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# TRI-WEEKLY STATESMAN.

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## Shall We Take the Stock?

To the Editor of the Democratic Statesman,

Since my former article, my eye has fallen upon a poster in the streets headed "Danger Ahead," in which some one, whether an agent of the Central Railroad or not, undertakes to protect that institution against a wholesome rivalry from a second road to the coast, by an appeal to prejudice against Chas. Morgan. The motive is as transparent as the insinuation is unfounded, that it is proposed to impose one and a half millions of debt on the county of Travis for the Indianola road. We all know that through the International, the Houston and Great Northern, and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas roads, the Gulf route as a monopoly of Texas transportation, is about to be numbered among things past. But we people of Travis county are just now in a worse than "Morgan's grasp." We are in the hands of a soulless common carrier having no competition, and that can have none, till we get another road to the Gulf. Our cotton, pecans, hides, lime, and other surplus country produce; and our flour, sugar, salt, iron, and all other kinds of family supplies and merchandize, will pay double freight

till then. Every man of the county, black or white, who tills the soil, or produces by other manly toil, must give to this body corporate, of his hard earnings, twice as much as would pay reasonable freight to market on his surplus products. And every consumer of sugar, coffee, salt, flour, tobacco, candles, oil, iron, glass, table ware, stoves, clothing, and a thousand and one other of the necessaries and comforts of life, must buy with these articles a tax upon them of double freight, because forsooth our single railroad, having no competition, can dictate its own terms.

Let our citizens then be aroused and alive to the importance of this proposition. Let not our business men and property holders let it go by default of action. Let not all our sister counties between this and the Gulf, which have so unanimously accepted the like liberal proposition outstrip us in keen foresight and judgment. Let not our laboring population fail to understand that no proposition ever submitted to us, so strongly appealed to our individual and pecuniary interests for support. And let none of our citizens be blinded to their own interests by the silly clap-trap appeal to mere prejudice, in a matter of so much importance.

CITIZEN

From "Shall We Take the Stock?" *Austin American Statesman*, December 14, 1871.

Note: This document includes only portions of the original article, and the original spelling and grammar have been retained throughout.

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