

were pressing growers on their obligations, while the market for wool afforded no relief, and these men were absolutely compelled to force their sheep on the market regardless of the price, to satisfy the demands of the banks; and they were moved at the lowest rates ever made out of Utah, being \$17.15 less than the established tariff on every car that was shipped. To assert that the railway representatives did not know the existing condition of affairs is absurd; and they could have taken advantage of the extremity to which live stock men were driven, and demanded and received their full tariff rates. were they as eager to grasp an opportunity to oppress the people as some would-be philanthropists would have the community think. Let a rate once be reduced and those who have benefited by it are but too often the ones to cry oppression when restored to normal conditions.

Finally, the condition of railway properties in the West is a matter of grave concern. No less than 23 per cent of the railroads in the United States, with liabilities aggregating \$1,800,000,000, are in the hands of receivers. Utah wants more miles of railway. If the lines now here weather the storm is it not reasonable to expect that capital will look favorably upon this as a field for further investment? Already a line is knocking for entrance over our southern border. Will the attitude of the people toward corporations and threatened legislation forbid her entrance?

A FRIEND OF UTAH.

BIG COTTONWOOD CANYON DISPUTE

The snow-mantled ravines and hill-sides of Big Cottonwood canyon have witnessed during the last few days a series of exciting and clever coup d'etats on the part of competing electric power companies. What the next few days will bring forth beyond laying the foundation for a big contest in the State courts is unknown. In the meantime the three interested companies—for there are three, although the actual hostilities have been confined to but two up to date—are holding their own, or attempting to do so against all comers.

The story of the present strife, so far as it has been possible to collate facts is about as follows: Big Cottonwood canyon is known to possess wonderful and very valuable electric power generating possibilities. Persons interested in such enterprises looked upon it with longing eyes and proceeded to secure rights accordingly. The two companies heretofore supposed to have obtained them and become firmly installed were the Big Cottonwood Power company projected by the Messrs. Jones, George M. Cannon, Colonel J. W. Donnellan, J. W. Summerhays and others, and the Utah Power company with Francis Armstrong as president and general superintendent and A. W. McCune, J. E. Dooly, Richard Macintosh, Wm. L. Hoge, O. P. Arnold, W. P. Read and a Mr. Menzies, an English capitalist, as associates. Both of these companies have done a large amount of work. The former expects to be furnishing electric lighting and motive power in this city by the first of

April or very shortly thereafter. The latter has put from 300,000 to 400,000 feet of lumber into fluming and bulldozes and has or is about to place an order in the East for the necessary machinery. It anticipates that it will be able to furnish power with which to operate the Salt Lake City Street Railroad cars and have sufficient left to lease to other persons for motive purposes. The realization of one of these expectations will do away with the company's present power plant and smoke-stack nuisance.

The persons constituting the claimants of the third party are headed by Mr. Frank K. Gillespie. Who its backers are and what the name of his company is could not be ascertained today, Mr. Gillespie being absent from the city.

The Big Cottonwood Power company, as is well known, has the base of its operations at the "Stairs." The Utah Power company started in at the foot of the "Stairs" about three quarters of a mile below, two years ago and from that time to the present work has progressed continuously. The Utah Power company in fact located upon the tail race of its Big Cottonwood competitor a proceeding that raised no clash or trouble whatever. All went as merry as a marriage bell until last week when Mr. Gillespie with a large gang of men commenced putting in a flume on ground claimed by the Utah Power company. This information was quickly conveyed to Mr. Armstrong and some of the other members of his company. They held a council of war and determined to resist encroachment to the last.

Mr. Armstrong with Assistant Superintendent O. P. Arnold and a few others repaired to the scene on Tuesday evening last. Mr. Armstrong lost no time in notifying his friends, the enemy, that they must abdicate. They refused emphatically and declared they would continue operations, which they did. Mr. Armstrong came down to the city forthwith and spent considerable time with the company's lawyers on the day following. The result of the conference was the conclusion that Mr. Gillespie and his men must be ejected if necessary. Mr. Armstrong so informed them in that tone of voice and demeanor which in other days in this city as its chief executive earned for him the reputation of meaning business. But the men in possession decided that they would not go, whereupon Mr. Armstrong, believing that the persuasion of force is sometimes better than the force of persuasion, said to his men:

"Very well, boys, we will be under the painful necessity of assisting you."

The command was the occasion for a rush and the Armstrong and Gillespie men were together in a twinkling. Both sides were determined and each had, according to reports from fifty to sixty men. Tools were raised and firearms in the shape of shot guns and revolvers brought into play, though no firing occurred. It was a moment of supreme trial and bloodshed was narrowly averted.

Mr. Gillespie's men were completely routed by the coup de grace of their opponents and were compelled to wit-

ness the total destruction of their work. The dam and flume were torn out and demolished and their ditch filled up. But they still mean business, for telephonic information received from the canyon today was to the effect that they had gone up the stream about 200 feet further last night, put in another dam and were now paralleling the ditch of the Utah Power company. Mr. Armstrong was seen by a News man during the day and said he feared nothing from this procedure, adding that the encroachment this time, as he understood it, was on the ground of the Big Cottonwood company, but this the latter denied to the News today through their canyon foreman. Mr. Jones left for New York yesterday and will be gone about two weeks. The controversy bids fair to develop something more sensational before a settlement is arrived at.

"The Big Cottonwood Power company is in no way concerned in the warfare that is being waged in the Cottonwood canyon between Ex-Mayor Armstrong and his company on the one hand and Frank Gillespie and his associates on the other. Both the contending parties are fighting for possession of the water after it leaves the tail race of the Big Cottonwood Power company below their power house.

"The Big Cottonwood Power company have been carrying on their work in the canyon without interruption for upwards of three years past. Their principal work has been expended upon the Stairs reservoir, at which place an enormous dam has been constructed. A large tunnel through the mountain through which a steel pipe carries the water to the power house with a fall of nearly 400 feet. Another tunnel drains the reservoir, when necessary; these constitute what are technically called the head works and are all completed. The power house of brick, cement and iron, is approaching completion and is absolutely fire proof. The steel pipe is arriving daily and is being put in place. The pole line is completed to the corner of Second East and Third South streets, in this city, with twelve wires strung.

The electrical equipment of the plant is being manufactured by the General Electric company and much of it is now en route from Schenectady, New York. The waterwheels and other hydraulic appliances were made by the Pelton Wheel company at Arlington, New Jersey, and are now being shipped to this city. All of the apparatus will be on the ground within the next forty days, and the works should be in operation by the first of April next. These works when completed will be the most remarkable establishment of the kind in the world and amongst the largest, and will have cost when completed about \$300,000.

"The company in addition to the above owns the old Granite paper mills property, including 200 acres of patented land near the mouth of the canyon with a valuable water power. Adjoining this property and just within the canyon they own the Butler saw mill property, with another valuable water power with about sixty acres of patented land. Between the Butler