

FARMERS' OPINIONS.

Salvation by Annexation. BARKER HILLS, Neb., May 29, 1891. EDITOR ALLIANCE: The petition of annexation of Mr. Boyd's pettifogging attorney, and taken up puppet-like by Mr. Roosevelt may be, in part, illustrated by an anecdote.

A little after the war a gentleman from the north was visiting with a lady residing in the suburbs of a southern city. He was admiring the beauty of a grove near her home. "Oh, sah," said she, "you ought to have seen this grove before the war," and his admiration of the city elicited the same response, which may have all been well enough, but then commented on the softness of the atmosphere and the Italian-like beauty of the sky. "Oh, sah; you ought to have seen this sky before the war," was her reply.

So by a parity of reasoning were one to comment on the intelligence of the average Nebraska citizen the response might be as follows: "Oh, sir; you ought to have seen our citizens the day before the state was admitted into the union. What dense ignorance prevailed; not a foreign-born citizen had sufficient intelligence to vote on the simplest questions.

Some were anarchists, some were ready to sell their votes for money, and ignorance concerning our institutions and kindred subjects was so dense you could cut it up into great blocks! But let us behold! amazing fact! the very day after the state was admitted into the union all this ignorance vanished like the unsubstantial fabric of a dream.

Every (one) stolid countenance beamed with intelligence, and everyone over 21 years of age could repeat the declaration of independence and the whole of the constitution of Nebraska from memory, or perhaps from revelation, and a soul that was not at once qualified for any office in the gift of the people, and that is the reason we have had so many governors in the past twelve months. Yes, sir; it is a marvel how the admission of the state into the union disseminated knowledge.

It came like a flash of lightning, and it was as if the sun had been suddenly admitted to the world. So if Utah were admitted to-day every polygamist Mormon would at once be qualified to vote. Furthermore, if this theory of Cowen and Roosevelt is true concerning admission to the union by a declaration, then why can't all the inhabitants of a state be eternally saved in heaven on a similar plan of petitioning the King of Heaven to annex Nebraska to his kingdom and by a proclamation qualify all her inhabitants at once for citizenship in that goodly world? It would be much easier than to go through so "much tribulation" as the Bible tells, and all his goodie and pettifogging and perversion of facts and depraved instincts find a place by the side of St. John and Paul. Roosevelt had better be petitioning for such an annexation, for I fear that is the only way he is ever likely to find citizenship there, for *quo avanti* proceedings will not avail if he should climb up any other way.

The Independents have a majority in Knox county and are increasing every day. Yours truly, J. P. PRISTON.

Independents Gaining Ground in Frontier. CAMBRIDGE, Neb., May 10, 1891.

EDITOR ALLIANCE: The combination of republicans and democrats entered into last fall to elect Boyd, Benton, Hastings, et al., followed by the combination of the same to defeat the contest by Powers vs. Boyd, also as in the Senate on the veto of the freight rate bill, fully establishes the fact for years claimed by thinking men, that the leaders of the two old parties had a secret understanding with each other to stand in with the corporations, if elected and to defeat any and all honest legislation for the whole people. No republican or democrat claiming to be honest, and now having his eyes opened by the above transactions can conscientiously support any one for an executive, judicial, or legislative position, who still owes allegiance and gives support to either of them. In this connection I wish to say that the vote in the Senate on Boyd's veto has made independent votes here in Frontier county. Republicans of the most radical stripe, have declared to me, and with blazing eyes, that they have left the old party for good. That the old democracy cry that boodie was all that held the leaders together, and that it is true of the leaders, of both of the old parties. I can give the names of these honest men if required, and they are not creeping into our ranks for pelf. Some of them were old time whigs and democrats who helped to organize the Republican party in '56. They were Abe Lincoln republicans; men who helped pull down human slavery; men who fought during the war for liberty of mankind and now intend to fight for their own deliverance and to prevent the slavery of their children by worse and more cruel masters than the black had to wit: moneyed corporations, such as Wall street, railroad, etc., railroads, stock yard combinations, cattle and hog buying combinations, high tariff thieves, boards of trade gambling institutions, combinations of grain inspectors, telegraph, telegraph, coal and coal oil barons. We men of old party allegiance mean and reason with each other and see that our interests are identical, and as sure as that there is a God (which we all believe) political redemption is sure to come and soon. Boys keep a stiff upper lip. We will get there, keep step with the boys for we are marching, for we will come, the boys of '62, will be there in '92 and their boys with them. The republicans and democrats are only juggling caps, don't care. We will get there in congress and our state legislatures and supreme courts, to give honest laws and just decisions. We don't want to pull down, but to build up, have an equal chance to live in this good world, clothe and feed our families equally with others. Hold your grip; and tight. W. H. ALLEN.

Senator Randall Endorsed. Resolutions passed by Urbana Alliance No. 1772, Phelps county, Nebraska.

WHEREAS, Our gallant and loyal Senator, H. L. Randall, having published an article in the Progress recounting the villainies and corruptions of the republican and democratic parties, and

Resolved, That we approve of the action of Judge Hamer, of Broken Bow, in refusing to confirm sales of foreclosed property.

WHEREAS, We hold that the enactment of a railroad rate bill for this state to be in accordance with the Alliance demands and principles and

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our senator in every word he has written and further that we consider the *Nigger* too dirty, too sneaking and too entirely beneath our notice to rebuke its miserable apology of an excuse for its attack on our senator and hope that Mr. Randall will take no notice of the attack as it would be beneath his dignity to do so.

Greeting to Jim Boyd. At a regular meeting of Pleasant Prairie Alliance No. 2013, of Sheridan Precinct, Pawnee county, held May 15, 1891, on motion of C. W. Leonard the following resolution was adopted:

Resolved, That we extend to J. E. Boyd a happy greeting on the head waters of Skunk Creek. Pleasant Prairie Alliance No. 2013 which passed the foregoing resolutions is composed of thirty members, all voters, and who carry their convictions to the ballot box. Their meetings the past winter have been of the most interesting kind, and has broadened the views of members on many public questions. The foregoing brusque resolution only expresses in another way their detestation of the manner in which matters were carried on last winter to defraud the voters of the state of the just triumph they had won at the polls. The supreme court having shown themselves willing tools of the corporations, deserve the stern condemnation of all honest men. J. L. CLARK, Secy.

RINGING RESOLUTIONS. The Furnas County Alliance Pays its Respects to Several Burning Questions. The Furnas County Alliance passed the following resolutions in its recent session:

WHEREAS, On the memorable 4th of November, 1890, the great plain people of the state of Nebraska, through the instrumentality of an honest ballot sought to regain the boon of self-government by the election of honest and pure men to the several offices of the state, and

WHEREAS, It having been thoroughly demonstrated that unscrupulous designing men did by fraud, trickery and violence defeat the expressed will of the people, and

WHEREAS, The supreme court of our state by descending into the low cess pool of partisan politics and usurpations made it possible for usurpers, fit material for tyrants and despots to dismember a confiding people, and

WHEREAS, We well know that behind this villainy there is a prompting more potent than the mere emoluments of office; first, that the right of a freeman to cast a free ballot, and have that ballot counted cannot be thwarted or infringed upon without jeopardizing the very existence of the Republic, and can be sanctioned only by traitors, and would-be despots.

Second, That we denounce the acts of the supreme court as un-American, revolutionary and dangerous in the extreme to the liberties of the American people.

Third, That the traitors, Collins of Gage and Taylor of Loup, merit the contempt of every lover of justice in the land, and their names should go with future generations side by side with Benedict Arnold and Judas Iscariot.

Fourth, That it is with shame and the profoundest regret that we consider this dishonor and disgrace, brought upon the fair name of our state through this rapping of Justice by a gang of usurping, monopolistic knaves, their tools and thugs.

Fifth, That while it is very essential that we remember that we have a supreme court, Collins and Taylor, it is also well for us to know that resolutions of condemnation fall from waters from a duck's back; that it is more essential that we look well to the source from whence came the "swag" that corrupted the relation and position of the organic law of the land, and the destruction of that bulwark of American freedom, the right to a fair and impartial hearing before an honest and legal tribunal.

Sixth, That we are neither discouraged or dismayed by the acts of unprincipled scoundrels or the present prestige of organized capital, but hereby anew plight our faith each to the other to stay on the field and by our guns until justice prevails, the rights and liberties of the people secure or we go down in that mighty maelstrom, most inevitably follow. Be it further

Resolved, That the Hon. John Stevens (the wild and woolly and hard-to-curry coyote member from Furnas) in his bold and honest defense of the peoples cause merits the confidence of every told of the entire state.

That we will ever cherish, honor and hold in sacred memory the names of that noble band of patriots who so defiantly and unflinchingly stood by the people in the late unparalleled deadlock.

Dawes County Alliance Resolutions. The following resolutions were unanimously adopted by the Dawes County Alliance at its recent session:

Resolved, That we do fully approve and heartily endorse the action of the different reform organizations of the United States in calling a convention to meet on the 19th day of May at Cincinnati, for the purpose of adopting a platform upon which all who are for reform can unite in 1892 and that we make an effort to send a delegate from northwest Nebraska to said convention. Be it further

Resolved, That we approve of the action of Judge Hamer, of Broken Bow, in refusing to confirm sales of foreclosed property.

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AN EXTRA SESSION DEMANDED.

By an Alliance at New Helena, for the Purpose of Securing Relief From Railroad Oppression.

New Helena, Neb., May 16, 1891. The following resolutions were adopted by the Victoria Farmers' Alliance, No. 644:

WHEREAS, The people of this state are suffering great hardship on account of present extortionate transportation rates, and

WHEREAS, We believe the Newberry maximum freight bill passed by the recent session of the legislature, would give us the needed relief, therefore be it

Resolved, That we ask the Governor of Nebraska to call an extra session of the legislature to consider the transportation question.

Paul Vandervoort Repudiated by a Comrade. CAMBRIDGE, Neb., May 2, 1891. EDITOR ALLIANCE: I learn through the Alliance and other papers that one Paul Vandervoort, has declared his future allegiance to the independent of Nebraska. Is he the same Paul Vandervoort who was the commander of the G. A. R. when the national encampment was located at San Francisco, Cal.? If so, I have a few words to say regarding his past record as a man, comrade and citizen of Nebraska, taken from his evidence given under oath when he prosecuted the editor of the Omaha Bee for libel. Said evidence was published in the Weekly Bee. Vandervoort therein testified as follows: That while commander of the G. A. R. and in the employ of the U. P. and C. P. Railroads, he procured the location of the national encampment at San Francisco, and also urged comrades to patronize said roads and got his pay for his labor from them, the railroads.

Now comrades and independents, do we want such a man in our ranks? Can we give such a man the right hand of comradeship? Do we want such as he working among us? Can we ever work out our future liberty and redemption from corporate power with such men in our party, especially if such as he and Church Howe, etc., etc., be permitted to act as counselors, or if we even pay heed to any of their professions of reform? If this Paul Vandervoort is the same man referred to as commander of the G. A. R., all comrades should repudiate him. Cast him out as worse than Judas, who sold Jesus Christ for cash. In my opinion a comrade who sells his comrades for pay (as he confesses he did in above reported testimony) he can not be trusted in any capacity. Go back to your old love, the railroads. We don't want spies in our camp. No hangers-on of corporations and in their pay are wanted in our camp. We feel that you would run at the first fire. We want no sneak, spies or traitors in our ranks. As you are a man, with your old employer, we won't keep step with you. You can't march or light under the flag that you have disgraced. Stay in the rear with Cleveland's coffee coolers. Help plunder the dead. Kill the wounded. Don't try to come with us; we don't have any use for you. Go and dig a hole, then crawl into it, pull the hole in after you, and thereby blot yourself out of existence, as you now are out of a political existence, and we your old comrades, will attend your funeral, singing for or playing for you the dead march. Erect a tombstone, have inscribed thereon "Died, working for a change to traitor's camp, in sorrow, your old comrade, W. H. ALLEN."

How the Alliance is Dying. Kansas Jeffersonian. Ohio has 35,000 Alliance voters. Wisconsin has about 300 Alliances. West Virginia has 433 Alliances. Pennsylvania has over 200 Alliances, and is organizing at a rate of five a day. Kentucky has 2,400 organizations with over 100,000 members. Sixty new chapters were granted in March.

North and South Dakota have doubled their membership in the last six months. Iowa has fifty county organizations and is booming. Minnesota and Kansas have each added a third to their numbers since they carried last election.

Illinois and Indiana are fast catching up with the procession. The southern states are all solid, and New York and New England are organizing very rapidly.

Yes, the Alliance is dying—for a fight at the polls.

What the People Would Gain. In Hungary, under government ownership of railroads, the rate for a distance equal to that between New York and Chicago. A system of tickets somewhat like postage stamps has been adopted, which travelers can use on all lines, and with which freight can also be prepaid. The saving is enormous, and the people get the full benefit of it. In this country the tickets, freight and advertising agencies which competing railroad companies are employing cost \$2,000,000,000 a year.

The princely salaries and "pickings" of presidents, directors, contractors and a host of parasites amount fully to an equal if not larger sum. These come the interest on bonds and the dividends on stocks abundantly watered. For all this the public must pay a plutocratic tax over and above the actual cost of transportation. It is safe to say that of the gross earnings over \$800,000,000 would be saved to the people by government ownership and operation of the national highways.—The People.

A Sad but True Picture. Capital and labor, after severe skirmishes with varying success, are arguing for the supreme conflict. How imminent the struggle may be no man can affirm precisely, but signs there are which may well fill us with disquiet. The rich are daily becoming richer; the poor, poorer; luxury, high living, the pride of life are on the increase. The thirst for wealth becomes daily more insatiable, the cries of the distressed more sharp and loud and poignant.

The economic conditions in the United States are fast approaching those of England. The houses of the poor are more marked by destitution and squalor; the light of heaven is being closed out from tenement rooms and alleys; flesh and blood are becoming more cheap, and bread more dear; the well-being of the car horse is more solicited by wretched tax than that of the driver. Small wonder that, strong men, made weak by the tears of wife and cries of

starving children, hand themselves together and sometimes resort to deeds of violence.—Cardinal Gibbon in N. S. Review, for April.

CORPORATIONS MUST GO. Seven Reasons Given by Judge Hubbard Why the Abolition of Private Corporations is Advisable.

We here give our readers a portion of the recent address of Judge N. M. Hubbard of Council Bluffs, in which he advocates the abolition of all private corporations. Judge Hubbard is one of the most noted corporation lawyers of the west. His reasons were given as follows:

1. They are monopolies owned by less than one-twentieth of the people.

2. The property of individuals changes hands with every generation, while a corporation is immortal, inasmuch as it has the right, under the law of perpetual succession. If two persons go into business, and one dies, the children of the deceased partner must take their father's share and exercise their individual judgment in its investment; if a member of a corporation dies, the stock is simply transferred to his heirs and the corporation goes on with the business.

3. Each individual who owns property is obliged to exercise his own judgment in maintaining his possession and making an increase, while a corporation composed of a large number of persons, can and does procure the best talent to be found in or out of the corporation to manage its property and its affairs.

4. A large aggregation of persons and capital has an undue advantage over a single individual. What single individual could go into the business of buying and selling oil against the Standard Oil company with any prospect of success?

5. Private corporations abolish individual responsibility, and substitute a corporate responsibility of which the public have no means of judging. A few rich men take a small amount of stock in a private corporation, which gives it credit; the stock is then transferred without the knowledge of the public; if the enterprise is an improvement, the corporation becomes an instrument of fraud whereby the stock is unloaded upon innocent people, and the rich promoters escape individual liability.

6. Private corporations is the mother of trusts. Ordinarily trusts come about in this way: Too many private corporations are formed or are engaged in the same business; an over-production follows, and the corporations then put their heads together to limit the production and raise the price of the commodity so that all may make money. In this way, too many railroads are built in some places, and the "pool" followed so that all might live. In the same way, also, too many sugar refineries, distilleries, cracker factories, oatmeal mills, and the like were built, and the trusts followed to limit the production and raise the price.

7. A private corporation is an organized appetite for money only, and has nothing human about it. It sees distress without an emotion of pity; it gives nothing to the poor; it sends no children to the public schools; it does not attend funerals or weddings; it does not even laugh; what use have we for such animals?

It is claimed by some economic philosophers that private corporations, and even trusts, are necessary to carry on successfully the vast wealth-producing business of this country. I do not believe this. Men with much money do not hoard it in old stockings. They must invest it in some kind of business or it loses its income power. If permitted to their own individual responsibility and judgment, they will not be likely to invest it in a business already overdone. Besides, the state can be relied on to grant special charters on special showing for manufacturing purposes requiring very large capital. Again there are so many large private fortunes that ample capital is at hand for all safe enterprises.

But if it should be admitted that the abolition of private corporations would seriously disturb the business of the country, is it not better to stand the shock now than to postpone it until the shock may destroy the fabric of the government itself?

These private corporations represent the syndicated wealth of the country owned and combined by the few against the individual labor of the vast majority of the people. Railway corporations and others of a public character must remain, because they are for the use of the public until the government shall see fit to own and operate them. But they must be controlled (not destroyed) by public law.

No more vast private fortunes must be made means of public or private corporations or trusts.

Every device by which corporations raise or depress the price of commodities must be swept away, never to return.

This can be done only by the destruction of private corporations. No trusts were ever formed until after the private corporations became numerous, and they will never be destroyed so long as private corporations are permitted to exist. Laws against trusts will avail nothing so long as the law permits the creation of private corporations, without which trusts cannot be formed. It is worse than folly to authorize the propagation of grasshoppers, and then pass laws prohibiting them from eating our crops. If the National Alliance will repeal all laws authorizing private corporations, they will not need the sub-treasury bill.

Meeting of Lancaster County Alliance. Lancaster County Alliance will meet in K. of L. Hall on O between 10th and 11th streets Lincoln, Neb., at 10 a. m. on Friday June 5, 1891.

W. W. KIRKIN, Secy.

PENNSYLVANIA MINERS.

The Situation in the Connellsville Coke Region.—"Protection to American Labor"

The most gigantic strike since 1886 is now on in the Connellsville Coke Region in Pennsylvania. Extracts are here given from a recent New York World article, descriptive of the situation there.

There are 15,000 men on a strike in this region, of whom, it is a fair estimate to say, 12,000 are Slavonians; 1,500 are Germans, and the other 1,900 are composed of Irish, Scotch, Negroes and native white Americans. Not over 1,000 of the strikers, including negroes, were born on American soil, and not over 2,000 of them can speak the English language.

Years ago the mines and ovens were worked by native Americans, most of whom were from the vicinity, and many of whom owned their little homes on the hill-side and tilled a little plot of ground and kept a cow or two in connection with their work about the mines. As late as 1880 there were only about 8,000 coke ovens in this 400 and more square miles, which make up what is known as "The Connellsville Coke Region." Now there are nearly 16,000 ovens. But with the growth of the industry the native American has almost disappeared, and the work is now done by the imported "pauper labor of Europe."

The company sent to various employment agencies in Baltimore and Boston for laborers, and through these agencies the first installment of Slav immigrants were secured.

When the Slavs arrived at the coke region they were set at work at wages which, while far below those which the company was paying to its native employees, were still greatly in excess of the wages which the Slavs had been able to earn in their own country.

But these Slavonians, almost before the operators were aware of it, had been induced to join the labor organizations, and in 1886 there came a strike—a strike which at that time proved the largest and the longest that the coke region had known. The Slavs went out with the rest of the workmen and stayed out till the strike was won. The operators then as now tried every means to fill the places of the strikers. Then as now families were evicted by the scores, in the hope of frightening the others back to work. They now know the refinement of coercion failed and the operators cast about for new men to fill the vacant places. The employment agencies had helped them before, why not again? And so to the agencies they went, with the result that within a few weeks hundreds of newly-imported Slavs came swarming into the region to take the places of the men who were fighting, as they said, "for bread for their wives and babies."

But the operators could not speak to the Slav in his own language, and there were hundreds among the strikers who could. They were men of his own country, of his own language and of his own faith, and to them he listened and by them he was persuaded to keep away from the mines until the strike was over. And so it came about that the importation of these Slavs, began in the first instance for the purpose of securing a cheaper labor than this country contained, was continued for the purpose of displacing those who were demanding a wage upon which they could live, until now there is not less than 12,000 Slavs in this little strip of country not over 8 miles wide, and which extends up and down from Connellsville, perhaps 25 miles in each direction.

Nearly or quite 800 Italians are already here and at work in the mines and about the coke ovens, which are guarded by the Pinkerton forces. And the Slav, brought to this country to displace the native workmen, is to be compelled to see his place taken by an Italian. His family is evicted from their home, his scanty furniture is thrown into the street, and there is nothing but the bounty of the labor organizations between his family and starvation.

Between the evicted Slav and the newly-arrived Italian, just where does "protection to the American workman" come in?

This great strike has already cost the operators in the loss of their usual property and in the destruction of their property not less than \$2,000,000. Yet all this violence, all the destruction of property, all the expense of the Pinkerton army which is guarding the several works, has been occasioned by the "foreign pauper labor" which the operators themselves caused to be imported to drive the native American laborer from the mines.

And the Italians, who are to take the place of the once beloved but now despised and rejected Slavonians, what of them? Will they bring with them the secret and dreaded Mafia and replace the passionate violence of the Slav with the silent thrust of the stiletto and the terrors of midnight assassination? When comes the next strike, as come it will, and these Italians are thrown into the street with their babies and belongings, will the lives and the property of these coal barons be more safe at their hands than they are at present, or than they were when farmers and farmers' sons came down from the hills and worked these mines and tended the ovens? It needs not the eye of a prophet to perceive that the end of all these troubles is not close at hand. The end is not yet; but the beginning was the displacement of American labor from these mines by the "ignorant pauper labor of Europe," brought here by the operators themselves.

The prices for mining and for drawing coke are given by the ton, but the miner is in reality paid by the hundred bushels. Three wagon-loads even full at the bottom of the shaft are counted as a hundred bushels, and so it was years ago; but with the importation of the "ignorant pauper labor" the wagons have grown larger, so that now it takes three wagon-loads, each holding about forty-five bushels, to make a hundred. This has led to one of the demands which the miners put forth at the beginning of the strike, that the coal be weighed instead of measured, and that they be paid for the number of tons actually mined.

This strike has already cost over \$2,000,000, including the loss to the operators of their product and the loss to the workmen of their wages. Ten men have been killed and about thirty seriously wounded. More than a thousand persons have been evicted from their homes, and the operators say that the evictions have but just commenced. The families who have been emptied into the street are living with some neighbors who have not yet been evicted, and others are living in sheds or barns, wherever a place can be found.

The World representative saw forty or fifty of these people who were starving in one small barn.

And it is to this that the coal barons have brought this region. They have driven out the native miner, and his place they have filled with "ignorant pauper labor of Europe," who now seems about to be thrown by the thousands upon this region to live on one

THE RAILROAD PROBLEM.

Views of A. B. Stickney, President of the Chicago, St. Paul & Kansas City Railroad.

Discrimination in railroad rates mean the exaction from the residents of one locality higher rates than at the same time are charged the residents of another locality for substantially the same service, or the exaction from one individual or firm higher rates than from other individuals or firms for like service. This habit of the railroads has been improperly called competition. It is discrimination, and is a vicious practice.

Mr. Stickney continues: "It should be known that when corn is worth 25 cents per bushel in the Chicago market, at the railroad station west of the Missouri river it would be worth from 12 to 15 cents; the difference between its value in the far west and in Chicago being made up of cost of transportation and the expense of buying and selling and a profit for the middleman. \* \* \* If it were possible to give one middleman the permanent advantage in respect to rates over all others in this business, to the extent of one-quarter of a cent per bushel, it would be a weapon of warfare sufficiently powerful under present commercial conditions to drive every other middleman out of the field."

So with coal and other products. "With these facts fresh in mind, who is willing to say that the power to discriminate in freight rates ought to be lodged in the control of one man or a few men? Under such conditions, what business is safe? \* \* \* This power, like a government, has authority to make tariffs, and enforce their collection. It claims a right that no civilized government claims, and no sovereign has dared to exercise for centuries, of rebating a portion of its tariff, and thus discriminating between its subjects in the collection of its revenues. It is safe to say that if the congress of the United States should enact a law which established on any commodity one import duty for the city of New York and a different duty for other cities, or one duty for one firm and another duty for another firm, no matter how slight the difference, the people would resort to arms, if need be, rather than submit."

Mr. Stickney believes that all the granger legislation was inspired to kill discrimination rather than to injure the railroads. The legislatures at first (1872) acted upon the theory that the non-competitive rates were too high and the competitive rates perhaps too low, and the proper course was to reduce the higher rates and leave to the companies the task of increasing the lower rates if they saw fit. But, says Mr. Stickney, "the companies were wedded to the system of discriminations. Immediately after the adjournment of the legislatures, instead of raising the rates which were admittedly too low, or even steadily holding the old rates, in many cases the companies reduced them in about the same proportion as the higher rates had been lowered by the law, and the rate favored shippers at local stations was likewise lowered so that the old monopolies and the old discriminations were perpetuated; the laws were made futile and the revenues of the companies were depleted." If it had not been for the extraordinary growth of the northwest at this time, there would have been a financial crisis among these railroads.

The policy of the roads after this granger legislation naturally embittered the people. Why the managers took this course is a mystery. Mr. Stickney thinks that "it is hard to resist the conclusion that it was an arbitrary act of autocratic power, born of the imperious desire to demonstrate the ability of the autocrat of one company to secure more than his fair share of trade at the expense of a rival autocrat."

Mr. Stickney discusses the question of freight tariffs and the interdependence of a growing country and a growing railroad, and this remark of his will go for a great deal, he writes a practical railroad man: "The writer ventures to doubt the superior business sagacity of the men who are engaged in managing the traffic departments of railroads, and would attribute the financial success of the railroads in the past to the inherent value of the property and to the growth of the country, rather than to the superior sagacity displayed in their management."

Rivalry at competitive points is another interesting branch of this subject. Mr. Stickney compares railroad managers to the Highland chiefs of 400 years ago. But the important difference between the two "lies in the machinery of the stock exchange by means of which there is as great a chance of profit to the camp followers from destruction as from stealing. At the present day, a railroad raid promises one of two profits: either a division of the booty or a profit from destruction secured by selling stocks short,—while the poor Highlander's alternative profit was a broken head."—New Nation.

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