

Dorsey reported that "every effort should be made to defeat" this bill, and enquired, "Will you kindly advise us whether Union Pacific Railroad Company is willing to pay its share of any reasonable expense incurred in this connection?" President Burt replied that the bill was one of those "more or less objectionable" and "should be defeated." "Whatever expense," he wrote, "needs to be incurred in connection with legislative matters, you are authorized to make." The bill was killed in committee. And let me add, as a commentary on the defeat of such laws requiring the safeguarding of workmen engaged in dangerous occupations, that in the nation's last generation of childhood, 32,000 children were made orphans by coal-mine explosions alone, and three-fourths of these explosions might have been prevented by the use of safety appliances such as the governments require in Germany, Belgium and other European countries.*

In the last session of the Legislature (April, 1909) all attempts to pass the "platform pledges" on which the Democrats had gained office were defeated by the united corporation legislators among the Democrats and Republicans alike. We could obtain no anti-straight ticket law, no direct nomination law, no corrupt-practices act — no measure designed to restore representative

*These figures are on the authority of published government reports, conservatively estimated.