

THE INTERSTATE COMMERCE ACT.

How the American Merchant is Protected from the Railroad Company.

The severe terms to which the C. P. railroad subjects Carleton county naturally draws attention to the American Interstate Commerce Act, intended to prevent extortion and unjust discrimination by railroad companies. This act provides that all charges made by companies in connection with transportation services shall be "just and reasonable," and "every unjust and unreasonable charge for such service is prohibited and declared to be unlawful. It is also declared to be unlawful for a common carrier "to give any undue or unreasonable preference or advantage to any particular person, corporation, or locality, or any particular description of traffic, in any respect whatsoever, or to subject any particular person, corporation or locality or any particular description of traffic, to any undue or unreasonable prejudice or disadvantage, in any respect whatsoever."

It is also provided that "every common carrier shall, according to their respective powers, afford all proper and equal facilities for the interchange of traffic between their respective lines." In addition to the general anti-discrimination clauses above quoted, the act contains two of a more specific character. (1) Common carriers are forbidden to charge more to one person than another for "a like and contemporaneous service in the transportation of a like kind of traffic, under substantially similar circumstances and conditions and any evasion of this provision by special rate, rebate or draw back is prohibited; and (2) it is made unlawful "for any common carrier to charge or receive any greater compensation in the aggregate for the transportation of property or passengers, under substantially similar circumstances and conditions for a shorter than for a longer distance over the same line in the same direction, the shorter being included within the longer distance." But it is provided that a "common carrier may in special cases, after investigation by the commission, be authorized to charge less for longer than for shorter distances for the transportation of passengers and property, and the commission may from time to time prescribe the extent to which such designated carrier may be relieved from the operation of this rule.

For the purposes of this act a commission of five members is appointed by the President. They are required to keep themselves informed as to the business of carriers subject to the act. They may summon witnesses to their presence, compel the production of books, papers and contracts. They have in fact all the functions of a court of record, except that of enforcing their discussions and awards, and these must be enforced through the courts of the United States.

This act, of course, only regulates commerce from State to State. Commerce entirely within a State is regulated in some States by a similar act, by means of a similar commission. The States of Georgia and Massachusetts present good illustrations of such.

Where He is Appreciated.

Mr. W. L. Wilson, member of congress for West Virginia, who has sprung into fame lately, as the author of the Wilson bill, was dined in London lately by the London Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Wilson, in the course of a remarkable speech, said: "All the people saw that our system was generating a brood of monopolists so powerful as to defy the law, and which used part of the wealth they drew from sharing in the power of taxation to increase their privileges, debase elections, and corrupt legislation. I am quite sure that our protective policy has already served to promote the trade of other nations, and, if continued, it would still further promote such trade, and pre-eminently your own. So, standing before you a representative of those who are striving for a freer commercial policy of the United States, I fear I cannot ask you to rejoice at its adoption, except as you may prefer right principles to selfish advantage. Protection has seen our voluntary withdrawal from the seas and from the neutral markets. Our protectionists have been building defences to keep you and other nations from competing with us in our home market. The tariff reformers are breaking down these defences. Let us compete in all the markets of the world. Not only in our production of cotton and food products growing more rapidly than our consumption, but we have today, a manufacturing plant which, urged to its full capacity, can in six months fully meet our demands for a year. The tariff hitherto, has given many temptations to form trusts, limit the output, and lessen wages. But, fortunately, the way now seems open to give the working people more control over their wages and to break up the monopolies which are corrupting our politics. Without boasting, I may say that it is not in our lineage or character anywhere to long be underlings. There is the real meaning of the aspiration of the great reform movement in America. It is in no selfish, exultant temper that I thus give you neighborly warning of our

plans and expectations." After referring to the growth of American trade returns, even "under protection," Mr. Wilson predicted that "now, when released from such vicious laws, there will be a new era and a revival of the American merchant marine, as well as a steady increase in our exports, both of food products and manufactured articles. The nations of the world are drawing into nearer and more neighborly intercourse, and the manufacturing supremacy of the world must eventually pass to that nation which, having the largest supply, shall apply to it the highest intelligence and enterprise." Mr. Wilson also said:—"We are being rapidly sobered, though unappalled, by the truth forced upon us, that of all human governments, a free government is the most complex and difficult, and, judging from the world's experience, the most uncertain and short-lived. Your and our institutions are strong because they are deeply rooted in the past. It is for you and for us to show that while our nations have been great in war, commerce, science, etc., we can be great in all, and also great in the greatness of permanent freedom. We are constantly confirmed in the belief," concluded Mr. Wilson, "that our supply of materials is more exhaustless and more cheaply handled than that of any other people, and if we continue to be underlings, it is our own fault."

University Extension

University extension, or educational extension as it might more properly be called was born in England, the birth place of so many good things, and having done much good work there imparted itself to the United States and Canada as well as to many parts of Europe, Australia and the Cape of Good Hope.

The purpose of this movement, in the words of an English writer, is "to provide the means of higher education for persons of all classes and of both sexes engaged in the regular occupations of life. It is, in fact, an attempt to solve the problem of how much of what the universities do for their own students can be done for persons unable to go to a university."

Some of this work has already been done in St. John by the University of New Brunswick.

In a letter directed to the Senate of the University, Professors A. W. Duff and W. F. Stockley set forth to some extent the nature of the work done. They said: "In every large centre of population there are many who are anxious to continue their education beyond even the secondary school stage, but who cannot see their way to spending three or four years in a University town many miles away from their homes. As they cannot go to the university, the latter should, as far as possible, come to them. Acting on this principle the English and Scottish Institutions, followed by several American Institutions have established successfully, courses of lectures in many centres of population and have thus afforded to many, some at least of the advantages of university education, without the difficulties usually attendant thereon."

"It is of course to be understood that these are not to be merely popular lectures where all however unprepared may seek an evening's amusement and recreation. They are intended especially for graduates of the city high schools, for teachers and for all of whatever age, who, if they could, would seek university education elsewhere; and who are eager and willing even at the expense of considerable time and work on their own part to avail themselves of whatever measure of university education can be brought to their doors. It is proposed that the lectures should be delivered in the evening so as not to interfere with the occupations of the day."

In places where this movement has reached a comparatively high state of development, the lectures are accompanied by four distinctive features. (1) An after talk or discussion in which all present are invited to participate, asking questions freely; (2) a printed syllabus analyzing the lecture, calling attention to the main points, and suggesting the best books for reference; (3) the preparation by the hearers of lesson-papers, to be examined, marked and criticised by the lecturer; and (4) the final examination and certificate.

Here are united the reading, the talking and the writing that Bacon found necessary to making the full, the ready and the exact man. Of course the expense in connection with a course of lectures would have to be met by those who attended. No doubt it would be possible to have a course of lectures in Modern History, Ancient History, English Literature or Political Economy delivered in Woodstock this winter, should a sufficient number of people interested in any of these things consent to pay the reckoning, which would probably be slight.

One would like to be able to look forward to winter nights spent in so profitable a way, possibly in the room occupied by the new library that Woodstock owes itself. At any rate it is worthy of some consideration. Last winter a clergyman in Woodstock who is always ready to meet half way any educational project, made efforts to organize a class here to pursue work on these lines, but for some reason he could not effect his object.

It is to be hoped that his failure was not prophetic of the failure of any future effort toward the same end.

Often when going home from a dance with a sore foot, the thought filters through my intellectual that perhaps one might get some amusement out of his head, if there was anything in it, and not make it sore either.

Value of the Proposed Nicaragua Canal.

The speech of the Hon. Chauncey F. Black before the State Convention of Democratic Clubs at Raleigh, N. C., was of very striking character, dealing with a subject among the most important ever presented to the American people—the Nicaragua Canal. Especially is it of importance to the people of the South. "Take a map," says Mr. Black, "run your eyes along the Pacific and Atlantic lines of this hemisphere until they converge at the isthmus connecting the two continents. There within the political jurisdiction of Nicaragua, a friendly State, your eye rests upon the only practicable route for a ship canal between the oceans. There the mountains sink to an elevation which is simply trifling. There the engineer finds the aid of two rivers and of a lake, adapted to the purpose as if by the hand of God, designing to furnish the republics of the world with the means of union and with the means of accomplishing their beneficent destiny on this hemisphere." What fatal folly it would be to throw away this opportunity!

Mr. Black, in stirring language, pointed out the advantage of this great enterprise. It would open to us, he said, "the commerce of Asia and the Americas on the Pacific, from which we are almost excluded by the tedious, dangerous and expensive navigation around the Horn. It would give our Atlantic ports, North and South, the advantage of thousands of miles which they do not now enjoy, and it would destroy utterly the practical monopoly of Great Britain. It would bind all the members of this Union together forever. It would, for all practical purposes, double our naval strength. It would be a benefaction to the American people, comparable only to the acquisition of Louisiana, since it is but the completion and final fruition of that acquisition and of all others, enabling us to realize their full value. To the South its importance is simply immeasurable. There, in the far East, are seven or eight hundred million of people waiting to be fed and clothed and supplied with the necessities of life and the implements of industry. We shall go to them through this American waterway, and, if not remiss, ultimately will have no rival in their trade. What does that mean to the South? It means the cotton mills of the North and of England moving to the cotton fields of the South. It means the utilization of all your untold resources. It means the rapid and magical growth of Southern ports from Newport News to Galveston. It means the Mississippi choked with the products of the West and the Northwest seeking the new outlet."

—Baltimore News.

The Green Bag.

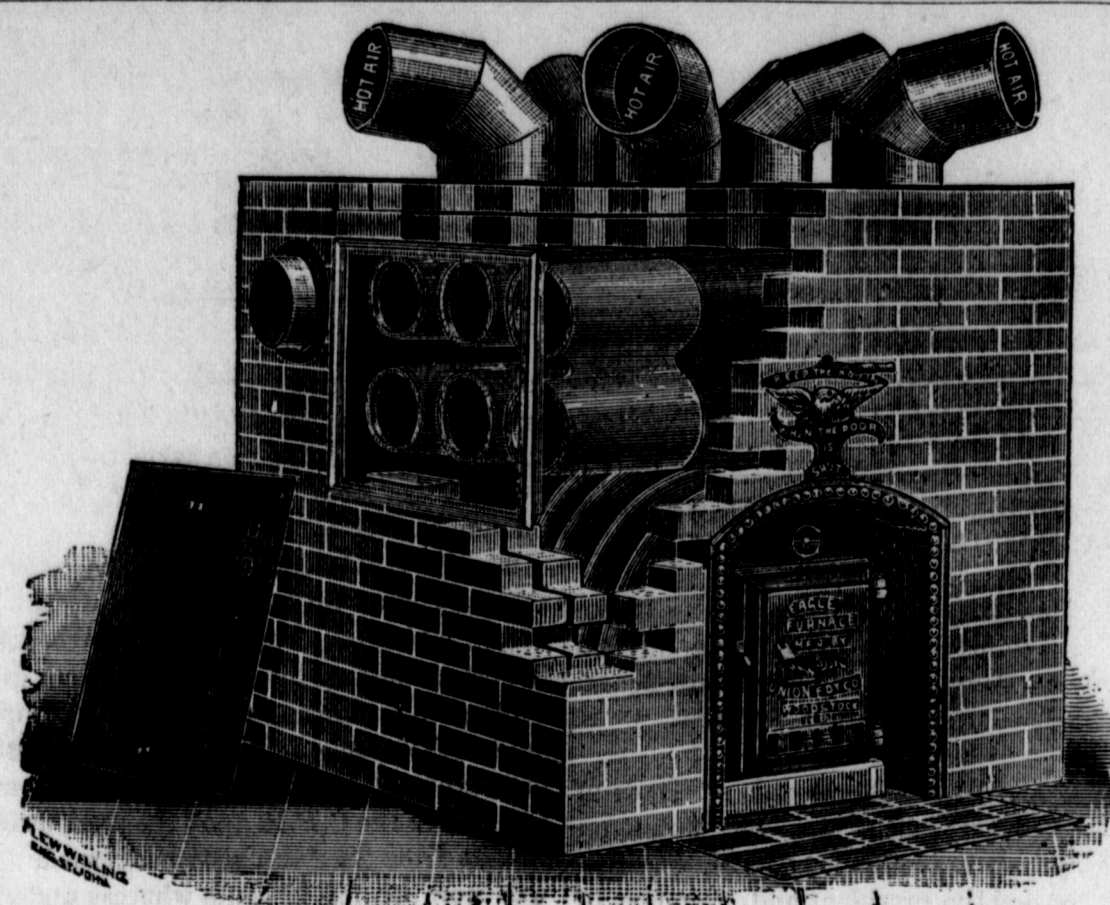
The October number of the Green Bag shone into the editorial heart last week. The opening article, "Matthew Hale Carpenter as a lawyer," is delightful reading. A young lawyer could not but be inspired by the story of this great man's untiring industry, his good humor and his tenderness. Other articles are "Duelling at the Irish Bar," "The Law of the Land" dealing with our pet animals, "Scenes in Court, from the Year Books," "Beside the Mark" (in verse) which is reprinted in THE DISPATCH. "Temple Students and Temple Studies" is continued from last month. "Are Juries the Judges of the law in any case?" is an excellent article.

The professor was lecturing on some of the habits and customs of the ancient Greeks to his class. "The ancient Greeks built no roofs over their theatres," said the professor. "What did the ancient Greeks do when it rained?" asked Johnny Fizzletop. The professor took off his spectacles, polished them with his handkerchief, and replied, calmly: "They got wet, I suppose."

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I beg to call attention of the public to the fact that I have fitted up a Fine Dining Room in connection with the restaurant and we will be better prepared than ever to accommodate our many friends in the county. Imported and Domestic Cigars, and a fine assortment of Confectionery constantly on hand; also Fruits of all kinds.

Thanking my many friends for their patronage during the last year, and soliciting a continuance of the same during the ensuing year, I remain, yours truly,

John M. Williamson.