

## RAILROADS POOLING.

Leaving it to the Discretion of the Commission.

The interstate commerce act prohibits pooling (a division of earnings) by railroad companies. The bill passed by the house last week authorizes pooling, provided the contract is reduced to writing, filed with the interstate commerce commission and the commission does not disapprove it. The pool goes into effect twenty days after filing contract. The commission may, after a pool goes into effect, modify the pooling arrangement or cancel it. The bill allows any company to apply to a United States Circuit court to test the reasonableness of the commission's rulings and the court may approve the pool notwithstanding the commission disapproves it. The patrons of the road and communities affected by the pool are not given a like right to have the commission's rulings passed upon by a court. Pending litigation on the subject and appeals to the United States Supreme court, the commission.

son's orders are in force.

When a railroad goes into a pooling contract it can't get out of it except upon an order from the commission or the court.

Pooling means no competition. Where there are several companies pulling for the same trade there is competition, rate cutting, etc. The present law prohibiting pooling is no doubt directly violated, but the companies will not be honest with each other and will violate their agreements, and by all manner of scheming each road will get as much traffic for itself as possible.

The pending bill compels the companies, when they agree to skin the public and divide the spoils, to stick to the agreement. While the rates fixed in the pooling contracts must be reasonable in the eyes of the commission, that body is considerable of a railroad auxiliary and will not likely consider any rates unreasonable that failed to yield interest on watered bonds and dividends on stock that is all water.—Missouri World.

## NOTES AND NOVELTIES.

The records of Massachusetts are written in an official ink specially made for the purpose.

In England the tax on farming lands exceeds ten per cent of the value of crops in Egypt it is fourteen per cent. Explorations of Northern Siberia demonstrate that that region was inhabited by tigers until within a comparatively recent date.

Haverford college has a \$10,000 gift, the income of which is to be used in securing a course of lectures each year on biblical subjects.

A Mexican professor of physics proposes to foretell earthquakes by connecting telephones to the pipes of deep artesian wells and to metal plates sunk in deep mountain crevices.

The Greek republics raised money for war by "inviting" wealthy citizens to contribute. They always contributed liberally, as on one occasion the head of a rich man in Athens was cut off for a refusal.

In Switzerland a milkmaid or man better wages if gifted with a good voice, because it has been discovered that a cow will yield one-fifth more milk if soothed during the process of milking by a pleasant melody.

Several curious golden objects have been unearthed from Etruscan tombs, the use of which for a long time was conjectural. It was at length ascertained that they must have been the heads of walking canes, probably belonging to the dead 2,500 years ago.

The individual communion cup innovation is gaining ground, but encountering some obstacles. Plymouth Congregational church at Milwaukee has adopted it, but Bishop Nicholson of the Milwaukee Episcopal diocese declares that any clergyman within his jurisdiction who uses anything but the chalice will be disciplined.

The Massachusetts board of agriculture issues an annual catalogue of abandoned farms for sale in the state. This year's catalogue shows that of the 400 farms listed in the catalogue of last year 150 have been sold. Most of them have been purchased for farming purposes. The average price was \$1.50 an acre, and they averaged 100 acres in extent.

## HUMAN NATURE.

General Count von Hessler of the German army is a stern old soldier and a strict disciplinarian. He has been known to stop a subordinate in the street and make him remove his boots and stockings to see if his feet were clean.

An old-fashioned cathedral verger "lord of the aisles," saw a pious visitor on his knees. The verger hastened up to him and said in tone of indignation: "The services in this cathedral are at 10 in the morning and 4 in the afternoon, and we don't have no fancy prayers."

A minister in a small country village, who was noted for his absent-mindedness, was once observed to stop excitedly in the midst of his sermon and heard to mutter: "I knew she would—I knew she would!" After the service was over someone asked the reason. "Dear me," said he, "did I? Well, you know, from the pulpit I can just see old Mrs. Adams' garden, and this morning she was out pulling up a cabbage, and I thought to myself, 'Now, if that cabbage comes up suddenly she'll go over, and just then it came up and over she went.'

Once when Prince Bismarck was still a count the princess was repeatedly addressed at a dinner party as "Excellency." She interrupted the speaker with "Please don't call me excellency. I like best to be called Frau Von Bismarck." That reminds me so of a quiet, joyful time when Otto and I, as modest country people, had time in our old Schleswaghaus on the Elbe to live for each other and other villagers. Now my husband belongs to the whole world."

"Dear child," her husband smilingly said, "those times will return some day—when we are old and the world does not want us any longer."

## ODDS AND ENDS.

Aluminum paper is announced. A Louisville tobacco warehouse holds 7,000 hogheads.

Scarlet is mourning color for unmarried women in Brazil.

Kansas has twenty-two newspapers which are edited by women.

Manilla paper paste is over the backs of pictures will exclude dust perfectly.

A beet weighing eight and one-half pounds was recently grown on a Neva farm.

The first savings bank of this country was the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, organized in 1816. It is still in existence.

The Pennsylvania Limited and the Empire state express, on the New York Central, are the most luxurious trains in the world.

In 1773 the Dutch lost the vessel Antionette, an Englishman and with her sank £700,000 pounds sterling, besides jewels of great value.

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