THE OMAHA BEE.

# SO THE PEOPLE MAY KNOW

## The Representatives of "The Committee of 9" vs. "The Committee of 21" of the Skinner Packing Company

soldom have occasion to become involved . . . you will ultimately be held te mittee of Nine." but after hearing the report read and the matter fully discussed, aponsible, if your action causes your neighbors to be satisfied and it ultimately decided by their vote, as aforesaid, to exonerate the Skinners and stop further liti-

port of the state's investigation was made. We note in today's papers the statement that the "Committee of Nine," whom we represent, and who protested to the governor about the Saturday meeting, are the owners of \$1,500 in stock. • • • The committee we represent want this plant continued has an independent plant. They want a new company organized by the present stockholders. • • • This new indinance the company for future operations from the stockholders themselves, as we honestly, intelligently, and in the sole interest of the owners of the property. • • • • • The statement or affidavits to the effect that this committee and the statorneys were to receive 20% of the stock for their services are so preposterous that they should not require a denial, but, in order that there be no doubt in your You members of the Committee of 21" have placed in my-hands a five-page letter from you, in which you seek to influence these committeemen

You members of the Committee of 21 should give serious consideration and thought to the statement distributed by Paul Skinner. ••• Water which has gone over the dam cannot be called back, but don't, for heaven's sake, permit the same people who splied the water over the dam to wreck the dam itself and let loose all the water.

plant is not being operated at present is not a detriment The fact that the plant is not being operated at present is not a detriment to the company. \* • The plant should be ready for operation by fall, but it should be put on a sound basis before that time. Walter W. Head, vice president of the Omaha National bank, who was sug-rested as one of your Committee of 21, has stated that he never was consulted about serving on the board of directors and that he would not serve under any conditioned by the server of the server of the server was consulted about serving on the board of directors and that he would not serve under any

Extracts From a Letter I rom W. C. Fraser to Members of "The Committee of 21," in Which He Seeks to Influ-titie of the second their states and stop fifther litigation, and I do not "The Committee of 21," in Which He Seeks to Influ-titie of the second their states and great loss to the company. The 'executing of the second their states are defined to the second the second the second the second their states are defined to the second the

Mr. W. R. Sutton, Wahoo, Nebraska. Dear Sir: It may seem to you to be presumptuous on our part, at first blush, in addressing this letter to you. We do so, however, \* \* We realize that stockholders, who by occupation are farmers, stock raisers, physicians and other various occupations, seldom have occasion to become involved \* \* you will ultimately be held set sponsible, if your action causes your neighbors to be satisfied and dt ultimately decided be their you are for prosented to be satisfied and dt ultimately decided be their you are for prosented to be satisfied and dt ultimately decided be their you are for prosented to be satisfied and dt ultimately decided be their you are for prosented to be satisfied and dt ultimately decided be their you are and the matter fully discussed.

I was at the Rome Hotel. I paid my own expense clear through and as near as I can ascertain the others who stopped there did the same. Not more than about two dozen stockholders stayed there, and I found they were wholly undecided what to

	the second se				TETER HARANSON.				
V. C. Fraser, Esq.,	36	141	Beaver	City,	Neb.,	July	7.	1920	
Omaha, Neb.		Y.	×						

Dear Sir: Your favor of the 30th duly received, and in reply will state that the examin-ation of the Skinner Packing company's backs were not miended as a complete audit. We were assured by the representative of Arthur Young and company that the information we obtained was correct. I understood that the state had authorized them to audit the books. And having made such authorization will accept their statement. I feel sure when their examination is given out that it will be found that our report was correct. I might say that Arthur Young and company had 

hands a five-page letter from you, in which you seek to influence these c into your way of thinking, regarding Paul F. Skinner and Lloyd M. Skin Skinner Packing Company.

I do not know, Mr. Fraser, as there is any use in addressing you regarding mitteemen. . However, it is always matter of the mailing of these letters to these you were, and beg to say that their reckonings of you were complimentary, covering

July 7. 1920.

the state of Nebraska, I believe, then take my advice and be big enough, Mr. Frazer, to reach out the right hand of fellowship to these boys who accomplished this wonder-ful feat, and you will feel bigger and more satisfied with yourself than you ever felt before in your life. With kindest personal regards, and hoping that you will take this letter, Mr. Fraser

in which it is dictated to you-the spirit of goodfellowship-1 beg Most sincerely yours, ARAH L. HUNGERFORL.

### Mr. Fraser Answers Mr. Hungerford :-

Mr. A. L. Hungerford, Crawford, Neb.

Dear Sir: Your favor of July 3 received, I did not intend to slight you in the letters that were mailed to the Committee of 21 and presume that you have received the one addressed to you before this, as one was written to each member of that

I shall refrain from entering into any extended discussion because it is ap- out. I do not believe that when all the facts are known, that our great I shall retrain from entering into any extended discussion because it is ap-barent that you and I do not agree concerning the Skinners. My sole interest allow its machinery to be used to further the desires and the interests of the out-in this controversy is to represent stockholders who have invested their money in the Skinner enterprises. The first stockholder, who consulted me, was a man Skinner Packing Company-the plant of the popie; the plant built and constructed who has known me since I was less than a year old, and whose investment means a great deal to him. If I was convinced that the Skinners had been handling the The PEOPLE. Away back twenty or twenty-five years ago, this might have been affairs of their companies for the bast interests of the stockholders, and that it culminated but, Mr. Fraser, we are living in a different age today and "The People"

12½ per cent to market the stock. Discourts on liberty bonds must be charged the promotion because the order of the state railway commission was to sell the standing the fact that all other Company for some great reason, through showing or trying to show that the officers would market the stock without the services of any promoter and that P. D. Askew was being paid \$1,000 the stock in the state that the officers would market the stock of any promoter and that P. D. Askew was being paid \$1,000 the stock in the stock in this Company will be clearly shown by per most, but the stock in this Company will be clearly shown by

The expires of any promoter and that it, b. Assow was being paid 4,500 in the services of marketing the disce in the contrast, which that it is contrast, which the skinners, which they kept the Arthur Young Company, Auditors, whose audit, as you yourself well know is off the company records, whereby he was guaranteed a minimum of \$5,000 taken the world over as official and that all big interests stand or fail in any Court, a month and was ultimately paid approximately \$150,000. 3. The michod of handling the \$60,000 belonging to the packing company, for purchase of the baking company, where the stock was taken in the individual names that it will run less than 12% and, the committee would not be surprised, after its that it will run less than 12% and, the committee would not be surprised.

of Paul and Lloyd Skinner, looks very shady to say the least. 4. The Skinners do not deny that the issue of over \$8,000,000 of stock in the Skinner company to themselves, and to my mind it has been conclusively demon-strated that they were not entitled to it and realized it because they have now

Mr. Hungerford Answers Mr. Fraser's Letter, No. 2. and Answers His Famous "5 Points" Against Paul F.

Crawford Neb., July 14, 1920, Mr. W. C. Fraser, Crofoot, Frazer, Connolly & Stryker, Omaha, Neb. .

Your favor of July 7 is before me. While I am not a learned attorney but instead only a common, every-day citizen.

yet, I am going to be presumptuous enough to take issue with you against your views regarding the Skinner boys and the Skinner Packing Company. I. not having the honor of your personal acquaintance, have no way to judge you only from your writing. I have inquired of one or two about what kind of a scout

I have reason to believe, that you know that Paul F. Skinner and Lloyd M. Skinner, have had offers whereby, if they would sacrifice the confidence of their stockholders, and allow this to be thrown into the hands of a receiver, so that cerstockholders, and allow this to be inform into the hands of a receiver, so that cer-tain big interests could eventually get hold of it, that they would be taken care of to such an extent that they would be independently wealthy for the balance of their lives and the lives of their families. The answer of Paul F. Skinner to one of these offers, was as follows: "I was born in the State of Nebraska. I was reared in the State of Nebraska, I have always lived in the State of Nebraska. If I was to do such

State of Nebraska, I have always lived in the State of Nebraska. If I was to do such a thing as that, I could not live in my native state and meet my fellowmen, and, by G., if 4 couldn't live in the State of Nebraska, there is no other state in the Union in which I would so badly want to live and, I shall have to decline your propo-sition." If you have not already been advised of this decision on the part of Mr. Skinner I am glad to acquaint you with it. Paul F. Skinner and Lloyd M. Skinner have stood by and are standing absolutely loyal to those who trusted them and have vested their money on the strength of that trust. And, Mr. Fraser, I am quite sure i that it will take more than your efforts of all those interests who are today standing in the background awalting the efforts of those who are out in the open, to oust them out. I do not believe that when all the facts are known, that our great State will

attaits of their companies for the best interests of the socknowners, and that it commanies the thin to remain in control of these companies. I certainly are of more consequence and have a greater voice than they had in those old days. Would so state and advise my clients to act accordingly, but there are so many facts about which there can be no dispute that I cannot reach that conclusion 2, 3, 4 and 5, and in which you say and set forth five different points. No set the second advise your clients to permit the the second second advise your clients to permit the second second

examination, if it ran down as low as 11%

of Paul and Lloyd Skinner, looks very shady to say the least 4. The Skinners do not deny that the issue of over \$\$.000.000 of stock in the Skinner company to themselves, and to my mind it has been conclusively demony strated that they were not entitled to it and realized it because they have now put it back. 5. The statement published a few days ago, containing partial report of Arthur Young & Co. accountants, absolutely shows that the dividends, aggregating about 100.000, paid out in the winter of 1918, were unwarranted, and were not paid from earnings. The published advertifements of the Skinners at that time stated that these books now show that the produce business that only earned \$3.500. Many other things could be related, but these few occur to me offhand, and I cannot conscientiously advise my clients to willingly permit men to retain control of their invested money, who have been caught with the goods and have disgorged but I am certainly hoping and expecting ultimately to see this Packing business suc-new promise not to do it again. I am certainly hoping and expecting ultimately to see this Packing business suc-new promise not to do it again. I am certainly hoping and expecting ultimately to see this Packing business suc-people of Omaha are for it, but on the other hand we do not want to be stigmatized be been due to the time to retain business suc-tains the due of the skinner Packing business who fare the goods and have disgorged but the bardwarder for it, but on the other hand we do not want to be stigmatized be bardwarders for mermality as other company had to exert and put forth people of Omaha are for it, but on the other hand we do not want to be stigmatized bardwarders for the promotion the store the profile to the string the profile the store the profile the store the profile the profile the store the profile the profile the profile the store the profile the store the profile the store the profile the profile the store the profile the profile the store the profile the profile the prof done by anybody except the part of the par

which their stockholders would have had them do had they have all been present. They cut and slashed and discounted. They performed the more than Herculean task and at a time when the money market was such that not even their friends, much and at a time when the money market was such that not even their friends, much less their enemies, believed it possible, they raised the money and paid off the notes. Your action with reference to this, reminds me much of the man who was trying

to get rid of his dog. He tied a stone to the dog's neck and threw him in the reser to get rid of his dog. He tied a stone to the dogs heck and threw him in the free r The dog went down at first but, a few feet lower in the stream, the dog came to the surface and notwithstanding the heavy weight about his neck, he fought bravely and swam as no dog ever awam before Thil he reached the bank. When he came up on the bank, expecting the approbation and the petting of his master, but was met with a club at the hands of his master and beaten to death. The Skinner Boys,

in this instance, went down with a stone around their necks-the stone consisting e \$1,500,000 that weighted them down. However, they bobbed up serenciv they object to being beaten unlike the dog.

and Lloyd Skinner.

Dear Sir

REMEMBER THIS AND GIVE IT DUE THOUGHT. THAT THE STATE OF REMEMBER THIS AND GIVE IT DUE THOUGHT. THAT THE STATE OF NEBRASKA WOULD NEVER HAVE COMMENCED THE TWO BIG SUITS AGAINST THE SKINNER PACKING COMPANY UNLESS ITS INVESTIGATION HAD DIS-CLOSED THAT THE CONDITION OF THE TWO COMPANIES WAS ROTTEN. ~ Yours respectfully, CROFOOT, FRASER, CONNOLLY & STRYKER.

Attorneys for Stockholders' Committee of Nine. By W. C. Fraser. NOTE:--The above letter is published only in excerpts because it is a five-page, closely typewritten letter which could have carried all of its force and effect in the above lines instead of the whole five pages. Space in the newspapers costs money. It is therefore "bolled" It is therefore "boiled" down.

#### Answers From Members of "The Committee of 21" to Mr. Fraser.

Fairfield, Nebraska, W. C. Fraser. Crofoot, Fraser, Connolly & Stryker, Omaha, Nebraska. July 12, 1920 × × 3

Dear Sir:

Your favor of some days ago, addressed to me as a member of the Committee of Twenty-one of the Skinner Packing Company stockholders, was duly received by me but, owing to the frit that I have been very busy in my farm work and the further fact that I considered your letter as being tricky and not addressed me in a spirit of fairness, I have refrained from answering, and really thought that I would not an

Later, while thinking the matter over, I just thought I would write you a few Later, while thinking the matter over, I just though I would write you a few lines to say that you are the only one who has stooped or tried to influence me in sny way in my work on and as a member of the Committee of Twenty-one. Paul F. Skinner and Lloyd M. Skinner and all others in connection with the management of the Skinner Packing Company have merciy answered questions put to them by the Committee and shown all books and papers requested by the Committee, but in no Committee and shown all books and papers requested by the Committee, but in no way have they sought to try to manage or buy or coerce the Committee. I can see aow, I think, how it is that the Committee of Nine, elected at the Howe meeting have and are acting the way they are. It is evidently at the guidance of your guiding hand. The Committee of Twenty-one, Mr. Frazer, was not elected by the stockhold-ers to be guided by any person or persons and, it has not as yet, nor will be so

ers to be guided by any person or persons and, it has not as yet, nor will be so guided. Your advice and pleadings are not wished by me and I hope and believe that you will meet with the same result in your efforts with the others of the Committee of Twenty-one. It is no wonder to me now, since I am on the inside, how it is that spe-cially appointed Committees, appointed for certain purposes, come out of their delib-rations with ear marks such as they sometimes do. I own a great many thousand dollars of stock in the Skinner Packing company and I know that my stock is and will be worth a hundred cents on the dollar and a good premum on top of that within a short time, if the Skinner management are si-lowed complete and unmolested control. The Stockholders of the Skinner Packing Company should form in an army and teme in and "wait on" some of you people who are striving to cripple and break up their plant. Perhaps in future, some of you would not be so fast in trying to butt in on things that do not concern you or perhaps not to sell your services to others who

their plant. Fermings in future, some of you would not be ablact in trying to built in on things that do not concern you or perhaps not to sell your services to others who mean to want to steal our independent plant. Assuring you that no further communication from you is desired by me and that all your efforts to work me over will be futile. I remain, Yours very truly, H. W. CHUECHILL

• Wahoo, Neb., July 3, 1920. Mr W. C. Fraser, Attorney at Law, Omaha, Neb. Dear Sir:

Dear Sir: Your letter giving me free legal advice just received. I was not present at the Howe mass meeting; but I understand that you there invited stockholders to em-ploy you as their attorbey to bring suits against the company. I did not then favor such suits and do not now favor them. I did not then desire to employ you as my lawyer, and do not now, faunt you just the same. I understand that Mr. Ritchie, the amorney for the company, has possession of more facts about this than the other lawyers, and believe he has told us the truth. Do you mean to say he has not? I know that the meeting was not packed or unfairly conducted. I was there myself and so know more than you do about it. Your clients were present and

myself and so know more than you do about it. Your clients were present and

I know that the meeting was not packed or untarry conducted. I was there myself and so know more than you do about it. Your clients were present and were given a fair hearing. We have consulted the accountant of Arthur Young and company and are satis-fied that they fold us the truth. We know that the state's examiner said of his report that it was not a complete audit. Archur Young and company asy they have worked months on the books. Which one should we believe? We examined the minutes of the meetings word for word and are satisfied that the affairs of the company are in good condition, and that the things you com-plain of were not so, or were corrected before any law suits were started. We are satisfied that the report of Arthur Young and company, which says that the promotion expense of the company is under 1245% is true. The board of directors has agreed that the Committee of 21 shall elect the other members of the board, and I am satisfied we can make a good selection. We have resented your statements in the paper that the committee was hand picked "henchmen of the Skinners," and know this was not so, yet a responsible busi-ness man in this city told our committee that you. Mr. Fraser, had a great deal to do in picking Mr. Chittenden and others of your Committee of Nine, at the itme of the Howe meating: I have saked a banker friend of mine about your statement regarding the list of assets. He tells me that these were properly listed as assets and are not

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	 	2	Fairfield,	Neb.,	
Molly	Strykert		a second s	1.000.00	

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I do not know, Mr. Fraser, as there is any use in addressing you regarding this matter of the mailing of these letters to these committeemen. However, it is always to well for one to get anything out of their system if it is bothering them. Your action in this matter, Mr. Fraser, really bothered me. It doesn't appeal to me as being ethical, honest or proper. This committee was elected, or chosen by a meeting of the stockholders of the Skinner Packing Company, spontaneously and without premedita-tion. I ventifie to say, Mr. Fraser, that fully one-half of this committee is made up of mef who came to that meeting with the avowed pubpose of 'ousting' the Skinners from the management of the Skinner Packing Company.' They had been assailed by and with propaganda of an untrue nature, and were in the frame of mind in motivitationing the fact that I, as chairman of that meeting, allowed ample and unlimited time, and, I believe the "Committee of Nine" will agree, the utmost cour-ters to each and every one of them. these wife changed their minds and became friends of the present management of the Skinner Packing Company, subject, however, to being shown. We worked hard and long hours examining books and records and listening to factor us by the representativa accountants of the Arthur Young "Company, and, Mr. Fraser, we honestly and consistently went into all matters per-taining to the company afairs and the past and present actions of the Skinner boys. After all this had been done the Committee was unanimous in their praise of the unprecedented history-making achievement of Paul and Lloyd Skinner in its pasise of the sinner boys in their history-making achievement of promoting a company of this magnitude at, the smail amount of per cent they succeeded in getting by with (we quoted in our report around 12% per cent, but the committee all believe that it will show up in the official tabulation when the examination is comments. At less than 12 per cent). You must agree with us. Mr. Fraser, Lat if this is true, ane we rec

taining to the affairs of the Skinner boys: pertaining to the Skinner Packing Com-pany and the Skinner Company. This committee became thoroughly conversant with all facts in connection with the entire transaction from beginning to end, and I do pot believe that you can or anyone else can change them. Do you not believe, Mr. Fraser, that it would be far grander and more glorious; do you not believe that you would be heraided a much bigger man if you could be big enough and broad enough to step down from that pedestal which you seem to believe you are occupying and come out openly and notoriously to the world and declare that you labored under misapprehension and that the facts were not and are not as put up to you. For my part, I always feel that the man who was big enough to admit his mistakes was big enough for my confidence and esteem, but that the man who was small enough to misconstrue and misinterpret the facts for the purpose of bearing himself out in a mistaken stand was a dangerous citizen and one not worthy of the

mistakes was big enough for my confidence and extem, but that the man who was small enough to misconstrue and misinterpret the facts for the purpose of bearing himself out in a mistaken stand was a dangerous citizen and one not worthy of the trust and confidence of his fellowmen. I do not want to believe this of ydu, Mr. Fraser, and I hope that when you have proven the facts to yourself that you will be big enough to come out and reach out the right hand of fellowship and say "I was mistaken—I am big enough to admit it." In your letter to my brother committeemen, while you do not seem to seek to discredit me or in any way malin me for the stand I have taken, with reference to the Skinner boys, and for which I thank you, you do seem to infer that because I had confidence in the Skinner boys from the very beginning of their troubles that I should not be taken seriously by my brother committeemen. In connection with this. Mr. Fraser, I want to any to you that I did have confidence in the Skinners. They had my respect as men who really do things. I thoroughly respect a booster, and whenever Drun across one I am just big enough and broad enough to want to salute and take off my hat to them. The Skinner boys are big men; they are live wires. They pulsate with vigor and ambition. They seek to leave monuments to their memory-—they really do things. I plead guilty to having arose to the defense of the Skinner boys in the so-called. Howe Meeting in the Auditorium on May 25. It may surprise you. Mr. Fraser, when I tell you that at that moment, other than my little interest in the Packing Company itself. I had no further interest or acquaintance with the Skinner boys intense than to know of them generally and know what they had done for Omaha: their ambitions and their untiring efforts. I had not on that day ever met, personally, either af these men, to my knowledge. My few remarks there was spontandous. I have always been accused of rushing to the rescue of the under dog. The Skinner boys in that meeting seemed to be the

to practice. In that lefter to my brother committeemen you also criticize my being called

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or of your personal acquaintance, have np way to jndge you I have inquired of one or two about what kind of a scout object and most strenu that their reckonings of you were complimentary, covering but not in your legal profession. That is to say that you the saving of the life of

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