

GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP.

Railways Should Be Owned and Controlled by the Government. In a recent letter from England, published in the Inter-Ocean, Hon. Robert P. Porter, ex-superintendent of the census, writes very interestingly on the growth of the opinion in favor of government ownership of railroads in that country and from it draws some conclusions that apply to the United States with peculiar force and aptness. Mr. Porter cannot be accused of popularistic notions and his views are shared by eminent railroad men, statesmen and political economists all over the world.

He argues that the railroads should be owned and controlled by the government and made free to travel the same as the public highways are. He shows that if every seat was filled and each train as heavy as the power supplied could draw to the best advantage, the cost of traveling could be largely reduced and fares made much lower than they now are. If the railroads were free there would be much more travel than there now is and the cost of carrying any passenger would be reduced to the minimum. As it now is the few who do travel pay the whole cost of the service, while if the cost of operating the railroads was met by a tax equitably distributed, the rate of taxation for this special object would be so small that no one would notice it and it could be met easily and would be paid willingly. The freedom of travel under this arrangement would so stimulate business that the aggregate gain to the nation would be much greater than the cost of the service. He shows that the economy that could be practiced by a consolidation of all railroads into one has been recognized as an eminent railroad man as C. P. Huntington, who favors a consolidation in this country. The railroad employees being under the action of the civil service law could not be used as a political machine and the incentive to strikes would be forever done away with. As coming from a man of large experience and great executive ability Mr. Porter's words are deserving of careful attention and respectful consideration. He cannot be accused of having any ulterior object in view and his conclusions make very interesting reading. From the article in review we quote:

The writer believes that the following conclusions have been made clear:

1. The plan of national consolidation is in accordance with law and the constitution of the United States. This has been shown by many decisions of the supreme court of the United States. Many more could be added if necessary.

2. It is entirely feasible and practical. We have seen that Mr. C. P. Huntington, one of the most able and experienced railroad men in the country, advocates the formation of one corporation to own and control all railroads.

3. It recognizes that consolidation in some form is certain and inevitable, and seeks to turn this irresistible tendency into right channels. It shows how consolidation may create a great public corporation, which shall be a minister of good to all the people instead of a vast monopoly oppressing all.

4. It is just to all interests, preserving and maintaining all real rights of private investors as well as those of the public, which are just as real, though not so well understood nor so readily conceded.

5. It will remove all the dangerous conflicts and all the elements of irritation and enmity between the railroads and their employees and the public, which now constitutes a most portentous peril to our national security and good order.

6. It will do away with the greatest source of waste and loss under our present system and reduce the cost of transportation to the lowest figure, thus satisfying the necessary and inevitable demand for the reduction of rates.

7. It will remove the unjust discriminations and the unrighteous discriminations now prevailing.

8. It will entirely and forever do away with all rates with their vast waste and disturbance of values and of business, and will make rates steady, uniform and low.

9. It will do away with all strikes and dangerous riots on the railroads, because it will remove their underlying causes.

10. It will bind the different sections of the nation together by the strong tie of common ownership and control of the united railway system. As the different localities of the country increase in power and wealth the forces tending to disrupt and break up the national organization will necessarily become more and more powerful. The problem will be to find some centripetal force to counteract this tendency without involving a perilous increase of the political power of the federal government.

11. A great railway corporation, uniting all the railroads of the land and owned and controlled by the people, as proposed under the plan of national consolidation, would constitute a force for cohesion and union with almost inconceivable power.

12. It will furnish a safe foundation for all the great banking and financial institutions of the country in the stock of the consolidated company; will protect investors in railway securities by making the investments as solid and permanent as government bonds now are, and will make a perpetual end to gambling in railroad securities, with its unrighteous practices and evil results.

13. It will take railroads wholly out of politics and remove the corruption now so common and so dangerous.

14. It will dignify all railroad duties and elevate every class of employee to a higher plane of manhood as free, unfeared American citizens, for the great advancement of our social and economic condition.

WASHINGTON.

The house passed the bill to make the pensions of all veterans of the Mexican war \$12 per month.

Treasury officials assert that an immediate suspension of gold payments was only averted by the bond contract.

The administration's bond contract was sharply criticized in the senate. Senator Gray vigorously defended the President.

By a vote of 30 to 27 the senate decided to take up the Jones free silver bill, and it will undoubtedly be passed.

The agricultural appropriation bill was passed by the senate, an attempt to eliminate the irrigation clause being defeated.

A bill for an international commission to investigate the condition of the seals was favorably reported to the house.

House conferees refuse to agree to the senate's Hawaiian cable amendment to the diplomatic and consular appropriation bill.

A provision for the issuance of \$100,000 in debt certificates was inserted in the sundry civil bill by the senate committee on appropriations.

But twelve working days of the session of congress remain, and there is little prospect of anything but the appropriation bills being considered.

Silver leaders in the senate claim the new issue of bonds could have been sold at a much better price and will offer a resolution denouncing the President.

House committee on commerce submitted a report favoring a deep waterway to connect the ocean and great lakes.

Senator Chandler has introduced a bill to establish free American ports where foreign raw material may be manufactured.

Navy department is advised that the war ships Charleston and Yorktown are rescuing American missionaries at Che Foo.

Strong opposition to the bill appropriating money to build more war ships was developed on the floor of the house.

Women's Christian Temperance Union is holding a big meeting in Washington to impress congress with the importance of the polyglot petition against liquor and opium traffic.

Postoffice appropriation bill was passed by the senate, hostile amendments being defeated. Agricultural bill was taken up.

Appropriations for beginning work on the new postoffice at Chicago is being endangered by the apathy of Secretary Carlisle.

OBITUARY.

Archduke Albert of Austria died at Arco, South Tyrol, of congestion of the lungs, aged 77 years.

Mrs. Hannah L. Lock, who came to Chicago in 1841 and who was one of the original members of the First Methodist Church is dead.

Rev. Father J. N. Reinbold, for twenty-two years head of the Society of Mary in the United States, died at Dayton.

William Garrett, for forty-three years secretary of the grand lodge of Oddfellows of Iowa, died at Burlington, aged 72 years.

Capt. Richard Trevillick, one of the founders of the greenback party, and later a labor organizer, is dead at Detroit.

Judge John Handley, of the forty-fifth Pennsylvania district is dead at Scranton. He leaves an estate of several millions.

Charles Wheatleigh, one of the oldest actors in the country for seventeen years in Augustin Daly's company, is dead in New York.

Thomas K. George of Eckerty, Ind., died of heart disease. His 6-year-old daughter died of grief, and both were buried in the same coffin.

William Mees, the oldest captain on the lakes, who won distinction by rescuing the crew of the Norway, is dead at Muskegon, Mich.

Sir James Thompson Stewart Richardson, secretary of the order of the Thistle, is dead at his home in London, aged 55 years.

POLITICAL.

California's assembly adopted resolutions favoring Hawaiian annexation and election of senators by direct vote.

A. B. Newson, a member of the Tennessee senate, has resigned, assigning the extravagance of the legislature as a reason.

Very few New York republican senators attended the meeting called by Boss Platt to administer a rebuke to Mayor Strong.

Wisconsin legislature has appropriated \$20,000 to erect monuments to Wisconsin troops who fought at Chickasaw.

Nebraska house passed a special seed bill calculated to furnish relief to the destitute farmers of the state.

Minnesota house has adopted a resolution looking to the removal of the state capital from St. Paul to Minneapolis.

Bill has been introduced in the Illinois legislature providing pensions for school teachers in cities of 100,000 population.

In the Illinois legislature a bill has been introduced to punish train wrecks and robbing by death.

Annual convention of the American Protective Association of Wisconsin is being held behind closed doors at Milwaukee.

Leaders in the Illinois legislature have succeeded in getting the military and hospital appropriations reduced.

CRIME.

Christopher Spearling, an engineer of Hoosier, N. J., cut his wife's throat with a razor after a protracted quarrel.

Madge Yorke, a comic opera singer, was killed by James P. Gentry, a comedian, in her room in a Philadelphia hotel.

Kline W. Cameron, 18 years old, fatally shot his wife, aged 17, at a St. Louis hospital and then tried to kill himself.

A mob broke into the jail at Kingston, Mo., and seeking the cell of George Tracy, colored, fired seventeen bullets into his body.

Sam Moy, the Chinese millionaire of Chicago, has offered a reward of \$1,000 for the arrest of the murderer of Moy Tung Hai at Macon, Ga.

Huns, Poles and Slavs engaged in a furious fight at Midvale, Pa. Eight men were seriously hurt, one of whom may die.

A stalled electric street car was run into by a Baltimore and Ohio train in Pittsburgh. One woman was killed.

Defendant's attorneys in the Ging murder case, at Minneapolis, claim Adry Hayward instigated the crime.

MISCELLANEOUS.

District Assembly No. 75 of Brooklyn has issued an address to the public in behalf of the trolley road strikers.

Congressman W. L. Wilson has been offered the presidency of the University of Texas by the regents.

House furnishings imported from France by John Jacob Astor have been seized on the claim that they were undervalued.

George H. Wilkinson, who had gone to Denver for his health, killed himself after telling his sweetheart his recovery was impossible.

A 13-year-old boy created a sensation during revival services in an Indianapolis church by claiming to have seen heaven in a vision.

Centennial anniversary of the birth of George Peabody, the banker and philanthropist, was celebrated at Peabody, Mass.

The National Council of Women met at Washington. Fraternal greetings, reports and discussion of religion occupied the sessions.

An attempt is being made to unite the manufacturers of Wisconsin to secure the defeat of imbecile legislation.

Charles Lafallet, arrested at the instance of his grandfather on the charge of theft, died from grief in the jail at Elkhorn, Ind.

Congress will be asked to establish a uniform electrical unit to agree with that adopted by Great Britain, Germany and France.

Names of 2,500 violators of the Sunday law were reported to the chief of police of Louisville. Test cases will be brought.

Maggie Wachter, a stenographer, gave strong testimony for the defense in the Hayward trial at Minneapolis.

Trial of Banker Koetting at Milwaukee was postponed. Attorney Williams refusing to act further until his fee was paid.

The Asbury hospital at Minneapolis was damaged. The thirty patients were safely carried out.

In the annual report of the Alton, President Blackstone calls attention to the enormous taxes paid by railroads.

Rev. John A. B. Wilson of New York denounced the Charlies Organization society in a sermon on the unemployed.

The Smith Point lighthouse, at the mouth of the Potomac river, was carried away by the ice.

The National Council of the Women of the United States will meet in triennial session to-day in Washington.

Ice is gorged in the Allegheny river from the government dam at Logansport to Parker, a distance of ninety miles.

England has asked the powers at Hanover to forward the evidence against Englishmen sentenced to be executed for treason.

Manuel Ruiz Zorilla, the noted Spanish republican, has accepted the terms of amnesty and returned to Barcelona.

German firm at Apia, Samoa, has been convicted of selling arms and munitions to rebels in violation of the Berlin treaty.

William O'Brien, the Irish leader, has been ordered to pay the expenses incurred in the Salisbury lawsuit.

Turkish commission investigating the Armenian outrages has decided to visit the Sassoun district in search of evidence.

A report is current in Berlin that Prince Ferdinand has been expelled from Bulgaria. He is said to be in Romania.

It is reported in Rome that Mgr. Sartori, the American ablegate, will be appointed nuncio at Lisbon.

Moorsish cavalrymen are on their way to Fez with two cart loads of human heads captured in the Rahama rebellion.

Lieutenant Marcel Canrobert severely wounded M. Hubbard, a socialist member of the French parliament, in a duel.

During the debate in the house of commons Secretary Morley denied that either he or G. C. had promised amnesty to dynamiters.

FOREIGN.

The disabled British steamer Ganges broke adrift from a tug which was towing her to Havre and it is feared has been wrecked.

Chamberlain's amendment to the address in reply to the queen's speech was rejected by the house of commons but 14 majority.

French farmers claim American cattle are affected with contagious diseases and are seeking to have their importation prohibited.

Lima, Peru, has been surrounded by the insurgents. The government troops are preparing for a vigorous defense.

Great Britain, France and Russia are to demand that the porte aperte a new governor general for Kurdistan.

Fifteen thousand Chinese, with twelve guns attacked Hal Cheng and were repulsed with a loss of 100 men.

Attempts are being made to stimulate anti-European feeling among the Mohammedan population of Egypt.

Confirmation has been received of the report that the Chinese admirals and generals at Wei-Hai-Wei committed suicide after surrendering to the Japanese.

It is reported at Honolulu that an American protectorate will be declared over Hawaii when the political conspiracy has been disposed of.

The Japanese have captured the island of Lin Kung Tao, at the entrance to the harbor of Wei-Hai-Wei.

At Alexandria, Egypt, a mob attacked and beat three men belonging to a British cruiser. An inquiry is in progress.

A terrific snow storm prevailed throughout Ireland, doing much damage. In the north train service was suspended.

J. Cranston, an Hawaiian exile, who claims to be an American citizen, says that he was not tried and that no charges were made against him.

Germany is moving in the matter of an international congress to rehabilitate silver as a circulating medium.

Plot has been discovered on the island of Qava where the natives were to massacre all the Europeans and Chinese there.

Several cities in Spain have been inundated by the swelling rivers. Royal palace at Aranjuez is in great danger.

Ex-Queen Liliuokalani of Hawaii was placed on trial for prison of treason. Damaging evidence was found in her diary.

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William Barnet, of Chillicothe, Ohio, fatally shot Clarence E. Hall, a one-armed tramp, mistaking him for a burglar.

Three mass meetings attended by at least 25,000 persons, were addressed in Boston by General Booth of the salvation army.

At All Soul's church, Prof. Fiske of Harvard College delivered a discourse on "The Witchcraft of Salem Village."

At the request of the civic federation sermons in behalf of municipal reform were delivered in most of the Chicago pulpits.

In a sermon in a New York church Rev. Madison C. Peters used the career of Howell Osborne to paint a moral.

Judge Noble of Cleveland declared unconstitutional the law requiring a license for the sale of goods made by convicts in other states.

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