of the railroads and that my interest in railroads is confined to those of my own state."

He declared his principal objection to the house bill to be that it does not go far enough in remedying evils and expressed the opinion that if enacted into law it would prove a general disappointment. He said that he was in hearty accord with the president on the subject of rate regulation, and then indicated the respects in which, according to his opinion, the bill falls short in accomplishing all that should be accomplished by railroad legislation.

Among the features the bill lacked were the following: A prohibition against railroads producing, selling or shipping their own coal and other like articles in competition with other owners; a requirement that switches shall be built where needed to accommodate business; a requirement compelling interstate roads to make connections with connecting lines and a requirement for the fair and just distribution of cars among shippers.

He had, he said, introduced amendments covering these defects. "The most important of these," he said, "is the one providing that interstate lines shall make prompt connections with connecting branch or lateral lines and fair, just and reasonable prorating arrangements with them."

VEVUVIUS IN ERUPTION.

Villagers, Abandoning Their Homes at Boscotrecase, Panic Stricken.

NAPLES, April 7.—The eruption of Mount Vesuvius is now most violent. On the Pompeii side the main stream of lava has divided into two, one threatening Ottajano, a commune of 20,000 inhabitants, and the other threatening Torre del Greco, with a population of 30,000.

The danger is becoming serious, and calls for the immediate evacuation of Boscotrecase, the nearest village to the crater, which has a population of 9,000 souls, which is threatened.

The inhabitants of the villages in the near vicinity are in a condition bordering on panic. Many homes have been abandoned for the open air, there is a thick fog, and the atmosphere has been dense with volcanic ashes and the fumes of subterranean fires. The churches are crowded day and night with people praying for deliverance from an impending peril, manifestations of which are heard and felt in explosions, which resemble a heavy cannonading, and in the tremblings of the earth, which are constantly recurring.

The main stream of lava proceeding from Vesuvius is 200 feet wide, and it advances at times at the rate of twenty-one feet in a minute, the intense heat destroying vegetation before the stream reaches it. The peasants at Portici, at the west foot of Vesuvius, cleared their grounds of vineyards and trees in the effort to lessen the danger from fire and resisted the progress of the lava to their utmost. The population of Boscotrecase, on the southern declivity of the mountain, have sought safety in flight, and Bosco Reale, to the eastward, is also threatened. Women of this village, weeping with fright, carried a statue of St. Anne as near as they could go to the flowing lava, imploring a miracle to stay the advance of the consuming stream.

The cemetery at Boscotrecase has been invaded by lava. The scene at night is one of mingled grandeur and horror, as from the summit of Vesuvius there leaps a column of fire fully a thousand feet in height, the glare lighting the sky and sea for many miles. Occasional great masses of molten stone, some weighing as much as a ton, are ejected from the crater.

The village of Terra del Greco, which has been eight times destroyed and as often rebuilt, is again threatened, and the inhabitants are in extreme terror.

TRADE CONDITIONS. R. G. Dun & Co.'s Weekly Business Review.

NEW YORK, April 7.—R. G. Dun & Co.'s weekly review of trade says: Opening of spring trade is not perceptibly retarded by the partial interruption to coal mining except in the immediate vicinity of anthracite mines.

High temperature not only broadens the demand for seasonable merchandise, but stimulates agricultural operations, reopens northern navigation and starts many contemplated building operations. Were it not for a few labor controversies the commercial horizon would be cloudless. But some manufacturing plants will be compelled to suspend if the fuel supply is cut off, and structural work is interrupted by demands for higher wages in certain localities.

That the year 1906 started out to eclipse all records is evidenced by bank exchanges being 18 per cent larger than in the first quarter of the previous prosperous year. Railway earnings in March were 69 per cent larger than last year, and foreign commerce at this port for the last week showed gains of \$1,189,868 in imports and \$837,959 in exports as compared with the corresponding week in 1905.

NO "HOUSE OF MIRTH"

Andy Field Denies That He Ever Gave a Bribe.

WAS HOPEFUL IN PAYING OUT \$600,000

Tales of High Revelry at Albany Were Gross Libels—No God-Fearing Man Need Be Ashamed of Doing There.

NEW YORK, April 7.—Charges similar to those recently made against the directors of the New York Life Insurance company by Andrew Hamilton were made here against the trustees of the Mutual Life Insurance company by Andrew C. Fields. The former legislative agent of the Mutual is now in seclusion at his home at Dobbs Ferry. He is said to be seriously ill and has denied himself to all callers.

The charges against the Mutual trustees were made in a formal statement which Field issued through his physician, Dr. C. H. Judson. In this statement, he declares that the Mutual trustees well knew the nature of his duties while he was employed by the company as legislative agent and also had charge of its supply department and says that he has come home "prepared to tell the truth, no matter what it costs, be his position high or low."

He denies that he ever gave a bribe to any one, declares the story of the so-called "House of Mirth" at Albany to be a malicious libel and claims that while setting for the Mutual he saved the company many hundreds of thousands of dollars. He says that the records of the Mutual's supply department which had been reported as missing are within easy reach and that they will be forthcoming whenever the trustees want them.

He promises to make a full and complete explanation of the manner in which the \$600,000 or more which was paid to him by the expenditure committee was disbursed and to show that every payment was fully authorized. Mr. Field says that in all his career at Albany he never had any personal dealings with Andrew Hamilton, long the legislative agent for the New York Life Insurance company.

The statement in which Mr. Fields savagely arraigns the officers of the Mutual with whom he had dealings says in part: "In the first place, I never gave a bribe to any one in the whole course of my career. I have come home prepared to vindicate myself completely. In doing so I shall tell the truth, which I shall speak, fall upon whom it may. All of those trustees of the Mutual who are now pointing the finger of scorn at me were aware of all I was doing in connection with legislative work for the Mutual, and when they say that they were ignorant of the character of my work they are saying what is untrue. I am here to challenge them in every such statement they may make or have made. I am not an old man like Richard A. McCurdy, whose age is so great that he could not defend himself."

"While my bodily strength is not what it might be, I am mentally as strong as ever I was, and I am determined to vindicate myself in the eyes of the public. I have to laugh when I read the statements of the trustees to the effect that a portion of the records of the supply department of the Mutual is missing or was destroyed. "As to the payments by Robert Olyphant, chairman of the expenditure committee, of amounts ranging from \$25,000 upward and aggregating in all about \$600,000 paid to me, I will say that I can furnish a full and complete explanation of exactly what was done with this money and can show that every payment was fully authorized. I saved for the Mutual by my work at Albany hundreds of thousands of dollars and in doing so never committed a dishonest act."

"I do not propose that the men associated with me in the Mutual shall destroy my reputation to further their own private ends. The story about the so-called 'House of Mirth' in Albany was a gross libel. Nothing ever took place in that house, which was simply my Albany residence, of which I or any other God-fearing man need be ashamed. I am prepared to tell the truth, no matter who it may hurt, be his position high or low."

Dr. Judson said that Mr. Fields would not be able to see any one for two weeks at least. His patient is suffering from an incurable disease, he said, but by careful treatment his life may be prolonged for years. William H. Truesdale, chairman of the Mutual's internal investigating committee, said: "It would not be proper for me to state that Fields will be called upon to make a statement to this committee. That such a course is likely, however, is a probability."

Contractors Sued For \$5,000,000. PHILADELPHIA, April 7.—Civil proceedings were instituted by the city against the contractors and former city officials interested in the construction of the municipal filtration plant to recover \$5,000,000, which sum is alleged to have been wrongfully retained by the defendants.

Murder Near Scranton. SCRANTON, Pa., April 7.—George Wenecki, a Polish teamster, who lived alone on the outskirts of the city, was brutally murdered. His partially decomposed body was found near his barn. Robbery was the motive.

Typhoid Rife at Pittsburgh. PITTSBURGH, April 7.—Fifty-six more cases of typhoid fever are reported for the last twenty-four hours. This is a total of 171 cases reported in three days. Physicians complain of the condition of the city water.

HAREM OF SEVEN WIVES.

"Prophet" of Zion Wished to Imitate the Grand Turk.

ZION CITY, Ill., April 7.—At a meeting of the officers of the Zion Christian church here it was revealed that John Alexander Dowie, the deposed first apostle of Zion, had planned a harem of seven wives. He had gone so far as to select the women who were to demonstrate to the world the secret polygamous teaching. Dowie had selected all of them. Five of them had accepted.



W. G. VOLIVA.

Dowie and his harem were to have been the nucleus around which it was proposed to found Paradise colony in east central Mexico. Dowie outlined this plan of a polygamous colony to his overseers. At the same time he asked them to help him divorce his present wife on the ground of incompatibility. The proposition was made to the leaders of the church about a week before Dowie was stricken with paralysis.

Mrs. Dowie attended the meeting. With a voice trembling with emotion and with tears streaming down her face, she told the overseers, the deacons and deaconesses, the evangelists and the elders Dowie's proposals to put her away that he might espouse seven younger women.

One by one the elders who had been apprised of Dowie's polygamous plans by himself told how he had argued with them and the violent rage that followed their rejection of his proposals. He was held up to scorn as a man who had not only robbed his trusting followers of the product of their toil, but who had shattered every sacred tradition of the home.

Mrs. Dowie told how Dowie had threatened her with violence. One of those occasions was last May, on Dowie's birthday, when he wished to signalize the event by a proclamation of his intentions to found a polygamous colony.

Overseer Voliva plans to make the entire matter public next Sunday, beginning at 2:30 in the afternoon. Dowie has announced in a private telegram to one of his deacons that he will return to Zion City late Monday night and "perform a miracle." He promises, among other things, to bring to the "faithful in Zion" \$10,000,000 in gold and several scrolls of parchment upon which are written the five books of Moses. In the message Dowie declared that he is "now greater than he ever was believed to be."

Officials of the church at Zion City declare that Dowie has lost sums aggregating close to \$1,200,000 in speculation in Wall street, New York.

Hungarian Political War Ends. VIENNA, April 7.—After fourteen months of controversy, always of an acute and often of a bitter nature, between the throne and the coalition parties the Hungarian crisis has finally been settled. Both sides express satisfaction with the result obtained, which, on the one hand, is declared to be a complete victory for the crown, but appears to be really in the nature of a compromise.

The news of peace is received with rejoicing on all sides, and Hungary can now return to her normal political existence. The elections will be held within the proper time, and parliamentary government re-established, the crown will get the recruits wanted, the army funds for military service will be voted, and the customs, tariff and commercial treaties will be ratified by the Hungarian parliament. The commercial union with Austria is assured until 1917.

A New Haven Branch Line. NEW HAVEN, Conn., April 7.—The directors of the New York, New Haven and Hartford railroad have voted to authorize the construction of a relief line between a point on the main line between Greenwich and Portchester through Ridgefield to a point on the New England railroad just west of Danbury Station, about thirty miles in length, at a cost of approximately \$2,500,000.

Bad Citizen Hanged. ROANOKE, Va., April 7.—Morris Creamans was hanged at Pearisburg, Va., for the murder of John Kidd, whom he killed here. Creamans had a long career of crime to his credit, he having killed three men and participated in several other murders. He had been a horse thief, highwayman, post-office robber and all around bad man. He had been in prison thirty-seven times.

Kaiser's Auto Not in Accident. BERLIN, April 7.—The report that an automobile in which Emperor William was riding ran down and killed a woman is denied. An automobile containing two adjutants, who were followed the emperor on his visit to Chancellor von Bismarck at the reichstag, ran down a woman and caused slight bruises only.

Weather Probabilities. Fair and warmer; northwest winds.

MORE ARBITRATION

Proposal Out of the West From Mine Operators.

BITUMINOUS COAL MEN'S PEACE PLAN

President Winder Telegraphs Roosevelt and Makes Offer to Mitchell and Committee Which May Avert a Strike.

NEW YORK, April 7.—Interest in the labor troubles in the anthracite regions is overshadowed by the proposition that came out of the west for the arbitration of the differences existing between the soft coal operators who have not yet agreed to the 1903 scale and their miners.

The offer of the soft coal operators is identical, word for word, except where the term bituminous is substituted for anthracite, with the one President Mitchell presented to the hard coal operators here. The receipt of the proposition caused quite a stir, and there was considerable speculation as to how the miners' leader would receive his own arbitration plan for another field. He was much interested in the news, but maintained his usual silence when asked what he would do.

Within an hour of the receipt of the offer from J. H. Winder, the head of the Ohio soft coal operators, he sent a reply to the effect that he had no power to act on the proposition, but would submit it to the international executive board of the union at its meeting in Indianapolis week after next. Mr. Mitchell was asked what he thought of Mr. Winder's literary ability, and he jokingly replied that he "admired it very much."

Leaders of the miners' union who were at headquarters did not think the international executive board would favor the proposition. A member of the board said that conditions in the soft coal regions are much different from those in the anthracite fields. He pointed out that many operators had already signed the 1903 scale and that the number is increasing each day.

Nothing developed in the anthracite situation to clearly indicate what the outcome of next Monday's meeting between the sub-committees of the mine owners and the union leaders will be. It was reported that the arbitration offer of the miners would be flatly refused, but it was denied by those in authority that a final decision had been arrived at. It was also reported that the operators may accept arbitration, but with a different sort of a tribunal. President Mitchell said his side has nothing to do now but wait for the operators' answer. It has practically been settled that if the operators refuse the arbitration offer a call will go out at once for a convention.

President Roosevelt has received a telegram from John H. Winder at Columbus, president of the bituminous operators of Ohio, a duplicate of which was sent to President Mitchell of the miners' union, proposing arbitration. At the White House it was stated that the telegram was sent to the president for his information; that no reply is expected and none will be sent.

At a meeting last night at Pittsburgh of the independent soft coal operators who organized to fight the granting of the 1903 scale a majority of the operators decided to sign it.

Striking Miner Murdered. GREENSBURG, Pa., April 7.—John Wessell, a striking miner, was shot and killed last night while going from his home to an outbuilding. It is not known who fired the shot. Wessell, it is alleged, had promised to go to work this morning. The shooting has created great excitement here.

Preparing to Shell Bambanta Out. GREYTOWN, Natal, April 7.—Bambanta, the leader of the Zulu rebels, is believed to be within seven miles of Greytown. He has only 200 followers. It is impossible for infantry to penetrate the bush in pursuit of the rebels, but overlooking their hiding place is an eminence, on which artillery is being placed. Natives also are prepared to tackle Bambanta in native fashion in the bush.

Brave Boats' Crews Rewarded. LIVERPOOL, April 7.—The Ship-week Humane society has presented gold medals to Captains Clark of the Bostonian and Schann of the Mannheim, silver medals to the subordinate officers of the steamers and money awards totaling \$200 to the boat's crews of the vessels who assisted in the rescue of the steamer British King, which foundered off Sable Island on March 11.

Portland Has \$100,000 Fire. PORTLAND, Ore., April 7.—Fire here has destroyed part of the Chamber of Commerce building and caused the death of Homer Hallock, agent of the Willamette Traction company, who jumped from the commercial club room to the roof of the central court, several stories below. The property loss is \$100,000.

St. Mary's Seminary Burned. PROVIDENCE, R. I., April 7.—The sixty inmates of St. Mary's Roman Catholic Seminary for Girls at East Providence escaped in safety from a burning building here. Fire partially destroyed the left wing of the seminary and damaged the main building. The loss is \$10,000.

Author Refuses to Be a Candidate. WARSAW, April 7.—Henry Sienkiewicz, the Polish author, has declined to be a candidate for the national parliament, saying that all his talents and energies are due to his native land and that only in the case of the convocation of the Polish diet will he enter upon political activity.

SATURDAY SPECIALS

Dress Goods

40 in. storm serge, all wool and excellent weight. The best fabric made for hard service. 50c kind in all staple shades, Saturday and Monday 43c.

46 in. sicilian, heavy lustrous cloth, worth 65c, comes in navy, cream, black, brown and green. 65c quality, special 49c.

Better Values Still

A 52 in. Panama, new chiffon finish, all the most wanted shades, such as grey, reseda, tar, red, navy and Alice blue. A wonderful value, worth 75c anywhere, 52 in. wide, special 59c.

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A few remnants of these formerly \$1.00, closing price 48c.

Sheeting Special

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Ladies' Muslin Gowns

Usual 65c kind, full size and made of excellent muslin tucked and trimmed with insertion. Saturday and Monday 50c.

New White Goods

25c kinds including new line of dotted swisses, all size dots, very special, Saturday and Monday 18c.

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Children's 15c hose, all sizes, extra heavy rib, double heels, toes and knees. Special 10c.

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