



# LEASING OF STATE LANDS FOR MINERALS

## HISTORY TAKEN FROM RECORDS

### CHAPTER VI.

So many funny and ridiculous things have been said in regard to the so-called Briggs' section, that I would not undertake to refer to all of them that I have heard.

This is section 36-26-45 in Sheridan county, twelve miles east and six north of Alliance. One statement is that it is the only school section that has potash on it in paying quantities. This statement is absurdly untrue. Another statement is that the Board of Educational Lands and Funds granted a mineral or potash lease on this section to the Nebraska Refining & Pipe Line company without giving any one else an opportunity to bid on it. This statement is absolutely untrue. Here are the facts:

Section 36-26-45 was one of the thirty-nine sections upon which the Nebraska Refining & Pipe Line company was given a prospector's permit, May 3, 1917, from which list they afterwards selected five sections, one for each member of the company, on which they were given mineral leases. These five sections did not include the Briggs section.

Pursuant to the rules adopted by the state board, a notice was published in a Sheridan county paper asking for bids for a mineral lease on this section, these bids to be delivered at the office of the Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings in Lincoln, on or before 10 o'clock a. m., Sept. 28, 1917, at which time they were to be opened and acted upon by the board. The notices called for bids for a bonus in addition to one-eighth royalty. A number of bids were received. When they were opened and read it was found that the bonus paid by some was an offer of a certain amount of cash, while the bonus paid by others consisted of a cash offer coupled with an additional royalty above the one-eighth that was required to begin with. On account of the lack of uniformity in the bids it was decided to reject all of them and advertise again calling for bids on a specific basis. This was done and the following notice was published for three consecutive weeks in the Rushville Standard:

"Notice is hereby given that on October 25, 1917, at the hour of 10 o'clock a. m. of said day, at the office of the commissioner of public lands and buildings, in the state house in the city of Lincoln, Nebraska, the Board of Educational Lands and Funds will offer to the public the right to extract potash or other minerals, gas or oils from section 36, township 26, range 45 in Sheridan county, Nebraska, upon the following conditions:

"Twelve and one half per cent royalty of all potash or other minerals, gas or oils taken from said land—\$1,000.00 cash bonus and such additional royalty as the highest and best bidder shall make therefor, bids to be oral and by auction plan, successful party to enter in a good and sufficient bond to the state and contract to commence and prosecute with highest diligence the erection of a plant, if such party has not a plant, which will handle not less than 20 tons daily, time being the essence of the contract. The state will protect the successful lessee in the peaceful possession of said land. Board will not entertain any bid with conditions outside the plain wording of this notice. "Board of Educational Lands and Funds.

"By G. L. Shumway, Secretary." When the time came for the auction quite a number of prospective bidders assembled in the office of the Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, where the meeting of the board was held. Among the persons present was Thomas L. Briggs. He was invited to bid for the mineral lease. He declined to do this, but informed other persons present, who had evidently come with the intention of bidding, that if they did so, they were "buying a lawsuit." I am unable to say just what influence Mr. Briggs' threat had upon persons who otherwise would have bid at the auction, but I know that after he had made the threat only one bid could be secured and that was from M. F. Harrington, whose bid of \$1,000 bonus, plus the 1-8 royalty, was accepted and the draft for the \$1,000 bonus was turned into the state treasury.

The report is being industriously circulated by a few persons, one or two at least, that a mineral lease on section 36-26-45 has been granted by the state board to the "Ridgell crowd" under a bonus of only \$1,000 without permitting Mr. Briggs to bid, who is willing to pay a \$10,000 bonus. In view of the above mentioned facts the unfairness and untruthfulness of such a statement is apparent.

It should be remembered here that after the mineral leasing of this land had been opened for bids, Mr. Briggs and other parties being urged to bid against the successful bidder, that the person receiving the mineral lease has some rights; and even if the State Board ignored those rights, that would not prevent the holder of the mineral lease from going into court to maintain his rights.

To say that the State Board or the land commissioner could settle this controversy in an instant, indicates that the person making such statement is either ignorant of the situation and of the possibilities of both sides going into court, or else shows a desire to mislead the public.

## HON. CHARLES W. BRYAN ANNOUNCES HIS PLATFORM

Former Mayor of Lincoln Gives to Press Statement of Principles as Candidate for Governor.

Ex-Mayor Charles W. Bryan, of Lincoln, in publicly announcing his candidacy for the democratic nomination for governor of Nebraska, has given to the press a statement of principles. After referring to his statement given to the press six weeks ago he advocated a legislative program to supplement the work of President Wilson in trying to halt and bring to time war profiteers, he gives a number of suggestions relative to the duty of state government. No one, says he, should have the audacity to defend the enormous profits taken from the public by the profiteers and described in per cent of profits by the federal commission as follows: "Some food dealers as high as 2,183 per cent; flour miller, 437 per cent; meat packers, 234 per cent; soft coal operators, 504 per cent; retail coal concerns, 80 per cent; department store, 331 per cent; retail clothing 1,100 per cent; tool manufacturer, 788 per cent."

The federal government should not be expected to appoint a million or more inspectors to go thru the various states to stop local profiteering, and the people of Nebraska should not have to wait for relief from the many forms of profiteering until the federal government can take up such matters. It is the duty of the state government and municipal governments to do this work on behalf of citizens and to assist in every way possible the heroic efforts of President Wilson and his official associates.

The terms used by the federal trade commission in referring to the war profiteer and his cunning methods to prevent the government from detecting his work and to shield himself against paying his just war tax profits are as follows: "Enormous," "unusual," "exorbitant," "outrageous," "unconscionable," "astounding," "inordinate," and "barefaced fraud."

I offer below some suggestions for the consideration of the public for cooperating with the president in winning the war.

Unswerving support without question or equivocation of President Wilson's war plans until the war is brought to a successful and permanent close.

Prompt and adequate punishment for all disloyalty or interference with the program of the commander-in-chief of the army. Ample protection to all loyal citizens against unjust criticism or attacks and to keep the efforts of the people united in one great patriotic effort in support of President Wilson to win the war.

A state trade commission with power to investigate costs and profits to report to the chief executive of the state and legislature and to work in harmony and supplement the splendid work the federal trade commission is doing to protect the people of the state against profiteering.

Enforcement of state laws against monopolies in restraint of trade and enactment of new legislation to prevent profiteering. Immediate war prohibition and ratification of the national prohibition constitutional amendment, and equal suffrage—state and national. The women and children in Nebraska are making a sacrifice in the use of grain and other foodstuffs, and no true patriot will support the efforts to defend the liquor men in Illinois, Missouri and other states in their use of Nebraska grain and foodstuffs for the manufacture of booze.

State fire and hail insurance. These would be self-supporting and save the people several million dollars each year.

State insurance against sickness and injury for all wage-earners and a plan of old pensions for dependents. It is to the interest and the welfare of the state that our wage-earners be given the same care and protection that other governments are giving.

State ownership and control of a sufficient number of terminal elevators and encouragement and protection to co-operative-owned elevators so as to protect the grain growers of

Nebraska in the grading, shipping and marketing of their products.

Bonded grain and produce inspector to protect grain growers in marketing and grading their grain and produce the same as other countries have provided.

Bonded livestock commission to protect the live stock producers and feeders in marketing live stock and in buying feeders and stockers, to give the live stock interests in Nebraska the protection other countries are giving.

Legislation authorizing all towns and cities to establish public markets and public slaughter houses to bring the producer and consumer together to prevent monopoly and to keep down the high cost of livings.

Legislation authorizing all cities and towns and county commissioners to buy and sell food and fuel to the public when necessary to protect the people against unscrupulous profiteers.

Development of the water power of the state by a government development or adequate governmental control in order to secure cheap power for the factories and farms and to supply heat and light in the home, which will conserve coal and transportation of same.

Government ownership of public utilities and municipal ownership of local public utilities when the federal government's financial plans for conducting the war will permit.

Nebraska soldiers represent the finest manhood of the state; they are making the supreme sacrifice that our democratic Nebraska institutions shall be preserved. Those remaining at home should make every provision for the welfare, comfort and support of our boys who are fighting the nation's battle. A wise provision has been made to enable the soldiers to vote, and it is the duty of parents, relatives and friends of our boys in the army to keep them advised as to the issues and efforts being made to support them in their own states so they will not overlook their patriotic duty of voting with other citizens of the state to support in every way possible the efforts of the commander-in-chief to win the war.

The conduct of the state government on a business basis so as to cut out unnecessary appropriations, reduce taxes, abolish unnecessary boards and commissions and create only such new governmental machinery as is needed to protect the producers and consumers of the state against the avarice of the unconscionable profiteer.

The duty of the chief executive of the state is to initiate and lead in all movements for the patriotic, economic and social welfare of the state, and he should give careful consideration to all complaints and suggestions by the people for the remedy of governmental abuses.

The program will supplement and assist President Wilson to carry the war to a successful conclusion. In advocating these measures I realize that they will not please the profiteer or appeal to any person who is not supporting the commander-in-chief of the army, if there be such a person. I hope that no one will be misled into voting for me in the Democratic primaries if he does not believe in the principles that I advocate or that, if elected, I will not do what I can to carry out the suggestions outlined above. Patriotism has been described as "love of one's country put into action." I appeal to the people of Nebraska to make a practical application of their patriotism and to take such action as may be necessary to carry out the great purpose upon which our nation is engaged.

CHARLES W. BRYAN.

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE MARKET

In many ways the live stock commission men of the Omaha market have shown themselves to be 100 per cent patriotic. In donations to the Red Cross and other war activities, in buying liberty bonds and in the number of representatives that have enlisted, this market is right up in the front ranks.

Another forward step was taken recently at a meeting of the Omaha Live Stock Exchange when an order was issued that no language shall hereafter be used in business transactions in the yards except English. This rule was not needed for the commission men and the regular buyers and traders on the market who have always used the English in their business transactions, but sometimes others appeared at the market who have indulged in the use of the German language and which it is desired to hereafter dispense with.

### PLUM FOR DAHLMAN

The many friends of ex-Mayor James C. Dahlman learn with pleasure that he is to be offered a federal appointment carrying an attractive salary, at least it is so reported.

It has been expected by some that "Jim" would get back into the live stock game, but recent events seem to make it doubtful whether he will break away from the lure of politics.

## Live Stock Transit Insurance

Live stock men over the entire west are forming the habit of INSURING THEIR LIVE STOCK IN TRANSIT. They do it for safety, economy and quick returns.

### The Hartford Live Stock Transit Policy

protects shippers of live stock, and is the only company offering a broad policy easy to understand, clear in its terms, which gives absolute protection against loss from hazards of transportation — including suffocation, freezing, trampling, fire, collision, train wreck and every form of killing or injury while the animals are in the custody of the common carrier.

We are represented at all of the live stock markets in the United States and Canada, and locally by—

**FRED E. FEAGINS**  
Alliance, Nebraska

**C. W. SPACHT**  
Hemingford, Nebraska

**SAMS & McCAFFREE**, Scottsbluff, Nebraska

**W. B. CHEEK**, Local Manager  
HARTFORD FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY  
Live Stock Department  
STOCK YARDS OMAHA, NEBRASKA

## I Know the Voice

WHICH TELLS THE SUFFERINGS FROM A SORE TOOTH

I have to see or read for the first time the works of any noted writer of the middle ages, anything that pertains to Dentistry. There could not have been the demand upon them then as in being made today.

THE SCIENCE OF MEDICINE AND DENTAL SURGERY

Which has shown such wonderful progress in such a comparatively short time, has been compulsory—so to speak. Again

NECESSITY WAS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

For twenty years—every hour of every day, I have heard someone say, "Why does not some one invent something to relieve pain in a safe and easy manner?" The cry for this great necessity has dwelt on my mind so long, that I finally solved the problem and have put it into use. Through Sturgis & Sturgis, Attorneys, I filed for a patent on this most wonderful method to relieve pain.

I KNOW THE VOICE OF THE SUFFERER; I ALSO KNOW HOW TO ANSWER

in a manner that should immensely please. It's here for you to take advantage of. I will gladly show you.

For Out-of-Town Patrons Appointments Made to Best Suit Their Convenience.

'PHONE TODAY

## DR. G. W. TODD

403 BRANDEIS BUILDING OMAHA, NEBRASKA

LOOK WHO'S HERE

SOMEONE AND SOMEBODY

By Porter Emerson Browne

This romance of pure delight and difference starts in

### The State Journal

Friday, July 5

King Solomon to the contrary, it is a new thing under the sun. It is a fairy story for practical moderns—a fairy tale that faces the facts of life squarely. It brims over with young love and ends with happiness ever after. It gives the dairy-lunch hero forty million dollars, snatches them back and restores them when he has learned their use. It turns the Fifth Avenue heroine into a boarding house waitress and makes you her humble worshiper. She is a Cinderella who knows how to make the prince come across.

Shall we send you the story with the Daily Journal at \$4 a year or Daily and Sunday at \$5? Or three months at \$1—daily or \$1.50 Daily and Sunday? Address

The State Journal, Lincoln, Neb.

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330 ROOMS—330 BATHS

RATES ONE PERSON \$2.00 to \$4.00 TWO PERSONS \$3.00 to \$5.00

Management H. Edgar Gregory

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All Modern Conveniences—Rooms \$1.00 Up

Under New Management Political Headquarters

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