The Dakota Farmers' Leader.

A Faithful LEADER in the Cause of Economy and Reform, the Defender of Truth and Justice, the Foe of Fraud and Corruption.

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MONOPOLY CONTROLS WHEAT.

A Strikingly Interesting Story Told of the Standard Oil Company—How it Makes Money.

The Prices of Farm Products, Railroads, Congress and State Legislature Under its Thumb.

Chicago's wheat market is controlled by the Standard Oil Company. For nearly four years the octopus has deftly manipulated the wheat markets of the country, and it has done its insidious work so quietly, but at the same time so effectively that few in the trade have even dreamed of the extent of its power. The petroleum market is now only a plaything for the giant corporation with its untold millions at its back. For years it bled and even now is sucking the life blood out of the oil trade of the country. But speculations in crude petroleum is and has been for months in the dumps, and trading is practically dead. It was the Standard that killed the oil cock robin, and hundreds of brokers who once dabbled in the greasy commodity have been driven out of business and been compelled to seek a livelihood in other channels. Some of these self same brokers are in Chicago now. The once lively petroleum exchange in New York, Bradford, Pitsburg, Titusville, Philadelphia and Oil City, in days not long gone by traded in millions of barrels daily. Now the average daily clearances of all the exchanges combined are so small that they are of no significance and a movement is on foot to shut up the handsome oil exchange in Pittsburg.

The Standard Oil company killed speculation in crude oil because it found it to its interest to do so. A wealthy but retired broker who knows all the ins and outs of the grain and wheat trades is spending a few days at one of Chicago's leading hotels. He made some startling revelations as to the status of the Standard Oil Campany on the wheat question. "The Standard," he said, "went into wheat four years ago, and today controls not only the Chicago market but the markets of the country. The standard's leader broker for a long time was Hutchinson, and the 'big four,' too are interestd. The Standard is playing nine pins with wheat and is using almost the identical methods which characterized its treatment of the oil market. It pulls the string from its tall marble building at 26 Broadway, New York, and prices advance or decline at its sweet will. The story sounds unreasonable, does it not? Mark my words well. Some day, and it is not far distant, the wheat trade will wake up and find itself firmly enmeshed in the terrible tentacles of the octopus. What is true of the oil market will be repeated, but on a much larger scale, in wheat. Do you know how the Standard worked the oil market? It was simple enough. The Standard had, at enormous expense one of the best posted men in the trade. All he had to do was to make the market. He had his office at 26 Broadway. There he went every morning and from the head moguls of the company received his orders for the day. If the Standared ordered a bull market it was a bull; if it wanted to bear, it issued its flat, and the market was a bear. That one man manipulated the market as he pleased. Brokers formed combinations to fight him, but ruin stared them in the face, and one by one the big traders were gathered under the Standard's all-powerful wing. Today—well, the memory of it all makes me sick at heart. There was one restriction placed on the Standard's hired man. He was bound by oath not to speculate, therefore his identity was kept a secret.

"You remember the story about Sampson and the woman, told in holy writ. Well, this all-powerful individual, who bore the common name of Jones, had his Deliah. While in New York I frequented a French restaurant on Twenty-third street. The proprietor spoke poor English. I was then a broker on the floor of the consolidated stock and petroleum exchange and represented a big oil producing firm. One day the restaurant man came to me and ordered me to buy 1,000 shares of New York & New England railroad stock. You know Rockfeller is the heaviest holder of the company's stock, and the Standard Oil Company runs and directs the road. He offered $100 as a margin, I told him that the stock was liable to fluctuate four or five points either way. Then in his bad English he told me that he knew what he was about; that the stock would not go below 43⅝c. I knew that he had money and would meet his obligation, so I filled the order. Sure enough he called the turn and cleared $1,300. The next day he sold short and again came out a big winner. Then he tried oil and wheat and his luck was simply phenomenal. I began to cultivate his acquaintance. I became a regular patron and he engaged me as his broker. One day, while drunk, he told me the secret of his remarkable success. The Standard's oil market juggler had a girl and he regularly came to the Frenchman's restaurant for his meals. He gave the Frenchman tips what to buy or sell and the latter, like a smart fellow, followed the advice thus given and soon became rich. I was not slow to follow up his pointers and although I often did so against my own judgment I always came out a winner.

"The Standard reminds me of the Great East India Company. That concern, you will remember, was the mander of its time. It absorbed everything in reach, and flanally became so everlastingly big that it fell to pieces of its own weight. Its collapse created one of the greatest sensations of the age. The Standard Oil Company is a modern East India affair. It wants the earth, and it has nearly got it. Some may, say within ten years from now, it will collapse, like a soap bubble, of its own weight. It carries the transportation companies that run out of New York in the palm of its hand. It owns outright the New York, New Haven & Hartford Railroad. It has absorbed the great Richmond Terminal system. It is on the best of terms with the Vanderbilts and twists that great corporation around its little finger. It owns a line of steamers plying from New York to points on the Atlantic coast. It owns a score or two of iron tank vessels, in which petroleum is exported in bulk to European ports, thus saving enormous freight charges. It owns one of the most complete private telegraph systems in the world, with wires extending from New York to Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Pittsburg, Cleveland, Chicago and all the great points in the country. It owns and operates great pipe lines, which transport oil from the oil districts to New York, Baltimore, Bayonne, N. J., Pittsburg, Cleveland, Lima, Findlay and Chicago. It has swallowed up the Tidewater Pipe Company, which has lines running from the Bradford oil field to New York and Philadelphia. It owns all the the great oil refineries in the country and has by underhanded and disreputable means undermined, ruined and bought in at a sacrifice scores of its rivals. It rules the oil producing fields with a rod of iron and has willfully bankrupted hundreds of honest producers. It owns or controls the great bulk of all the iron oil tank cars in the country and dictates to the railroads the number of cars outside refiners shal receive. Until the inter-state law went into effect it made pupets of railroads, and ever since it sprang into being has drawn enormous rebates from them. It has robbed and pillaged right and left, and has laid bare and made desolate the once beautiful and prosperous oil country. It controls city and village councils, state legislatures and executives of states.

"Take up the railroads right here in Chicago as an illustration of the Standard's ever spreading influence. Did you know that the Standard virtually owns and operates the Union Pacific, and that the close and friendly relations that exist between the Union Pacific and the Chicago & Northwestern were brought about by Standard gold? Well, it is so. The Standard, through Rockefeller, is the heaviest holder of Northwestern stock, and the Standard frames the policy for the two roads to operate under. There is the Rock Island, too. The Standard holds a very large block of its bond fives and likewise knows all about the inner movements of the road. And there is the great Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul. The Standard has it, too, and controlling blocks of its stock are locked up in the Standard's roomy vaults at 26 Broadway The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe, you remember, has just purchased the Colorado Midland and is preparing to gobble up another road, I see the Standard's hand in the deal. It is virtually interested because it will secure two routes into California and thus promote its trade on the Pacific coast. It is going into other railroads too, and soon will become as powerful in manipulating railroad stocks as it has been in controlling oil and wheat. Within a few years the Standard has grown amazingly. Ten years ago its great specialty was oil alone. Now it is in the sim on wheat, owns thousands of miles of railroad and is the father and principal owner of the great lead trust, the linseed oil trust, the cotton oil trust and other great trusts that the public knows little or nothing about. It was a small stream once, but now it is a mighty river and is fed by numerous tributaries. Millions now roll in where thousands came in before, and the mighty river is nearing its flood ttde and soon will overflow its bank and go tearing on to distruction. When its well fortified levees break, as break they will, the event will be the marvel of the century.

"New York, as I remarked, is bodily owned by the Standard. It owns the big gas plants in New York and Brooklyn, is the principal stockholders in the New York Steam Heating Company, and is interested in the "L" railroads and other municipal enterprises. It is also financially interested in every bank in New York, and if you will look over the list of directors in the banks you will find that Standard names figure in every one of them, including the reliable Chemical Bank. It is impossible for any man or corporation to secure a large loan in New York without the Standard knowing all about it. It is like walking into the spider's parlor. The Standard gets the points and squeezes the ltckless individual or corporation until he or it is as barren of meat as a skeleton. The Standard has the run of Wall street and is solid on the big deals. What is true about the railroads running out of New York is true of the money market. The Standard feels its pulse and is its self-appointed physician. As for newspapers, the Standard has gone into that business too. It owns enough stock in the New York Tribune to dictate the policy to be pursued by the financial department, and absolutely controls the petroleum market report. It also owns enough stock in Colonel Shepard's Mail and Express to get everything it wants. Then it has its own established organs in Toledo, Bradford and Oil City and has the inside ear of scores of papers scattered about the country, which it subsidizes with a lavish hand.

It owns gas plants in Philadelphia, St. Louis, Cleveland, Indianapolis and other cities, and is the principal owner in your own Chicago gas trust. So far the Standard has not paid much attention to Chicago, but is reaching out this way, and it will soon make its influence felt in banks and financial institutions. It has given up its scheme for the present to pipe natural gas into Chicago, but it is only bluffing, and when the time comes will jump into this city as it has into New York. It owns miles of prolific gas territory, and has by recent purchases become the heaviest individual oil producing as well as transportation concern in the universe. Pretty soon, if not checked, it will own the earth.

STATE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

There will be a meeting of those interested in the permanent organization of the dairy interests of South Dakota at DeSmet, Kingsbury county on Thursday, December 11th, at 4 o'clock p. m. Those interested in dairy, creamery cheese making and like interests are earnestly requested to be present. County organizations are requested to appoint delegates. Reduced railroad and hotel fares have been secured. The State Horticultural Society hold their annual session at the same place December 10th to 12th, and delegates can avail themselves of attendance at both meetings.

A. H. WHEATON,
W. F. T. BUSHNELL, Tem. Pres.
Tem. Secy.

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ADJOURNED.

The Stockholders of the Farmer's Leader Meet and Adjourned to Dec. 9th.

The following is the official report of the proceedings of the stockholders of this paper held in this city last Tuesday:

Canton, Dec. 5, 1890. The regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the South Dakota Farmers Publishing Company was called to order by vice President Jere Gehon.

On motion Ed Wardwell was chosen secretary of the meeting.

The chair laid before the meeting the fact that it would be necessary for the regular quarterly meeting of the board of directors to take place before the stockholders could meet and act upon the report of the board. The board meeting would be held next Saturday, Dec. 6th and accordingly it would be necessary for this meeting to adjourn until after that date. Thereupon a motion was made to adjourn to Saturday. Dec. 20. Motion was amended by substituting Tuesday Dec. 9, and the motion carried. The meeting them adjourned to that date.

JERE GEHON,
ED WARDWELL, Vice President.
Secry. pro tem.

The Knights of Labor meeting, which was advertised for two weeks ago, will be held at the court-house tomorrow evening, laboring men and farmers are specially invited to be present.

THE FARM, FIELD AND GARDEN.

Selected and Original Articles On Various Topics of Interest to Rural Readers.

Practical Information, Submitted By Practical Men For the Use of Stockmen and Farmers.

The fruit crop of this country the present year is a most unsatisfactory one, with almost complete failures in some of the principal apple growing districts and with such diminished yields in others that the states which can realize on half, third or quarter crops are deemed fortunate. The often recurring vicissitudes of the apple crop are having a discouraging effect on many farmers, leading them to the belief that the crop is not as profitable on the average as grain crops or a more diversified character of farming. It is said that with occasional crops so large as to glut the markets, followed by off years, or perhaps an almost apple famine year like the present, a better use can be made of the land than to encumber it with apple trees. At the least it is thought by the dissatisfied ones that the orchard area of the country should not be increased to add to unprofitable over production on the one hand and unprofitable occupancy of fruitless acres on the other. While it is true that we have off years with their insect bitten, knotty apples and alternate years of plenty with unremunerative prices, it is nevertheless worthy of careful consideration whether improved methods of cultivation, more care in the selection of varieties and more attention to the preservation and marketing of the crop may not do very much toward lessening the grounds for such complaints.

In the first place, in fruitful years a large proportion of the crops is unsalable, because of its imperfections and many undesirable varieties. It may also be so far from market as to make it unprofitable. Rarely, indeed, is there a year when apples of first class quality will not pay handsomely for their raising, if within reach of good transportation facilities. There are many varieties so excellent that when produced in their best condition they are never in excessive supply. Of such fruits the markets of Europe and our own cities are always ready to receive large quantities. Again, in half crop years the advance in price often more than compensates for the smaller yield, especially if care has been taken to combat insect foes at the proper times. As a rule orchards receive so little attention that it is a wonder many of them are not even more unprofitable. Instances are known of orchards of fine varieties where the trees stand so closely packed together that the sun cannot strike the ground at all during the leafy season. In some of these there has not been even a quarter crop of good apples in any year of the last four, except it might be along the borders or on branches so high as to make the cost of gathering them equal to their value. An orchard growing rampant for want of judicious pruning or clumps of apple trees closely huddled together on rich soil must of necessity be unprofitable.

Many of the unprofitable orchards are so unwisely located that an experienced orchardist might confidently predict their future before they came into bearing. Low lying, rich alluvial lands can without doubt be put to better use than raising apples where good keeping qualities are to determine their value. Unless a farmer has spots of high or rolling land of only medium fertility for grain crops orcharding beyond enough for his own or immediate neighborhood wants is not advised. Furthermore, there is the same necessity for rotation in orcharding as with grain crops. Only in those cases where the nature of the location makes it an exceptionally favorable one should an old orchard be succeeded by a new one on the same ground, says the agricultural editor of The New York World, authority for the foregoing.

Dressing and Shipping Poultry.

Following are the directions given by one of the leading commission firms of New York to their patrons:

To insure the highest market prices for poultry the birds must be well fattened; crops empty when killed; nicely and well picked and skin not broken or torn; thoroughly cooled, but not frozen. Pack in boxes with a layer of clean straw (rye straw is the best) between the layers of poultry in the same posture in which the birds roost. Mark the box, specifying what it contains. Send invoice by mail. Ship to reach destination about the middle of the week—never to arrive as late as Saturday.

In New York city there is an ordinance that specifies that neither chickens nor turkeys shall be offered for sale unless the crops are free from food. While poultry for New York and some other markets is seldom if ever drawn, that designed for Boston and other New England markets is relieved of the entrails when killed. It is important, therefore, that producers should learn previous to shipping just what their special market requires. This information may be obtained by writing direct to one's commission merchant for instructions. Many firms have printed circulars containing directions, which are sent out on written application. Whenever practicable, ship chickens, ducks, turkeys, etc., in separate packages. In sending poultry for the holidays endeavor to have your shipments reach their destination three or four days in advance. Bear in mind that the big demand for fine, large turkeys comes at Thanksgiving, and that prime geese catch the fancy prices at Christmas. Soon after January prices go up again. Capons meet a good market from the 1st of February on until about Easter.

The wholesale grocers appear to be the only ones to favor the ordinance to sell produce by weight. Truck farmers and retail fruit dealers and grocers generally express themselves against the movement.

THE HONEY BEE AT HOME.

All About the Internal Affairs of a Bee Hive—Workers, Drones and Queen.

An average colony contains 30,000 inhabitants, composed of a queen or mother bee, several hundred drones or males and workers of undeveloped gender, the mass of the colony. The queen, the only perfect female, seems to have allotted to her as sole duty the depositing of eggs in brood cells, prepared by the workers. From one hundred to nearly if not quite two thousand are deposited daily, according to the season and weather. She can readily be distinguished from the others by her size, which is much larger. She possesses a sting, but never uses it except in combat with a rival queen; never goes abroad after her bridal tour, except with a colony swarming, and retains her vigor about three years. The drones, or males, are bees of leisure, and differ much in appearance from the queen. They are less active, have no sting, no proboscis for gathering honey, no basket for pollen, no sacks for the secretion of wax which the workers have. In the latter part of summer they are usually looked upon as unnecessary and burdensome members of society and are put to death.

The workers are the sole laborers, bringing into the hive four substances, out of which are produced all things necessary for the construction of the hive, raising the young, etc. First—Honey nectar of flowers extracted by a kind of proboscis, stored in honey sacks and carried to hive. This honey has to be prepared by mixing with it formic acid secreted in the bees' jaws and mixed with honey by vigorous stirring. Second—Pollen dust is used to feed young bees and cap over their cells, as it is porous and very much cheaper. Third—Propolis or bee glue obtained from the willow, poplar and other trees, used to cement cracks and crevices and as stays to strengthen cells. Fourth—Water to give drink to their babes and mix with their food. Wax or bee tallow is not gathered like the other material, but secreted under little scales underneath the abdomen. When waxmaking they eat honey and hang together in clusters while the operation proceeds, causing their owners often to judge them wrongfully, thinking them idle.

The queen begins to lay as soon as pollen can be secured from blossoms, which is mixed with honey and water partly digested by the bee and laid in the cells with the eggs to feed the larvæ as soon as hatched. In about three days the larvæ hatch a tiny worm without legs. They are fed until about nine or ten days, when they nearly fill the cell and refuse to eat and are sealed over. Around themselves they spin a silken sack changed from larvæ into a perfect bee, coming forth in about twenty days from hatching, and four days later go forth as master workmen, wearing out their lives during the busy season in about six weeks. Queen cells can readily be distinguished from other cells, much resembling an acorn cup, and are placed in the comb vertically instead of horizontally in the outer edge. Young queen bees are fed with royal food and come to perfection a few days sooner than the others.—Wisconsin Farmers' Institute.

An Interesting Potato Experiment.

A World correspondent writes as follows: This season I have had some of the largest and finest potatoes that I ever saw grown in New Jersey, and the strange part of it is that I did not plant them. Last winter the weather was so mild that the potatoes scattered in the ground from last year's planting—such as were too small to pick up when the crop was gathered—came up last spring and appeared so thrifty that I determined to try an experiment. I put wood ashes on them and plowed and hoed them, and was well paid for my trouble. The vines continued to grow as late as Aug. 16, while the vines and potatoes planted in the regular way were dead and the potatoes not nearly so large.

Loss in Manure.

It is now quite generally admitted that the best way of saving manure and preventing its waste is to haul it out as soon as convenient and spread it on the ground where it is most wanted. When left for months in the barn yard there is always loss from leaching and soaking into the ground, where it does no good. If hauled out and spread the soil absorbs and holds all that is leached out by the rains. In this way the loss is reduced to a minimum, except that it may be on grounds so sandy or gravelly that there is nothing to retain fertility near its surface, or so steep that surface washing carries it off.

Making Vinegar.

Vinegar making is easy enough if you have good cider and patience. Keep the barrel in a warm place, filled up to the bung, and refilling as needed. When done working draw off into an old vinegar barrel, filling it not over two-thirds full. Keep the bung hole covered with a piece of screen to exclude vinegar flies. If kept in a warm place it may make good strong vinegar in less than six months' time. In an ordinary cellar it will take longer.

What Others Say.

From time to time, says The Rural New Yorker, we have noted the fact that the male asparagus plant is thriftier than the female plant, giving larger shoots and larger and more vigorous plants. This is natural enough, since the males are not dwarfed by seed bearing. Mr. W. J. Green, of the Ohio station, is investigating the subject. He finds that the sterile plants are not only the more vigorous but give the earlier cuttings.

G. M. Doolittle says in American Rural Home: "If I wish to keep comb honey so late in the fall that the temperature of the room falls below 85 degs. I place an oil stove in it, and by regulating the flame to suit the circumstances a temperature of 90 to 95 degs. is maintained. In that way the honey is in perfect condition when sent to market, in which shape it will stand much abuse before it will begin to ooze out of the cells."

TAKE CARE OF THE MANURE.

The Importance of Good Feeding and Bedding for Stock in Making Manure.

In a general way farmers understand that a considerable part of the value of what they feed to stock goes to the manure heap, but neither the importance of judicious feeding nor good bedding, nor the means are appreciated as they should be. It requires study to learn how to make valuable manure profitable. High feeding will not always do it, neither will keeping a large amount of stock do it. In making manure profitable, keep no more stock on the farm than is needed to work it, and only young stock that yearly increase in value. These can be fed such food as will supply all their needs and return to the soil a manure richer in plant food than the crop just taken off. The bedding of this stock is more essential in making rich manure as well as increasing the bulk than many might suppose, for the liquid is the most valuable. Not only is it richer in plant food, but the plant food is more available for crops. But notwithstanding this very few provide any bedding at all, while still fewer use the best.

A German authority found that 1,000 pounds of bedding absorbed the following weight of liquid: good straw, 3,000 pounds; sawdust, 3,571; leaf rakings, 4,330; and peat, 4,483. From this it seems that leaves are next to the most valuable material that can be had for bedding. Not only do leaves make a better bedding, but they have a great manurial value in themselves. Nearly every farm has some woodland attached, and in that woodland annually goes to waste forest leaves that could and should be utilized as fertilizing matter and for bedding. The off days and parts of days when there is not much else to do can be profitably employed in gathering up the leaves and hauling them to the barn, where they can be used as bedding for the horses, cattle and pigs, as well as spread thickly in the barnyard to absorb the liquid portions of the manure which would otherwise be wasted by evaporation and drainage. This bedding should be removed to a good place and formed into a compost and other fresh clean bedding put in its place.—Southern Cultivator.

Selling Straw.

When a farmer sells all his straw to be carried off the farm he is selling fertility and robbing the land. When rye straw will sell for as much or more per ton than hay the inducement to let it go will generally prevail, but something sufficient to compensate for the loss should be substituted. Wheat straw is better for bedding animals than for feeding to them, although the dry cows and young stock will be benefited by having access to the straw stacks through the winter. Whatever they eat will be saved for the farm in the manure, and while the nourishment they will get from it will not be large it will make a considerable saving in hay and fodder. The same care should be exercised in getting all that is valuable out of the straw as from the other farm products, and where straw is sold for bedding to stables in the town the farmer should stipulate that he is to be paid in manure. Where so much is yearly taken off the farm that does not return in any form care should be taken to utilize everything that will retain fertility on it. Bedding the animals well through the winter keeps them clean and comfortable, and they will thrive better on less food than they will on bare or filthy floors. Besides, it makes the best use for most of the straw.

A Colony of Bees.

Beginners are often perplexed by the promiscuous use of the terms "swarm of bees," "hive of bees" and "colony of bees." A swarm properly means the bees that leave the hive in natural division, the bees that collect in a cluster and when put in an empty hive will begin anew their labors — constructing combs, rearing broods; in a word, thus establishing a new colony. The term "colony" is used to signify the bees of one hive. A hive is the box in which the bees live and work. A hive of bees is often alluded to as a swarm or a colony.