

MONOPOLY POWER. Public and Private Interests Alike at the Mercy of Railroad Corporations.

One-Third of the Products of Nebraska Consumed on the Way to Market.

The Station House Puts the Monopoly Power and How They Are Empowered.

Speech of Gen. A. H. Connor at Fremont, October 7th.

In introducing Gen. A. H. Connor Dr. L. J. Abbott, the chairman, said: LADIES AND GENTLEMEN—I have the pleasure of introducing one who has not only a state reputation but a national reputation, one who has not only fought on the field of politics but has also fought on the field of battle and I feel certain that the principles he will enunciate will be accepted by you. Not only will they be acceptable, but you will believe and endorse much of what he will tell you. (Applause.)

General A. H. Connor then ascended the stage and said:

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN: I am afraid that my good friend, the doctor, is a little too zealous, and that he has said almost too much in my praise. I never like to be introduced to a strange audience with flying colors, because I am afraid before I get through they may be disappointed. I came down to you beautiful city for the purpose of meeting with you and candidly discussing some of the political issues of the day, and I must say I am glad to see such an interest manifested in this country and in this city. I believe that the hearts and consciences of this people are aroused upon one of the most important questions that ever appealed to the intelligence of the American people. You are all readers because you are intelligent people; that is the American people as a rule are intelligent people, and certainly very great newspaper readers. Now I think you will say with me that you have not found a single state (in the north at least) which has held a convention that convention has not resulted that corporations and corporate power should be controlled. (Applause.)

The democrats of the state of Nebraska have said that, the republicans of the state of Nebraska have said that, the democrats of the state of New York have said that, and the republicans of the state of New York have said that.

But not only have these great conventions said that, but so far as I have observed, there has been a congressional convention in the whole of the north that has not reiterated that sentiment—that corporate power is endangering the liberty of the people and must be controlled. If you find this sentiment embodied in resolutions in the state conventions and congressional conventions and most of the county conventions throughout the entire length and breadth of this country what does it suggest to you? Does it not suggest to you deep down in the heart and feeling of every man, and every woman for that matter, in this country that there is an outrage being perpetrated upon the people? (Applause.) Why is that sentiment voiced by the republicans, the greenbackers and the democrats unless it is approved? Well now, my friends, we may say that we are agreed upon this proposition, namely, that corporate power and corporate monopoly must be controlled because that is the one sentiment of the country. Then, how is it to be controlled? In what way shall it be controlled? If it be true that neither of the existing parties as they stand will take hold of this matter and control it, why then it must be left for the great body of the people to take hold of it as the republicans took hold of the slavery question. A few weeks ago I was in your city. I came here for the purpose of inducing the republican party to accept the broad principle that we must stand upon these vital issues, that we cannot afford to shrink from or hide behind a subterfuge. We met here and the convention divided, one portion going in one direction, and let us see how these two conventions stand. Now one of these conventions, and I believe the one that met in this hall endorses and publishes to the world this fatherly resolution, and when you read it you will see what a magnificent set of gentlemen they are. It is approved by men that they are all old men, patriots, gray headed men, because they speak so kindly.

"We pledge ourselves to ever protect the interest of the people as opposed to extortion or monopolies of whatever kind." We pledge ourselves. That is this convention says we pledge ourselves to the people to do that. Now my friends, who were the men that said that? Every mother son of them with perhaps the exception of the delegates from Dodge county had come on passes in their pockets, and nearly all of them had been nominated at home by the railroad ring. We pledge "ourselves," Magnanimous men, travel one hundred or two hundred miles upon railroad passes and they pledge themselves to support the people as against the monopolists. Why to my mind it is simply absurd, and I tell you it was very amusing to see upon my way here some 100 or 140 miles west, an attorney walk in with a conductor and say this is my man, and this is my man, and the conductor passing along and bringing him down just as though they were as many Texas steers. (Laughter.) Now, my friends, I did not know whose friend I was, but it is a fact I was my own man. But the point I want to put to you is this: Why didn't they pass down Mr. Turner's delegates. They live in the same county and they are just as respectable. Why didn't they pass them down? Simply because they were not the kind of men they

wanted in that convention. These men tell you there is nothing wrong about passes. Why isn't one of the most important things in the world, the friends, and you ever know a railroad company or any corporation in the world to give a pass or any favor to anybody of whom they did not expect something in return? I say that is not on record, and whenever you find these railroad companies giving passes to any who go and assail the price of the day, I say that I will own it in my pocket. They may give a pass unless they know where it is to go. What was said of the third congressional district can be said with equal force and power of the state at large. I was in down at the state convention, I had no business there, but I am told as far as our section of the country is concerned I know of the own personal knowledge, every county in this state, and I am told that no man was nominated in that same convention that was in the least objectionable to the railroads. Now we, as anti-monopoly republicans, are opposed to this system. Why, what would you think if some rich man should come into Dodge county, establish a bank and issued money by the hundred, and with this money should buy up and control everything a precinct, township and county. You would say that that man was a moral monster, and should be got rid of, and yet you allow a lifeless monster, not a living soul, because a corporation has no soul, I say you allow the corporation to come into your county and do a very thing. What we want to do is to regulate this thing by wholesome law, by reasonable law, and by just law that will put every man upon full equality.

My friends you remember that the great doctrine that carried the republican party through a stormy existence was this one simple thing that aroused the hearts and consciences of the American people, that was, the equality of all people before the law. That is what we fought for, justice between man and man. The corporations have despised and trampled under foot this law, but I tell you that corporations are just as amenable to right regulation as men are. It is the greatest farce to talk about the equality of man existing before the law, and yet the corporate power can defy the law and ride rough shod over all the people. Stop and think of it. This thing is apparent. There can be no question about it, and the only thing that remains to us as citizens of a great republic is to right it. How can we right it? Only by placing in nomination and electing at the polls men that are determined to right these abuses at all events, come what may. God forbid that I should say an unkind word of the republican party. I could not if I wanted to. I love that party with all the great men and soldiers in it; but, my friends, there have crept into the republican party, because it has been in power, the great capitalists of the country, and to-day Jay Gould, who is reputed to be worth one hundred millions of dollars, controls some of the most important republican journals. Horace Greeley might be forgiven for running on a democratic ticket, but he never could forgive himself at seeing such an illustrious paper as the old New York Tribune pass into the hands of Jay Gould. It is true, he is dead and could not help it, but if spirits live, why don't Horace come back and haunt that man?

The New York World has also been appropriated by Gould. Why, certainly it is very appropriate that Mr. Gould should have the two great organs of New York to balance each other. If the republicans are in the power, and if the democrats are in he uses the World. When Gould was asked a certain question you know he answered very frankly and I have nothing to say against him personally. If he can make a hundred million of dollars let him do so, but what I do object to is this: that we should allow the opportunity to exist in this country for his doing that. What was Mr. Gould's answer to the question? He said: "When in a republican state I am a republican; when in a democratic state I am then a democrat, and when in a doubtful state I am doubtful, but I am always and forever a railroad man." (Laughter.) Well, now, my friends, with the aggregation of this vast wealth and capital in the republican party—with this vast accumulation of wealth and power, it is not reasonable to suppose that these men would espouse the principles that we advocate. No man would be senseless enough, be crazy enough, to go back on his private interests, and the criticism we pass is that the republican party has got into that attitude that it cannot throw off these men that attach themselves to it. They passed the river and harbor bill; they gave billions of dollars away. We go to the president and he writes a very sober and temperate message calling attention to the inequalities of the scheme and puts his veto on it, and that veto struck home to the heart of every true American. Every man who believes in true government said amen to that proclamation, and yet when it was sent back they pass it over his head with a large majority, and the country is robbed of millions of dollars. Why is that? Simply because they were interested in jobs. They treat the president's message contemptuously, and when we protest they turn around and using the language of Mr. Tweed, and say: "How are you going to help yourselves?" (Laughter.) Well now, my friends, what we want is for the republican party to take up these issues and not only put them in the platform, but act upon them, carry them out in good earnest, and then we are ready to rally around the flag again, but I venture to say, and you mark my prediction, that our coming legislature, where important measures will be introduced looking to the amelioration of the condition of the people, when they are introduced they will be defeated, and that professional lobbyists will have money in the city of Lincoln, to undo what you want done.

Why, a bill was introduced to reduce the fare on all railroads in Nebraska three cents a mile. In consideration of the fact that the railroads in Nebraska were the free gift of the government, the people thought that

was a reasonable proposition. A republican government gave the B. & M. R. Co. each an alternate section of land for twenty miles. Estimate that land at \$2 an acre and it will make \$16,000, and you will find that this gave them money enough to construct the roads and that they could well afford to fix the rate at three cents a mile, and yet my friends, when we come to test them they found men who could vote against such a bill as that; found men who had pledged themselves to overthrow it and retain the old rates.

Now one more thought occurs to me. I was up at St. Paul yesterday and I asked a merchant there—a grain buyer—what they were paying for wheat. Sixty cents, he said; and I asked him what it cost to ship it from St. Paul to Chicago, he said thirty-two cents. Well, I made the same estimate that you are making for sixty-two cents, that you pay twenty-four cents a bushel to transport it to Chicago. Now my friends it is just as true as holy writ that no people can be prosperous whose hard earnings are swallowed up in the transportation of their grain. Why, they are paid twenty-four cents a bushel, you get sixty cents, consequently more than one-third of your earnings so far as wheat is concerned is swallowed up in transportation. Is that just? Is that right? It can be demonstrated to you that the wheat can be transported for at least ten or twelve cents a bushel and then the companies would make large profits and if that was done it would leave in the pockets of the people that now goes to pay for freight rates. What Mr. Turner has about the power of companies to control all business is perfectly true. Why, there is a ring within a ring. There is scarcely an establishment in Nebraska that is not in some way connected with the railroads. Each town has one or two elevators, and you must concede to their demands or they will crush you and break you up. You have no commodity in the purchase of grain. (Applause.)

Now is that a danger or power? Is that a power that is not to be controlled by a few men? Why, you say, "Then let us try and right it." Some time before our harvest I picked up a Chicago paper. I saw in the "dispatches" that there was going to be great crops in the states of Kansas, Nebraska and Minnesota, and immediately certain prices fell. In Chicago in the Palmer house surrounded by all luxuries and wealth at a little table in easy chairs the railroad magnates said they will raise the tariff. We will raise the tariff on the farmers five cents. Now what did that do? Why they made out of this little transaction more than \$2,000,000. How long did it take them to do this around that table? Why but a few minutes. They will only allow the people to live, and when they get beyond the living point they say they are making too much. This does not only apply to wheat, but they can raise or lower the freight on all things just as they please.

But our friends say it is not the object of the railroads to oppress the people. If it is not their object, why don't they let it be agreed that the rates be fixed between the people and the company. Let us fix it so that when we buy wheat or corn we shall only have to pay so much for the transportation, and let laws be enacted so that the railroad shall not be able to take advantage of the people. Why, my friends, you build a mill, you thousands of dollars to construct that mill, and the very moment that mill is constructed and the very moment the wheel begins to turn the law comes in and taxes you and says you shall only charge so much for every bushel you grind. You say it is an unsafe thing that these men should charge one price one day and another price tomorrow, and everybody says you regulate it by law.

Then with regard to turnpikes, you have fixed their charges. They were built by companies, but you have said they shall charge so much for each vehicle. You have established their rates by law as in the case of the mills. Why regulate one class of the people's money and leave the other to run riot and leave the people blind. This cannot be in the mere nature of things. You can all see at once these are terrible outrages, and why should we submit to them?

But, my friends, there is another side to this question that is, to my mind, more serious than the hard money they get out of your pockets, and that is the fact that these corporations have been demoralizing the great body of the people. I want to say to you no people in a republic or a kingdom can ever maintain a stable or just government that find themselves corrupted. We find proudly in our old history that it cannot be a long load of history that says that no nation who are corrupt at the body and the heart can live, neither can we live. When young men are transported to conventions on passes, all things made pleasant to them and been invited to the bar room under this power, learned that bribe taking is the heart of every true American. Every man who believes in true government said amen to that proclamation, and yet when it was sent back they pass it over his head with a large majority, and the country is robbed of millions of dollars. Why is that? Simply because they were interested in jobs. They treat the president's message contemptuously, and when we protest they turn around and using the language of Mr. Tweed, and say: "How are you going to help yourselves?" (Laughter.) Well now, my friends, what we want is for the republican party to take up these issues and not only put them in the platform, but act upon them, carry them out in good earnest, and then we are ready to rally around the flag again, but I venture to say, and you mark my prediction, that our coming legislature, where important measures will be introduced looking to the amelioration of the condition of the people, when they are introduced they will be defeated, and that professional lobbyists will have money in the city of Lincoln, to undo what you want done.

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that is practicing on dumb hells. Why he becomes an athlete and a great man, and he has wonderful powers and muscle. The railroads have lots of those political athletes and they keep an inviting them into their headquarters. We have not seen much of them yet but they are in training. Nine times out of ten you know that a hundred men drilled and re-drilled came into the field as a power, and they can overthrow five hundred men who have no discipline. Just so with these men. These men have this drilling. They are political athletes. The people must be around.

Now, my friends, I am going to say one word more. You all see that St. Louis is going to be the great market for wheat. They are going to barge down the Mississippi and carry it to every point in the world. Now, I confess that to my mind it is a fair and reasonable proposition. This is a reasonable solution of the transportation question. I have long since learned that railroads do not compete. They combine. When they tell you that railroads compete they have got away with you. They don't. You let a railroad get out of the pool once and see what a sensation it creates at once. But you soon hear that it has got back into the pool, what over that means? (Laughter.) We all thought there were going to be a lot of barges. They were going to build one on the Mississippi river, a great highway, your river, my river, the farmer's river, a national highway belonging to the government, and no sooner is that thought feasible than we find Mr. Gould with his monopoly barges there, and now let some one else go and put a barge on and Mr. Gould will at once ruin him and erect a monopoly that will make every man pay tribute to him on the great waterway. Now think of it, my friends. Is that an injustice to you and the great body of the American people? Is that what the revolution was fought for, that one man should erect a monopoly upon a public stream? I want to say to you that he can defy the government because it has no money of its own to pay for legislation.

Now we ask our friends to take heed of these things, ponder over them, and come to the rescue of your country. If you do not, if there is not something done there will be another revolution, greater than the French revolution. There they ground them until blood run all over France, and so it will be with us if we do not take heed of these things, and if we pay no respect to the pleadings of the people who are in earnest on this question, and when that day comes you will read your newspapers by the light of a burning fire. God forbid that we should see it, but if oppression is to go on it must culminate in just such riots. (Loud applause.)

Remarkable for overcoming diseases caused by impure water, decay in the vegetation, etc., is Brown's Iron Bitters.

Memorial Service. At a meeting of the Hermaean society on Monday evening, a memorial service was held as a tribute of respect to the memory of the late Chas. F. Britley, Esq. Appropriate addresses were made by various members of the society, and the following resolutions were adopted:

Resolved, Almighty God in his wisdom has seen fit to take from among us by death—to strike down our very friend and companion, Charles A. Britley, therefore be it by the Hermaean society

Resolved, That while we bow in submission to the will of the ruler of all things, who has taken from our number him whose place can never be filled, we deeply deplore the loss of one who was in the fullest sense of the term a gentleman, whom we know to be a man of high character and sterling worth.

Resolved, That in the associations which we as a society have had with our departed friend we have ever found him a valued member of our organization, ever ready and willing to perform, and always faithful in the discharge of any and all duties imposed upon him, and we feel that his influence among us has been preeminently beneficial, that whatever he has done we and through you and his name is worthy of our emulation in this as in other respects.

Resolved, That these resolutions be spread upon the records of this society and copies be sent to the family of the deceased and furnished the city papers for publication.

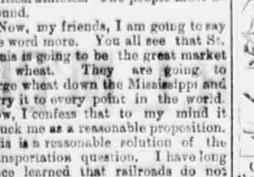
R. W. BRECKENRIDGE, W. F. GIBBS, G. M. HITCHCOCK, Committee.

Dated Omaha, Neb., October 9, 1882.

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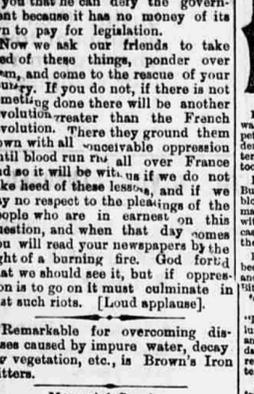
A PURE AND Delicious Bever. age.

"THE CUP THAT CHEERS," "BUT NOT INEBRIATES."



OUR DINNER PARTY has finished the last bottle of "HUB PUNCH." "THE HUB PUNCH" is prepared solely by Messrs. C. H. GRAVES & SON, Boston. It is made of the best imported brandy and Santa Cruz rum, united with the juice of fresh lemons, and the finest white sugar, and is really a delicious, pure and reliable beverage, that has met with the most cordial appreciation of all who tried it.

See that you get the genuine with the face of the "HUB PUNCH" on the label. The "HUB PUNCH" is sold by all leading families. Trade supplied at Manufacturer's prices by Messrs. C. H. Graves & Son, Boston. Sole Importers for Omaha, Nebraska, supplied by A. H. Glodstone, Omaha, Neb.



Mr. J. G. Robertson, Pittsburg, Pa., writes: "I was suffering from general debility, want of appetite, constipation, etc., so that life was a burden. After using your Burdock Blood Bitters I feel better than for years. I cannot praise your Bitters too much."

Mr. Gibbs, of Buffalo, N. Y., writes: "Your Burdock Blood Bitters, in chronic diseases of the blood, liver and kidneys, have been signally marked with success. I have used them myself with best results, for constipation of the liver, and in case of a friend of mine suffering from dropsy, the effect was marvelous."

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Price, 50 Cents per Bottle; Trial Bottles 10 Cents.

FOSTER, MILBURN, & Co., Props. BUFFALO, N. Y. Sold at wholesale by J. H. McMahon and C. F. Goodman.

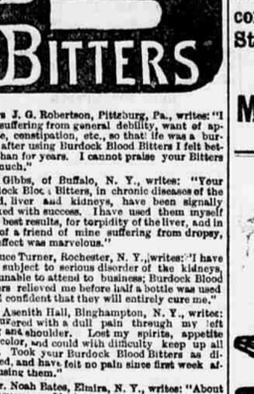
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