

THE STOCK-YARDS BILL.

How the Producers and Shippers of Live Stock in Nebraska are Robbed.

IS IT AN "INFANT INDUSTRY?"

A Republican Cattleman Writes on the Question that Deeply Concerns Nebraska Stockmen.

Kearney, Neb., Feb. 16, 1893. EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT.

I send you enclosed an article on the stock-yards bill. It is substantially the same as the article which I had published in the Bee a few days ago, but I hope you will not refuse it on that account as I want to reach the farmers and stockmen of the state through the medium of your valuable and widely read paper.

At the South Omaha stock-yards they charge for corn \$1.00 per bushel and for hay \$1.00 per 100 pounds. And 25 cents per head on cattle, 8 cents per head on hogs and 5 cents per head on sheep for yardage charges. The producers and shippers in Nebraska desire the legislature to pass a law lowering the price of corn and hay and yard charges to about one half what they are now. The managers of the stock-yards claim that they cannot afford to do so for the reason that they are an infant industry and need protection. The people of the state of Nebraska are willing to permit them to charge twice as much as the hay and grain costs, or, in other words, if corn costs them 35 cents per bushel, we are willing they should charge us 70 cents for it, or double the price they paid for it, and the same with hay. We pay 25 cents per head on cattle yardage charges, and we get the next thing to nothing for that money. On a train-load of 400 steers we pay them \$100 for watering and weighing that many cattle, if they are sold at their yards. Now 100 cents would be a big price for watering and weighing as any just man can readily see. The railroads, who are blamed for making exorbitant charges, never charge anything for watering and weighing cattle, and when we pass through South Omaha and do not sell there the railroad company has the stock in charge and they settle it with the stock-yards company for taking care of the stock while at South Omaha.

Mr Babcock, the manager of the South Omaha Stock yards, said before the committee of the house at Lincoln, that we, (the people) "shouldn't jump into an infant industry, but should encourage it as it added to the price of every farm in the state." Now doesn't it look more as though the farms were building up the stock yards? They started in a few years ago worth about \$500,000, and now they are worth, I should say, \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000. And besides they have no money on any one. Look at the cattle business. Those of us who were engaged in it are on the ragged edge of bankruptcy; but it makes no difference to them; they will still take their pound of flesh.

There are other industries building up in Nebraska that are not a direct tax on any one. The Kearney Cotton mill, which cost \$500,000 or more, does not ask protection, also the distilleries at Nebraska City and Omaha.

The manager of the stock yards asserts that they do not charge more than other stock yards do. The reason they charge so much in Chicago is because they didn't take it up soon enough, but waited until the stock yard companies accumulated so much wealth that the people couldn't reach them.

I have been at Lincoln myself this last two weeks, doing all in my power to assist in getting this measure through. The bill to reduce these charges is a just one, and all producers and shippers should come forward and do all they can to have it pass. The bill which is before the house and senate now provides that the governor shall appoint a weighmaster, whose business will be to weigh feed that is ordered so that there will be no cheating in weights. And nearly all shippers believe we do get short weights. The Stock Yards company shouldn't kick at a public weighmaster, if they are honest, it seems to me that by lowering their charges they will surely have an increase in their business. It will bring business from the Mississippi river from Burlington, Ia., to South Omaha. If we should reduce the charges one half it will hurt Kansas City badly, and help South Omaha as much as it hurts Kansas City. But the managers of the South Omaha yards are bound that no bill shall pass, if they, through Senator Babcock, can help it. The resolution to count the Douglas county votes was put forward to knock out the "stock yards bill," and it was rumored that there was an agreement between the stock yards crowd and the independents that they were to furnish democratic votes enough to elect Allen senator and the independents were to vote the stock yards bill down. I do not assert this to be a fact, but one hears it on all sides, and if the stock yards bill is defeated it will be the independent vote that will do it.

A. S. SNOWDEN.

So far as his argument is concerned, I say "Amen" to Mr. Snowden's article. He is a practical man and knows whereof he speaks. But I think his insinuations against the independent members are uncalled for, and unjust. I notice that in the Bee article he makes special insinuations against Senator Smith of Buffalo. I have talked with Mr. Smith and judge from what he says that he is undoubtedly a decent, good stock-yards bill. If he doesn't, then I will join with Mr. Snowden in criticizing him.

I think Mr. Snowden will find in the fact that if the stock-yards bill is defeated, it will be republican and not independent votes. THE EDITOR.

This beautiful weather indicates approaching spring and suggests to quickly plan for spring business. Those who have not yet selected fruit trees and plants should send to the Crete Nurseries for a catalogue of choice trees and plants adapted to Nebraska soil. Also note the advertisement of choice seed corn yielding 105 bushels per acre.

THAT BEET BOUNTY.

A Ringing Letter from one of the "Dear Farmers."

Editor ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:

The ridiculous light in which you picture the beet sugar lobby at Lincoln is humorous in a superlative degree. Was there ever a more self-denying and philanthropic set of men heard of before? The bowels of their compassion so yearn toward the dear "hayseed" that "woe be unto them if they preach not the gospel!" of relief for these heretofore shamefully neglected "hewers of wood and drawers of water."

The stern voice of duty is so imperative and irresistible, no peace shall dwell in their troubled souls unless they sojourn at a high priced hotel settling down to untiring evangelical missionary work in the interest of the dear f-a-r-m-e-r-s. Your very pertinent question in your issue of Feb. 2, viz: "Who employs them?" Tears the mask from these hypocritical sophists.

You might have gone farther and ask them who pays their hotel bills and for the whisky and cigars they scatter so profusely right and left. Their eagerness and undisguised anxiety is irrefragable and conclusive to any person of common sense knows that there is a huge "darky in the wood pile." Now Mr. Editor, these "smart Alecks" who always lobby around every legislature, and so kindly explain to members their duty in legislating in the interest of the few instead of the many—why don't they get themselves elected as members—so that we could reap the benefit of their "stunning" and far-reaching statesmanship? Or do their neighbors thoroughly understand them as frauds, and therefore never feel so poor as to do them reverence, much less to elect them to office?

P. T. Barnum always declared that "the American people love to be humbugged" and these beet sugar rascals proceeding on this same theory, judge, as Uncle Sam has been humbugged into giving them bounty enough to pay them the entire cost of the beets, (which are their only raw material) they will try to persuade us Nebraskans to go into partnership with Uncle Sam in the "chump" business, and give them enough additional state bounty to pay the cost of manufacturing the beets into sugar. O, Lord give us a rest! Do the members of the legislature know that if Oxnard gets a state bounty he will raise his own beets with cheap imported paper labor for two years to come?

When O when will the time come that the laboring man will read and think and investigate for himself, resolving no longer to be led around by the nose by aristocrats!

GEO. H. HAMMOND, Wilber, Neb., Feb. 16, 1893.

Wants Municipal Reform.

EDITOR ALLIANCE-INDEPENDENT:—The time is near at hand for election of city officers to run the municipal government for the next two years. Vast public improvement will have to be made during the coming four years requiring good careful financiers in council to vote away and disburse the people's money.

We want men of ability, integrity and honesty, not afraid to talk out in open meeting, and who will devote a portion of their time to city affairs. The present mayor has done good work during his term of office and would have done much better were it not that the city charter excise board clashed, and prevented him from giving better government. Reform is very necessary in the police department. Saloons open during Sunday, and long after closing hours at night. Men and women are slugged and robbed at early hours of night, prostitution and gambling hold high carnival, and the liberties of free American citizens are assailed by those who are paid to guard the city. Both regulars and specials are watching the business men to see if they can find a weakness in their make up to take advantage of and report to headquarters. If the party is not of the gang they will arrest him to help give prestige to political parties that hang around the city hall, fellows that never did a day's work in their lives nor do they intend to as long as they can make a living off the tax-payers of Lincoln.

People owning property in this city have as a rule acquired it by industry, economy and good judgment, and are somewhat in the de-troite business themselves in order to protect their interests. They know from experience the officers of law that can be depended on to guard and protect their property and home, and also those that cannot. The act of making a raid on gambling houses and other places of vice just before election time is getting to be a "chestnut" and won't catch votes any longer.

INDEPENDENT TAXPAYER.

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They in a very satisfactory way, meet the demands of the public for a QUICK TRIP AT CHEAP RATE, and you can make this trip with your family, or send your friends by this route, and depend upon it, they will be properly cared for.

This is an old established company, and has carried more people than all other excursion companies combined. The conductors appointed by this excursion company are men who can be trusted and relied upon, and will look after your every comfort.

Our next PERSONALLY CONDUCTED excursion will leave Des Moines, Friday, at 8:18 a. m., December 9th, and every two weeks thereafter, as per following dates: December 23d, January 6th, 20th, February 3d, 17th and March 3d, 17th and 31st.

The route of this tourist car is west through Iowa to Omaha, leaving that city at 1:30 noon, and Lincoln, Neb., at 3:40 p. m., same dates as above mentioned.

Write for rates and reservation in this car, or apply to CHAS. KENNEDY, Gen'l N.-W. Pass. Agt., Omaha, Neb. JNO. SEBASTIAN, G. T. & P. A., Chicago, U. S. A. City Ticket Office 847 P St., Corner 9th, Lincoln, Neb.

Sketches of Legislators.

SCOTT OF BUFFALO.

Andrew J. Scott was born in West Virginia in 1849. He was brought up on a farm and attended common school. He removed to Illinois in '71, farmed for five years and bought grain for a Chicago company for two years. He came to Nebraska in 1878, settling on the homestead where he now resides.

Mr. Scott has held office in his own township as follows: Assessor, justice of peace, town clerk, census enumerator, and supervisor. He has also been president of his county alliance one year and secretary one year. He was chairman of the famous Eddyville convention. He was a delegate to the Cincinnati conference and a delegate to the Omaha national convention.

In this legislature he is already taking a leading part. He has shown himself one of the ablest presiding officers of the body and is often called to fill the chair. He is chairman of the committee on Public Lands and Buildings, and a member of the following committees: Cities and towns, banks and currency, revenue and taxation, and the special committee to investigate the penitentiary.

He is not the author of many bills, but two are especially good ones. The first is a constitutional amendment that all liquor money, fines, licenses, etc., shall go into the general county school fund instead of the municipal fund. The second is an act providing that mortgaged property shall be appraised in separate parcels; and that if the debt is satisfied before all are sold, the remainder shall not be sold, the parcel on which the home stands being offered last.

HORST OF POLK.

Geo. Horst was born in Wisconsin in 1854, was brought up on a farm, received a common school education and a two years course in a normal. He came to Nebraska in 1871, and taught school twelve years. He went to Oregon and taught two years, then returned to Nebraska and began farming.

Mr. Horst became an independent in 1883, training with Joe Elgerton, I. D. Chamberlain and Dr. Coleman who were then turning Polk county upside down. He was elected to the legislature of '87, when he was the only independent in the body. He was one of the four men who stood out for Van Wyck to the end.

In the legislature, Mr. Horst is one of the wittiest and readiest debaters on the floor. He is chairman of the special committee to investigate the permanent school fund and the standing committee on federal relations. He is a member of the following committees: Schools; public printing, and the special committee to investigate the penitentiary.

SODERMAN OF PHELPS.

His a picturesque figure. He was born in Sweden, April 13, 1850, and lost both parents when 18 months of age. Friends educated him, however, and he was able to teach at fifteen. He came to America when he was eighteen, and settled in Iowa. He came to Nebraska in 1879.

Mr. Soderman has held many minor positions. He was at one time surveyor of his own county. He was elected to the legislature in 1890, and became one of the leading members on the floor. He is not taking so active a part this session, but is doing his work well.

He is chairman of the committee on constitutional amendments, and a member of the committee on finance ways and means, and the committee on labor. He is author of the bill reducing fees and salaries of county officers.

ELDER OF CLAY.

Samuel M. Elder is already well known to the people of Nebraska. He was speaker of the last house and was an original and picturesque figure.

He was born in Kentucky, Jan. 11, 1847; was brought up on a farm and received a common school education; removed to Illinois in 1852; went through the war with an Illinois regiment; and came to Nebraska in 1871, settling in Clay county where he has since lived.

Elder, of course is one of the prominent figures on the floor. He is not always in line with his party but generally so. He is chairman of the committee on claims and a member of the following committees: Rules public lands and buildings; privileges and elections; and fish culture. He is the author of the moderate maximum rate bill and a bill prohibiting use of passes by public officials.

Infamous Tactics.

The republican leaders, following the logic of Senator J. J. Ingalls of Kansas, have spared no opportunity to imbue the minds of the people with a vicious infidelity,—that politics could not be made pure; that every man had his price; that all parties were alike corrupt; and every other ingenious device to break down the struggle of the laboring masses for their rights.

Against these traitorous sentiments the independent party has fought with hope and confidence in the integrity of the common people. They appeal to history for their faith and examples, and never was the confidence imposed in the common people, more truly indicated than by the independent legislature of Nebraska. Bribery, that has controlled the legislature of our state for twenty-five years, proved futile to sway the representatives whom the plain common toilers sent to represent them. Abuse and scandal has only served to show that we have true men yet, and that corporations have no soul or moral consciousness. Let every toiler in Nebraska take hope; we are in the dawn of a better day. Good men are everywhere catching the inspiration of our movement. All that now lies between ourselves and victory is to make hopes and efforts commensurate with the principles involved in the platform of the people's party.

Carlyle well said, that all reforms pass through three stages—ridicule, respect and adoption. Our movement has passed the first condition, and is now far advanced into the second. On with the final struggle, like men who "know their duty, and knowing, dare maintain." and 1896 will see our triumph,—the final consummation of the struggle which began in 1215,—began a Nation in 1776,—struck the shackles from four million of slaves in 1864, and at last in '96 shall place man above all corporations, and make human personality the chief factor and concern of civil government.—Beacon-Independent.

A GOVERNMENT TELEGRAPH.

The United States and Canada Alone Submit to Jobbery.

When I speak of the Western Union Telegraph monopoly some one will undoubtedly wish to correct me. They would call my attention to the fact that there exists the postal telegraph company in the field, and consequently there is no monopoly. I claim that a company which agrees to have its rates fixed by the Western Union cannot be its competitor, said George L. Walker before the National club, Boston.

In order to get the work the Baltimore and Ohio found it necessary to cut rates. It did so, and for a time thereafter did a flourishing business. Finding there was a real competitor in the field, the Western Union decided to destroy it. One of the telegraph companies which had most recently been absorbed by the Western Union was the Mutual Union. This was resurrected and used for a weapon with which to kill the Baltimore and Ohio. Between all competing points, the Western Union established what were known as Mutual Union rates.

These rates were so low that the Baltimore and Ohio found it impossible to live as a competitor. The Western Union, with its almost limitless connections, hardly missed the money that it was losing in this comparatively small section of the country. The battle of rates was short, sharp and decisive. Mutual Union offices were closed and rates went back to their former standard. The price paid for the Baltimore and Ohio was \$15,000,000. Less than \$100 changed hands, it is said. A lawyer's fee and the cost of new stationery for new stock certificates were said to have been the only items of expense.

When the management of the Baltimore and Ohio sold out at such a decided bargain, a well known broker was moved to remark that as long as there was money enough in Wall street to build a telegraph line with, the Western Union would have a competitor. The Western Union knows of the existence of this sentiment, and therefore holds all opposition lines at arm's length, ready to crush them if necessary. Can a company which stands in such a position as does the postal telegraph company be truthfully said to be independent?

The complaint continually brought against the Western Union is its bad service. A very large portion of its offices are in railroad stations. The operator in one of these offices is employed by the railroad company, and is expected to give railroad work preference. In order to do so he is often obliged to neglect the Western Union for hours in succession. This, in many cases, makes the telegraphic service even slower than the mails. A protest is always met with the stereotyped statement: "We make no agreement to get your message through in a specified time."

Careful investigation shows that the Western Union favors one class of business and willfully neglects to do justice to another. Certain business, most notably brokers messages, has special rights over everything else. The operator who is sending death messages, messages that summon children to the bedside of dying parents or transact the legitimate business of merchants and manufacturers, is often compelled to lay them aside, in order that the wires may be used for the business of a trust, a monopoly or a ring of speculators.

Many broker companies have wires for use during a few hours in the middle of the day. The leasing practice has grown to such proportions with the Western Union as to make it impossible for the regular volume of legitimate business to be handled readily, with the few wires retained for that purpose. What is the consequence? From 9 a. m. till 3 p. m. there is a large accumulation of business in repeating offices. The brokers' wires are then free, and they are manned to handle the business which has been obliged to wait.

Telegraphy is a profession. Ask any telegrapher in the union if he believes the Western Union company has the power to secure his discharge and prevent his being employed by broker, railroad or other telegraph company, and he will tell you he supposed everybody knew it had! Think of the thousands of telegraphers who must work there as many hours and for as low salaries as may suit the convenience and pleasure of this great monopoly, or suffer the loss of an opportunity to practice their profession at all!

I shall consider but one objection to the governmental operation of this service. A moment's unprejudiced thought will settle all others. It is said that the party in power could keep itself informed as to what was going over the wires, and thus exercise an undue influence over political and business affairs. This objection was put to me by a telegraph man, one who ought to know better. I asked him if he had any reason for believing that a telegrapher in the employ of the government could be more easily induced to divulge the secrets with which his work could acquaint him than could a telegrapher in the employ of a monopoly. I asked him if he would explain the reason why a government employe would be more likely to understand the significance of a cipher message than would the employe of a private corporation.

Outside of the United States and Canada, ninety-five per cent of the governments of the world own and operate their telegraph. As a rule, the change from private to public ownership has caused rates to go down and wages to go up. The decrease in the charges for service has averaged about fifty per cent. This reduction has never failed to increase the volume of business from 100 to 1,000 per cent. It is also a significant fact that this large increase of business has been accompanied by a correspondingly large increase in the operating expenses.

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