

## An Open Letter to Omaha Crowd

Notwithstanding we are told that county option is not an issue, the "Merchants and Manufacturers Association" (?) of Omaha is flooding Richardson county with circulars, one of which reached the hands of George Watkins of Verdon. Now, there is only one man on earth that knows more of the census report than George and he is the man that wrote the book. The Merchants and Manufacturers fake undertake to prove their case by the census reports, how well they succeed is shown by the following letter which we gladly publish:

Verdon, Neb., Sept. 21, 1908  
—J. B. Haynes, Sec. Mer. & Man. Ass'n., Omaha, Neb.—  
Dear Sir:—Either by mail or through some citizen I have received a large amount of literature from you regarding the saloon and its traffic and the best way to manage it. In introducing myself permit me to say I am entirely opposed to a traffic in alcohol in any form as a beverage. It may be presumptuous in me, a farmer too old to work, to criticize your conclusions, yet this fact remains, if you are sincere in wishing the welfare of humanity as I am, you will respect my opinion as I do yours.

So, let us reason together. I wish first to call your attention to some errors in your leaflet entitled 'How Prohibition Destroys Farm Values.' The first error is under the heading, 'Iowa was hit hard.' Iowa adopted prohibition twenty-six years ago and tried to enforce it up to 1894.

The fact is that Iowa adopted prohibition in the fifties, and I think in 1856, excepting wines and beer, which law was in effect until 1882, when they enacted and submitted an amendment to the constitution prohibiting the sale of alcohol in all forms. This amendment was knocked out and her present law enacted in 1884. Ten years later, to the shame and disgrace of the state, she enacted a law granting the liquor vender the right to violate and set aside the law of 1884 by paying \$600. Just a word regarding your statement, 'Tried to enforce,' if Iowa had a prohibitory law and tried to enforce it, and did not then, this is a fact, the liquor traffic is bigger than the state of Iowa, and Iowa is entitled to the aid of the national government under that clause of the constitution, granting to every state a republican form of government.

You state the point which decided me on this question viz: The traffic has always set itself above the law. Grant said, 'The best way to get rid of an obnoxious law is to enforce it.' They say any law to govern them shall be defied.

Your statement regarding the effects of the law on farm values is still more erroneous. In all the statements I shall make I will take my statistics from census or other government reports. Just why, if you wanted to correctly inform your readers, you went to the state auditors report in Iowa and went to the census in Nebraska I will leave you to explain. Iowa like Nebraska assesses at one-fifth its actual value. In order to give you the benefit of the time when you say Iowa farm values were so hard hit by prohibition I will quote from abstract 11th census page 68. 'Value of farms including buildings and fences 1880, \$567,430,227 in 1890 the same were \$857,581,022, shaving an increase of a trifle over 50 per cent. The same authority gives the value of farms, fences and buildings in Nebraska for

1890, \$402,358,913, and the abstract of 12th census gives the value of the same property for 1900 at \$577,660,020, an increase of practically 44 per cent.' So, you see Iowa was not so badly hit after all. You ask why I take the decade from 1890 and 1902? I answer because it is the first decade under our present high license law.

To be sure Iowa shows better results in that decade than Nebraska, her farms etc. increased to the enormous sum of \$1,497,554,790 or practically 75 per cent increase in spite of the fact that a few places stultified themselves and sold the right to violate a wholesome law.

As I have shown your error regarding Iowa, lets turn to our sister state on the south of which you say under the head 'Withering effects upon Kansas' You say, its rural population has decreased, and quote from the 12th census to prove it. If you use the abstract, which you probably did, it is strange that you did not turn over a few pages to Nebraska. I concede your figures so far as Kansas is concerned. In 51 counties there is a decrease of 50,000 people but here are the figures for Nebraska during the same period, to-wit: from 1890 to 1900.

COUNTY	1890	1900
Adams, decreased	5,500	
Banner, decreased	1,300	
Blaine, decreased	500	
Buffalo, decreased	1,900	
Burt, decreased	200	
Cass, decreased	2,750	
Chase, decreased	2,250	
Clay, decreased	500	
Custer, decreased	1,900	
Dawes, decreased	3,500	
Duall, decreased	200	
Douglas, decreased	17,400	
Dundy, decreased	1,600	
Fillmore, decreased	1,500	
Gage, decreased	6,200	
Hamilton, decreased	700	
Hayes, decreased	1,200	
Hitchcock, decreased	1,300	
Holt, decreased	1,400	
Keith, decreased	600	
Keya Paha, decreased	800	
Kimball, decreased	200	
Lancaster, decreased	11,500	
Logan, decreased	400	
Otoe, decreased	3,100	
Perkins, decreased	2,600	
Polk, decreased	200	
Rock, decreased	200	
Saline, decreased	1,800	
Seward, decreased	400	
Sheridan, decreased	2,600	
Sioux, decreased	400	
Wheeler, decreased	300	

Here is a list of 33 counties in Nebraska, just two-thirds of the number that you give for Kansas, and there is a loss of about one half more than you give for Kansas. You say, these figures show that an exodus of Kansas took place, some came to Nebraska. If they did they surely did not settle in Douglas county. Say, where did they stop? If you had taken the trouble to look you surely would have saved yourself the humiliation of that statement. Page 156, abstract 12th census gives the population of Kansas in 1890 at 1,427,096 and in 1900 at 1,470,495, an increase of at least 3 per cent. Page 162 same work gives population of Nebraska in 1890 at 1,058,910 and in 1900 at 1,066,300 or about three-fourths of one per cent increase. I should of liked to have saved us the humiliation of this exposure. Even poor old decrepit Vermont in spite of her sterility, prohibition added, did better than we did. If you are not ashamed of our pitiable increase, I am.

Now gentlemen, if you cannot controvert my statements, and you cannot, then please come out in the open and say we want saloons in spite of its blighting law defying effects, or we will join hands with every clean, honorable man, woman or child to exterminate it.

Hoping you may see your way to join with us, I am yours for the right.

In trying to do this I will

strike it with any club I can. If it is county option, I will use that, if it is Patrick's bill, to make all signers of saloon petitions responsible, I will use that. Hoping that the right may prevail, I am yours very truly  
GEORGE WATKINS.

### FROM THE SOUTH

An Interesting Letter From Swift's P. O., Alabama

Swift P. O., Ala.—Sept. 19, '08.—Elberta Settlement.—Falls City Tribune. Your paper is a welcome visitor to us every week and don't like to miss it because we are interested in the affairs of old Richardson County.

As I promised to write you how I get along in the south so I will write you a few lines. We are all well and like it fine down here because the climate is excellent, and farm work is easier than up north, we don't get all our field work together as we did in Nebraska. I find if a man has money enough to get a good start he can make good money and take farm work easy, the same time he has a much nicer climate than in northern states. We had good crops here. Irish potatoes in the spring made a good yield, corn made a fair crop, oats was fine, cotton is good also, and sweet potatoes will make from 150 to 180 bushels to the acre.

Some of my friends up there didn't believe me when I told them last year that a man can make more from a acre than we can in Nebraska, for instance I mention J. Coons, a German farmer living six miles from my place, he made \$468 clear money from four acres of Irish potatoes, now he has sweet potatoes in the same land, will yield about 180 to the acre for some of them he got \$1 a bushel, but now they are only 65c a bushel, yet that man used high grade fertilizer but he got two good crops from it this year.

When I left Nebraska some people told me a man can make nothing in the south because he has to spend too much money for fertilizer, this would be true if we could raise only one crop from it like in the northern states, but we can raise two crops of most of the crops we raise here. Oranges and lemons do well here. I saw some lemons on the trees here that were as big as my fist. We had nice figs at our own place this year. Land is advancing fast now. We get a new railroad to Elberta this winter and the prospects for oil are good. The oil company is getting their machinery up now and will commence to operate boring soon. If oil is found then it is hard to tell how high our land will be in a short time. The oil expert which the company had here before they commenced operation said that he is satisfied that oil is here in paying quantities. The experience with Samatra tobacco was a great success here and tobacco will be raised now on a big scale. Politics are different down here as I expect them, I thought everything down here was democratic, but I was badly mistaken. Most of the natives in the country are republicans and they are all crazy for Roosevelt. I believe if Roosevelt had been nominated again that Alabama would go republican this year. Mobile is strong republican too. We organized a republican party in Baldwin County and if it were not that a man has to live in Alabama for two years before he can vote, Baldwin County would go republican this year. The northern people come in so fast that it don't take very long to throw off the democratic yoke. The Baldwin County Col. Company sold 75 forty acre farms last month and 15 families settled that time. Five families came this week and fifteen homeseekers, so you see that Baldwin County is settling quick. I don't know how fast other land companies sell, but our company has sold most of their land already. Wishing you much success, I remain your friend.

HERMAN KOEHLER.

# V. G. LYFORD

## Women's Tailored SUITS



If you have any intention of buying a Suit this season, do not delay it a day. Our sale of Suits has surprised us and our assortment is being very rapidly depleted. Only about 40 Suits left, but there remains a splendid choice. Remember we have a first class dressmaker now in our department, who insures PERFECT FITS on all our Ladies' wear.

## Women's Winter Coats

A complete display in Cloth, Plush, Velour, Imitation Fur and Fur Coats, in all the variation of style is now ready for your inspection and purchase. Any purse can be suited, as we are showing Coats at almost any price, from \$5 up to \$50.



Our Cloth garments represent the best values ever offered by us, at \$10 to \$20. We have some superb styles. Black will be the prevailing color, as nearly all wear for women is in dark shades.

Plush, Velour and Imitation Fur will be in favor and offer not only elegance and beauty, but the largest measure of wearing value that money will buy.

### Fur Reefers

in 24, 26 and 30 inch lengths, are assuming a prominent place in this season's vogues. Seal Skin has returned to its own and is now the most wanted Fur among exclusive trade. This places Electric and Near Seal garments in conspicuous demand. We are showing those at \$25, \$28, \$30, \$35, \$40 and \$50.



## New Shirt Waists

New Tailored Net and Silk Waists, in latest designs, are just in.



### Underwear

Women's Vests and Pants, all sizes, 25c, 35c, 50c, 75c, \$1  
Women's Union Suits, 50c, 65c, 90c, \$1, \$1.25, \$1.50, \$2 and \$2.75.

Children's Wear in full assortment, in medium weight, white; heavy weight, white; extra heavy, white and grey cotton; and medium and heavy weight Sanitary wool, in Pants, Vests and Union Suits.

Men's Shirts and Drawers and Union Suits in all the wanted weights and qualities.

## Misses' and Children's Coats

Child's Bearskin, in Copenhagen, brown, champagne, white, green, red, three, four and five years old, at from \$2 to \$6

Children's Cloth Coats, in plain and fancies, from \$1 to \$4

Misses' Cloth Coats, six to fourteen, navy, brown, red, green, fancies... \$3.50 to \$8.50

Misses' Bearskin Coats, natural, brown, red and Copenhagen colors, from \$6.50 to \$12.50



### Floor Coverings

The largest stock of Floor Coverings in Richardson county is shown in our up-stairs section. We are prepared to fit out any home in first class style. Our prices on Rugs, large and small, Ingrain Rugs and Carpets, Linoleums and Oil Cloths, are decidedly lower than will be found in city Department Stores.

### Lace Curtains

A very new and beautiful assortment of medium and low cost Lace Curtains have just come in. When you "clean house" come in and see these.

### Outings and Flannelettes

All the very best makes are represented. Our prices are lower than last year. We are giving some very remarkable values.

# V. G. LYFORD