

## Municipal Coal Yard

Below will be found a report made by City Commissioner Charles W. Bryan to the city council of Lincoln, Nebraska, covering the activities of the municipal coal yard that was established in Lincoln, October 1, 1921.

When the contest commenced in Lincoln one year ago to establish a municipal coal yard for the purpose of curbing the profiteers, the price of the high grade bituminous coal from southern Illinois, known as the Franklin County District, was selling in Lincoln for about \$14.50 per ton delivered. The effect of the municipal coal yard has been to cause a reduction of \$2.00 a ton on all grades of coal sold by the retail coal dealers in the city of Lincoln and a saving to those who buy coal direct from the municipal coal yard of about \$4.50 per ton. The municipal coal yard is selling the Franklin County, Illinois, District coal delivered to the consumer's bin at \$9.90 per ton.

Mr. Bryan's report to the council follows:

February 4, 1922. To the City Council:

"Submitted herewith are figures and information showing the activities of the municipal coal yard for the four months of its operation, which include the months of October, November, December and January. The general report is followed by the purchases, sales, etc., for the month of January.

Total number of cars of coal bought and sold during the four months up to Jan. 31, 125.

Number of tons bought, 5,846.

Total tonnage on hand Feb. 1, 147.

Number of tons sold 5,629.

Total shrink between the Lincoln railroad track weights and scale weights, 70 tons.

Per cent of shrink, 1 2-10 per cent.

Loss by shrinkage per ton, 10 1/2 c.

Total receipts from sales, \$57,149.52.

Total cost f. o. b. Lincoln, \$47,951.29.

Amount paid to haulers, for delivery, \$5,635.62.

Overhead, \$1,784.35.

Number cars egg coal handled, 8.

Egg coal costs at the mine 25 to 35 cents less per ton than lump coal. However, owing to limited demand for egg coal, cars of egg coal must be unloaded at a cost of about 20 cents per ton and re-screened when sold from the bin. The cost of unloading and the loss in screenings necessitates egg coal being sold to the consumers at the same price as lump coal.

"Out of 125 cars of coal handled, adjustments were made on four cars on account of re-screening and adjustments made on one car on account of re-screening and grading. In each instance the amount of screenings separated from lump coal was sold as screenings, and the difference between the screening price and the lump price charged to the shipper; also the labor expense of grading and screening one car was at shipper's expense; and coal sold to Lincoln customers was the same high grade Franklin county district coal and all sold at the uniform price in effect at the time.

"Total number orders of coal sold during four months, 4,283.

"Number of complaints out of 4,283 orders on account of negligence in screening and loading at the coal yard which were satisfactorily adjusted approximately, 6.

"Number of complaints out of 4,283 orders where coal was taken out and money refunded, 2.

"In these two cases coal was returned to the municipal yard, inspected, and finding it to be the same grade Franklin county district coal as all other handled by the yard, this coal was re-sold to other customers and no dissatisfaction of any kind expressed by the purchaser.

"The uniform quality of the coal received from the mines and the very small number of complaints in view of the large tonnage—5,846 handled and distributed in 4,283 orders—is a remarkable showing for quality, service and satisfaction with the output of the municipal coal yard.

"Supplementing the above statement as to quality, preparation, adjustments, etc., of coal reproduced herewith is an affidavit from the National Supply company, operators and wholesalers, through whom the municipal coal has been supplied.

Lincoln, Neb., Jan. 26, 1922. "C. W. Bryan, City Commissioner, City of Lincoln, Lincoln, Nebraska.

"As the writer understands it, you have purchased all of your coal for the municipal coal yard from our company during the season of

1921 and 1922 and all the coal we shipped to you has been from the Franklin county district of southern Illinois and is as good coal in quality as is produced in that field.

"To the best of the writer's knowledge, there has been between our company and the municipal coal yard, no question of quality on any shipments and the allowances made by us have been on two or three cars where it appeared that the coal had not been properly screened at the mines, and in these few instances, the writer understands that the municipal yard re-screened the coal at their yard and we allowed them for the slack they took out of the coal and sold to steam plants for steam coal.

"We always stand ready to protect the quality of the products we sell and are making this statement to you as we would to any of our customers. We assure you that your experience in the coal business is no different than that of any retail coal dealer."

### JANUARY REPORT

"The following is the report on the activities of the coal yard for the month of January, 1922, as provided for in the ordinance:

"Tonnage bought in January, 1,446.

"Tonnage on hand January 1, 581.

"Tonnage sold in January, 1,826.

"Tonnage on hand, 147.

"Balance cash on hand January 1, including revolving fund of \$15,000, \$15,981.99.

"Cash received on sales, \$17,509.88.

"Paid for coal, \$9,062.90.

"Paid for delivery, \$1,412.93.

"Paid for overhead, \$297.15.

"Cash on hand, including revolving fund \$22,598.89.

"Balance in improvement fund, \$202.69.

"Increase in tonnage sold in January over tonnage sold in December, 800 tons.

"Out of 1,826 tons Franklin county district coal sold in January, no complaint received as to quality, and only one received as to the preparation of the coal, and this complaint has been satisfactorily adjusted."

### MR. BRYAN'S NEW BOOK—"IN HIS IMAGE"

The lectures delivered by Mr. Bryan, during the past year, on Darwinism and other challenging issues, have stirred public opinion in an extraordinary way. They have caused, and are still causing a perfect furore all over the country. Mr. Bryan is, and has, a most magnetic personality. A man may read, or listen to the pronouncements, or opinions of twenty men of prominence, and go his way, uninfluenced, unimpressed. But Mr. Bryan will compel him to listen, to declare himself, to take sides, to agree or disagree. He has a way of being able to force one's heart to one's sleeve.

Never has Mr. Bryan displayed his power of forcing an issue in larger measure than in the present series. Every chapter is a challenging provocative, uncompromising confession of faith. One is never in the slightest doubt as to where Mr. Bryan stands, and is either for him, or against him. Not for a moment has he (Mr. Bryan) tarried in Half-Way House.

Lecture I. In the Beginning—God. With great eloquence, Mr. Bryan pleads for a deep-seated, whole-hearted belief in God. This he holds to be an imperative condition for the realization of man's highest destiny, for the attainment of a life lived on the levels of truth and righteousness. Not to a First Cause or to an Eternal Energy does Mr. Bryan direct his readers, but to God as revealed in Christ; to a God that is gracious; to a God that is Love.

Lecture II. The Bible. Mr. Bryan stands four-square on Scripture as the inspired Word of God. He holds tenaciously to the position that that no school of Christian thinkers worthy of the name, would dream of abandoning the inspirational theory of Holy Writ—of beating such a foolhardy retreat. He has a faith in the Written Word no criticism, higher or lower, can kill, and defends it with characteristic force and eloquent fervor.

Lecture III. What think Ye of Christ? Time and again, the bitter and barren agitation which questions the deity of Jesus has had a way of coming around again, masquerading in some modern guise, as though it were something new. In reality, it is very old, and always the same—just as it was in the days of Marcion and Celsus. It requires, however, to be smitten repeatedly, hip and thigh. In his third lecture, Mr. Bryan lays about him with lusty vigor. For him, Christ is the Everlasting Son of the Father, "full of grace and truth."

Lecture IV. The Origin of Man. Here Mr. Bryan is discovered as the uncompromising opponent of the theory of Evolution in general, and Darwinism in particular. He does not hesitate to scoff at their acceptance as defined by

scientific formulas. The evolutionists may know something of phenomena, but nothing of reality. They occupy themselves wholly with the visible effects of their theory in all its phases, never dreaming, apparently, that in doing so, they have got hold of the last word they are able to say. Mr. Bryan points triumphantly to the fact that evolutionists are compelled to leave to the theologians the task of defining creation. It is evidently none of their affair. This lecture is bound to raise a storm of controversy throughout the entire country. It is a wonderfully virile effort.

Lectures V., VI., VII., VIII. and IX. The subjects are as follows: The Higher Life, The Value of the Soul, Three Priceless Gifts, His Government and Peace, The Spoken Word. These are all ably conceived, finely-phrased addresses, exhibiting the manifold gifts of the Great Commoner and reflecting on every page the play of a mind passionately and supremely convinced of the traditional, primary facts of Christian belief, and able to vindicate them under the full glare of modern destructive criticism.

To sum up: Here is where, in these lectures, Mr. Bryan stands unflinchingly: When every form of modern criticism (scientific or pseudo-scientific) has done its work, it exhibits no coherence, no commanding or convincing authority. It has no foundation but the subjective mind of the critic, and fails utterly to account for either the physical or spiritual phenomena that has resulted. And this in addition: The utterances of sceptical scientists and iconoclastic critics are inevitably and permanently condemned by the plain fact of their being nothing more than finite attempts to describe the Infinite. Not all the modern theories, restatements, postulates and formulas, put together, express a hundredth part of what the humblest and simplest believer feels and verily believes, about God and Christ, about Salvation and Eternal Life.—From announcement in "Revellings," by Fleming H. Revell Company.

### BANKERS APPROVE BANK GUARANTY LAW

An Omaha, Neb., dispatch, dated Jan. 19, says: Four hundred state bankers of Nebraska adopted a resolution Wednesday at the Fontenelle hotel approving the present depositors' guaranty law and opposing any amendments or changes in it by the coming special session of the legislature.

Governor McKelvie, who had included consideration of the guaranty law in his call for a special session, opened the meeting by stating he would be guided in his attitude toward the law by the decision of the bankers' meeting.

The outcome was received with gratification by those who attended, and the result was taken definitely to dispose of any likelihood that the law would be altered in any way. Though the subject still is in the special session call, it can be disregarded.

The resolution, introduced by George W. Woods of the Lincoln State bank, as adopted is as follows:

"The present depositors' guaranty law has been in operation for eleven years, during which time not a single dollar has been lost to a single depositor in a state bank in Nebraska.

"The law has established and maintained the confidence of the people of our state.

"It has successfully met and been tested by the severest price declines and business disturbances ever experienced in this state.

"It has enabled the depositors in failed banks to receive in cash over \$3,000,000, which otherwise would have been lost to them.

"It has provided by means of assessments on solvent banks with \$80,000,000 capital stock, for the constant recouping of the guaranty fund.

"As a result of this process and after the payment of \$3,000,000 out of this fund, it now contains \$2,250,000 in cash on deposit in solvent banks; it owns approximately \$5,000,000 in notes and mortgages taken over from failed banks and now possesses the largest resources the fund has ever contained at any period in its history.

"It has stabilized banking and business conditions throughout our state. It commands the confidence and hearty support of the bankers themselves who have organized a great corporation to help make the law function more efficiently and to promote higher standards of banking in this state; therefore be it

"Resolved by the State Bankers of Nebraska, in convention assembled that

"We favor and approve the present guaranty law of this state and that we are opposed to the enactment of any amendments or changes in the law by the coming special session of the Nebraska legislature."