

BOEHNE'S BILL IS AIMED TO CONTROL ALL CORPORATIONS

If Indiana Representative's Bill Is Passed, Employer Cannot Dictate to Employee on Politics.

(Continued from Page One.)

enact legislation that will prevent the posting of election notices about the premises of those who conduct large business enterprises. For this reason it is not assured that the Boehne bill making the posting of such placards a misdemeanor will become a law.

The house leaders feel, however, that they do have the right to say that no large business enterprises shall attempt, either directly or indirectly, to dictate the course of any member of congress. It is planned to pass a law that will stop corporations from boldly announcing as at Birmingham, Ala., that they do not propose to invest further capital just because some member of congress from that district does not see fit to vote as dictated by the corporation.

The Boehne bill provides a heavy penalty for such an offense in the future. It is stipulated that if any corporation or any official of a corporation, seeks to influence legislation by such methods as were pursued in the Underwood district, they shall be subject to a fine of not more than five thousand dollars, or imprisonment in the penitentiary for not more than five years.

Eradicate Evils.

Representative Boehne believes the passage of his bill will eradicate one of the evils of political and industrial life today.

For years there has been a growing sentiment that large business interests, or the trusts, have had too much to say about the kind of laws that shall be placed upon the statute books. There may have been instances before where a trust has been as frank as that in the Underwood district but never before has it been called to the official attention of the house that one of its members has been threatened that unless he abandons a certain policy with respect to a revision of the tariff that his political future may be jeopardized.

It so happens that Representative Underwood is of the courageous sort, and, having beaten the steel trust at the former election, he believes that he can turn the trick again, and he promptly served notice upon the house and upon the constituency that he would pay no attention to the threat of the steel kings of his district.

"I represent not the steel men of my district, but the people, one and all," said Mr. Underwood, in a dramatic speech to the house. "I am informed that the steel trust had stopped work on its new plant, giving as a reason therefor that I favor this bill. I am willing to force my constituency on my record, and this action of the steel trust will have no influence upon my vote, for am voting for what I regard to be the best interests of any district and the country."

The speech created a sensation at the time, and now Representative Boehne, without referring specifically to the axe held above the head of Representative Underwood by the Steel trust, has come with a proposition that congress ought to protect its members from such attempted coercion in the future. The penalty provided in the Boehne bill is regarded as sufficiently drastic to prevent any corporation hereafter from pursuing such tactics.

BAVARIAN KING'S MENTALITY WEAVER

(National News Association)

Berlin, June 17.—Though physically as robust as ever, the mental condition of the unhappy King Otto of Bavaria, whose twenty-fifth anniversary as King occurs this month, is declared to be growing worse. Excluded from the outside world in his castle at Arnsdorf, the King's only visitors are the court doctors, who visit him at stated intervals, in order to report to the regent and government. No one else enters the Monarch's presence; even his own mother is prevented from seeing him, as any communication from the outside maddens him.

He spends hours daily in dreadful melancholy, his eyes fixed on the floor, and very seldom uttering a word. On one recent and rare occasion he displayed intelligence, and appeared to be searching for something. When a keeper enquired the cause, the King replied slowly and impressively, "I am looking for the past." Then he relapsed into his customary despondency. Formerly some show of court etiquette was observed, but the King's indifference to all his surroundings rendered this a ghastly farce, and it was abandoned.

WARRINER CALLED AN INNOCENT MAN

(National News Association)

Cincinnati, June 17.—Following the court's instructions the sensational trial of Edgar S. Cooke, charged with embezzling \$24,000 from the Big Four railroad, was given into the hands of the jury this morning. The testimony ended abruptly yesterday evening and after Cooke had taken the stand and sworn that he did not take the money and that he could prove that Charles Warriner, who is serving a six year's sentence in the state prison, did not take a cent.

"I know Warriner was not short and I can prove it if I get a chance," he asserted.

PARCELS POST IS TO GET ATTENTION

Will Be One of Important Matters Before Congress in Near Future.

BY JONATHAN WINFIELD.

Washington, June 17.—Parcels post legislation is one of the subjects that will receive the attention of congress in the near future. The question has long been agitated, and has now reached the point where its advocates believe they see an opportunity for the entering wedge which will inaugurate the system in this country as it is established in most of the countries of the world.

Senator Bourne, leading progressive Republican, and chairman of the senate committee on postoffices and post roads, a position which the reactionary leaders found it impossible to deprive him of in the reorganization of the committee at the opening of the extraordinary session, has introduced a resolution directing his committee to make an investigation of the steps necessary to be taken to amend the postal laws so as to permit of the establishment of the parcels post. And yet no bill has been offered in the senate looking to the inauguration of the system as a part of the postal service, but it is the intention of the senator from Oregon to draft such measures, following the inquiry his committee will make into the matter, if the senate can be induced to authorize it. While the subject of parcels post legislation is not included as a part of the program of legislation of the house for this session, there have been introduced in the house since the session began, eleven measures providing for the establishment of the system. All of these bills are designed to have the parcels post established by degrees, to have it started and tried out on rural routes.

A Bill by Sulzer.

Only one of the eleven bills provides for a general parcels post, with a limit of eleven pounds to the package, the same as provided by all save one of the countries with which the United States has a postal convention. This bill is fathered by Representative Sulzer of New York, one of the leading advocates of the parcels post legislation.

Although the Democratic majority of the house is not committed to the arrangement has been made by Chairman Moon of the committee on postoffices and post roads to grant hearings on the several measures beginning on June 14. At that time all persons who are interested in the subject will have an opportunity to appear and be heard for or against the legislation. These measures provide parcels post, but in general they seek to limit its operation for the purpose of experiment to the rural routes, that is to provide that a parcel weighing not more than eleven pounds may be carried by a rural route carrier from any point to any other point upon his route. This, it is argued, would be no drain upon the resources of the postoffice department, but instead, would be likely to produce revenue which would go a long way toward wiping out the present annual deficit in the department, if it did not do so altogether.

The probabilities are that, in the end, after hearing the arguments for and against the proposition, the committee will draft a provision to be inserted in the general postoffice appropriation bill next year, which will direct the postmaster general to designate certain rural routes upon which the parcels post experiment shall be tried out, and that the department shall at the end of a year report to congress upon its workings. The friends of such legislation are so thoroughly convinced that it will prove a paying experiment that they are willing to have it started in this way, believing that it will hereafter grow and develop in much the same way that the rural free delivery system has grown.

For years parcels post legislation was thwarted in congress largely through the efforts of the late Senator Thomas C. Platt, the head of one of the big express companies whose huge profits would have been materially curtailed if the government were to go into the business of carrying small packages.

Glance at the Profits.

A glance at the profits made by the express companies shows the reason why such legislation is so bitterly opposed by them. In 1909 the gross receipts of the American Express company were \$31,909,721. Its net earnings from the express business were \$1,716,004, or an annual profit during the year upon the capital invested in the company of 10.6 per cent.

During the same year, the net profits of the Wells-Fargo Express company were 70.7 per cent. Net earnings of the Adams Express company, the Southern Express company, and the other big express companies were correspondingly large.

In 1909 the various railroads of the country received from these four big express companies sums for carrying express as follows:

From the Adams Express company, \$14,945,866.56; from the American Express company, \$14,621,072.16; from the Wells-Fargo Express company, \$11,416,109.60; from the United States Express company \$7,882,906.93.

Under the contracts which the express companies have with the railroads for transportation of express matter, from 45 to 55 per cent, or on the average about 47.7 per cent of the cost to shippers for express, goes to the railroads, and the remaining 52.3 per cent goes to the express companies which perform practically only the terminal service.

The United States has postal conventions at the present time with 29 foreign countries, and to 24 of these parcels weighing not more than 11 pounds are carried at the rate of 12 cents a pound, while the domestic

rate is 16 cents a pound, and the size of the package is limited to four pounds. To France alone of all the important countries is the limit fixed as low as four pounds, six ounces. The argument which the advocates of parcels post legislation in congress make, therefore, is: If the United States can carry parcels to foreign countries at the rate of 12 cents a pound, why cannot it carry parcels weighing 11 pounds between domestic points at the rate of 12 cents a pound?

Parcels post legislation has been recommended by President Taft in one of his messages to congress, and has several times been recommended by the postmaster general in his annual report.

The subject is being agitated in both the senate and the house, and the friends of the system are hopeful that an experiment will be authorized in the near future.

BIG DAMAGES ARE DEMANDED IN SUIT

Suit for \$10,000 damages on account of personal injuries was entered in the Wayne circuit court Saturday by Frank Morgan against the Citizens Telephone company of Cambridge City. He alleges that on the morning of March 9, 1911, before it was entirely light, he was driving along Green street, standing on the top of his wagon, when one of the company's wires which had sagged to a distance of about eight feet above the ground caught him above the waist and precipitated him from the wagon violently to the ground. It is alleged that he sustained injuries which permanently disabled him.

City Statistics

Deaths and Funerals.

The funeral of the late Alfred Meade will be held on Monday afternoon at the home, 34 South Fifth street, at 1:30 o'clock on Monday afternoon. The Rev. S. W. Traum, pastor of the Christian church, will officiate. Burial will be at Centerville, the Hoosier Lodge, I. O. O. F. of that place having charge of the burial and the services at the cemetery.

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TO INVESTIGATE NAVY

Charges of Irregularities Are Made to House Committee.

(National News Association)

Washington, June 17.—Charges of alleged irregularities in the Washington navy yard which have been brought before the House committee on expenditures in the navy department have reached a sufficiently serious stage to warrant the taking of an inventory of the \$10,000,000 worth of material, the inspection of records relating to purchases and disbursements and to convince the congressmen that a complete and exhaustive investigation is needed.

The charges, which are brought by J. W. Lucas and J. B. Sims, formerly bookkeepers in the employ of the division, involve a series of transactions by which it is alleged a shortage of \$8,000 was caused to exist in the electrical department of the navy yard.

AVIATORS ARRIVE FOR GERMAN RACE

(National News Association)

Kiel, Germany, June 17.—Four of the aviators in the 1,164 mile national aviation circuit race, arrived here today from Hamburg. They were aviators Buechner, Lindpainter, Wienziers and Schauben.

Wienziers made the distance in the shortest length of time, taking only 52 minutes to negotiate the 55 miles. Lindpainter's time was 56 minutes. Buechner's was 66 minutes and Schauben's was 77 minutes.

This was the fourth leg of the journey, the men having finished the third from Schweinfurt to Hamburg on Thursday.

MOORE WINNER

(National News Association)

London, June 17.—Judge W. H. Moore, of America, added to his first prize at the Olympia horse show today when his pair of bays in Victoria captured the blue ribbon in the appointments class. The turn-out was adjudged perfect.

(National News Association)

Noblesville, Ind., June 17.—Four hundred dollars worth of stamps and booty of robbers who blew the post-office safe at Atlanta, Ind., after taking the tools from a blacksmith shop.

ROBBERS LOOTED P. O. AT ATLANTA

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