

# RAILROAD NOTES

**State's Reply to Erie's Charges.**  
Harrisburg, Feb. 13.—The state has prepared its reply to the bill in equity filed by the Erie railroad, attacking the bill which was passed by the legislature last year. The answer, generally speaking, is a denial of the Erie's allegations that the full crew act exceeds the right of eminent domain. In this common respect it is like the answer to the bill of the Pennsylvania Railroad company, already passed, but there are a number of points of difference. The state railroad commission is the defendant.

The full crew act was passed by the last legislature as a result of agitation by the railroad men's unions, and prescribes the minimum number of members of a crew on passenger and freight trains.

In the state's answer to the Erie, it is denied that the act was passed merely to compel the railroads to employ extra men so that more members of the railroad brotherhoods could find work. The state asserts that it is necessary to have these additional employees in order to handle trains properly and contends, at all events, that the matter of necessity is not a question for judicial determination, but is a question solely for the legislature to decide which it has already done.

The allegation that the act violates both the federal and state constitutions because, in effect, it takes property without due process of law, is denied flatly. The allegation that it will cost the Erie more than \$100,000 per annum to comply with the act is declared to be unsupported by proof; it is likewise contended that this is entirely irrelevant to the matter. The allegation that for Pennsylvania to regulate the manning of trains in this state constitutes a violation of the interstate commerce laws is denied, and the contention advanced that such a course is really in aid of interstate commerce and for the protection of those employed therein.

**Erie Railroad Notes.**  
Jesse C. Junc, assistant superintendent of terminals of the Erie Railroad at Jersey City, N. J., has been appointed superintendent of terminals, with office at Jersey City, succeeding J. M. Barrett, assigned to other duties.

J. Warren Young, chief signal inspector of the Erie, has resigned to go with the Kerite Insulated Wire & Cable Company, New York.

The aggregate amount of prizes awarded by the Erie Railroad to track supervisors and foremen for excellence in track work during the past year was \$2,925, the prizes being usually on the larger divisions, \$100 first and \$50 second. On the Erie Railroad grand division the first prize, \$100, went to D. C. Lyons and the second, \$50, to J. Kennedy; these in addition to division prizes awarded to each of these men.

**Erie Engine Rams Shop Wall.**  
The traverse engine, No. 103, used in the Erie shops at Susquehanna in transferring engines while undergoing repairs, created quite a commotion on Wednesday evening of last week when it went tearing up the length of the shops unmanned, and crashed into the wall at the west end of the shop. One of the repair gangs was working upon an engine and the gang foreman had occasion to move the engine from one pit to another. He used the traverse engine in making the transfer and then returned to the engine on which he had been working. A few moments later Erie employe No. 654 was seen to mount the traverse engine and operate the levers. The engine shot forth and the man jumped or fell from it receiving a severe cut which sent him to the hospital. The front end of the engine was badly damaged and the west wall of the shop where the locomotive struck was considerably bulged.

**Erie Train Hits School Boy.**  
Thomas Byron, 10 years old, was struck by an Erie Railroad passenger train at the Montclair Heights station last Thursday afternoon as he was returning from school. The locomotive flung the boy aside and he escaped death by a close margin. He was hurt severely about the head and was taken to Mountsides Hospital.

**LESS CANDY AT ANNAPOLIS.**  
Only the Better Kind Will Be Permitted Naval Students.

Wishing to discourage large expenditures by the midshipmen for sweets and also to supervise the kind used by them, the superintendent of the academy has promulgated a pure food regulation which prohibits candies being brought into the Naval academy by midshipmen or sent to them. The midshipmen are allowed, however, to purchase a dollar's worth each month from the academy store. It is assured that these candies will do the midshipmen no harm, though the naval students complain of lack of variety in the stock.

No inspection is made of packages consigned to midshipmen, their word that they contain no candies being accepted.

**One Danger.**  
"If those California women run for office do you think they would be guilty of purchasing votes?"  
"Not unless they got green trading stamps with them."—Houston Post.

**Woman's Logic.**  
"My dear, these are excellent cigars, but they are awfully strong!"  
"Yes, I got the strongest I could find. They won't break so easily in your pocket."—Judge.

# Arizona, the Forty-eight Member of the Union

Its Entry Completes the Nation's First True Exploration of That Section of America Was in 1540.

ARIZONA, whose entry as the forty-eight member of the Union completes the nation of states from ocean to ocean, has a history probably as turbulent and trying as any subject in the Union. The struggles of the pilgrims of Massachusetts, the Hollanders who colonized New York, the Quakers who settled Pennsylvania and the English who brought civilization to the Virginia shores were no harder than those of the pioneers of Arizona. They were killed by Indians, robbed by lawless people of their own nationality, starved upon the deserts, frozen in the snowcapped mountains and bitten by poisonous reptiles.

They had no government for many years and fought as hard to get territorial rights as they have been fighting for the past ten years to get statehood rights. They were on the point of rebelling at one time, and even went so far as to establish a territorial form of government of their own despite the expressed desire of congress, exemplified in its refusal to grant a territorial government, that they should remain a part of New Mexico.

Their nearest peace and judicial officials were then 400 miles away, at Mesilla, N. M., and their law was the law of the strongest against the weakest. At one time all of the present state of Arizona was the county of Arizona, attached to New Mexico for purposes of administration only.

**Whence Came Its Name.**  
General Nelson A. Miles, General Lawton, General Crook and many other noted men of the United States army gained their first fame in campaigning in Arizona. It was from Arizona that the only raid of United States troops was ever made into a foreign country not then at war with us; the soldiers were after Indians who had been killing and robbing in Arizona. The history of Arizona is thrilling from its inception to the present day.

The origin of the name Arizona is not definitely known. Bancroft, the historian, and some others have insisted that the name is from a supposed Pima Indian word, "Arizonac," although Bancroft admits that the "aboriginal meaning of the term is not known." The historian treats as "extremely absurd" the suggestion that the name is of Spanish derivation, and he apparently bases that conclusion upon the fact that there is no similar word in Spanish.

But it is possible that "Arizona" may have had its derivation from the Spanish words arida zona (arid zone). The well known tendency of uneducated speakers of Spanish to leave off the last syllables of words ending in vowels and their tendency to run words together would easily transform arida zona into "Arizona."

**The First True Exploration.**  
It was about 1527 that Cabeza de Vaca turned his wandering footsteps to the Hopi and Zuni villages in the northeast, gaining Mexico at last by way of the friendly Pima settlements along the Gila.

It was in 1540 that Vasco de Coronado, governor of Mexico, lured by the golden tales of a monkish traveler, started northward on the first true exploration of that mysterious land. He sought the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola, where gold and precious gems paved the streets. Though he did not find the object of his search, his expedition led to Spanish settlements and agriculture and mining had some development.

Back again into barbarism was Arizona plunged by the Mexican war for independence, and not until the Gadsden purchase in 1853 did the firm hand of governmental authority again take hold. Even then, however, all that was known of Arizona was a narrow strip within which the Southern Pacific railroad now runs and along

**OUR PEAT WORTH MILLIONS.**  
Mine Bureau Expert Predicts Wide Use Here Before Long.

Peat may be used extensively in the United States before long, in the opinion of Charles A. Davis, who has been making extensive investigations for the bureau of mines.

The parts of this country where peat is most abundant are relatively remote from the coal fields, Mr. Davis says in a report. This is an important economic consideration. Peat, Mr. Davis says, could be produced with less danger and much more cheaply than coal. It would be more economical for two tons of peat could be bought for the same price as one ton of coal, and even the best coals do not have twice the heating value, pound for pound, of good fuel peat.

Mr. Davis estimates the peat of the country worth about \$40,000,000,000. Peat of various grades, he adds, may be used for many purposes other than fuel. Paper can be made from it, coarse fabrics, dye stuffs, tanning materials, packing material and fertilizer.

**SHATTERS SPRING THEORY.**  
French Scientist Says Microbe Does Real Awakening.

That the springtime awakening of the earth and all living beings so long sung by the poets and chronicled by the marriage clerks is actually due to a microbe is the thesis upheld by Professor Muntz of the French Academy of Sciences. The old theory that the increased warmth of the sun's rays worked the miracle is no longer tenable if the eminent investigator's opinion is to be believed.

After researches extending over a period of years Professor Muntz asserts that the phenomena of springtime are the direct result of violent bacterial activity in the soil, not due to the sun, but to a law of periodicity inherent in the microbes themselves. This activity highly multiplies the nitrogen in the soil, which in turn makes seed germinate and vegetation grow.

**French Scientist Says Microbe Does Real Awakening.**  
Congress in Session Until August.

Both Democratic and Republican leaders in the house of representatives agree that there is little likelihood of congress adjourning before August.

# BERESFORD ON THE ADMIRALTY

"The Betrayal" Flays the British Naval Policy.

**COMMERCE NOT PROTECTED.**  
Coal Reserves, Docks and Personnel Said to Be Deficient—Not Ready For German War—Evil Will Take Long Time to Cure.

The book of Admiral Lord Charles Beresford (retired) on the British naval policy since 1902, which has been looked forward to with eager interest, is out. The title of the book, "The Betrayal," is the keynote of the text. It contains a trenchant attack on the British naval policy of the last ten years, the evils of which, the author says, have gone deep and will take a long time to cure.

Lord Charles denounces the present scheme for the education of officers as utterly impracticable. It does not give the navy skilled engineers, he says, while the system of examining examinations he considers useless and injurious.

**Where Naval Policy Failed.**  
Another grave failure of the naval policy, in the opinion of Lord Charles, is the policy in regard to cruisers and torpedo boat destroyers. Eighty of these vessels, he says, went to the scrap heap in 1904, and they have not been replaced. The result of this is that these classes in 1900 had fallen by forty-five and thirty, though similar classes in Germany rose at the same time by twenty and forty.

The refusal of the admiralty to construct docks for the biggest battleships is denounced by Lord Charles as a betrayal of public trust. Germany, he says, has built big docks concurrently with her battleships, but even now the vessels of Great Britain are being left to take chances in case of emergency.

The denuding of the great trade routes of protecting cruisers and the weakening of the defenses of the Mediterranean through parsimony come under the lash of the writer. The whip descends also on the admiralty's apparent idea that it was building Dreadnoughts that would paralyze foreign powers, while as a matter of fact, Lord Charles declares, it has gradually appeared that the American, Japanese and German battleships are actually superior to the Dreadnought in fighting power.

**Germany Underestimated.**  
Lord Charles is particularly severe on the admiralty's admission in 1902 that it had underestimated Germany's and overestimated Great Britain's building capacity. He says that the admiralty was aware of this fact long before that time, but suppressed the knowledge.

Lord Charles scathingly criticizes the famous admiralty memorandum dealing with a possible invasion by Germany and the provision against such an attack and alleges that there were grave deficiencies in the coal reserves, supply of stores and condition of docks as well as in the personnel.

He concludes by making the general deduction that while individual officers were never more efficient the fleet as a whole, considering its vastly increased responsibilities, has seldom been less adequate.

**LAMPOON'S HALL OF FAME.**  
Harvard's Humorous Paper Selects a List of Twenty.

In selecting a list of the "twenty greatest persons the world has ever seen," the Lampoon, Harvard's humorous alumnus, includes Theodore Roosevelt, Brigham Young and Alexander Dowie. The Rev. Clarence V. T. Hitchson also has a niche in the hall of fame.

The Lampoon, while not degrading the score chosen by Andrew Carnegie, says it considers its list, which is a mixed one, a well balanced selection. The twenty who have found favor are in the order given: Adam and Eve, the whale that swallowed Jonah, Abolition the Just, Edward the Confessor, Edward who didn't confess, Brigham Young, Theodore Roosevelt, Alexander Dowie, Professor Baker, John Bull, John Morse, Hitchson, Christopher Columbus, Rhinphart, Lovandos, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, Napoleon, Billings and Storer.

**BETTER BABIES ITS AIM.**  
National Congress of Mothers Begins Child Welfare Campaign.

Believing that by improving the children the nation will be brought to a state of perfection, the National Congress of Mothers is just starting a country wide campaign of "child welfare," the slogan of which will be "better babies, better parents, better country."

It is the aim of this movement to give women a comprehensive understanding of how they may be able to give their children a heritage of better health. The mothers will be instructed in the care of infants, in ventilation, in the necessity of pure milk, in the need of all that may impress itself upon the tender mind of the child.

Mrs. David O. Mears, a vice president of the congress, is chairman of the committee, and the movement will start in February.

# YALE REGISTRATION DROPS.

Number of Students in University Fifty-Two Years Fewer Than Last Year.

The general university catalogue of Yale shows a total registration of 3,229, decrease from last year of 53. The college has an enrollment of 1,291, an increase of 10, and the Sheffield scientific school 1,118, an increase of 101. The arts school falls 11, the music school gains 5, the medical school loses 19, and the law school loses 112. The residential registers show that Connecticut leads, as usual, with 1,087 students, followed by New York with 557, Massachusetts with 212 and Pennsylvania with 200. Besides New Haven leads with 410 students, followed by New York with 242, Hartford with 88 and Chicago with 85.

There are 104 foreign students, Canada leading with 24, followed by Turkey with 17 and China with 13.

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