

The court distinguishes the class of cases where the State officials are made parties, that in effect are suits against the State, from those where the defendants are also State officials, who do not constitute the State against the suit. It is the settled doctrine of this court that a suit against individuals, for the purpose of preventing them, as officers of a State, from enforcing an unconstitutional enactment to the injury of the rights of the plaintiff, is not a suit against the State within the meaning of that amendment.

The reasoning of the court in this case is thus stated: "So far from the State being the only real party in interest, and upon whom alone the judgment effectively operates, it has, in a pecuniary sense, no interest at all. Going back of all matters of form, the only parties pecuniarily affected are the shippers and carriers, and the only direct pecuniary interest which the State can have arises when it abandons its governmental character and, as an individual, employs the railroad company to carry its property. There is a sense in which it may be said the State is interested in the question, but only a governmental sense. It is interested in the well-being of its citizens; in the just and equal enforcement of all its laws; but such governmental interest is not the pecuniary interest which is the subject of the burdens of an adverse judgment. Not a dollar will be taken from the treasury of the State, no pecuniary obligation of it will be enforced, none of its property affected by any decree which may be rendered. It is not nearly so much affected by the decree in this case as it would be by any injunction against officers staying the collection of taxes, and yet a frequent and unquestioned exercise of jurisdiction of courts, State and Federal, is in restraining the collection of taxes, illegal in whole or in part. The case of Smith v. Ames (163 U. S. 468), was a suit in equity in the Circuit Court of the United States of Nebraska. The complainants were citizens of Massachusetts, and stockholders in certain railroads, who were named as defendants with certain citizens of Nebraska, and the Attorney General, Secretary of State, Auditor of Public Accounts, State Treasurer, and Commissioner of Public Lands, constituting the board of transportation of Nebraska, the act of Nebraska permitted the board of transportation to fix rates, which it did. The suit was to restrain the enforcement of the rates. An injunction was obtained, restraining the railroads from putting in effect the rates prescribed, and the State officials from prosecuting any suits in violation of the penalty clause of the act. The Supreme Court of the United States affirmed the decision of the lower court and held the Nebraska law of 1893 regulating railroads, classify freight and fix rates, etc., to be void, as repugnant to the United States constitution, 'as prohibiting railroads in that State from receiving reasonable and just compensation, and depriving them of property without due process of law and of the equal protection of the law.'

It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the facts. The circuit judge did not pass upon the merits of the case. It was only necessary at the preliminary hearing that he should be satisfied the issues were made in good faith and that an irreparable damage would be done to the complainants, if their contention finally prevailed. For him to have been justified in making the interlocutory orders he entered. He followed the established practice in referring the case to the standing master to take evidence, when each side could examine and cross-examine witnesses, and directed him to find the facts. In the meantime, he continued the injunction, requiring large bonds from the railroads, enjoined the enforcement of the rate bill, and provided for coupons to protect the traveling public. This was the gravamen of his offense to the State officials; the yellow journals and the State's rights doctrinaires. His act was a constitutional exercise of his judicial discretion. The fact that in certain Western circuits the United States circuit judge, in a railroad rate case, refused the injunction, and that in New York another United States circuit judge, in the Consolidated Gas Company case, granted a similar injunction, is not indicative of what the court should or should not have done in the North Carolina cases. Perhaps the Western judge, on the facts presented to Judge Pritchard in the North Carolina cases, might have granted the injunction. Perhaps Judge Pritchard, upon the facts presented to the Western judge in the case before him, might have refused the injunction. Each case stands upon its own merits and the judge grants or refuses the injunction as he may conclude the facts warrant. It is his duty to prevent any irreparable damage or wrong to either party to a suit before making a final judgment. It is not essential that he pass up in the facts or declare the act unconstitutional before granting the injunction. He stands it to prevent a wrong being done, pending judicial review. The delay in this review is the delay of the court, which must necessarily investigate the issues joined before determining them.

AS TO THE CONTENTION ABOUT THE FACTS. It was contended by the railroads as to the facts that, if the act went into effect pending judicial review, there would be a great deprivation of their income, and if they finally prevailed in the litigation their damage would be irreparable, for, in that event, there would be no remedy to them save to sue each passenger to recover back the difference in the price of the ticket sold. Considering that there are perhaps ten thousand tickets sold daily in North Carolina and that the litigation will probably take two years before it can finally be determined by the Supreme Court, the contention of the railroads as to the irreparable damage, if they prevail, is simply unanswerable. On the other hand, by requiring the railroads to sell a ticket at the present rate to issue a coupon for the difference between that rate and the rate fixed by the Legislature, to be redeemed by the railroads, if the act is held to be constitutional, the traveling public could be protected against loss. The defendants contended that no injunction should issue as the act presented to the court did not warrant injunctive relief. There were facts presented to the court by the railroads in support of the allegations of their bills of complaint, on the motion for injunction, showing the rates as fixed by the Legislature would practically deprive them of any income from intra-State business. To the contrary, the defendants presented the reports of the railroads made to the State corporation commission, that tended to prove that the domestic business of the legislative rates, would be remunerative.

JUSTICE HARLAN'S VINDICATION. "No one," he says, "we take it, will contend that a State enactment is in harmony with that law simply because the Legislature of the State has declared such to be the case; or that would make the State Legislature the final judge of its enactment, although the constitution of the United States and the laws made in pursuance thereof are the supreme law of the land, anything in the constitution or laws of any State to the contrary notwithstanding. The view that any Legislature, State or Federal, can conclusively determine for the people and for the courts that what it enacts in the form of law, or what it authorizes and agents to do, is consistent with the fundamental law, is in opposition to the theory of our institutions. The duty rests upon all courts, Federal and State, when their jurisdiction is properly invoked, to see to it that no right secured by the supreme law of the land is impaired or destroyed by legislation. This function and duty of the judiciary distinguishes the American system from all other systems of government. The perpetuity of our institutions and the liberty which is enjoyed under them depend, in no small degree, upon the power given to the judiciary to declare null and void all legislation that is clearly repugnant to the supreme law of the land."

THE constitutional question, then, in the North Carolina railroad suits, was presented for the adjudication of the circuit judge, whether or not they were in effect suits against the State. Mr. Pomeroy, in his great work on equity jurisdiction, declares: "It is not enough that the State should have a mere interest in the vindication of her laws, or in their enforcement, as affecting the public at large, or as they affect the rights of individuals or corporations; but it must be an interest of value to herself as a distinct entity of value in a material sense." In order to be a suit against the State; "but, on the other hand, where officers acting under an unconstitutional law will injure substantial property rights, an injunction will not be refused merely because they are State officers, and the same is true when they threaten to act in excess of authority."

JUDGE PRITCHARD'S OPINION. Judge Pritchard held they were not suits against the State. He may or may not have been right. The Supreme Court of the United States alone can determine that.

WAS JUDGE PRITCHARD'S ACT UNPRECEDENTED? Was Judge Pritchard's act unprecedented? Let us see. In a very able paper by Mr. Harrison Standish Smalley, Ph. D., of the University of Michigan, published in the "Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science," for March, 1907, on the subject of "Rate Control Under the Amended Inter-State Commerce Act," the author discusses the proposed provisions to expedite judicial review. The author says: "It was generally acknowledged in Congress that, while judicial review is inevitable and in some ways desirable, it nevertheless presents some disadvantageous features. 'The merits of the question, however, were little considered, for the discussion speedily took the form of a so-called constitutional debate. The right of Congress to limit the judicial power was called into question. It was argued that while Congress could create or abolish the Federal Courts, other than the Supreme Court, it could not prevent them while existing, from exercising all judicial functions, both legal and equitable, which existed when the constitution was adopted, and which included the power to issue injunctions. On the other hand, it was contended that Congress in creating any particular courts could confer on them whatever

power, and the Attorney General of the State of Kansas. He also said that the act was unconstitutional, as it conferred the property of the company. He obtained a temporary injunction against the enforcement of the act. The act contained the provision that any person violating any of its provisions should be guilty of a misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, should be fined for the first offense \$100, for the second offense, not more than \$200, for the third offense, not more than \$300 and by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six months for each offense, and for every subsequent offense, not less than \$1,000 and by imprisonment for six months. The case was referred to a special master to take testimony and report his findings as to all matters and things in issue. The circuit judge, after the hearing of the master's report and the argument of counsel, held the act to be valid and dismissed the bill of complaint. In the opinion of Circuit Judge Thayer, there was the following order, which was also embodied in the final decree:

"The great importance of the questions involved in these cases will doubtless occasion an appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, where they will be finally settled and determined. If, on such appeal, the Kansas statute complained of should be adjudged invalid for any reason, and in the meantime the statutory schedule of rates should be enforced, the stock-yards company would sustain a great and irreparable loss. Under such circumstances, as was said by the Supreme Court in Hovey vs. McDonald, 109 U. S. 161, it is the right and duty of the trial court to maintain, if possible, the status quo pending an appeal, if the questions at issue are involved in doubt, and equity rule 92 was enacted in recognition of that right. The court is of opinion that the cases at bar are of such moment and the questions at issue so balanced, that it is to be justified in requiring an exercise of the power in question. Therefore, although the bills will be dismissed, yet an order will be made at the same time to enforce restoring and continuing in force the injunction which was heretofore granted for the term of ten days, and if in the meantime an appeal shall be taken such injunction will be continued in force until the appeal is heard and determined in the Supreme Court of the United States, provided that, in the event of the ordinary appeal bond, the Kansas City Stock-Yards Company shall make and file in this court its bond in the penal sum of \$200,000, payable to the clerk of this court and its successors in office, for the benefit of whom it may concern, conditioned that in the event the decree dismissing the bills is affirmed, it will, on demand, pay to the party or parties entitled thereto, all overcharges for yarding and feeding live stock at its stock-yards in Kansas, and Missouri, and Kansas City, Missouri, which it may have enacted in violation of Para. 4 and 5 of the Kansas statute relative to stock-yards, approved March 3d, 1897, since an injunction was first awarded herein, to-wit, on April 1, 1897; and that it will in like manner pay such overcharges, if any, as it may continue to exact in violation of said statute during the pendency of the appeal, said obligation to become void if the statute in question shall be pronounced invalid by the Supreme Court."

THE various pieces we are showing are remarkable for their dainty pattern and coloring. Had he done otherwise the Kansas City Stock-Yards Company would have suffered irreparable loss, to the extent of several hundred thousands of dollars. For, on review of the case, the Supreme Court held the statute to be unconstitutional. It is possible, from the adjudicated cases, State and Federal, to give innumerable instances of the issuance of injunctions substantially under similar circumstances to the present North Carolina suits, but it is deemed unnecessary. It is a primary ground of the equity jurisdiction that injunctions may issue to prevent irreparable damage or wrong, to avoid a multiplicity of suits as to the same matter, and in these words:

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