

UGLY CHARGES BEING MADE.

Interesting Developments in the Failure of the Lincoln Grain Dealers.

BROCKMAN IN THE HOLE FOR A BIG SUM. Story of the Firm's Rise and Fall—Threats of a Damage Suit—Bryan Not Making Deals.

The more the failure of the Brown Bros. is investigated the worse the middle appears, and ugly charges are being made against the Browns. The latter claim that they can pull out if given a chance, but their explanation of how they are going to do it is rather vague and unsatisfactory.

Key to the Situation. The Union elevator at that point seems to have been the key to the scheme attributed to the Browns, and a very convenient one it was. For the information of those unfamiliar with such matters it may be explained that in shipping a carload of grain the elevator gets from the railroad company a bill of lading, which serves as a receipt. In order to get the grain, when it reaches its destination the bill of lading must be presented to the railroad, which is then released from further liability.

Some Severe Charges. Brockman charges that in some cases the Browns had grain shipped to the Union elevator for "Brown Bros. of St. Louis in care of Brown Bros., Omaha." On the bills of lading the Browns drew on the St. Louis man and got the grain. After the grain had been cleared at the elevator it was reshipped over one of the Iowa roads to Chicago or Baltimore. For this service Brockman claims that they could get better prices than at St. Louis. Brockman had an agreement under which he was to receive a half a cent a bushel commission on all grain shipped by the Browns, so he didn't care where it was sold. He now charges that a great deal of this grain has disappeared, and that he has not been paid by the eastern buyers and that the Browns have not reimbursed him. He concludes that in reshipping grain to eastern points, they got new bills of lading from the Iowa roads and used them in making drafts on the eastern buyers, thus, apparently getting double prices for the grain and letting Brockman whistle for his money.

Very Cheap Grain. Apparently, then, the Browns got the grain for nothing and sold it for double price. It is only fair to the Browns, however, to state that they deny the charges which Brockman asserts that the angle will be straightened out if they are given a chance to do it. They threaten to sue Brockman for \$50,000 damages.

It is impossible to say how much money or how many dealers are involved in the failure of the Browns. It is known that there are at least four or five stations on the Union Pacific, but there were about eight dealers at one station. They insist that when they gave Brockman a bill of sale on their elevators and grain he promised to continue to advance money to keep the business going. They charge him with a breach of faith in taking possession and shutting them out.

Wanted to Get Even. It is stated that Brockman, as soon as he got control of the Union elevator, began to ship out the grain in his own name, making himself whole. This proceeding was stopped by an order of court on the petition of the Citizens' Association of Omaha, which had advanced \$5,000 or \$6,000 on fifteen or twenty bills of lading. It is estimated that the elevator now contains seventy-five or eighty cars of grain, and that Brockman has a number of cars on track, and a little swarm of claimants are after them.

The bill not only covered the buildings belonging to Brown Bros., but the grain in storage and in transit. It is asserted that the claims covering the grain in transit do not hold water in law, and the original shippers, whose drafts on the Browns went to protest, are here in court, and are being reprieved suits. They are enabled to identify their grain in the unloaded cars by the numbers on the bills, and are having the trouble in getting it back. The grain which has gone into storage is, of course, indistinguishable from the mass, and it has been tied up by attachment suits.

Still Other Claimants. There is still another class of claimants, of which H. J. Gunn of Lexington, now in the city, is a sample. He shipped Brown Bros. a car of grain worth about \$750, but drew on them only \$500. Having attached the bill of lading to the draft, he got the face of that, but he is whistling for the extra \$250. This is a common practice, and many interior shippers have claims against the Browns for margins of this kind. Now claims are passing in an appearance almost every day. It is impossible to tell how much of a loss is involved in the failure, though Mr. Brockman claims to be down from the Browns. The query arises, what has become of the money? A gentleman who is familiar with some of the inside affairs says:

Causes of the Trouble. "I do not believe the Browns have 'salted down' any money to cover their obligations. You see there is a Brown Bros. Grain company, and the principals of the firm have had other extensive business interests. They have borrowed money to carry on various enterprises, and I think they have used the receipts from their grain company to wipe out those obligations. Charles Brown married into the family of Jerry Chapman, the banker at Cortland. Mr. Chapman and a son endorsed paper for the Browns and some of that has been paid off. The Browns also floated some of their paper through Omaha brokers, and perhaps had similar arrangements with brokers elsewhere, so that the local masses would be liable for the bills they were loaded up. They made such an alliance with Charles B. Hawley of Lincoln, who loaned money for parties living at Dixon. H. Hawley was raised there \$100,000 during the year, and as a commission for his part in the affair they gave him in advance forty percent on the amount. It is in the hands of a third party and the matter I think will be in the courts."

Lost on a Law Suit. "Some time ago the Browns were dealing with Fowler & Co. of Chicago. A dispute arose between them and Fowler sued for \$50,000, claimed as due from the Browns. The matter was referred to an arbitration committee, which gave Fowler a verdict for about half the amount claimed. Some months ago the Browns sold a street railway at Lincoln running from the Capital hotel to the Wesleyan university. The price was \$500,000, but it was mortgaged for about half that sum. The balance was paid with long time paper, which the Browns immediately hypothecated. They have had considerable paper falling due that could not be renewed, and the indications are that they have been withdrawing money from the grain business to wipe out obligations incurred in other

directions, because if the Brown brothers as individuals went to the wall it also meant the failure of the Brown Bros. Grain company."

Drafts Coming In. It transpires that drafts on the Brown Bros. company are constantly coming in, and where they are accompanied with a bill of lading and have a margin Mr. Brockman is paying them, and taking possession of the grain. For example, a car containing 3000 worth of grain was shipped from Central City, and the sender drew \$300. Brockman paid the draft, took the grain and intimated that the shipper would have to look to Brown Bros. for a margin of \$50. Charges of this nature are being made, and it is to call attention to the lax manner in which many men do business. Here are a number of interior drafts, which are being shipped to the Browns, and the bills of lading to the consignees by mail and drawn on them through the elevator and without bills of lading attached to the drafts. What was the consequence? The grain was delivered to the consignees, and the bills of lading they presented and went into with scores of other consignments. When the Browns went to the wall the drafts went to protest. The shippers had nothing to show for their grain, and the railroad had been released from responsibility. It is a slipshod way of doing business, and the banks are not wholly without blame. They are run up by men supposed to be thoroughly posted on commercial usages, and they should warn customers of the dangers of their carelessness. Every man who ships grain or other goods by the carload and then draws on the consignee should always attach the bill of lading to the draft. There is then no chance for fraud, and it may be the salvation of many a man caught by a failure like that of the Browns. I wish the railroad companies would take note of this point for the benefit of the owners through the state who have been careless about protecting themselves."

Who Will Foot the Bill? Grain men are very much interested in knowing who will have to bear the loss growing out of the alleged manipulations of the Brown Bros., and the prevailing opinion among them is that the Union Pacific will have to foot the bill. Some years ago Mr. H. C. Miller, who has an office in the Board of Trade building, was located by the Browns and they got the W. P. McLaren company of Chicago. Just before the concern failed he received instructions to bill the Union Pacific for the grain they had shipped to the Browns. The McLaren people took the bills of lading to a bank and put them up as collateral for a loan. They then notified the railroad of the incoming consignments and asked that they be immediately shipped to designated eastern points, where the same was done. The grain firm drew a second lot of bills of lading at another bank for drafts on the eastern consignees. When the failure revealed the true situation the first bank sued the railroad for the value of the grain represented by its bills of lading, and got judgment.

That case established an important precedent and resulted in the strict railroad regulations pertaining to bills of lading.

C. T. Brown's Story. Mr. C. T. Brown was seen last night by a Bee reporter. He denied emphatically the statements that had been currently reported concerning the firm's transactions with Mr. Brockman of St. Louis. Mr. Brown said that Brockman had no right to draw upon their personal notes with the understanding that the firm should ship him a carload of grain. "We were under no obligations to ship Brockman all the grain we handled, though," said Mr. Brown. "We had a perfect right to refuse to ship to any party who wanted to ship to Chicago, Baltimore or elsewhere if we so desired. We never agreed to give Mr. Brockman 1/2 cent commission upon grain shipped to other markets. We mortgaged our fourteen elevators to Mr. Brockman a few weeks ago because we needed more money or greater credit to handle the grain. We were running some days as high as \$20,000 and a blockade of cars on the railroad for a couple of days would have cost us a good margin of credit to run on, and in order to get it we gave that mortgage."

Agreed to Cash Their Drafts. "Mr. Brockman agreed to cash our drafts after this and to pay for \$10,000 worth of grain then on the way," said Mr. Brown. "He drew upon him. These agreements were abruptly broken by refusing to honor our drafts. He had no right to do that. We would have been glad to do that, but he would not. We were under no obligations to ship Brockman all the grain we handled, though," said Mr. Brown. "We had a perfect right to refuse to ship to any party who wanted to ship to Chicago, Baltimore or elsewhere if we so desired. We never agreed to give Mr. Brockman 1/2 cent commission upon grain shipped to other markets. We mortgaged our fourteen elevators to Mr. Brockman a few weeks ago because we needed more money or greater credit to handle the grain. We were running some days as high as \$20,000 and a blockade of cars on the railroad for a couple of days would have cost us a good margin of credit to run on, and in order to get it we gave that mortgage."

The Bryan Commission Company Still Making a Head. The doors of the office of the Bryan Commission company were open as usual yesterday. The telegraph operators were as busy as in days of yore, receiving quotations on wheat, oats and corn, but not a dollar was passing over the desk. The usual number of persons of a speculative character were in the room intently watching the figures as they were placed upon the blackboard, indicating the state of the market. Some of these same persons were long, while others were on the short side of the market, and the market was not so hot, however, made an attempt to protect the margin, and in the language of the bucket shop, "let the tail go with the hide."

The Bryan company was not taking any deals, and the fact gave rise to unpleasant rumors about the Board of Trade. Mr. Bryan was not about the premises during the day. One of his men in speaking of the failure to receive trailers stated that the fact in no way indicated a failure.

Administrative Letters Revoked. In the county court today Judge Stewart intimated to the case of Nelson Westover, administrator of the estate of George Cameron, deceased. Complaint had been made that Mr. Westover had not attended to the settlement of the estate with respect to fidelity and disbursement. He failed to appear and make answer to the charges, and Judge Stewart accordingly revoked his letters of administration and ordered him to turn over to the custody of the court all moneys and property now in his possession.

Max Clonky and Freddie Madouinik appeared before the county judge today and blushingly intimated their desire to wed. Freddie, the younger of the two, had not legal age and the license was refused. Elder Howe is busily collecting supplies for his annual Thanksgiving contribution to the poor of the ward. During the week themselves on that festive occasion it will not be the big-hearted elder's fault. John Halstead, a horse, was first and P street, was thrown from a temporarily

THE OMAHA DAILY BEE WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1891.

festive mule today and knocked senseless. The physicians dressed his injuries, which consisted of a jagged wound in his cheek and a cut in his temple.

First Bad Boy—If there, Jimmy! Wotyer snipe from that drug store! First ditto—Oh, my! ain't that bully! Second ditto—Boteber life, ma says it's best thing she ever saw for coughs and colds.

HE BETH HIS PANTS. J. S. Brown came into the police station last evening and poured a tale of woe into Chief of Police Brennan's ears. He described how he went into Dave Luscher's saloon and began shaking dice with that dispenser of tanglefoot. The bets were raised by degrees until Dave wanted to put 50 cents on the next shake out of the box. Brown says that he declined.

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Interceded for a Thief. The arrest of Patrick Murphy Sunday on the charge of being drunk proved a more important capture than was at first supposed. In his possession were found a gold ring, a check for \$16.10 issued to J. Gramoy, and \$3 in cash. It was learned that Murphy had stolen these from Tony Belovechek, who sold him in his own shop. Belovechek says that \$30 had been taken out of his overcoat pocket at the same time that the other articles were stolen.

Yard and Office Notes. W. C. Battello of Hancock, Ia., marketed hogs. Organ & Hammond of Cheyenne, Wyo., had four double deck cars of sheep at the yards. C. D. Meeks, Davis & Meeks, and C. H. Kamron, all of Merino, Wyo., brought in cattle. C. J. Egan of Shelby, Ia., thinks South Omaha surpasses Sioux City as a market, and brought his hogs here. L. P. Southworth, a well known sheep

How many a young wife's heart has been saddened by hearing the above remark! And yet how often the words are true; especially when cake, pastry or biscuit are in question! The reason is plain, yet it is "like telling a secret."

Our mothers used and are using Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder. They cannot be misled into using any of the ammonia or alum powders. No dyspepsia no sallow complexion, when mother did the cooking.

The first symptoms of ammonia poisoning, says a New York paper, which appear among those who work in ammonia factories, is a discoloration of the nose and forehead. This gradually extends over the face until the complexion has a stained, blotched and unsightly appearance. Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder is the only pure cream of tartar powder that contains the whites of eggs.

"GOLD" AND "SILVER" Dress shirts, collars and cuffs, or the "RELIABLE" and "DURABLE" Negligee Shirts and Shirt Waists.

Many varieties of merchandise advertised under brands or trade marks, are sold for more than they are worth, customers getting for their money part goods and part trade mark. Not so, however, with the "GOLD" AND "SILVER" Dress shirts, collars and cuffs, or the "RELIABLE" and "DURABLE" Negligee Shirts and Shirt Waists. These well known brands are simply used to designate and identify the goods, and buyers of them get one hundred cents worth of goods for a dollar with the trade marks thrown in.

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HUMPHREYS' The Original and Genuine (WORCESTERSHIRE) LEA & PERRINS' SAUCE

The Humfrey's Sauce is a scientific and carefully prepared preparation, used many years in private practice with success, and for every disease of the stomach. Every student of medicine is a special cure for the disease. It is a special cure for the disease. It is a special cure for the disease. It is a special cure for the disease.

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