

Interest and Dividends Paid on C. B. & Q. and U. P. Stocks and Bonds.

Some Valuable Figures from Mr. Clark.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE.—Even if it be conceded that private property in a public highway is all right, is sanctioned by our national constitution, is in accord with the fundamental principles of popular government (all of which I deny) still it seems very plain to me that the interest and dividends paid on railroad stock and debts is greatly in excess of what it should be. I think the plain facts and figures of the one or two roads that I have been in, and that the capital stock and funded debt amount to \$36,384.24 per mile; that the company has received from the sale of land minus the amount paid in taxes and the amount expended in sale and management of lands, \$10,985,154.87. I would shout loud and long, "Join the Farmers' Alliance and stick to your rights." I offer you in conclusion this sentiment: "a farmer for every office in the land from path-master to president."

I find that the C. B. & Q. stockholders, received cash payment of dividends from 1837 to 1886 inclusive, \$1,000,000, and find stock dividends amounting to \$6,701,990, and interest was paid to the amount of \$32,155,578, making \$39,857,568 of interest and dividends paid in the 50 years. I find that the capital stock and funded debt amount to \$36,384.24 per mile; that the company has received from the sale of land minus the amount paid in taxes and the amount expended in sale and management of lands, \$10,985,154.87. I would shout loud and long, "Join the Farmers' Alliance and stick to your rights." I offer you in conclusion this sentiment: "a farmer for every office in the land from path-master to president."

watered stock. Thus from 1835 to 1887 inclusive, 15 per cent was paid one year, 10 per cent 12 years, 9 per cent one year, 8 per cent 1 year, and 8 per cent 7 years. And in addition the \$6,701,990 in stock was paid, which is supposed to draw dividends like the other stocks and bonds for all eternity.

If the farmer, mechanic or merchant makes nothing he is on expense all the same, but the stockholder if he can not get the cash takes more stock.

The interest and dividend payment for 1888 amount to \$10,246,107.69 or \$2.129 per mile, enough to pay the cost value of the road every four to six years.

The U. P. company reports the cost per mile of that road and equipment at \$89,565.82. In the report for 1887 the amount of stock and debt per mile of road and interest on U.S. bonds was \$105,114.43 per mile, and the company has realized net \$21,432,406.69 from the sale of land. How much from other sources we are not told. I suppose if the company could draw any more dividends or interest by it, they could just as well have no stock. One hundred million to the mile. I judge from these few items, and the fact that farming and nearly every legitimate industry is paying little or nothing in the way of profit, that the railroad stock and bond holder should stand aside for a while and give the workers a chance to make something. In a word that railroad interest is too high.

It is probably quite unnecessary, but I want to add that I consider the whole railroad system a fraud.

C. M. CLARK.

A Letter From the Great Deborner.

EDITOR FARMERS' ALLIANCE.—May I say a word to the thousands of farmers all over Nebraska who know me familiarly as "The Great Deborner," and who have written me thanking me for doing them good in the saving effected in handling and keeping their cattle. Not a man of all the Farmers' Alliance who say "God bless you" for the little change which a small innovation has wrought, and which adds two or three dollars a year to the value of every horned animal. How is it, Brother Farmers, that you have joined the "Alliance" which, if properly handled not only makes you more annual money than the deborning of your cattle can possibly do, but which also restores you your individual freedom and teaches you how you may attain in our political rights and standing as the sovereign of this Great Republic. I am astonished when I look over the census of 1880 and read that there were 90,000 agriculturists in Nebraska, and when it is considered that today there are not less than a quarter of a million of persons engaged in agriculture and not less than 100,000 to 150,000 are voters, how is it, I ask, that the Farmers' Alliance of your state does not number more than 50,000 voters? What strange neglect, what blindness to your own welfare. Do you propose to do as Illinois has done, and wait until you are outnumbered by the town people. Look at Illinois. To-day the farmers in that State are ruined. A renter makes no improvements, add no betterments. He has all he can do to keep soul and body together and provide actual necessities for his little family. His rapacious landlord demands four to five dollars per acre rental, and that must come "while he nill he." Illinois has two classes of men who are ripe for socialism. The poor of the cities. The men who labor with their hands. There are over one hundred thousand of these in Chicago alone; and most of them know that no steady job awaits them the year along. They know that six to eight months labor is all that they can reasonably expect to get, and that they will be laid off and strike for all they can get during that time. What care they that days and weeks are lost? There is just so much to be done, and as a rule no more than a moiety of the time is needed to do it. These men are ripe for socialism. The farm renters of Illinois are fast approaching that same condition. Of what value is it to them that they repair houses or barns, cribs or fences. "Only just enough to crop the ground the year and safely house us, our animals and our crops." The idea of home loaves is outside the pale of their dreams. How can they ever expect to purchase a \$50.00 per acre farm. Where can the \$5000 or more come from for that purpose, since they can scarcely raise the rental? These men, too, are fast, very fast ripening for socialism. The line between land-lord and tenant is being forcibly put as the line of demarcation is now drawn in cities between boss and employe. Not long since I met a manufacturer who had been obliged to pay one of his men over a thousand dollars for loss of a part of his hand on account of defective machinery. Said he, "do you know what I will do? I will take that money out of my help during the coming year." This is not harsher treatment than was accorded by an old farm land-lord down in Platte county, Ill., to his tenant, and related to me at one of our Farmers' meetings. This old hunk had been urging to me that modern farm tenants are lazy. But one who knew the circumstances told how that same old miser stood by in cold November and saw the little girl, his tenant's children, thinly clad without shoes or stockings while he distrained for his five dollar an acre rent. It is safe to say that that tenant like the employe of my manufacturer, is ripe for socialism.

way) let us who are farmers be so combined and so compacted that we can give tone and direction to the final issue. The millionaires of Chicago so tremble over the coming dangers of the situation that they have actually given a military camp to our Uncle Sam, and only the other day when 100,000 men in this city began to demand 8 hours as a day's work, and when at least one-fourth part of that number joined in parade, those same millionaires actually discussed the chances of violence and rejoiced in being able to throw troops, U. S. soldiers, into the contest if the struggle came. Now it is quite apparent to every one of you that we ought to convince "them" should be a living active Alliance in each school district. You farmers of Nebraska are happy in having what Illinois has not. You have a paper, an able paper devoted to your sole interest. Its editorial management is clean. If it can be fooled or can be bought I know not where to look for editorial integrity. You farmers ought to support it and support it well. You all of you ought to take it and study its teachings, not blindly but with a firm spirit of determination to stand for your Alliance and keep it clean. Our motto is "The Farmers Society first, and party afterwards." I do so wish that I could reach the ear of every Nebraska Farmer. I would shout loud and long, "Join the Farmers' Alliance and stick to your rights." I offer you in conclusion this sentiment: "a farmer for every office in the land from path-master to president."

H. H. HAAFF.

WIT AND HUMOR.

Mrs. McCorkle—"How religiously solemn these owls look!" McCorkle—"Yes, they are birds of prey."—Munsey's Weekly.

Johnny Peck—"Pa, what is meant by the ruling passion?" Mr. N. Peck—"Ask your mother, my son, she knows all about it."—Time.

She (in evening toilet)—"I wasn't coming to-night, for I hadn't anything to wear." He—"And you seem to have worn it."—Washington Star.

German Shoeblick (who can't get his cigar stump to burn)—"By Jiminy! Now they are making smokeless cigars, I suppose!"—Fleigende Blatter.

"I see your friend, Miss Edmunds, has been getting married; did she do well?" "No, miserably; her presents were of a very inferior quality."—Time.

The city clergyman who can preach the most scathing sermon against the corruption of municipal government never goes to the polls to vote.—Texas Siftings.

Miss Blue—"Have you read Whittier's latest, 'The Captain's Well'?" Young Obdurate—"N-no-ah-what was the matter with the Captain?"—St. Paul Pioneer-Press.

Where is there a greater satire upon man than in a game of chess where the queen has to do all the work and the king is the one to be protected?—Texas Siftings.

Miss Cable—"I have had the parrot for three months and it has never spoken a word yet." Caller—"Perhaps you have never given it a chance."—Terre Haute Express.

"How strict these reformers are," exclaimed Mrs. Verde. "I see that they are invading the army now, and insisting that even the powder shall not smoke."—Time.

Briggs—"I tell you, it makes me feel sad to meet a young man on the road to ruin." Bragg—"I didn't suppose such a thing could be possible."—Terre Haute Express.

Lady (horses running away)—"Dear, dear, what will become of me?" New Coachman (grimly)—"Madam, it depends on your seat life. I'm all right."—N. Y. Ledger.

"I hear your coachman ran off with \$500 of your money. Are you going to try to recover it?" "No, the poor fellow will need it; my daughter went with him."—N. Y. Sun.

Jim—"I'm just like the Father of his Country—I can't tell a lie." Jam—"I can—some lies. I can always tell yours a mile off. For instance, this last one."—Detroit Journal.

Yeast—"They raise some wonderfully big beets out in California. I'm told." Crisnobreak—"Yes; but they don't get into the banks like they do in New York."—Yonkers Statesman.

"The tricky man is almost always sure to be found out," said Smithers to Blithers. "That's a fact, especially if he goes to call to collect money that he owes you."—Washington Post.

A young woman began to sing, "Ten Thousand Leaves Are Falling." She pitched it too high, screamed, and stopped. "Start her at 5,000," cried an auctioneer.—British American.

P. T. Barnum claims to own, among other musical curiosities, the biggest lyre ever made. We trust this is no reflection on his gentlemanly advertising agent.—Yonkers Statesman.

"What is society?" "It is a place where people who were poor twenty-five years ago tell of the poverty-stricken origin of their neighbors and conceal their own humble beginnings."—Boston Gazette.

Fogg—"I went to hear Gusherlegh preach last Sunday." Brown—"Why, I thought you hated to hear him?" Fogg—"So I do; but it was his farewell sermon. I went out of pure gratitude."—Boston Transcript.

"Salvation's free," sang the choir. "I'm glad of that," said a poorly dressed old gentleman who had just dropped in; "but you just wait till some of them English syndicators get hold on't."—Boston Transcript.

Miss Playne—"I wonder if I could recover any damages if I were to sue him for breach of promise?" Miss Flyppe—"You might possibly, if you should wear a heavy veil all through the trial."—Terre Haute Express.

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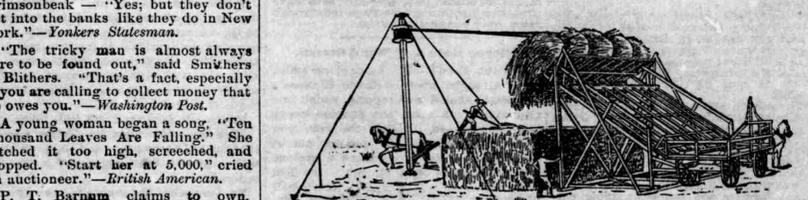
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