AN APPEAL TO REASON

Maryland has on its statute books a so-called "Full Crew Law," which requires railroads to man all freight trains of thirty (30) cars or more with crews of six (6) men, viz.: 1 Engineer, 1 Fireman, 1 Conductor, 2 Brakemen and 1 Flagman (3 Brakemen).

The movement for the enactment of "Full Crew Laws" had its origin during the period of operation under the old link and pin coupling, and hand brake systems, which preceded the installation of the automatic coupler and automatic air brake.

Brakemen were formerly required to brake by hand on the tops of freight cars, and to go between cars to couple or uncouple.

With the installation of the automatic coupler it is no longer necessary to go between cars to couple or uncouple, and by the use of the automatic air brake the train is controlled by the engineer, eliminating the necessity for braking by hand.

Formerly brakemen spent most of their time riding out on top of cars, regardless of the weather conditions, whereas now they spend nearly all of their time riding on the locomotive or in the caboose.

Therefore, there is no longer a necessity, if such ever existed, for the "third," or "additional brakeman," as required by the Maryland "Full Crew Law."

A careful analysis of the reports covering investigations of accidents made by the Maryland Public Service Commission and Interstate Commerce Commission disclosed no instance of the jeopardising of the safety of either the public or employes, and that not one accident has been attributable to an insufficiency in the number of men comprising the crew of the train involved.

The repeal of this law will not mean more unemployment. It will mean the transfer of men from *unnecessary and unproductive* employment to *useful and productive* occupations in other departments.

PUBLIC OPINION as reflected through the PRESS of Maryland is practically unanimous for the repeal of a law which has caused the railroads to expend unnecessarily, in Maryland, in ten years in which the law has been in active effect, a total of about $2,500,000; money which is after all the public's, for the public must in the last analysis pay the bill.

The paramount interest of a railroad is "Safety First." That fact alone insures the maintenance of efficient crews; and the repealer, also, provides an additional safeguard, if such is needed, in that it leaves the Public Service Commission of Maryland in a position to order on duty the "extra man" if it is shown that safety demands such a course.

Safety, efficiency, common-sense and justice all call for the repeal of the Maryland "Full Crew Law."

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THE PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD COMPANY,
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E. W. SCHEER,
General Manager, Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company,
Chairman.

Billy Sunday still a la Fairbanks

Billy Sunday, noted baseball evangelist, is still putting them over the plate on the Sawdust Trail, a la Doug Fairbanks, as shown here, despite his years. This new picture was taken in Washington when Billy stopped off to lunch with the President while on his way to Spartanburg, S. C.

HOMEY PHILOSOPHY FOR 1922

Of course everybody knows the principles of wireless telephony have been with us since time began. We just didn't get round to using them. We were too busy chasing dollars. Now instead of hollerin' "Hello Central," we say "Hello China" and nobody thinks anything about it. So we can all go to sleep again for another fifty years, and once more let George do it. Isn't it funny? Every one ofus is a George, and right within ourselves lie possibilities greater than all the wireless telephones in the world, characteristics hidden away that we don't know exist, resources we never develop. Of course we're going to be driven to do better ,so we might as well get a move on and escape the punishment. We wouldn't have any steam heat or houses today if the rain and the wind hadn't beaten a little activity into us. Best thing we can do it seems would be to avoid a licking if we can, and dig up some of our possibilities.

Excuse Our Dust.

THIS FARMER LOSES MONEY SELLING HAY BY CARLOAD

Commission Man, Freight and Taxes Eat Up More Than Fifty Per Cent. of the Price Obtained in the Kansas City Market

Senator Arthur Capper, chosen as the leader of the Farm Bloc to succeed Senator William S. Kenyon, of Iowa, who resigned from the Senate to accept appointment on the Federal bench, promises to put even more pep into the bloc by bringing sharply to public attention concrete cases showing the exploitation of farmers and the necessity for non-partisan support for agriculture.

Almost before he has settled himself for action the senator points out the case of a farmer named Kantz who sent a carload of alfalfa hay to Kansas City, Mo., for sale. Quoting from the report of the commission merchant these facts come to light:

"The hay sold for $196.20. War tax, freight, plucking, watching and commission footed up to $99.39."

The balance left for Kantz was $96.81, or $3 a ton, the exact price it cost the farmer to bale the hay. The hauling cost the farmer $1.50 a ton. The cost of cutting, stacking and irrigating the crop also had to be paid. The farmer did all the work. When he got down to figures, not counting his own time or the value of his land, Kantz found he had sold 21,800 pounds of hay in the Kansas City market through the regular channels and had lost $2.50 a ton in the transaction.

The railroad made money hauling the hay, the commission man made money handling the hay, an army of small employees made money in connection with the transaction, the government made money taxing the transaction, and the man who did all the work lost $2.50 a ton.

Other startling facts are fast being absorbed by the public. For instance, a cowhide sells for about 3 cents a pound. After it has passed through the business machinery of the packers it is found that the shoemaker pays $1 a pound wholesale for the leather. By the time the farmer needs a pair of shoes he learns that his income from an entire cowhide does not come anywhere near being enough to pay for them.

Concrete facts of this kind are winning a stronger support for the farm bloc.

"The 'agricultural bloc' is nonpartisan," says Senator William J. Harris, of Georgia. "It has in view as its purposes only those things in legislation which are for the best interests of the whole country. It has been mainly concerned in legislation to help agricultural conditions, and where successful it has helped all lines of industry. The farmers and live-stock growers of this country do not hoard their earnings, but their success means prosperity for all lines of business.

"To show that the so-called 'bloc' is non-partisan it is only necessary to cite the legislation which has been passed during the present Congress, with the main support of the Democrats and the few Republicans who wanted to help in the agricultural troubles. Two important bills which have become laws were the Norris agricultural credit relief bill and the Kenyon-Kendrick meat packer legislation. If the Democrats had cared for party advantages rather than the welfare of the country those two measures would not have passed. The Republican administration will go before the country on those two measures as the greatest thing in a constructive way during their time.

"It has been truly said that the farm bloc has created a great deal of interest and much animosity, mainly because it works in the open. Other blocs which have been successful and notorious, wanted anything but light on their acts and purposes.

"The safety of the Republic is not threatened by the agricultural bloc, despite the propaganda inspired by those interests who fear their hold will be lessened through the activities of those senators who think that the welfare of the country means something to the masses of the people."

MARYLANDER WINS PRIZE ON CORN AT PA. SHOW

The $25 prize offered for the best ten-ear sample of white or yellow corn at the Pennsylvania State Farm Products Show, held at Harrisburg, early in February, was won by Henry Rigdon, of Forest Hill, Harford County.

This is the second time in two years that Maryland-grown corn has won the highest prize in the only class in the show open to exhibitors outside of Pennsylvania. Last year the first award in this class went to A. D. Radebaugh, of Bynum, Harford county, who is now county agent of Cecil county. In addition to Pensylvania, several other states had select entries of corn in the contest.

Mr. Rigdon's corn was a ten-ear sample of Reid's yellow dent and was grown on his Harford County farm. On the same variety, Mr. Rigdon won a number of prizes at the International Hay and Grain Show held in Chicago last fall.—Extension Service Bulletin.

Assistant Observers Still Needed

The Civil Service Commission invites special attention to the fact that in the examination held recently all over the United States, for assistant observer, Weather Bureau, applicants were not secured in the number desired, and that this examination will again be held March 22.

Persons interested in this or other examinations should apply to the secretary of the U. S. Civil Service Board at the local post office for information and blanks.

Who Remembers

When it was commonly rumored that the village flirt powdered her face, but since she was only a flirt and nothing worse the women did not go so far as to accuse her of using paint?

Everybody else wishes that "mother's angel child" were one.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL

Sunday School Lesson

(By REV. P. B. FITZWATER, D. D., Teacher of English Bible in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.)

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LESSON FOR MARCH 19

THE DOWNFALL OF ISRAEL

LESSON TEXT—II Kings 17:1-18.
GOLDEN TEXT—Righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people.—Prov. 14:34.
REFERENCE MATERIAL—Hosea 7; Amos 2:6-16.
PRIMARY TOPIC—What Came of Wrong Doing.
JUNIOR TOPIC—Israel's Punishment for Disobedience.
INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Results of Disobedience to God.
YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—How National Sins Are Punished.

I. Israel Taken Into Captivity (vv. 1-6).

This was the fulfillment of that which Amos had predicted in the days of Jeroboam II, at a time when the nation was at the height of its prosperity. The northern kingdom was ruled by 19 kings, all of whom were wicked. Their wickedness was not because of lack of information or opportunity, but in spite of it. God promised the first king His blessing if he would be loyal to Him. Jeroboam departed from God and the apostasy thus begun continued downward to the end. In the reign of Hoshea, the last king, the king of Assyria came and besieged Samaria and carried the children of Israel captive to Assyria, from which they never returned.

II. The Sins Which Caused Their Doom (vv. 7-18).

1. Conformed to the ways of the heathen (vv. 7-9). God had commanded them not to follow in the ways of the heathen, but these Israelites, instead of maintaining lives of separation, secretly did that which was displeasing to God. Secret sins just as surely as open sins bring ruin, for all things are naked and open to Him with whom we have to do. One may maintain his reputation before men while practicing sins, but ruin will sooner or later overtake him. Even though God had cast out the heathen for practicing these sins, the Israelites followed in their ways. God demands separation (II Cor. 6:17).

2. Served idols (vv. 10-12). They not only compromised by "walking in the statutes of the heathen," but worshiped their gods. It was not a long step from following in the statutes of the heathen to worshiping their gods. Before they worshiped idols they cast off the true God. Idolatry came in because the race did not wish to retain God in its affection (Rom. 1:21-23). People today are worshiping idols because they have first cast off the authority of the living God. Man is a worshipful being. When he ceases to worship the true God, he worships other gods. Neutral ground is impossible.

3. They were rebellious (vv. 13-15). God by his prophet had said unto them "Turn ye from your evil ways and keep my commandments," but they stubbornly refused His testimony, even rejected His statutes. God, in love, tried to save them. He sent some of the noblest and best prophets who ever spoke to man to persuade them to turn from their sins, such as Elijah and Elisha, but they hardened their necks and plunged deeper into wickedness.

4. Caused their sons and daughters to pass through the fire (v. 17). This was the dreadful Moloch worship—the most cruel rite of heathen worship. It was done by kindling a fire in a hollow metal image until its arms were red hot and placing live children therein to be burned to death.

5. Resorted to magical practices (v. 17). When faith in the true God wanes, men always turn to the magical arts. In this way they sold themselves to evil in the sight of the Lord to provoke Him to anger.

III. Judgment Falls (v. 18).

At this stage of the drama the curtain falls. God could not be inactive longer.

1. God was very angry. God's anger is not raving fury, but the revulsion of His holy nature against sin. Sin cannot exist in His presence. His wrath must strike. Though He waits long, the debt must be paid and always with compound interest. There is only one way to escape God's wrath; that is, to turn from sin.

2. Removed them out of His sight. The land of Palestine is regarded as the land of God's sight; that is, the place of His manifested presence. Their national identity was blotted out forever. These people are still scattered among the nations, and as a separate nation doubtless they will never return to their land. The judgment was severe, but not more so than the sins merited. God had waited long. The despising of His grace must eventually work ruin. What judgment must fall upon the people today who reject His grace and mercy!

Bound to Materialize.

Every thought we think images itself in the mind and every image that is persistently held in mind is bound to materialize.—Jean Porter Rudd.

Perfect Peace.

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee; because he trusteth in thee.—Isaiah 26:3.

He That Diggeth a Pit.

He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.—Eccles. 10:8.

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