

# COAL UP FOR A QUICK RUN.

## Senator Lexow Asks for Help to Probe This Trust "to the Bottom."

### Duke, Who Makes 4,000,000 Cigarettes a Year, Has "a Heap More" of Tobacco Stock.

#### F. B. Thurber, of Anti-Monopoly League Fame, Inflicts a Long Eulogy of "Combines" on the Committee.

"It is the intention of this committee to investigate the so-called Coal Trust to-morrow. The charge has been made that the Coal Combine is the most vicious that exists. Certain newspapers say it has raised the price of coal, and the committee desires, in this formal manner, to place at the disposal of such newspapers as make these charges all of its authority and its power of subpoena, and it publicly requests that where they have information regarding this combine they shall

to twenty-five stockholders or partners; in the other four twenty-five to forty, and in the American Tobacco Company there are now between two and three thousand stockholders.

"What part of the business of the company is transacted in New Jersey?" asked Senator Lexow.

"We have our general office there, and a large amount of leaf tobacco stored there."

"How many clerks are in the New Jersey office?"

"I really don't know. Secretary Brown might not know, as I don't think he exercises any jurisdiction over the books. Auditor W. W. Har-

"In 1890 it paid 10 per cent; it was 12 per cent in 1891, 1892, 1893 and 1894; in 1895 it was 9 per cent, paid in cash, and there was in addition 20 per cent scrip divided among the stockholders."

"And have you a cash surplus?"

"Yes, in 1895 we accumulated a cash surplus of \$1,400,000."

"But the stock on the market fluctuates?"

"We have nothing to do with that; that is done by Wall Street."

"But at one time the stock was quoted at 117 and seven months later it was at 63, a fall of 54 per cent, and notwithstanding this you paid 9 per cent dividend and accumulated a cash surplus. How do you explain that?"

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"Was not the drop influenced by the fact that the Board of Directors passed a resolution not to pay the dividend?"

"No; that was done after 3 p. m., after the Stock Exchange was closed, and the news was given to the newspapers, so that all the stockholders would have the same chance after reading about it next morning."

"What proportion of the stock of the company is operated in Wall Street?"

"I don't know any more than you do."

**Don't you speculate in the stock of your company?"**

"I think that is a private matter that should not be inquired into. I will say, however, that I have a heap more of the stock now than I had before."

"Isn't that because you sold when it was at 117, and bought in all you could when it was at 63?"

"Yes, that is the case."

"The suit against the trust, brought in New Jersey by Miller & Son, was then referred to, and Mr. Duke said that the testimony given by Mr. Park, of Park & Th-

when he gave a long list of consignees whose names he had never reviewed because they had cut prices or had handled "opposition goods." He said that list was accurate.

Secretary Brown could not tell Assemblyman Mazet how the stockholders were divided as to common and preferred stock.

**How do you account for the fluctuation in the stock?"**

"In no other way than as a result of the attacks on us—the suits in New Jersey and in Illinois, the indictments in this city and those legislative investigations."

"And the action of the directors in passing dividends?"

"That is the only thing that had anything to do with it. The directors are all honest, truthful men."

Senator Lexow then called for Francis B. Thurber, and when that gentleman stood Mr. Thurber desired to make a statement to the committee. Mr. Thurber said he did, after unfolding a typewritten document, he said he was president of the American Grocers' Publishing Company, which issues a paper in the interest of grocers, and particularly retailers. He then proceeded to read his statement. After giving figures to prove that the railroad pool had lessened freight rates, he gave statistics to show that the consumer had been benefited by the Oil and Sugar Trusts. He added:

**From Mr. Thurber's Statement.**

"These illustrations are but types of many in the evolution of industries, which is the result of the great forces before mentioned and which have revolutionized the entire economic situation. That there have been instances of hardship and injustice attending this revolution cannot be doubted, but it is equally certain that the total results have been beneficial to the public at large and to the interests of the laboring classes especially. Who, constitutes the majority, at some stages in the evolution this remark was perhaps not true."

"The action of these forces was so rapid that men were thrown out of employment faster than wants were created and indus-

try manufacturers will refuse as high a price as they can get for their goods, it will be necessary to eliminate the selfishness normally existing in the ordinary human species."

The witness joined in the general laugh which followed this, and answered that it looked very much that way. After recess Secretary Brown tried to make Mr. Thurber qualify as a mathematical expert, without much success, and he asked again for his dealer in a trust. This gave Mr. Thurber an opportunity to say he didn't believe either the sugar or the tobacco company was a trust. He said that where trusts are guilty of abuses, the legislature should remedy them, and he believed there should be more publicity given to the capitalization of these concerns.

**Auditor Harris, of the Tobacco Trust,** then testified. What he called the "head" books of the concern, meaning the general ledger, the journal, the cash book and the check book, were kept in the Newark office.

"Are there no general accounts in the office in this city?"

"No."

"Have they been until recently?"

"They have been kept in Jersey for some years. I made an addition to the force in the Newark office about a month ago, when I sent five men there."

"Are not the transactions in this city first recorded in the office here?"

"Yes."

"And transcribed, then, to the books in the Newark office?"

"That's right."

"Have you a treasury in the Newark office?"

"Yes, we issue checks and pay accounts for all business; not those for that transacted in New Jersey."

**Bookkeeping to Two States.**

To Assemblyman Mazet the witness said there were twelve men in the Newark office and ninety-five in the office in this city.



place it in the hands of this committee.

"We make this request in the broadest sense, and give our powers, without reservation, to the end that at no time hereafter can any claim be made that this committee failed to probe to the bottom. The committee will subpoena such persons as it is able to get hold of, and it publicly requests that where they have information regarding this combine they shall

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By thus publicly announcing the programme for to-day when the Trust Investigating Committee will end its labors so far as the taking of testimony goes—Senator Lexow opened the session yesterday. His manner was serious as he instructed the stenographer to spread his remarks on the record, and he became more and more impressive as he spoke of probing "to the bottom" the Coal Trust in the few hours left at the committee's disposal, and threw the responsibility for not reaching these depths on other shoulders than those of the lawmakers.

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"How many clerks are in the New Jersey office?"

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F. B. Thurber Reading a Eulogy on Trusts to the Lexow Committee.

ries widened. Labor, however, soon followed the example which capital had set of organization, and during the last decade the organization of labor has progressed faster than that of capital and has forced a division of a larger share of the profits of industry for labor than at any previous period of history. In other words, the profits of capital have been steadily decreasing, while those of labor, and especially organized labor, have steadily increased. At no previous period would a dollar buy so much of the necessities and comforts of life as at present. While this is admitted by intelligent laboring men, many of them contend that opportunities for earning a dollar have constantly diminished and they are now seeking by the advocacy of shorter hours for labor to make employment for a larger number of persons, and I believe that this is a worthy and beneficent aim."

"There are labor trusts as well as capital trusts and in all the annals of combination there are no greater illustrations of tyranny than the attitude of some of the labor organizations toward laborers."

I need to think that combinations of capital would be more dangerous to the interests of the people than combinations of labor. It has shown that instead of abrogating competition, it has elevated that force to a position of such a nature that it has become in any line temporarily exerts a liberal policy, immediately capital flows into that channel, another combination is formed and competition ceases on a scale and operates with an intensity far beyond anything that is possible of a smaller scale, resulting in the breaking down of the combination and the dividing of the profits to a minimum."

"By any trust or association in nearly every branch of business and there is good and bad in all, but the good so far predominates that such aggregations of capital should be encouraged and accompanied by safeguards against abuses. The only additional safeguard needed are for stockholders and investors, whose interests are often sacrificed through lack of publicity, so far as the interests of consumers is concerned, it is simply protected now; first, by competition, as I have shown, and secondly, by the law, which, if invoked, will nullify any contract in restraint of trade and under existing statutes any unreasonable combination is subject to punishment by the courts. The popular hostility to trusts is, principally, a lack of knowledge of their economic effects; these are gradually becoming better known."

When Mr. Thurber had concluded Senator Lexow asked him to give his definition of a trust. The witness said that in the popular sense it is any combination of capital. The Chairman said:

"When you make the argument, which the committee allows you to place on record as representing the views of a paper which we supposed represents the Wholesale Grocers' Association, which stands more or less indicated on the record, and for that reason we admitted it, do you apply the same combination of capital or to the characteristics of such a combination?"

This question was the beginning of a discussion that lasted up to the hour for recess and was resumed when the session was continued. Mr. Thurber contended that, strong as the Sugar Trust was, it could be broken up by any one with a capital of \$2,000,000, who went into the refinery business, but to support this position he had no better argument than the mere assertion:

**Object of the Anti-Monopoly League.**

"Were you not connected?" asked Senator McCarron, with the Anti-Monopoly League, which was opposed to the combination of capital.

"I was; but the real object of that league was to get a railroad commission in this State, the railroad opposed this, but we won after a seven-year fight."

"There has been much talk here about the breaking up of stock on the market. Do you view this other than in the light of one gambler losing when the other wins?"

Thurber was somewhat doubtful about the proposition, but said he would not abolish the Stock Exchange, which was a legitimate and necessary form of business. Just before recess, Senator McCarron put this question:

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fore manufacturers will refuse as high a price as they can get for their goods, it will be necessary to eliminate the selfishness normally existing in the ordinary human species."

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"Do you mean to say that the New York office has nothing to do with the purchases and sales over the country?"

"They are compiled here and then sent to Newark."

When George J. Whelan, a wholesale cigar dealer, of Syracuse, was called, Senator Lexow asked him to bring out the fact that he had pending a suit against the American Tobacco Company, which, he felt, had injured him, and that he was strongly opposed to the National Cigarette Company, and then had bought goods from the Trust's competitor, the National Cigarette Company, and then had received a letter from Secretary Brown, of the Trust, declining to sell any more cigarettes to him. This letter gave no reason, but he knew it was because he had purchased from the National company.

He named several others who had been discriminated against in the same manner, and said that even the accredited jobbers were not allowed to sell goods to him, his own brother refusing. He had bought 25,000 cigarettes from a Cleveland firm at the regular rates, and when he tried to get the same amount again he had been told he could not buy, as the Trust had ordered that no more cigarettes be sold to him.

During the recital of this witness Mr. Duke and Mr. Brown, who had remained in the room, showed some uneasiness, and when he had concluded W. W. Fuller, the stenographer, was requested to make a record of the Trust, asked for an received permission to put, through the committee, some questions to Mr. Whelan.

"Are you not now, and have you not been for years, an agent of the National Cigarette Company, under salary?"

"When did you come to be?"

"About a year ago."

"When you began your suit?"

"Yes, and I had a right to be."

"Were you not, at that time, handling a fraudulent imitation of the Sweet Caporal cigarette?"

"I was selling a cigarette called the Royal Sweets, but it was not an imitation of the Sweet Caporal."

Why Anthony Schultz was subpoenaed as a witness was a mystery to every one, for the only material point in his testimony was that, although a retailer of cigarettes, the company allowed him a commission of 6 per cent.

Senator Lexow then called for Joseph Ratafelowitz, and as there was no response the stenographer was requested to make a note of his absence. The chairman also said that Mr. Johnson, of the Rubber Trust, would be expected to appear to-day and that all efforts to subpoena the manager of the Liberty Rubber Company at Setauket, L. I., had failed.

The hearing was then adjourned.

# BABY'S LIFE HER ONLY THOUGHT.

## Eight-Year-Old Etta Allen Vainly Tries to Save Her Sister.

### CLUNG TO HER TO THE LAST. Bravely Fought the Flames and Was Herself Probably Fatally Burned.

While their father, a Brooklyn eergeant of police, was on duty, and while their mother was visiting at the home of a sick friend, Mercedes Allen, three years old, was burned to death last night, and her eight-year-old sister, Etta, in trying to save the life of the little one received burns which will probably cost her her life.

Sergeant James Allen, of the Eighth Precinct, lives in the flat at No. 161 Washington Park, Brooklyn. His family consisted of his wife and two children. At 6 o'clock last evening the father went on duty as usual, leaving his wife to take care of the children. He had been gone but a short time when the mother was called away from home at the urgent re-

# DRILLED THE WAY TO SUDDEN DEATH.

## Two Men Killed by the Explosion of an Old Gas Tank.

### CLUNG TO HER TO THE LAST. THEIR LAMPS THE CAUSE. A Clock Stopped by the Concussion, Registering the Time of the Accident.

Richard McGee and Thomas Dimore, employees of the Continental Iron Works at Greenpoint, L. I., lost their lives by a gas explosion yesterday afternoon at the drawbridge across the Harlem ship canal, Two Hundred and Twenty-seventh street and Kingsbridge road. About two years ago a gas tank was placed on the bridge for the purpose of keeping the lamps of the bridge lighted when the draw was open. For some reason the lights burned poorly, and the Department of Public Works finally decided to have the gas tank inspected and repaired. The two boiler-makers, with Foreman James May, were accordingly sent to the bridge yesterday. The tank was in the small iron house at the centre of the bridge, beneath the flooring, and in

# ONE YEAR'S CIGARETTE CROP.

Figures Deduced from the Report of the American Tobacco Company (the Trust) for 1896.

Cigarettes (in packages of ten each).....	2,500,000,000
Cigarettes (in packages of twenty each).....	1,500,000,000
Total paper cigarettes.....	4,000,000,000
Output of all-tobacco cigarettes.....	150,000,000
Total output of cigarettes.....	4,150,000,000
Length of cigarettes produced in '96, if placed in line.....	180,121 miles
Number of times they would girth the earth.....	7.2
Dividend of 29 per cent on \$18,000,000 common stock (including 9 per cent cash and 20 per cent scrip).....	\$5,220,000
Dividends of 8 per cent on \$12,000,000 preferred stock.....	960,000
Total dividends.....	\$6,180,000
Addition to surplus.....	1,400,000
Total profits for year.....	\$7,580,000
Profit to Trust on each package of ten cigarettes.....	1.82 cents
Cigarettes that could be purchased at retail on profits of \$100 common stock.....	5,800
Output plug tobacco.....	140,000,000 lbs.
Output smoking tobacco.....	80,000,000 lbs.

increase of 53 per cent. In the three factories where all-tobacco cigarettes are made there are now 505 employees and 107 machines, whereas the figures at the time of their acquisition were 805 employees and 34 machines.

**How many millions of cigarettes does your company put out each year?"**

"We turn out 4,000,000,000 cigarettes yearly, as against 2,000,000,000 at the time of the formation of the company. This figure, I think, includes both paper and all-tobacco cigarettes, but I am not positive."

"What number is turned out by your competitors?"

Assemblyman Mazet took up the question at this point and to him Mr. Duke said that the preferred stock paid 8 per cent dividends.

"What does the common stock pay?"

"It varies from 9 to 12 per cent, and in 1895 it was 9 per cent, paid in cash, and there was in addition 20 per cent scrip divided among the stockholders."

"And have you a cash surplus?"

"Yes, in 1895 we accumulated a cash surplus of \$1,400,000."

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quest of a friend who was dangerously ill. Telling Etta to take good care of little Mercedes, she left the house. What happened thereafter could only be learned from the incoherent utterances of Etta and the testimony of Mrs. Catherine Perry who lives in the flat above. Etta managed to say that after her mother had gone away she began playing with some blocks on the table, and that while she was not looking Mercedes took the poker and amused herself by digging in the coals in the open grate.

A moment later she heard her baby sister scream, and turning, saw that the child's gown was in flames. Tearing the cover from the table, she wrapped it about Mercedes, but that, too, caught fire. Attracted by the cries of the little girl, Mrs. Perry ran downstairs and found them both rolling on the floor, the dresses of each being ablaze. At the time of Mrs. Perry's arrival the curtains and portieres were also afire. With the help of other tenants of the house the children were taken to the street, and Mercedes was carried to the hospital, which disclosed that she was so seriously that it is feared she cannot live.

While the firemen were at work the mother returned, and learning of the tragedy endeavored to force her way into the burning rooms, but she was so overcome by three policemen to restrain her. The father, too, summoned from his desk, created a stir in the office, but he was so overcome by the physician in attendance.

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# BIG RAILROAD PROJECT.

## Across the East River and Run Central Trains to Brooklyn.

### A Grand Central Station for the New York Central Railroad Will be Built in Brooklyn if the Plans of the New York Connecting Railroad Company are Carried Out.

This company was organized in 1892, and proposes to construct a standard gauge road from St. Mary's Park, in the Twenty-third Ward, to East New York and Brooklyn on a viaduct at Hell Gate, and is estimated to cost \$5,000,000.

The Senate Railroad Committee yesterday afternoon gave a hearing on Senator Ford's bill extending until 1900 the time for the company to begin the construction of its road, and until 1904 to complete it.

Oliver V. Barry, the president of the company, said the construction of the road would allow over a million people in Brooklyn to have direct connection with the trunk lines of the country and that it would prove an important factor in the development of that portion of the Greater New York. He said it was intended that the road should connect with the New York Central in the upper part of the city. No action was taken on the bill.

# WOMAN CATCHES WOMAN.

## The Captured Sister Had a Notion About Her and Will Be Tried on a Charge of Shoplifting.

Louise Alexander, an employee of a Twenty-third street dry goods store, made what the police of the Tenderloin Precinct consider an important capture yesterday.

Just before 6 o'clock last evening Miss Alexander saw the woman acting in a suspicious manner at the notion counter. Suddenly the woman picked up a piece of lace and slipped it into a bag. She then left the store.

Miss Alexander followed the woman until she met Policeman Olofort at Fifth avenue, and she called her attention to the woman. The prisoner described herself as Margaret Wright, single, thirty-two years old, a servant of Morristown, N. J. She is of medium height, and was richly dressed.

Miss Wright absolutely refuses to answer any questions. She was arrested at a small-sized notion store was found on her, and it was evident that other places had been visited. Miss Alexander identified one Francis Brown, of the well-known hat store, as the woman who had been seen carrying three fancy leather belts, three pocket-books, one valuable piece of jet trimming, a silver shoe buttoner, six silver hatpins, two gold brooches, two fancy sticks, two sets of gold shirt studs and a silver combination set of shirt buttons.

Miss Alexander said at the station house that she is sure that she caused the woman's arrest once before about two years ago. The prisoner will be arraigned at the Mercer Market Police Court this morning.

# PAPER MAKERS IN SESSION.

## Officers Elected and a Banquet Held in the Waldorf Ballroom.

The nineteenth annual meeting of the American Paper Manufacturers' Association was held at the Hotel Waldorf yesterday. It was attended by paper makers of all kinds, from all parts of the country.

Eugene J. Chisholm, of Portland, Me., was elected president. W. H. Farwell, of this city, was succeeded as secretary by C. W. Lyman. Then a vice-president for every branch of the trade was elected. S. Whiting, of Holyoke, Mass., to represent writing paper interests; J. H. Mohr, of Philadelphia, Pa., to represent book interests; G. C. Sherman, of Watertown, N. Y., paper for newspapers; Samuel P. Train, wrapping; H. B. Fullerton, wood pulp; A. G. Faine, Jr., fibre, and J. W. French, of Niles, Mich., boards.

The day's session was occupied chiefly with discussions of tariff changes and of the laws regulating the importation of rag paper. The day's session was occupied chiefly with discussions of tariff changes and of the laws regulating the importation of rag paper.

# WANT TRANSIT FACILITIES.

## Washington Heights Property Owners Have Found an Association for the Purpose.

An association has been formed by some of the citizens and property owners of Washington Heights having for its object the development of that section of Manhattan Island lying between One Hundred and Twenty-fifth street and Spuyten Duyvil, and extending to the city line. The growth and improvement of this section is now hampered, it is claimed by the property owners, by the lack of facilities for rapid and continuous communication with the lower part of the city.

A committee called upon the officials of the Metropolitan Traction Company and the Manhattan Elevated Railway Company to ascertain as to what extent the latter were willing to cooperate with them in their effort to secure rapid transit from the city line to the Battery.

Commercial travellers invariably provide themselves with Dr. Bull's Cough Syrup.