

# Grain Elevators

An Able Presentation of the Subject by Prof. C. Vincent

Next to the question of taxation, which touches all citizens, perhaps the one that should most closely concern Nebraskans, is the subject of market discriminations concerning the grain crops, or, as it is popularly styled—the elevator question. The discriminations are indirect, but none the less real, and comprise the operations of the elevator combine, otherwise known as the Nebraska Grain Dealers association, which brings to bear all its vast influence on the railroad companies to prevent farmers' associations or independent concerns from securing site privileges or concessions on the railway right-of-way.

There are about one thousand elevators (in round numbers) in Nebraska and over 80 per cent of them are in the combine that is seeking to control the market and shut out the farmers' companies. It is easily susceptible of proof that the combine aims to conduct the grain business so as to net the dealers five cents a bushel, or \$50 per car of one thousand bushels. One man near Lincoln is known to have saved \$200 on two cars of grain by shipping independent of the combine. Instances are numerous where ten and twelve cents a bushel have been exacted on a good grade of marketable grain, and there are many cases where fifteen cents a bushel has been extorted by dealers in absolute control of the market through the possession of the only shipping facilities at those stations. If these excessive margins are somewhat reduced during the past year it is solely because of the limited success of farmers' companies, hampered as they have been by the combine.

During recent years a renewed effort of farmers to secure shipping facilities has been made, commencing about two and a half years ago through the efforts of the Central Farmer of Omaha. The discussion thus begun, found its way into the last legislature and was voiced by the effort of Senator Brady of Boone county to secure the passage of Senate File No. 102, but which was displaced by House Roll No. 70, otherwise known as the Ramsey bill, and which was passed near the close of the session. It was freely charged at the time that the "combine" influence was thrown to secure the passage of the Ramsey bill. Numerous efforts have been made to enforce the Ramsey law, but so far none of them have ever been carried to a final determination in the courts. A large number of able attorneys contend that the Ramsey law is invalid, and if pressed to a test in the court of last resort, would be declared unconstitutional. Color to this view is given by the fact that the entire elevator "combine" influence was thrown against the Brady bill (No. 102) and in favor of the Ramsey law.

A determined effort should be made in every legislative and senatorial district to elect only such men as are openly pledged in favor of sound elevator legislation. Such candidates are those of the fusion forces, or candidates nominated by populists and democrats, for the state conventions of both parties took a bold and firm stand in favor of justice to the farmers of Nebraska, touching elevator legislation.

A short statement of the methods of the "elevator combine" will better enable the voters to understand the merits of the issue. It is well to understand that Mr. Schneider, who is one of the controlling officers in the republican state committee and member of the national republican committee for Nebraska, is also one of the controlling forces in the "Nebraska Grain Dealers' association," and president of the "National Grain Dealers' association." He is a member of one of the largest elevator companies operating in Nebraska and Iowa, and the wealth of the firm has been very largely accumulated during recent years since the above named association perfected its organization.

It is morally certain that Mr. Schneider and the party whose machinery he dominates, will assist in the election of only such legislators as

can be depended on to further his interests and those of his class. It would be more than could be expected of him to exert himself to secure the election of a representative known to be favorable to farmers' elevators, which, when successful, will displace the elevators of the "combine."

The methods employed to accomplish their aims are chiefly of two classes. They operate indirectly, and through, first, the railway companies, and second, through the commission men on board of trade.

The elevator combine uses all its power and influence to prevent railway officials from granting any new building sites for elevators, thus confining the business to present dealers, 80 per cent of whom are in the combine. The extortionate margin of profit demanded in many cases by the combine dealers has caused many farmers to attempt "track-shipping," and in order to prevent this, the "combine" has introduced the "boycott" against the commission man who would handle the farmers' grain in the central market.

It will readily be seen that when Mr. Schneider, with 75 to 100 elevators, notifies a commission firm that has sold a thousand car loads for him in the course of a year, that he must not handle the farmer's car load on pain of losing the Schneider business—it is readily seen that the commission man is compelled—frequently against his own wishes—to refuse the business of the farmer.

The markets in all the great grain centers were practically closed against the independent shippers when we began our crusade early in 1902 in the Central Farmer, which culminated in the monster demonstration in Lincoln Jan. 22, 1903, and which resulted in the agitation of elevator legislation during the last session of the legislature, and since that body adjourned. By persistent effort, against the dogged resistance of the "combine" the farmers' associations and independent concerns have made some headway but the progress has been small in comparison with what it would have been if proper shipping facilities had been enjoyed by the general public.

Nearly two years ago it was pointed out in the Central Farmer the reasons why no "grain market" existed in Nebraska. The cause lay in the freight discriminations in favor of Chicago and Kansas City. A railway rate war has wiped out that discrimination, and simultaneously with a more fair adjustment of freight schedules, there has been formed a central grain market in Nebraska. The establishment of the Omaha Grain Exchange means much for Nebraska farmers if it can be made an "open market." But if it is to be dominated by the Schneiders and other members of the combine, it will simply fatten those in the combine, and be of no real value to Nebraska farmers, nor to any Nebraska interest except the elevator combine. The contest begun in behalf of Nebraska farmers has not been permitted to slacken. I was among the first to subscribe for a membership in the Omaha Grain Exchange, in order to furnish farmers' companies an outlet in the central market. When I was finally successful in securing membership in that body, I organized the C. Vincent Grain Co., of Omaha, and am now engaged in marketing grain for farmers' associations and in organizing new ones wherever farmers are sufficiently interested to warrant the effort.

Among other Nebraskans who have given time and money without stint in the effort to better the marketing facilities of Nebraska farmers is Hon. J. S. Canaday, the fusion nominee for auditor of public accounts. Mr. Canaday, in Feb., 1903, was elected president of the Nebraska State Co-operative Grain and Live Stock association, to which position he was unanimously re-elected in Jan., 1904. His county is the best organized in the state with facilities for grain shipping by farmers' associations, and this excellent showing is almost entirely due to his efficient and untiring efforts.

### Watson's Dates

Hon. Thomas E. Watson, people's party candidate for president, will speak at Vincennes, Ind., on October 19, and at Indianapolis on the 20th day of October.

Hon. Thos. E. Watson will be the orator of the day at Virden, Ill., October 12. Everything possible is being done to make this one of the greatest events of the year. Virden is a beautiful city situated on the Burlington,

Chicago & Alton, and Inter-Urban railways, twenty-two miles south of Springfield. Special rates will be granted on all the railroads touching the city and possibly others. Excursion trains will be run from a number of important points. The crowd will be one of the largest ever assembled in central Illinois. Every populist in the state is invited and urged to be present. C. A. BURFAN, Jacksonville, Ill.

### The Beatitudes

Cincinnati, O., October 2, 1904.—Herbert S. Bigelow, pastor of the Vine St. Congregational church, in speaking on the "Beatitudes," said in part:

"Has the world become Christian, or has Christianity become worldly? What did Christ teach? We could hardly ask for better summary of his teachings than we find in that introduction to the sermon on the Mount, known as the Beatitudes. There we find his creed. Now what was Rome's creed?"

Her legions had dipped their javelins in the heart of the vanquished and had written her creed in letters of blood over all the earth.

Jesus said: "Blessed are the poor in spirit." Rome said: "Blessed are the proud. Jesus said: "Blessed are they that mourn." Rome said: "Blessed are the hard of heart. Jesus said: "Blessed are the gentle." Rome said: "Blessed are the arrogant. Jesus said: "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness." Rome said: "Blessed are they that slay the righteous. Jesus said: "Blessed are the merciful." Rome said: "Blessed be cruelty. Jesus said: "Blessed are the pure in heart." Rome said: "Blessed are the fat in purse. Jesus said: "Blessed are the peace-makers." Rome said: "Blessed are makers of war."

Jesus said, blessed are the men who live and die for truth but Rome said, blessed are the men who live and die in the favor of the Emperor, who march at the head of legions, wear the purple and hear the multitudes applaud.

The world is centuries older now, and what of these two creeds? Has not the prophet of Jerusalem triumphed over the Emperor of Rome? Yonder beneath the dust of ages sleep those legions now. But the truths of this lonely man, are they not living today in all that is noble in our civilization, and do they not urge us on to nobler triumph still?

This is the truth. We are better than Rome was, and it is because this creed of Jesus has in a measure prevailed over the creed of Rome. This also is truth. We are not as good as we might be, and it is because the creed of the Nazarene has not yet had full sway.

Let Rome bury her dead. Let us look to the Present and the Future. Let us imagine this man of Nazareth on the streets of our own city

Before him comes a troop of pale-faced children. He knows them—that hungry, stunted brood, the spawn of the slums; the slums, those lazar spots, made by the insatiable greed and the iniquitous laws of man. From these noisome places comes the cry of the children; children living where flowers will not bloom; children living where the sun seldom shines; children playing on slimy pavements, breathing the malignant gases of the sewers and dying, God knows how cheaply! The peal of church organs can not drown for him that cry from the slums. Indignant with men for not heeding that cry, he would exclaim, as of old, "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy."

These beatitudes are upon every tongue. When we recite them, we seem to forget that they challenge the institutions of our time even as they challenged the institutions of Rome. We do not understand them; neither have we entered into the spirit of this man, if we are not impressed with the frightful contrasts that still exist between his truth and the society which we have made.

### Those New York Fighters

Editor Independent: I have just returned from a two weeks' trip through the state.

The petitions are complete and will be filed the middle of next week on the first day of filing. County and city organizations are springing up all over the state. The men who were out for Bryan in 1896 and 1900 are now shouting for Watson and Tibbles. We are swamped with demands for literature, it pours in on us from every nook and corner of the state. The printing press is running as fast as steam can drive it. We will try and furnish all with literature as fast as possible.

We are going to get the vote and not only make this the banner state this fall, but we want the influence of that vote to make way for the election of our candidate for president in 1908.

From now on till the end of the campaign our speakers will be all over the state preaching the same doctrine they talked in 1896 and 1900 when they supported Bryan, only this time they are talking for Watson and Tibbles, the only Bryan ticket on the ballot in this state.

Yours in the cause of Jeffersonian democracy, JAY W FORREST, Albany, N. Y., Sept. 24.

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### OWSLEY WILSON, ATTORNEY

301 Richards Block, Lincoln, Neb. To John M. Barber and Mrs. John M. Barber his wife, non-resident defendants and to all persons having or claiming any interest in, or lien on lots number 13 and 14, Block 12, Belmont Addition to Lincoln, in Lancaster County, Nebraska.

You and each of you are hereby notified that on September 12, 1904, Henry J. Bannister commenced an action in equity against you and against the said above described, to foreclose tax sale certificates No. 13893 and No. 13894 covering said lots, and issued by the County Treasurer of Lancaster County, Nebraska, to said plaintiff, on March 7th, 1902 for the then due and delinquent State, County and City Taxes for the years 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898, 1899, and 1900 on each lot and amounting to \$24.52 on each certificate.

Plaintiff thereupon duly paid on each of said certificates respectively, taxes then become due on each of said lots as follows: On July 23, 1902 county and state taxes, \$101.22; September 12, 1903 county and state taxes, \$102.50; May 10, 1902, 1904 city—21c; September 12, 1898, 1902 city—21c, of each of said lots. There is now due to plaintiff \$26.56 on each of said two certificates with interest on each of said payments, from the date thereof, to March 1, 1904, at 20 per cent per annum and thereafter at the rate of 10 per cent per annum together with attorney's fees and costs. The plaintiff offers that each of said lots may be sold for the payment of the amount due on its respective tax sale certificate, with interest, attorney's fees and costs, and that you, the above named defendants, and all persons having, or claiming any interest in, or lien on said land may be barred and foreclosed of all equity of redemption thereon and for equitable relief. You are required to answer plaintiff's petition on or before the 24th day of October, 1904.

HENRY J. BANNISTER, By OWSLEY WILSON, His Attorney.

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