

Federal Inquiry or Railroad Strike?

Faced by demands from the conductors, engineers, firemen and brakemen that would impose on the country an additional burden in transportation costs of \$100,000,000 a year, the railroads propose that this wage problem be settled by reference to an impartial Federal tribunal.

With these employes, whose efficient service is acknowledged, the railroads have no differences that could not be considered fairly and decided justly by such a public body.

Railroads Urge Public Inquiry and Arbitration

The formal proposal of the railroads to the employes for the settlement of the controversy is as follows:

"Our conferences have demonstrated that we cannot harmonize our differences of opinion and that eventually the matters in controversy must be passed upon by other and disinterested agencies. Therefore, we propose that your proposals and the proposition of the railroads be disposed of by one or the other of the following methods:

1. Preferably by submission to the Interstate Commerce Commission, the only tribunal which, by reason of its accumulated information bearing on railway conditions and its control of the revenue of the railroads, is in a position to consider and protect the rights and equities of all the interests affected, and to provide additional revenue necessary to meet the added cost of operation in case your proposals are found by the Commission to be just and reasonable; or, in the event the Interstate Commerce Commission cannot, under existing laws, act in the premises, that we jointly request Congress to take such action as may be necessary to enable the Commission to consider and promptly dispose of the questions involved; or
2. By arbitration in accordance with the provisions of the Federal law" (The Newlands Act).

Leaders Refuse Offer and Take Strike Vote

Leaders of the train service brotherhoods, at the joint conference held in New York, June 1-15, refused the offer of the railroads to submit the issue to arbitration or Federal review, and the employes are now voting on the question whether authority shall be given these leaders to declare a nation-wide strike.

The Interstate Commerce Commission is proposed by the railroads as the public body to which this issue ought to be referred for these reasons:

No other body with such an intimate knowledge of railroad conditions has such an unquestioned position in the public confidence.

The rates the railroads may charge the public for transportation are now largely fixed by this Government board.

Out of every dollar received by the railroads from the public nearly one-half is paid directly to the employes as wages; and the money to pay increased wages can come from no other source than the rates paid by the public.

The Interstate Commerce Commission, with its control over rates, is in a position to make a complete investigation and render such decision as would protect the interests of the railroad employes, the owners of the railroads, and the public.

A Question For the Public to Decide

The railroads feel that they have no right to grant a wage preferment of \$100,000,000 a year to these employes, now highly paid and constituting only one-fifth of all the employes, without a clear mandate from a public tribunal that shall determine the merits of the case after a review of all the facts.

The single issue before the country is whether this controversy is to be settled by an impartial Government inquiry or by industrial warfare.

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One of the oddest and quaintest little independent states that ever existed in Europe—the tiny republic of Noli, founded before Rome and maintaining its liberty for many centuries until Napoleon swept away its privileges—is today merely a fishing village near Genoa, but it is full of reminders of its former greatness and affords a wonderful glimpse of medieval times. Destroyed by the Carthaginians in 217 B. C. and who knows how often by subsequent marauders, there seemed no limit to her powers of recovery.

This quaint little fishing village maintained itself as a sovereign state for centuries, took a prominent part in the quarrels of Guelphs and Ghibellines, sent doughty warriors to the Crusades, commanded the interests of emperors and popes and only succumbed at last to the armies of Napoleon. Nante clambered blither over terrible hills on hands and knees and returned himself by consigning Noli to the "purgatory."

Everybody is rich in this poor man's paradise, says the *Wide World Magazine*. During the six best months it is not rare for the 120 boats to earn \$4,000 in a night, or \$75,000 in a season. Through fish alone a man can earn far more than a clerk, teacher, which he has no "appearance" to keep up. Under these happy conditions he soon acquires land and houses, which afford a steady revenue while the stevia or fishes. The earth here can only to be scratched in order to bring forth wealth, so rich is the soil and so abundant the water.

PERILOUS ATHLETICS.

Sport That Wrecks the Heart an Evil to Be Avoided.

"No one will gainsay the value and pleasure of outdoor exercise graduated to suit the needs of every individual throughout life," says the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, "but the species of overdoing called for in the intense competition of the great contests of our schools and colleges can no longer be defended by platitudes regarding the alleged psychological value of its competitive features. The time has come when statistics regarding latent athletic injuries must be reckoned with and the lives of our youths safeguarded by making a distinction between sane sport and in sane participation in the intolerable strain of competitive games of the extreme type."

The same paper says the authorities of colleges need to be reminded in an emphatic way, in the words of Dr. R. N. Wilson of Philadelphia, that "no form of athletic event is sane that demands of the participants the semiconscious state of heart exhaustion at its conclusion."

And it denounces the diabolical forms of "sport" that depend for their thrill on nearest possible approach to death by the actors in them, such, for example, as "jumping the loop" in an aeroplane or driving a motorcar a hundred miles an hour. Such, it says, are not sport, but degeneracy.

A Strange Situation.

"Humor is a very funny thing," said Blinks.
"It ought to be," said the philosopher.
"Oh, I don't mean that way," said Blinks. "I mean that it is a strange thing. Now, I can't speak French, but I can always understand a French joke, and I can speak English, but I'm blessed if I can see an English joke."
"Most people are," said the philosopher.

"Are what?" said Blinks.
"Blessed if they can see an English joke," said the philosopher. "It is a sign of an unusually keen vision."

Force of the Imagination.

There is a story of a man who was tied up in a dark room and informed that he was to be put to death by bleeding. His tormentors made a small incision in his neck and arranged for a stream of lukewarm water to trickle down his back for fifteen minutes. At the end of fifteen minutes the man died of exhaustion. He had not lost a drop of blood, but he thought he had. Such is the power of suggestion. —*London Saturday Review*

Diesel's Humor.

I was introduced by particular request to Mrs. Wyndham Lewis, a pretty little woman, a flirt and a rattle. Indeed, gifted with a volubility I should think unequalled and of which I can convey no idea. She told me she liked "silent, melancholy men." I answered that I had no doubt of it. —*Letter of Benjamin Disraeli to His Sister*

Different Effects.

"The same thing will make entirely different impressions on different readers," remarked the man who writes.
"Quite so," replied the lawyer. "Letters which bring tears to a girl's eyes frequently make a jury laugh." —*Washington Star*

Paraguay Lace.

Lace making was taught the natives of Paraguay by missionaries two centuries ago. Today in all towns of 8,000 inhabitants many of the men and nearly all the women and children make lace collars, handkerchiefs and ladies' ties.

Accomplished.

Blotbs—I never knew such a fat as Longbow. Stobbs—Yes. That fellow could actually eat an onion and lie out of it. —*Philadelphia Record*

Diversity of opinion proves that things are only what we think them. —*Montaigne*

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