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WITHOUT FOUNDATION

False statement that Judge Stark acted as Pension Attorney.

HIS EXPLANATION IN FULL.

What Other Members of the Nebraska Delegation are Doing.

Free Seed Distribution.

BUREAU OF THE INDEPENDENT, Washington, D. C.—The Nebraska delegation in Congress are very indignant over the publication in an evening paper of this city, of an article charging, that while acting as an attorney, Judge W. L. Stark, M. C. from the Fourth district, had expedited a claim, causing it to be made special etc. all in violation of law. When the judges attention was called to the matter, it did not appear to worry him in the least, yet after completing his duties at the capitol he went to the pension office, called upon the commissioner, and had him call for the papers in the claim, in which it was alleged that the judge appeared as the attorney of record. The honorable commissioner discovered that the information given out by some clerk in the office, was false in every particular, and gave Judge Stark a letter to that effect. On Saturday morning the judge arose in the house and in a dignified manner and few words that carried conviction to every hearer he stated his question of privilege.

Mr. Stark said, Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of privilege. In the issue of the Evening Star of January 13, 1898, appears an article which I ask to have reported from the clerk's desk.

The clerk read as follows: THEY ARE BARRED.—OFFICIALS CAN NOT HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH CLAIMS.

An application for a pension for Ada C. Cheney, the widow of Jackson W. Cheney, a member of company C of the Fifty-ninth regiment, Illinois volunteer infantry has been received by the pension office and has been made special in view of the exigencies of the case.

The application has attracted attention for the reason that it is filed by W. L. Stark, attorney. Mr. Stark is a member of congress from the fourth district of Nebraska, and the case is the first one of its kind in which a member of congress has acted as an attorney.

In the application to have the case made special Mr. Stark writes upon a congressional blank, issued exclusively for the use of representatives and senators, and sets forth that the inquiry is not made at the request of any pension attorney or claim agent, although the original application bears the name W. L. Stark, M. C. attorney.

It may not be generally known, but there is a law on the statute books which provides that "every officer of the United States or person holding place of trust or profit, or discharging any official function under or in connection with any executive department of the government of the United States, or under the senate or house of representatives of the United States, who acts as an agent or attorney for prosecuting any claims against the United States, or in any manner or by any means otherwise than in the discharge of his proper official duties, aids or assists in the prosecution or support of any such claim, or receives any gratuity or any share for interest in any claim from any claimant against the United States, with intent to aid or assist, or in consideration of having aided or assisted, in the prosecution of such claim, shall pay a fine of not more than \$5,000 or suffer imprisonment not more than one year, or both."

Mr. Stark. The allegation that there is any claim in the pension department that has my signature, "W. L. Stark, M. C. attorney," is absolutely false and without any foundation. I was never an attorney for an applicant for a pension in my life. I never was admitted to practice in the departments of this government. I now ask that this letter from the Hon. Henry Clay Evans be reported by the clerk.

The clerk read as follows: Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, Washington, D. C., January 15, 1898.

Hon. William M. Stark, House of Representatives.

My Dear Sir:—In reply to the matter of your personal interest, I beg to say that, upon investigation of the invalid claim of Jackson W. Cheney, company C, Sixth regiment Missouri volunteer infantry; company C, fifty-ninth regiment Illinois volunteer infantry, and company B, United States cavalry, it is found that the attorney recognized by this bureau was T. E. Spencer.

In the claims of Ada C. Cheney, widow of Jackson W. Cheney, of above service, for widow's pension, you are advised that Edwin T. Gaddie is the recognized attorney, and the latter claim is now pending before this bureau.

There is nothing in the case to show that you are in any way connected with it as attorney. You have called for congressional status, which you have a right to do.

H. CLAY WILLIAMS, Commissioner.

Mr. Stark—Mr. Speaker, I want to say that under the law of the state of Ne-

braska the board of county commissioners levy the tax and allow claims against the county. It is provided by the law of the state of Nebraska that any honorably discharged Union soldier shall never become a county charge, and we levy a tax to support and maintain them, which is administered by the soldier's relief commission.

I make this statement because the piece of evidence discloses the fact that I was asked by the board of county commissioners of Saunders county, and that is indorsed by the soldiers' relief commission of that county. You will find my name is indorsed, printed on the front of that blank, "W. L. Stark, M. C., Fourth district of Nebraska, Aurora, Neb." My name is W. L. Stark. I am a member of congress. I represent the Fourth district of Nebraska, and I reside at Aurora, in the state of Nebraska. That is a true statement of fact, and it is printed on there for this purpose and no other, that in returning the testimony they will return it to me, that I may make the proper entry on my book.

Judge Stark then sent to the desk and had read all the evidence in the case, including a request for special action in the case from H. K. Marcy, chairman of the county commissioners, and a similar request from J. N. Miller, president; Nathan D. Thorp, secretary; and Thomas Griffin of the soldiers' relief commission of Saunders county, and the certificate of C. A. Westrand, county clerk, to show that the copies of the request from the commissioners and the soldiers' relief commission appear upon the records in the office of the county clerk of Saunders county.

The above extracts are from the House Journal and need no further explanation. The judge has been too successful in his unselfish work for the veterans of the fourth district. Some one has become jealous of his work, and from their standpoint the proper thing to do was to smear his reputation, and it is most surprising how rapidly a bad story will travel. Mr. Snyder, who is Senator Thurston's private secretary, and also the Washington correspondent of the Omaha Bee, saw the story in the Evening Star on Friday night, the evening of its publication. His news instinct told him "that is a good piece of news for the Bee, for Stark is a pop," and notwithstanding the friendly relations between Judge Stark and himself, notwithstanding he saw the judge every day, and that for the price of a street car fare, he could go to the judge's residence and ascertain from him the truth or falsity of the charges. Mr. Snyder preferred to consider the judge as a criminal and the story was flashed over the wire to the Bee that the people of Nebraska might read on Friday morning that the member of congress from the fourth district was a violator of the law. The statement made by Congressman Stark, together with the paper filed by him, and which were published in the Record, certainly covers the case. Among the claims for pension recently secured by Hon. R. D. Sutherland of the fifth district are the following: James A. Rogers, Nelson, increase, \$12.00; Jos. J. Craig, Hardy, original, \$6.00; W. H. Frazzill, Ough, original, \$10.00; W. M. Stewart, Clay Center, increase, \$12.00; W. D. Burroughs, Doniphan, Neb., \$8; W. H. Marsh, Doniphan, \$8.00; H. H. Hyde, Spring Ranch, \$10; Thos. Russell, Woodruff, \$17.00; Rosa J. Donnelly, Sutton, \$8.00, and E. Taubor, Fairfield, \$12. Congressman Sutherland has also offered the following bills: For the relief of N. M. Ayers, Beaver City, \$15 per month; for the relief of Maggie S. Carr, Og., \$25 per month; and to correct the record of J. H. Clifton of Spring Ranch.

When Hon. Wm. L. Green of the sixth district made his speech on the civil service, he not only caught but he held the close attention of the house, and when he made his winning talk with Hon. Dave Mercer, on Friday last, on the question of the free distribution of seeds to farmers, he not only caught the attention of the house, but he caught Mr. Mercer. Mr. Mercer was against the free distribution of seeds to farmers, although Mr. Greene made him admit that his was largely agricultural, and when Mr. Mercer read a letter from a Mr. Noyes, Mr. M. said was a prominent farmer, and who protested against an appropriation for the free distribution of seeds to farmers. Mr. Greene explained the matter to the satisfaction of the house that Mr. Noyes was one of the Waterloo Seed Company and that Mercer wanted to aid this seed company at the expense of all the farmers of Nebraska. Mr. Mercer withheld his speech for correction, and it has not as yet been published in the Record, and it is not probable that it ever will be, if it ever is it will make a good campaign document for Mercer's opponent in his next race for congress. Congressman Greene not only made his mark as a debater, but he left his marks on Mr. Mercer.

Life Too Short. Life is short for any work that is not high and true. That short to slight the broader aim God meant should come to you. O heart, rise up into the light of grand life and thought. And find the peace and blessedness God's loving care hath wrought.

State Treasurer Moserve has issued a call for general state fund warrants amounting to \$35,000. The warrants called in will not draw interest after February 3.

Attorney General Smyth has begun a suit in Lancaster county against Mr. Bartley and his bondsmen to recover \$335,000 embezzled by Mr. Bartley and converted to his own use. There are many defendants and the case promises to be long drawn out as each defendant has filed some kind of a motion for delay or continuance.

Loren D. Whelpley, the oldest dealer in boots, shoes and carpets at Fremont called Saturday and made an assignment of all his property to the National National bank and his sister Miss Addie Whelpley.

THE NEW GULF OUTLET

North and South Railroad Makes a Radical Reduction in Freight Rates.

OLD LINE ROADS MUST MEET

The Diversion of Grain From This Region to Gulf Ports.

Some Interesting Statistics.

For twenty years the prairies of Iowa, Nebraska and Kansas have been agitated with projects for a north and south line which should carry the products of those prairies on a down hill 600 mile haul to the sea, instead of 2,000 miles across valleys and over mountains to salt water at New York harbor. During all these years the elevator combines at Chicago and the "granger" railroads have reaped enormous profits from handling those products. It was a plain case that the surplus products of this part of the Mississippi valley should naturally reach the ocean by that route and a large part of the goods received in exchange return to us the same way, but the lines of trade and the lines of railway ran east and west, and for years it seemed impossible to break the combination.

When the populist party was organized in these states and in Texas, one of its first and favorite plans was the north and south railroad. The attempt to control railway and elevator charges of the east and west lines in the interest of the producer through the inter-state commerce commission had proven a failure. There seemed but one way of speedy relief while a political force was organizing strong enough to take possession of the people's highways and give them transportation at cost. That was for the people of these states to build a north and south road. The trouble was for means to organize the wealth and industry and intelligence of this rich region to build the road. Most of the states had constitutional provisions preventing them from engaging in the enterprise as states. The plan of organizing the communities along the route to build the road was worked at. In Texas a beginning has been made and a division or so of road, the direct outgrowth of this agitation has been built.

All this time shrewd railway organizers, outside of the influence of the east and west roads, were studying the situation. One of them, A. E. Stilwell, of Kansas City, went to Holland and got Holland capitalists behind his scheme, and in three years the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf road has been rushed through the forests of Arkansas and the prairies of Louisiana to Port Arthur and Sabine lake. Within the last six months railroad enough has been built to bring the new line into Omaha and within the last week it has secured Chicago connections.

The effect of this new line upon freight rates in this region can best be judged by a Chicago dispatch of the past week,

which says that much alarm is manifested in western railroad circles over the attitude of the Kansas City, Pittsburg & Gulf road. Unless this road can be checked in its rate destroying career earnings of western roads will be most seriously effected and expected dividends will vanish into thin air.

Announcement was made yesterday that the Kansas City & Gulf had put in effect a rate on corn of 12 cents a hundred pounds from Kansas City to Galveston and New Orleans. In addition it will absorb the elevator charges, which amount to 2 cents a hundred pounds. This is the lowest rate ever made to tide water from the Missouri river.

Against such rate as that the east-bound roads from the Missouri river can not compete. The rate from the Missouri river to Chicago on corn is 12 cents a hundred pounds, not including elevator charges, and from Chicago to New York the rate is 17 1/2 cents. This makes a through rate on export corn from the Missouri river to New York, via Chicago, of 29 1/2 cents a hundred pounds, as against 11 cents, minus elevator charges, from Kansas City to gulf ports.

Even the roads competing with the Gulf road find they cannot meet the latter's rate without losing money. The Gulf road cares not whether it makes money on the transportation of freight. Its main object is to boom Port Arthur and make that point the principal gulf port. It owns all the dock property and hundreds of acres of land there and its promoters expect to reap a rich harvest in land speculation.

The situation would not be quite so bad for the roads east from the Missouri river if the Kansas City & Gulf would go to further east than Kansas City. But it has acquired lately lines into Missouri and Iowa, and is extending them to a number of important points. This enables it to take corn from the heart of the western corn belt to the gulf.

The diversion of grain shipments from the old routes has already begun during the constructive period of this road, and before it had fairly entered the field of competition, as is shown by the following comparative statement of broad-stuffs shipped from our principal ports in 1896 and in 1897:

CORN (BUSHELS.)		
	1896.	1897.
Baltimore.....	26,382,182	43,048,008
Boston.....	6,808,209	9,424,644
Newport News.....	10,378,825	16,728,589
New York.....	10,180,180	38,398,569
Norfolk.....	12,881,280	12,427,278
Philadelphia.....	8,829,278	25,146,487
Galveston.....	6,222,280	4,074,021
New Orleans.....	28,297,502	27,714,472
Totals.....	115,987,649	161,797,058

WHEAT (BUSHELS.)		
	1896.	1897.
Baltimore.....	4,589,856	15,304,039
Boston.....	4,938,058	6,602,108
Newport News.....	17,327	1,406,465
New York.....	18,476,263	20,086,899
Norfolk.....	97,591	49,892
Philadelphia.....	4,561,366	4,801,626
Galveston.....	3,488,968	7,346,636
New Orleans.....	3,868,337	10,856,248
Totals.....	47,078,593	64,958,689

FLOUR (BARRELS.)		
	1896.	1897.
Baltimore.....	3,065,845	2,326,803
Boston.....	1,457,529	1,208,751
Newport News.....	12,911,352	12,487,828
New York.....	4,817,439	4,699,767
Norfolk.....	61,136	66,675
Philadelphia.....	601,126	48,181
Galveston.....	27,728	49,892
New Orleans.....	268,104	245,017
Totals.....	11,906,966	10,997,894

The prospect is certainly good at present for a material reduction of rates upon the surplus products of this region seeking a market. With direct rail communication with the gulf by an independent railway line anxious to build up a great seaport at its southern terminus,

which has a line shorter by two thirds than the old lines to tide water, and which can carry freight at less than half the old rates and still make a large profit, there is certainly reason to hope for relief in freight rates by the farmers of Kansas and Nebraska.

McComas Chosen Senator.

The Maryland legislature has elected Judge Lewis E. McComas United States senator to succeed Arthur P. Gorman. The ballot upon which he was elected which was the first of the day and the eighth since the contest began resulted in his getting sixty-three votes to four for Alexander Shaw of Baltimore, the only other republican who remained in the race. Senator Gorman got forty-seven votes, the full democratic strength in both houses.

Ex-Superintendent Ebricht Arrested.

Upon the recommendation and based upon the findings of the legislative investigating committee, ex-Superintendent Ebricht of the school for the blind at Nebraska City, was arrested upon a charge of converting state funds to his own use. Mr. Ebricht was arrested and brought before County Judge Joyce. He applied for a continuance which was granted, and Monday, March 18 at 9 a. m. was agreed upon.

The county judge fixed the amount of Mr. Ebricht's bond at \$1,000, which he furnished with Samuel Golding and Dr. Claude Watson as sureties.

Contribution for Cuba's Relief.

The Cuban relief commission recently appointed by Governor Holcomb, has received its first cash contribution, and it comes in the form of a check from Hon. W. J. Bryan. Commissioner Utt received the following:

John E. Utt, Esq., President Cuban Relief Commission, Omaha, Neb.—Dear Sir: Enclosed please find a check for \$100. The sufferings of the Cubans appeal to the hearts of our people, as their struggle for liberty has for months to the sympathies of those who love free government. Yours truly, "W. J. BRYAN."

Its Lodging Place.

General Booth, the commander of the Salvation Army, has landed in this country, and he announced soon after that important achievement that he had come to see what he could for men's souls. He further announced that he had "also resolved upon a great house to house canvases for the purpose of dealing personally with the people of all classes on the great question of death and salvation." The general added that this proceeding would "do a great deal of good, for these millions have souls and we want to see what we can do for them." The general did not say what he might be prompted to do for the temples in which the "souls" are housed. The ancients believed that it was the last dishonor that could be heaped upon a spirit was to house it ignominiously. In our day, when we have, of course, freed ourselves from superstitions of all kinds, we think too much of the soul to bother our heads about its lodging.

SMALL HAPPENINGS

R. D. Sutherland the following pension claims were allowed last week: Robert W. Nutter, supplemental, \$6 per month; Charles F. Baisley, original, \$8 per month; John S. Griffin, increase, \$12 per month; S. Galley, increase, \$8 per month; G. B. Stubbs, original, \$8 per month. Congressman Sutherland is untiring in his efforts in behalf of his constituents and has secured his full share of the government patronage for them.

Chairman Jones, of the democratic national committee, has advised fusion with populists and silver republicans, in Minnesota.

Committeeman Kurtz, of Ohio, is about to lose his official head as a result of his recent efforts to defeat Hanna for the senate.

The people's party state convention of Kansas will be held June 29.

The same old fight is promised again in the seventh congressional district of Kansas as the republicans will again nominate Chester I. Long to run against Jerry Simpson.

Land commissioner J. V. Wolfe has announced that February 1 Mr. A. K. Gift will succeed Alex. Schlegel as draughtsman in the land commissioners office. Mr. Gift has been county surveyor of Dawson county for many years and is regarded as very competent in that line of work.

Alexander Sprout, a farmer living in Filmore county committed suicide by taking strychnine. Deceased had lost heavily through surety debts and was very despondent for some months and brooding over his trouble upset his mind. He was about eighty years of age.

Governor Bradley has sent a special message to the Kentucky legislature recommending an appropriation for an exhibition at the Omaha Trans-Mississippi Exposition.

Superintendent C. W. Hoxie of the Kearney industrial school was a Lincoln visitor this week.

FIERCE WIND AT ST. LOUIS.

Three Persons Killed and Much Damage Done by a High Gale.

St. Louis, Mo., Jan. 26.—A thunder storm raged for an hour or more in this vicinity about 3 o'clock this morning. Reports of accidents from various parts of the city are coming in. August Walmyer was blown off the Shields building and died in ten minutes from his injuries. A woman, name unknown, was killed at 3500 LaSalle avenue, and a boy was killed by being blown from a porch roof in another part of the city.

A GREAT COMBINATION

Vanderbilts Control a Line of Railway From New York to San Francisco.

MANY ROADS ARE INCLUDED.

Every Influence to Bring About the Deal Was Strictly Eastern.

Over a Billion Dollars of Capital.

It is developing that the foreclosure of the Union Pacific Ry. was made the basis for the formation of the greatest railway combination ever known. The Vanderbilt interests have accomplished what has been the ambition of every great aggregation of railroad capital in the United States. They now control lines of railway from New York to the Pacific ocean, a transcontinental railroad. The Vanderbilts are at the head of the new directory. Six of the most powerful railway systems in the United States are allied with them. The lines of road, their mileage and capital included in the deal are as follows:

Miles.	Capital.
Chicago & Northwestern.....	5,000 \$221,200,000
Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul.....	4,140 227,402,000
Chicago, Rock Island & Pac.....	500 15,000,000
St. Louis & North Western.....	600 15,000,000
Illinois Central (Iowa Line).....	600 15,000,000
Lake Shore & Michigan South.....	1,400 108,000,000
Michigan Central.....	1,524 46,818,000
Missouri Pacific.....	3,243 116,436,000
New York Central.....	2,450 194,708,000
Southern Pacific (Ogden Branch).....	1,700 120,013,000
Union Pacific.....	4,700 227,180,000
Total.....	29,450 \$1,368,794,000

Note.—The above figures are the book valuations of the securities covering the actual mileage of the railway corporations involved in the deal. The speculative value of the securities is much larger.

The object of the combination is apparent, viz: The control of all the freight and passenger traffic of the central states, particularly that part dependent upon the Chicago & Northwestern and Union Pacific lines. The new combination unites every powerful railway system between Denver and Chicago. West of Denver the Union Pacific (now controlled by Vanderbilts) is absolute in its control and east of Chicago the New York Central is sufficiently powerful to dictate terms from Chicago to New York.

Every influence that was exerted to bring about the deal is distinctly eastern. It was executed in behalf of the Vanderbilt interests, and when it was demanded, a sop was thrown to competitors that silenced opposition. The Missouri Pacific might have appeared as an opposing factor had not George Gould been taken into the Union Pacific directory. The Missouri Pacific from Omaha to St. Louis could have organized a strong opposition to the Vanderbilt Union Pacific deal by forming a traffic agreement with the Pennsylvania company from St. Louis east, but the Missouri Pacific was given representatives in the new Union Pacific directory, and this does away with competition from that source.

The welfare and prosperity of all of the central west is involved. This is particularly true of Chicago as the combination controls the traffic of all the territory tributary to that city. If the Vanderbilt control is adverse to Chicago's best interests, Chicago may be made a way station on the trans-continental line. In that territory west of Chicago between the lines of the Missouri Pacific system on the south and territory controlled by the Northern Pacific on the north, the Vanderbilt lines will have no insurmountable competition.

EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGN.

Literature Should be Placed in the Hands of Every Citizen.

There is no plan of campaign as effective for the reform cause as an educational campaign. The money power discovered this many years ago and have steadily increased their hold in that line until they are now in control of almost every great daily newspaper in the United States. In addition they spend enormous sums of money distributing free sound money literature. In this work the opposition must meet them. It can only be done by the circulation of the standard reform books and speeches of the ablest statesmen. We have in stock speeches by Hon. Chas. A. Towns, Hon. Henry M. Teller, Hon. Geo. Fred Williams, Congressman Newlands and Mr. Bryan. These speeches are for sale at least per copy. Invest in as many as you can afford and distribute them among your neighbors. Address all orders to the Independent Publishing Co.

It is reported that Tom Watson will be the populist nominee for governor of Georgia.

The Union elevator in St. Louis burned Tuesday. Estimated loss \$1,000,000.

Mountain lions or panthers are numerous along the Illinois river, Indian Territory, and are killing cattle.

CONTEST BETWEEN WEALTH AND POVERTY.

In a description of the present strikes in the cotton mills in New England to prevent a reduction in wages, the Boston Post publishes a lengthy article in which the following striking contrasts appear:

The Typical Mill Hand.

Martin Oflinger, weaver in the Acushnet mill, highest earnings per week, \$6, regarded as a fair representative of the mill workman.

Family of wife and two children. This week only earned \$3.

Lives at First and South streets, in upper part of house in three rooms; rent per week, \$1.50.

Goes to work at 6:15 a. m. and is through at 6 o'clock p. m. Usual breakfast of bread without butter, chicory coffee sweetened with brown sugar without milk, and occasionally sausage.

Has meat once a week.

Cannot afford to buy coal for fire, but wife and children pick up wood and chips to burn.

Not a carpet in the house. Total worth of possessions, \$100. Been married fourteen years. When married was earning \$35 a month and running four looms. Now runs eight looms and earns 25 per cent less pay.

Wears a suit costing when new, two years ago, \$3.

Works every day in the year when possible. Wife buys two pounds of flour at a time. Only meat this week was for soup and cost five cents. Usual breakfast for wife and children, dry bread and coffee. Is a citizen and voter.

The Typical Mill Man.

Andrew G. Pierce, for years treasurer of Wamsutta mill and now president, lives at 103 Spring street; estimated salary, \$40,000 per year, or \$770 a week.

Believed to be the richest man in New Bedford.

Family of wife and several children.

One son, Andrew G. Pierce, Jr., is treasurer of Pierce and other mills, with a salary of \$20,000 a year.

Another son, Edward T., is treasurer of Wamsutta mill, salary \$20,000 a year.

Assessed for \$9,400 worth of real estate and \$35,350 personal property.

Holdings in different mill properties and various enterprises do not show on city records.

House richly furnished throughout.

Goes to his office and leaves there when ready. Rides or walks, as suits his pleasure. Table for three meals a day spread with the best and choicest food. Keeps several servants. Family enjoy vacation trips abroad, and have all the luxuries money can command. Is a citizen and voter.