

Editor's Column

"The First Railroad Rates" is the final article of a series that has appeared in the *BULLETIN* in 1951 on the early history of the administration of four Massachusetts railroads. In the present issue, Professor Kennedy shows how early rate policy was developed and how it worked. In his three earlier articles the author dealt with preliminaries to the organization of the early railroads, the membership, methods of operations, and work of the boards of directors, the business side of constructing the railroads, and the development of the administrative and operating organization.

In the preparation of his forthcoming book on railroad executives, Professor Thomas C. Cochran has used as source material the papers of some sixty American railroad executives of the second half of the nineteenth century. His article, "The Executive Mind: The Role of Railroad Leaders, 1845-1890," presents something of the problems faced and the techniques used in analyzing the data collected.

The history of business in the Spanish Southwest of what is now the United States is nearly a closed book to students of business history. In "The First Chartered Bank West of the Mississippi: Banco Nacional de Texas," Professor Castañeda opens that book for us to a page which records a curious episode, the brief existence of the first "bank" established under governmental auspices west of the Mississippi and, indeed, in Mexico. The author of the article is a well-known scholar in the field of Latin-American History and has recently completed a history of The First National Bank of San Antonio.

Mr. G. A. Petch in "A Mid-Victorian Employer on Factory Management" gives an interesting glimpse into an employer's attitude towards, and relations with, the workers in a Scottish factory about a hundred years ago. This is not the traditional picture of the factory manager of the time. Indeed, the whole field of employer-employee relations and labor management is one which has been nearly completely neglected by historians, the existing studies in the general field of labor having been written largely from the point of view of labor's problems and attempts to improve labor conditions through labor organizations and labor legislation.

Essential to research in the history of business are the original records of business concerns. Many libraries have come to recognize this need and are collecting business records and making them available to scholars. A pioneer in this field was the Baker Library of the Graduate School of Business Administration, Harvard University. The *List of Business Manuscripts in Baker Library* is an excellent guide to the collections brought together at Harvard over some 25 years.

We wish to call to the attention of our readers that there will be a joint meeting of the Business Historical Society and the American Historical Association at the Hotel Statler in New York on Friday, December 28, at 2:30 p. m. The program will be as follows:

“The Mercantile House of McKinney & Williams, Underwriters of the Texas Revolution,” Joe B. Frantz, The University of Texas.

“Labor in the Early New England Carpet Industry,” Nancy P. Norton, Harvard University.

“Werner Sombart and Business History,” Vincent P. Carosso, Carnegie Institute of Technology.