

Emancipatory Story of Trenchery and Blackmill from St. Lake City.

PEDDLING A SPEECH AMONG NEWSPAPERS

Wyoming's Assessment Roll and Tax Rate—Coal Fields of Montana—A Gold-Tipped Meteor—Summary of Northwest News.

A bombshell exploded in commercial circles in Salt Lake City last week, laying bare a blacklisting conspiracy and betrayal of the interests of the Chamber of Commerce.

Early last summer the transportation bureau of the Chamber of Commerce instituted suit against the railroads, alleging unlawful discrimination in freight rates against Salt Lake City and the territory. The hearing on the charges preferred was to be held before the Interstate Commerce commission, September 5. Weeks before that time members of the chamber became suspicious that their case was not in reliable hands, and charges of betrayal of the people's interests were muttered, but the guilty ones could not then be determined. Owing to this state of affairs shippers and the Chamber of Commerce united in a request to the Interstate Commerce commission for a sixty-day postponement of the hearing, which was granted. The exposure published by the Salt Lake Tribune proves that the suspicious and charges of the chamber were well founded, and that an attempt was made to sell to the Union Pacific officials the chamber's side of the case and the gist of the testimony to be produced at the hearing for \$2,500.

On the 26th of July one E. E. Edwards opened negotiations with S. W. Sears, general freight agent of the Union Pacific at Salt Lake City. Edwards stated that he was on intimate terms with the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce and the members, and had procured possession of documents which would be invaluable to the railroad company in preparing its defense. Furthermore he boldly stated he had secured the testimony to the office of the secretary and all documents in the office were accessible to him. He wanted the company to buy the documents, as he wanted to continue his "present life of luxury and leisure."

Mr. Eccles decided to find out whom the blackmailer was, and declined to consider the proposition unless Edwards called in person. The correspondence continued in this line for some weeks, Edwards refusing to reveal himself. On August 30, September 1, and the 2nd, Edwards called on the chamber, appeared on the scene as a pretended go-between, the mysterious Edwards having according to Sears gone north for his health. Sears and Eccles had frequent meetings and exchanged many letters, Edwards contributing an occasional letter dated Butte to the latter, who promptly conveyed to Mr. Eccles, meaningfully urging that the deal with Edwards be closed. No money was paid, but the deal was consummated under way.

While the negotiations were under way, Union Pacific detectives were put on the track of the elusive Edwards, and in addition all that transpired in Salt Lake City, and young Sears was taken down by stenographers hidden from view. The detectives soon discovered that E. E. Edwards was one of the old ones, W. Sears, Jr. The latter not only secured all the mail addressed to his alias, but the original drafts of Edwards' letters supposed to have been written from distant towns, were found in the wastebasket in the office of the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce. The publication of the correspondence created a sensation in Salt Lake City. A hasty investigation was made by the executive committee of the Chamber of Commerce, resulting in the acquittal of Secretary Sears of blame and placing the responsibility on his son, who admitted the matter. That Sears, Jr., is on the make is not surprising. Sears here is not averse to making in the festive dollar whenever the opportunity offers. In a typical letter he signed "S. W. Sears, secretary," he informed this office that the case of the shipment of Salt Lake against the Union Pacific was "the most important ever brought before the Interstate Commerce commission." His object in writing, he stated, "is to get the Chamber of Commerce my opening speech to be made before the commission"—one of the previous documents Sears, Jr., sought to sell to Mr. Eccles. With these documents Secretary Sears lauds "my opening speech," declaring it covers the whole range of freight tariffs, the cost of money, the railroads, "shows (quoting Sears) that prominent railroad officials, now one a United States senator, committed perjury by filing with the Interior department at Washington, affidavits," and "how for the last twenty years the officials have systematically plundered the roads and the public."

What induced me to write to you direct, says Secretary Sears, "was an application from a newspaper man that I furnish him a copy of my opening speech to be sold to the public, and to have the same printed on one paper in every city in the United States, upon which condition he would pay me one-half of the net proceeds. I prefer, however, to let our Chamber of Commerce have all the benefit, as a great deal of money has been expended in prosecuting this case. One paper on the Pacific coast has agreed to sell its willingness to pay for an exclusive copy, and of course only one paper in each city will be furnished with a copy, other papers getting through the Associated Press, but at the cost of telegraphing the full text would be very great, as there are over 6,000 words."

Give Themselves Away.

E. W. Howe of the Atchison (Kan.) Globe paints in the September Forum a picture of the bond voting mania in these words: "It is an old truth, but only old men seem to understand the particular importance of honesty, simplicity, and order. Young men, like young men, are constantly trying experiments, only to discover that the old way is so much better than any other that they are at last compelled to come back to it. Much has been said as to what is the greatest pity: I think it is that young men and young women do not accept the lessons of their elders without the punishment of experience. Most western country towns are guilty of all sorts of mistakes, because few of them have reached years of discretion. However wise a man may be in his individual capacity, and however wise he may have been as a resident of an older community, he will not be able to give advice to a town that has never had an experience. He has not had the opportunity to gain wisdom from the mistakes of others, and he is therefore bound to make his own mistakes, and these will be costly ones."

A Gold-Tipped Meteor.

It is generally conceded that for variety of natural resources Idaho is a good second to Montana. To her vast natural wealth the state adds according to local chroniclers, a number of meteoric stones. A house correspondent writes that on the night of August 29 the upper end of the Bruneau valley, Owyhee county, was made light as day by the very glow of a large meteor that shot eastward out of the southwestern heavens. Jack Ronald, who witnessed the flight of the aerolite, said it appeared as large as an ordinary box car, and that as it slanted downward it emitted alternately a deep red and a dazzling white light. He saw the meteor pass down behind the dark outline of a high hill, and a few seconds later he heard a sharp and resonant explosion. Within the next few moments Ronald saw six smaller aerolites shoot through space, but he could not tell whether any of them struck the earth. After the fall of the big meteor the air was charged with electricity, which so affected Ronald's horses that they became light as a feather and fell down vomiting and sneezing. Next

morning Ronald made a search for the aerolite, but he was unable to find a trace of it. The meteor, who witnessed the phenomenon was Orley Adams, a placer miner. On Tuesday he, too, commenced a search for the aerolite, but after few hours his search was rewarded by the discovery of a meteoric stone, weighing probably 400 pounds, which had struck a sandbank on the margin of the creek. Adams had then reclothed ninety feet to a bluff of clay, where it had lodged. Adams, after considerable effort, succeeded in rolling the meteor down to the stream. He has the appearance of half smelted iron ore, but Adams declares that an assayer has assured him that the stone is rich in gold. Adams, who is a reliable placer man, says he is sure he has found the aerolite that was seen by Ronald and himself. He declares that he was not over 1,000 yards from the meteor when it struck the earth, and that he felt the heat and electric atmosphere which surrounded the incandescent ball. When he arose next morning he started to search for the fallen star, as he termed it, he found stumps and bowlers' springs with fine sand, and, correctly conjecturing that the meteor must have landed in or near the creek, he proceeded to the stream and soon discovered what he sought. He thinks the meteor, which is extremely heavy, is more than 100 years old.

Wyoming's Wealth and Tax Rate.

The completed assessment roll of Wyoming gives the following interesting figures by counties:

County	Valuation	Total Tax
Albany	1,233,000 00	\$2,551 47
Carter	1,262,000 00	1,181 47
Conrad	1,748,577 00	1,929 60
Carbon	1,842,000 00	1,273 94
Fremont	20,748 00	10,428 37
Johnson	1,651,750 00	38,205 24
Natrona	6,254,819 00	33,841 40
Sheridan	7,467,156 00	42,482 47
Sublette	1,628,801 00	7,128 23
Teton	3,281,434 14	17,933 01
Weston	1,100,000 00	6,023 32
Total	\$22,551,000 00	\$116,738 00

Of the total assessment, which includes the taxes on the railroads and telegraph companies, the amounts going to the various funds are:

General fund	\$12,000 00
Public school	4,000 00
University fund	4,000 00
Normal school	2,500 00
Bond tax	2,500 00

The rates for the different levies are: Capital tax, 2 1/2 mill on \$1; university tax, 2 mill on \$1; normal school tax, 1 mill on \$1; general fund, 3 7/8 on \$1; making a total rate of 3 1/2 mills on the dollar. Following is the total valuation of the various kinds of property in the state ascertained from the reports of the county clerks, and valuation of railroad and telegraph property by the State Board of Equalization for the year 1922:

Railroads, etc.	\$1,406,155 64
Real estate	4,838,206 17
Land and improvements	9,938,226 17
Town lots and improvements	9,938,226 17
Stocks and bonds	9,938,226 17
Mines and assets (1.58)	9,938,226 17
Oil (128.85)	9,938,226 17
Swine, sheep and dogs	9,938,226 17
Musical instruments	9,938,226 17
Clocks and watches	9,938,226 17
Capital in merchandise and manufactures	9,938,226 17
Furniture	9,938,226 17
Personal property	9,938,226 17
Stocks and shares in corporations	9,938,226 17
Private libraries	9,938,226 17
Patent rights	9,938,226 17
Insurance premiums	9,938,226 17
Debts and credits	9,938,226 17
Carriages, etc.	9,938,226 17
Total	\$32,551,000 00

Montana Coal Fields.

There are in the Flathead basin of Montana eighteen or twenty successive beds of coal. Nine of these beds range in thickness from two feet to thirteen feet, aggregating forty-eight feet of workable coal in the nine beds. The area covered by these coal beds is not fully known, but these coal-bearing rocks which lie beneath the surface in this valley, and some of the coal beds are known to extend over some 100 square miles, and the probabilities are that they extend over a much larger area.

There is a considerable area of coal two and one-half miles north of the city of Missoula, on which considerable development is being made. In a typical letter to this office under date of July 7 and signed "S. W. Sears, secretary," he informed this office that the case of the shipment of Salt Lake against the Union Pacific was "the most important ever brought before the Interstate Commerce commission."

There is a coal bed high up in the main range of the Rocky mountains, just at the west end of the Methuen tunnel, and nearly as high as the tunnel itself. The Rocky Fork coal field probably contains more workable coal than any other in the world. This coal field is known to extend over some 100 square miles, and the probabilities are that they extend over a much larger area. The coal beds of Park county are numerous, extensive and carry the best qualities of coaling and dry coals. Some of these mines, as the Cokedale, the Horr, Bear Creek and Rocky Fork have been worked for years, and the coals and coals they produce find a ready market in reduction works, on railroads and in city markets.

Still south and east of these on Bear creek another extensive coal field is being worked. Logdo and in the same coal field are a series of massive beds of coal. The lowest is five feet thick and overlaid by 200 feet of sandstones and shales. Above this is a bed of four feet thick and above it forty feet of sandstone. On this sandstone is a coal bed nine feet thick, overlaid by 300 feet of sandstones, shales and shales. Above these is a bed of four feet of coal, having about 150 feet of sandstone and shales. On these shales rest a fifth bed of coal four feet thick.

Killed the Municipal Saloon.

After weeks of weary cogitation and anxious deliberation the city fathers of St. Paul, S. D., squelched the much-talked-of municipal saloon. The scheme originated in the exhaustive think tank of the local internal revenue collector, who sought to squelch the joints as well as the perambulating peddlers of prohibition booze. Like a modern demon he went for the dangers enveloping the city. His copious weapons included fertile soil and brought forth a project calculated, if put in practice, to annihilate the evil which has plagued the municipal treasury. But the city fathers, while viewing the project with friendly eyes, feared doubtless that a municipal saloon on tap during a campaign would provoke too many voters to absorb the perquisites of office. So, having laid the project in the grave, they gave the city fathers a most fitting epitaph.

California Fruit Growing.

It is doubtful if there is any part of the world land which yields with the productivity of that devoted to fruit culture in California, says the American Grocer. It is a land of prodigious results, and when one considers the returns to the orchardist, he is puzzled to know what value to place upon land. In the Santa Clara valley one grower reaped for the product of three acres of cherries a net profit of \$3,000. From eight-to-ten trees (considerably less than one acre) of Queen Anne cherries the grower netted \$1,000. The fruit on an eighty-acre grove orchard near Visalia sold for \$600 per acre. Vaccinium fruit growers will receive over \$1,000,000. And with such results it is not surprising that fruit growers want a higher tariff.

Wyoming.

Notwithstanding the limited supply of aqua in Wyoming, the prohibitionists have nominated a state ticket. An agent of a Grand Rapids, Mich., syndicate, said to have a million at his call, is viewing mining properties in the vicinity of Laramie. The new town of Sugar, in the northern part of the state, is gaining notoriety for her shooting range, second to no town of its size in the world. After a suspension of nearly four months the ten-stamp mill that Colonel S. W. Downey of Laramie erected at Gold Hill, has been started up again. Colonel E. H. Kimball of Douglas, who was arrested some months ago for libeling the cattle levader, has resumed the Douglas Graphic and is preaching populist politics. The Union Pacific has awarded a contract to Mr. Arthur Penner of Kansas City, Mo., to erect, maintain and operate a plant for treating the water at Bitter Creek, Wyo.

Wiseheart rifles the globe, and any one from some, corrosive matter or tendency to form.

The government is making strenuous efforts to break up the gangs of smugglers on the coast, and the smugglers keep on smuggling.

Stockton is to have the largest smelter on the coast. It is to be built by a San Francisco capitalist, and the intention is to supply the Pacific coast with the product. The Comstock mine and milling companies of Virginia City disbursed a total of \$17,433 for labor during the month of July. Owing to the drafts of men from several of the mines and the stoppage of several of the mills, the payroll was smaller. Operations at the Glacinas salmon hatchery, near Oregon City, will begin about the 1st of next month. The output from this hatchery last year was about 3,500,000 young salmon, and it is not expected to be larger this season. The capacity of the institution is about 10,000,000 salmon annually.

A large body of mineral was discovered in southern Oregon. So far as known this is the only large deposit found except in Utah, where it exists in an appearance of a valuable composition and few coming into prominence and adds much to the mineral wealth of the country.

A queer specimen of abnormal growth exists in Edmunds, in Sitka county, Wash., in the shape of a spruce tree, 150 years old, over a large cedar tree, which had fallen before the spruce tree sprouted from the fallen trunk. The cedar wood is still firm and solid, thus showing to a remarkable degree the splendid lasting quality of Washington cedar. The spruce tree grows from the top of the cedar, running down into the ground from its sides. It will be sent to the World's fair.

Some time ago a Chinaman, who represented himself as a merchant named Lee Ling, deposited \$1,800 in the California State bank of Sacramento. One morning subsequent to the deposit the balance in the account of the money, one of the paying tellers handing out the coin. During the noon hour the bank was closed and the manager, Mr. Lee, and the Chinaman informed Cashier Abbott that he wanted his money. "Do you want it all?" asked Cashier Abbott. "Yes, I want it all," said the Chinaman. "All right, go and get it," said the manager. "Wait it all. Go away; going to China," Abbott planked out \$1,800, and Lee Ling took it and departed. In a short time the cashier became aware of the previous payment of \$800 to the Mongolian, and there was an immediate and active search for the money. It was recently found.

To Much Ice Cream.

C. H. Rohrer, agent of the Missouri Pacific railway, New Haven, Conn., is supposed to have a great deal of hot evening last week (July 21). He had eaten ice cream for supper, and there seemed to be an internal conflict going on. A traveling man said he had something in his grip at the hotel that he believed would relieve him, and producing a small bottle of medicine gave him a dose. It worked, and in a few moments took another dose, which entirely relieved him. He believed that such a medicine is worthy of recommendation. About 7:30 p. m. the traveler, who is Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. For sale by druggists.

Go to Lincoln to the State Fair. Friday is the last day. G. A. R. EXCURSION TO WASHINGTON ON Via the Washash Line. For the all occasion the Washash will sell, Sept. 13th to 20th, round trip tickets to Washington and Baltimore, at less than half fare, with choice of routes; passing down the beautiful Shenandoah Valley or crossing the mountains of Virginia by daylight, with sight of many famous battlefields. You have privilege of stopping at St. Louis to visit the great exposition and fair; also, view the magnificent street illuminations and parade of Voted Prophets, which will surpass in grandeur all efforts of former years. For rates, tickets, sleeping car accommodations, and further information, call at Washash office, 1502 Farnam street, or write G. N. CLAYTON, N. W. P. Agt., Omaha, Neb.

State fair. Take it in. Half fare to Lincoln. Half fare to Lincoln.

The Rock Island offers the best accommodation for the Omaha and Lincoln during the state fair, September 3 to 9 inclusive. Trains leave Omaha 1:05 a. m. and 9 a. m., 1:20 p. m. Returning leave Lincoln 2:45 p. m., 4:25 p. m., 8:30 p. m. and 11:59 p. m. Passengers landed on fair grounds. Tickets, one fare for the round trip, for sale at 1602 Farnam street and Union depot. Charles Kennedy, General Northwestern Passenger Agent.

The greatest state fair ever in Nebraska this week. Cut In Two. 5,000 acres in bodies of 160 to 1,600 acres, gilt edge wild lands at \$5 to \$100 per acre in state of Nebraska. These crops last year aggregated one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000). Owners must realize. Prices named are one half actual value. Direct freight competition, both B. & M. and U. P. R. R. W. G. Albright, 621-2-3 New York Life building, Omaha.

Go to Lincoln to the State Fair. Friday is the last day.

We sell Hats, and sell them cheaper than hat stores. All the leading makes. We are pleased to sell; we sell to please.

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We have never been undersold and always will adhere to one plain marked price, as every dollar's worth you may buy of us. We direct special attention to our new fall goods which have just arrived. Suits to fit any one in any style, cut or pattern imaginable, and you can come to us with the assurance that our goods are sold at par as regards price or quality with any reputable establishment in the country.

MAIL ORDERS—To our friends and customers in the surrounding country, we will send all orders by express subject to approval. We'll send you a wool suit for \$5 up to the most made. Just to your measure and what you want, and we'll do the balance.

Columbia Clothing Company, Cor. 13th and Farnam Streets. Our children's department is the most complete in Omaha. Store open till 8 P. M., Saturdays until 10. P. M.

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If you have made an invention on which you desire to secure a Patent.

You should communicate with the Bee Bureau of Claims.

The object of this bureau is to give every person holding a legitimate claim against the government the advantage of residence in Washington, whether he live in Texas or Alaska. It does more than that. Nine-tenths of the population of Washington would be helpless if asked how to go to work to secure their rights through the departments. THE BEE Bureau of Claims gives the advantage, not only of personal residence, but of thorough familiarity with all of the machinery of the government. It offers

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Don't refrain from consulting the bureau because you are afraid of the cost. Its costs nothing to get information. Ask as many questions as you please, and they will be answered promptly, cheerfully and accurately, without charge.

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IF YOU HAVE MADE AN INVENTION ON WHICH YOU DESIRE TO SECURE A PATENT.

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