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RAILROAD HISTORY.

What the People Have Paid and Donated to the Railroads.

PUBLIC SHOULD OWN THEM.

Enormous Land Grants—What the People Received in Return.

Union Pacific Foreclosure.

The time is drawing near for the sale of the Pacific railroads under the Cleveland-Olney-Huntington agreement to the reorganization corporation by which the government will lose millions of dollars. The records show vicious and corrupt legislation in connection with the roads since their beginning. The attorneys for the railroads are pressing the foreclosure proceedings in order that the final decree may be secured before the next congress convenes.

The reorganization managers have no fear about the lower branch of congress but the senate, as now constituted, might prove an insurmountable barrier in their pathway. Senator Thurston and his fellow-conspirators scheme to the contrary notwithstanding. The successful completion of the present scheme of foreclosure will result in at least $350,000,000 clean profit to the reorganization corporation. That is a sufficient amount to command the attention of good attorneys and some supposedly very respectable courts. The history of the Pacific railroad operations by the government is interesting. Hon. Thomas E. Watson in his pamphlet on "The Railroad Question" says that it had its beginning in four men of bold, unscrupulous character who started out to build the Union Pacific railroad. They were Sanford, Huntington, Crocker and Hopkins.

The four combined were not worth $100,000. When they finished the road cost was worth from $30,000,000 to $60,000,000. They started out with almost nothing in cash. They got congress to give them a slice of the public land equal to a territory as large as Georgia. They got the state and the cities to give them handsome donations; they got nearly seven millions of dollars in United States bonds with the promise that the government would also pay the interest on the bonds.

On April 22, 1887, President Cleveland appointed a commission to look into these Pacific railroad matters. A report was duly filed and sent to congress by Mr. Cleveland, and there the matter slumbered. The report itself, sanctioned by Mr. Cleveland, is valuable proof of frauds and of collusion (which only equalled by the Credit Mobilier).

This official report made to the government shows that the public contributed one hundred and forty-seven millions of dollars to build the Pacific railroads.

Then the public furnished funds to do the work, and after the work was finished the public had nothing to show for it.

According to the official report, (page 130) it only cost the corporation $85,935,347 to build the Union Pacific, the Kansas Pacific, the Central Branch, the Sioux City and Pacific, Central Pacific and Western Pacific.

According to the same authority the amount of "water" or fictious stock issued to the public amounted to $172,347,115.

According to the same authority (page 132) the net earnings of these railroads up to 1887, when the report was made, amounted to $275,023,357. An average of fifteen millions per year and a clear profit upon an outlay of ninety-five millions of dollars.

Now, when you stop to think that the public gave them four times as much money in land (bond and cash) as was needed to build the road, when you stop to think that the actual cost of these highways was less than one hundred millions of dollars, when you slowly digest the fact that the public paid fifteen millions of dollars per year as interest upon a piece of property which had not cost the corporation a cent, when you patiently digest the thought that you gave a lot of incorporated plunderers four hundred and forty-seven millions of dollars to build you a system of public roads which only cost honest men a little over one hundred millions, and that you also made them a present of the roads, and then you have had to keep paying them fifteen millions of dollars net every year for the privilege of using your own roads, when you have done all this you will begin to get a sense of what to consider a fair price for railways that belong to the people and ought not to belong to the public.

What did the corporations get out of the Pacific railways?

They got, as nearly as stated, $447,020,480 in land, bonds and cash.

They got the use of nearly thirty years.

They got net income of fifteen millions per year when they had not invested a dollar.

What did the public get?

They got the privilege of building the road and paying four times more than it cost.

They got the privilege of paying unreasonable freight charges which took all the profits from the wheat and corn grower of the west.

They got the blessings of corporation rule in its most offensive and corrupt form.

And at length when Sidney Dillon and Russell Sage and Jay Gould, and the smaller rascals who followed in their train, had wrung from these public highways dishonest gains equal to those which Stanford, and Hopkins and Crocker and Huntington had stolen, the property was turned over to the federal courts.

At this time, (June 1894), it is being run in the interests of the boodlers of Wall street by six receivers who are drawing the modest wages of $15,000 a year cash.

Out of all the funds advanced to the corporations by the government we stand no chance of recovering anything excepting the $64,623,512 in bonds (and the interest thereon) which we were good enough to give to the corporation.

Our prospect for collecting even that amount is slender. Mr. Olney, the present attorney general, has taken no steps to collect the claims other than to recommend that we lend it to the corporation for another one hundred years at two per cent interest.

These two roads are fair samples of what the public did for the corporations, and of the unsatisfactory return made by the corporations to the public.

In the state of Arkansas the people gave 3,000 acres of public land for every mile of railroad.

In Florida the state gave 7,000 acres for each mile of railway.

In Alabama the corporations got 3,885 acres of land for every mile of road.

In Louisiana 7,000 acres.

In Wisconsin 5,400 acres.

Think of the lunacy of giving seven thousand acres of the people's land for one mile of road.

And then think of allowing the corporations to keep both the land and the road.

The people gave everything and got nothing.

You may say that the public got the benefit of the improvement in trade, in price of lands.

That is true. But if the public had to pay for the iron roads, ought not the public to own what it paid for?

In other words, when the people pay for the opening of a public road ought it not to belong to the public?

Ought private persons to be allowed to own and control that which the public built for public use?

Where is the common sense of having the public pay for a public highway and then turning it over to a private corporation with a chartered right to tax the public?

In his book called "The National Democratic Party," the Hon. W. L. Wilson, democrat, (chairman of the ways and means committee of the fifty-third congress) quotes Hon. Wm. S. Holman's speech on the public land question.

It extends from page 413 to page 470 of Mr. Wilson's book.

In this able and exhaustive speech, Mr. Holman, as chairman of the House committee on public lands gave a full review of the record.

On page 443 Mr. Holman shows that under the Whig administration congress gave to the states for railroad purposes 6,051,683 acres.

Under democratic administration congress gave 53,519,237 acres of public lands to the states to aid in railroad building.

Previous to July 1, 1862, congress never had granted a foot of land directly to a corporation. So says Mr. Holman. But Stephen A. Douglas, the great democratic leader who in 1850 had introduced the first bill to grant public lands to states for railroad purposes, began a new policy by introducing a bill to grant public lands to the Pacific railways.

To mass this scheme of colossal robbery successful, its managers had shrewdly divided forces and some of them were "democrats" and some were "republicans."

The democratic managers went to the national democratic convention in 1856 and secured the passage of a resolution favoring government aid to the Pacific railroads.

The republican managers went to the national republican convention in the same year and secured a platform plank pledging government aid to the corporation.

Thus the schemers bridled and saddled both the parties.

To complete this triumph they prevailed upon James Buchanan, the democratic president, to insert into his message (in 1858) a clause urging congress to vote the public lands and the public money to these plunderers.

On the first day of July, 1862, (page Mr. Holman on page 449 of Mr. Wilson's book), "congress granted 28,000,000 acres of public land to the Union Pacific railroad system, and this policy of land grants to corporations, and to states for corporations, continued until the grants reached the enormous proportions of one hundred and eighty-one million acres!"

To be exact, Mr. Holman's figures are 181,459,560 acres!

This public land would make more than three states as large as Georgia; more than eight states of the size of Indiana!

On page 450 Mr. Holman gives a list of the corporations and of the number of acres each got. The figures are taken from the official reports of the commissioner of the general land office of the United States.

To get the full statement of what has been given away for railroad purposes, according to Mr. Holman, we must add the figures on page 443 to those on page 450:

Acres granted to states by whigs	6,951,683
Acres granted to states by democrats	53,519,237
Acres granted to corporations or states for corporations by democrats and republicans	181,459,560

According to Mr. Holman, therefore, congress has given two hundred and eleven millions acres of your public land to build railroads—and you have not got a foot of railroad to show for it.

Where did you get this public land?

You got part of it when Thomas Jefferson paid Napoleon Bonaparte fifteen millions of dollars of your tax money for the Louisiana purchase.

You got part of it when Florida was bought from the Spaniards.

You got part of it when we went to war with Mexico, and you bought some from her by the Gadsden treaty.

You also bought some from Texas and some from Russia.

Your public lands have cost you directly, in cool cash, eighty-eight millions of dollars.

It also cost you the blood of your braves in jungle fights with Indians, and in pitched battles with Mexicans.

As Bob Tombs said in the senate, you paid for this land "in money, when money was its price, and in blood, when blood was its price."

But the corporations, and the land syndicate, and the mining companies, and the Alien capitalists own the lion's share of the imperial domain which cost them nothing in money and nothing in blood.

With your usual luck you sowed—and let others reap.

But it is a dreadfully hard task to get you to see it!

SOUND MONEY DEMOCRATS

Will Put a Candidate for Supreme Judge in the Field.

Last Thursday the national or sound money democratic state central committee met at the Lincoln hotel and decided to hold a convention in Omaha at 7 o'clock in the evening on September 22. The representation will be based on the vote cast for Sam Glover for superintendent of public instruction last fall. This will give them a convention of about 600 delegates. There were 23 members of the committee present. Judge W. B. McHugh of Omaha is spoken of as the possible and probable candidate for the head of the ticket.

LEASING SCHOOL LANDS.

Commissioner Wolfe Leases 16,280 acres in One Week.

Commissioner of Public Lands and Buildings, J. V. Wolfe, returned Saturday night from a week's trip, during which he leased at public auction 16,280 acres of state school lands. The business received on the week's contracts amounted to $1,274.50. The counties visited and in which lands were leased were Cedar, Boone, Madison, Antelope, Wheeler, Pierce and Stanton.

The commissioner leaves tonight for the southwestern corner of the state, where the lands to be leased will be put up at public auction.

The counties to be visited during the remainder of the month, the dates for leasing and the amount of land in each county are given below:

County and Time.	Acres.
Dundy, Sept. 14, 9 a. m.	26,000
Hitchcock, Sept. 14, 3 p. m.	17,000
Red Willow, Sept. 15, 2 p. m.	11,000
Webster, Sept. 15, 10 a. m.	2,000
Franklin, Sept. 16, 2 p. m.	7,000
Furnas, Sept. 17, 1 p. m.	5,000
Harlan, Sept. 18, 2 p. m.	5,000
Phelps, Sept. 28, 10 a. m.	5,000
Perkins, Sept. 29, 10 a. m.	26,000
Gosper, Sept. 30, 11 a. m.	3,000
Frontier, Oct. 1, 10 a. m.	11,000

Early in October the commissioner goes to Cherry county, where there are 200,000 acres of school land now leased. Of this 50,000 acres have never been leased and 150,000 has been leased and forfeited for failure to pay the rent.

Mr. Wolfe has done more real work in the state's interest in the few months he has been in office than has been done in six years by any of his predecessors. It is not unreasonable to believe that Mr. Wolfe will save the state one hundred thousand dollars during his term of office simply by being diligent in the work and handling the school lands as the law contemplates it should be handled.

About Land Monopoly.

I heard a good story the other day, illustrative of a phase of the land question. Mr. C approached Mr D and remarked: "D I had a little spare money which I desired to invest safely, so I bought a quarter section of land; that was all right won't it?" "Why yes," answered D. "Well," said C, "I still had more money left, so I bought a section of land; that was all right won't it and you as a good citizen would help protect me in my enjoyment of that land?" "Yes" said D. "And, continued C, "having still a larger amount of money invested I bought a whole township, as a good citizen of Nebraska and a lover of American institutions and the sacred rights of property you would help defend me in the enjoyment of that property?" "Well yes," replied D, "I reckon so." "Well, D," said C, "I made it invested a tithe of my spare money, and I wanted a safe investment so I bought a whole state. You would help protect me in my property rights wouldn't you?" D did not answer but stood scrutinizing his head thoughtfully. "What do you say to that?" said C. After a lapse of three or four minutes "By golly, I was just thinkin'," said D.

C. Q. DeFrance.

It pays to keep informed.

AT THE G. A. R. REUNION

Opened With an Address by Governor Holcomb on Tuesday.

LETTER FROM SENATOR ALLEN

Speeches by Congressman J. E. Strode and W. J. Bryan.

Campfire in the Evening.

The reunion now in progress at the old state fair grounds in Lincoln is largely attended and promises to be one of the most successful in the history of the G. A. R. in Nebraska. The opening address was delivered by Governor Holcomb. There were more than 3,000 present to hear the opening address. A sham battle, an engagement between the Cuban patriots and the Spanish army is being planned. The exact date for the fight has not yet been fixed. Wednesday there were addresses by Congressman J. E. Strode and W. J. Bryan. Senator Allen had been invited but could not be present. He sent the following letter which was read to the audience:

Wahoo, Neb., Sept. 13, 1897.—Hon. John A. Narbuckle, Commander Grand Army of the Republic, Department of Nebraska, Lincoln, Neb.—My Dear Sir and Comrade: It has been apparent to me that owing to the existence of circumstances over which I can exercise no control I will not be able to attend the annual reunion of the soldiers and sailors of Nebraska, to be held at Lincoln during the current week. It has been my intention to attend and fraternize with those with whom, as a private soldier for over three years, I served in the late war for the union.

Entering the army when a lad, and never from the time I was fifteen until after I was sixteen years of age, and among the companions of my early life the lessons and memories of the war are recalled most clearly. Having, up to the time of my enlistment, been confined to the life of a farm boy, it will not be accounted strange by those for whom this letter is designed that when I stepped from the cornfield into the presence of an officer and took an oath to support and uphold the constitution of the United States and serve my country as a soldier to the best of my ability, "for three years or during the war," the little camp experiences, marches, picket duty, skirmishes, treaties and battle scenes that followed for over three years, should make a deep and lasting impression on my mind.

For those who honestly served in the same great and holy cause, whatever their relation in life may be, or may have been, I have strong feelings of affection akin to those existing between brothers, notwithstanding on political questions we may widely disagree. Men capable of maintaining personal convictions and taking health and life in the prosecution of a great cause in the interest of the case, are too broad-minded, sensible and patriotic to cavil with others who performed a like service, respecting their political opinions.

The war for the union was fought on the theory that ours is a national government and that it is an inseparable union of indestructible states, and that a state having entered the union become an integral part thereof, and cannot throw off or abandon its allegiance at any time a majority of its citizens may so desire. This is the settled doctrine of our country. We are not only a united union, but a nation, and our government possesses and can exercise, for the common good, all the power that any other national government can rightfully exercise.

Thirteen state have passed into union since the close of the war in which we served together and the men who, of the volunteer army and navy. These also were then mere strapping new recruits, untrained men and, in the most have encountered the hardships, privations and experiences of a long, hard and active pioneer life. It must have impressed them on all that with our enlistment from the army we did not cease to be charged with the duties and responsibilities of a very high order and of important character. The same oath that marked our enlistment was administered to encounter the hardships and experiences of a soldier's life, namely, the preservation and protection of the union, has doubtless induced us to perform our duty as citizens in the love of our country, in making more secure the foundations of liberty and in strengthening the government wherever in our judgment it may have needed strengthening. It would not be possible for us to do some anything for good government after the close of the war, thus abandoning our duty on the very eve of victory. Such a course could only be regarded as dishonorable. A kind and perhaps some of the states of extreme zeal might lead us to the conclusion that owing to the have rendered good of our strength and influence to the cause of a government founded on popular liberty, duty to its or some particular section the government be preserved and transmitted to prosperity unimpaired. It would fail to perform our duties as citizens and the cause of popular liberty is therefore in peril, if state has secede the evil consequences to come would not with us. Doubtless at the present time and in the past we are and have been pursuing a course that has met with approval of our consciences and our judgments.

Among the many rights guaranteed the American people by the constitution is that of free speech, and the right to honestly act, think, and speak on political and other questions affecting the welfare of mankind as we may see proper, so long as we do not intrench on, or interfere with the like rights of others. If we keep within this line we are enjoying a part of the liberty for which we and our fathers contended, and we must accord to all the right to act, think and speak for themselves.

I may be permitted to say that I shall in the future, as I have in the past, use every reasonable and honest effort to advance the interests of the soldiers and sailors of this state and nation. I have, during the incumbency of my present office, had under consideration nine hundred and sixty-five pension cases at the bureau of pensions, many of which have been granted, besides having introduced and secured the passage of many private bills. I have strenuously contended on the floor of the United States Senate, and shall continue to do so, that all who honorably performed like services in the union, should be equally rewarded in the granting of pensions, and that the artificial distinction between husbands, made necessary by the existence of a state of war, shall not continue between their widows after the war closed and each took his station in the ranks of citizens. I shall earnestly continue this line of advocacy until such an odious distinction shall have ceased to exist in the United States. The wife and children of a private soldier who performed meritorious and honest services for his country and risked life and limb at a time when the government needed him, should be rewarded equally with the wife and children of those who received higher pay, greater honor and emoluments during the short period such distinction existed.

To all I extend a greeting and Godspeed in life's journey. Verty truly yours in F. C. and L.

WILLIAM V. ALLEN.

Mr. Bryan was introduced and received an ovation. He explained that he could not be present at the time he had been announced on Thursday and therefore came when he could. His address was one of the most patriotic delivered and was entirely without reference to politics. In his opinion it was more appropriate for the veterans to do the speech making on such occasions. He spoke of the heroism and patriotism of the soldiers in the greatest war known in history. He eulogized Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln, he said was the friend of the north and the south alike. The patriotism of the country was not all to be found among ex-soldiers. Many had never had an opportunity to fight in battle in defense of the nation. He said: "The interest in the war is not confined to the soldier or his immediate descendants. Americans will not forget what has been won in the terrible conflict of arms. The glories of war now brighten as time goes on."

During Mr. Bryan's speech, the first shower of the day came up and the roof of Mercantile hall being leaky, the water in places poured down in streams. Umbrellas were raised and the general effect of certain of the audience dodging good sized floods was curious. The shower was of short duration and did not draw the speakers' attention noticeably.

WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN.

Furnished by the Government Crop and Weather Bureau.

The past week has been a duplicate of the preceding week in the way of temperature, as it has averaged from 8° to to 10° above the normal.

The rains of Thursday and Friday are quite general, and averaged considerable above the normal; the rainfall ranged from .10 of an inch to 3.75 inches, but a large percentage of the correspondents report nearly an inch, and many of them more than an inch.

With the exception of Thursday and Friday, the week has been very favorable for harvesting and thrashing, and harvesting and haymaking are about completed.

The hot weather has ripened early corn so rapidly that it is now considered out of danger of frost, but drying up so rapidly will probably injure the quality of corn to some extent; however, it is thought that the yield will not be reduced to any great extent. Late corn has been injured by the dry, hot weather, but still retains green in most localities, and will be benefited by the rains of the past week; if not injured by frost, it will make a much better crop than has been expected, although it will fall short of a full crop, and the quality will be damaged to some extent.

The soil has been so hard and dry that but little plowing or seeding could be done, but the rains have placed the ground in fair condition for this work, and reports indicate that farmers are now busy plowing and seeding, and that a large acreage of wheat and rye will be put in this fall.

Ranges are drying up rapidly, and some feeding has been done, but it is thought that sufficient rain has fallen to revive pastures and put fall ranges in good condition.

NOTE.—As the weather will have but little effect in changing crop conditions, this will be the last bulletin for this season, but correspondents are requested to continue sending reports for the next three weeks, to be used in the National Bulletin. Correspondents will please accept our thanks for their hearty co-operation during the season just closing.

E. M. RAVENSCROFT,
Acting Section Director.

Just try a 10c box of Cascarets, the finest liver and bowel regulator ever made.

MESERVE AND WOLFE

What They are Doing For Taxpayers and School Children of Nebraska.

APPORTIONMENT DOUBLED.

Sources From Which the Increased Revenue Has Been Derived.

Populist Officers vs. Republican Patriots.

The readers of the INDEPENDENT will remember that the last school apportionment, the one last June, and the first under a populist administration was the largest apportionment both in the total amount and per capita in the history of the state. The amount of the apportionment made by Bartley in June 1896, was $260,410.12. Meserve's apportionment in June 1897 was $362,226.03 the largest in the history of the state. The republican press of the state asserted that such a pace could not be kept up. They confidently and hopefully asserted that the treasurer had crowded some big collections into the June apportionment and that the December apportionment would be very materially reduced as a result. An examination of the condition of the fund at the present time shows that their statements were without foundation and their hopes are shattered. Treasurer Bartley's apportionment for December 1896 was $231,958.30. Treasurer Meserve had on hand September 1, in the school fund ready for the December apportionment $226,194.23. This is the amount he has accumulated in three months. If the receipts for the next three months are as great as for the past three months, and they undoubtedly will be, Treasurer Meserve's December apportionment for 1897 will be double the amount of the Bartley apportionment in 1896. The statements for past years show that Treasurer Meserve's apportionment will be practically double the amount in former years as the following table will show:

Year.	School money on hand.
Sept. 1, 1894	$119,610 28
Sept. 1, 1895	114,281 98
Sept. 1, 1896	147,895 92
Sept. 1, 1897 (pop)	226,194 23

In the statements made by Bartley in September 1894, 1895, and 1896 was included money to the credit of the school fund in suspended banks. In treasurer Meserve's statement the suspended bank account is kept separate, and the $226,194.23 reported on hand is actual cash on hand or in deposits in approved state depositories.

The sources from which the school fund is derived are as follows: The state school tax, interest on school lands sold, interest on school lands leased, interest on United States consols, interest on state funding bonds, from Saline lands sold and leased, interest on school district bonds held as an investment of permanent school fund and interest on county bonds and state warrants held as investments of the permanent school fund.

A great factor in increasing the receipts by which the apportionment has been increased has been the careful and business like management of the leasing of the state school lands, and the collection of the rent and interest by Land Commissioner J. V. Wolfe. An investigation shows a very large increase in the receipts from school lands and Saline lands leased. The sale of school land under the new law has been stopped and the receipts from that source will cease, but Commissioner Wolfe will increase the receipts from leases more than sufficient to balance the receipts from that source. Treasurer Meserve has kept the permanent school fund well invested either in county or state bonds and is now investing the remainder in state warrants at par. These warrants draw 5 per cent interest which amount is taken from the general fund and placed to the credit of the school fund. As a result of this application of populist horse sense to the business management of the state treasury state warrants and all kinds of state securities command a premium on the general market. Under the former management, through the application of republican patriotism, state securities sold at seven per cent discount. The people and taxpayers are beginning to appreciate the difference between a populist officer and a republican patriot.

WORK FOR UNEMPLOYED.

State Labor Bureau Has More Places Than Can be Filled.

All persons desiring employment as cooks, housekeepers, domestics, waiters, blacksmiths, saddlers, broom-makers can secure places by making application to the State Labor Bureau, Lincoln, Nebraska. Please write at once. No charge of any sort.

State Superintendent W. R. Jackson appointed Miss Sarah L. Garrett, principal of the Norfolk High School, as a member of the state examing board. Miss Garrett comes highly recommended, by leaders of the free silver democrats, populists and republicans of the state) She was principal of the Manning (Iowa) schools for eight years, and is serviar her second year as principal of the Norfolk High School, and holds a state certificate in this and in two other states.