

THIS MEANS BUSINESS.

A STATE ORGANIZATION TO FIGHT THE DRIVE WELL FRAUD.

An Important Movement Inaugurated—Organized Resistance to the Infliction of the Drive Well Royalty—A State Organization Formed, and Funds to be Raised to Fight the Matter Through to the Bitter End—Every Man Entitled to His Own Hole in the Ground.

Pursuant to call, about a dozen gentlemen from different localities in the State, met in this city yesterday and organized a State Anti Drive Well association. The localities represented were Farmington, Lake City, Mankato, Benson, Motley, Minneapolis, and St. Paul. The call was made by the Metropolitan hotel, but after getting together, an adjournment was had to the Chamber of Commerce room, as a more desirable place for holding the meeting.

At the chamber, Mr. E. Z. Needham, of Farmington, called the meeting to order and read the call, when a temporary organization was perfected by calling Capt. Thomas P. Wilson, of St. Paul, to preside, and electing Mr. L. P. Fink, of Farmington, secretary. Chairman Wilson expressed his thanks for the honor done him, and stated his disappointment at there being no representatives from Winona in attendance. They had a strong organization there, and he knew their determination to fight the drive well swindle to the end, he felt confident the non-attendance was the result of a misunderstanding of some kind, and that they stood ready to unite and co-operate with a State organization when formed.

On motion of Mr. Needham, parties in attendance not representing local organizations, but interested in the fight, were allowed to participate in the proceedings. Chairman Wilson said the St. Paul organization was small in numbers and would probably remain so. The only one some 160 driven wells in the county, but St. Paul could be depended upon for doing its proportionate share and more in this contest.

Mr. J. W. Emery, of Farmington, at this point briefly explained the reasons he believed that a fight against the drive well monopoly and swindle, vigorously pursued, would be successful, and that the views by the presentation of some very convincing documentary evidence. Referring to the situation at Farmington, Mr. Emery said that suits had been commenced against one hundred persons, notwithstanding the fact that their only notification had been a printed card, and the personal tender of the cashier of the bank of the \$10 royalty demanded for the whole number. It was to prevent such outrages as this that it was now sought to secure a State organization. The recent newspaper publications in reference to the matter, had excited interest all over the country, resulting in the production of a great mass of highly important evidence not before available. He had the opinion of Gov. Davis, confessedly one of the best lawyers at the bar, that a suit carried to the court of last resort, would destroy the patent, first for the reason that a hole in the ground is not a State monopoly, and because of priority, the same wells having been in use years before the Green patent, under which the present proceedings were made, was secured.

Thus encouraged, the secretary of the Farmington sufferers had determined to make the contest. To make this contest a success, there should be co-operation of all parties interested in the State. It would require the expenditure of from \$6,000 to \$10,000. The people suffering a constant menace under such circumstances should not longer be fleeced by the vultures, but would await the result. An appeal made to the United States supreme court in a test case would result in a case in which James & Co. would have time to pick their teeth. It had become a matter of self-preservation with the consuming class that this contest be not overthrown, it will not be long before a combination would be formed to extract a royalty from the people on nearly everything in use now was patented. The people must take hold of this matter and act at once.

Mr. Z. B. Clarke, of Benson, said that no organization had been effected in his locality, but the people were thoroughly aroused, and himself and Mr. Stone had been requested to attend this meeting in their behalf. He said there were a large number of driven wells in that section, and he was satisfied, a State organization secured, that a strong local organization would follow, and that they would do their full share in prosecuting the proposed contest.

Mr. Needham favored an immediate organization. He knew the people of the State expected it to be done, and if really done, local organizations would spring into existence to co-operate with and back it up.

Mr. G. C. Bart, of Mankato, said the people interested in his section were waiting for a State organization before forming a local one. While he had a local organization, using the patent, and was therefore not personally interested in this contest, he had a great interest, as should every consumer, in the principle at issue. If the collection of this drive well royalty was allowed without protest, it would not be long before a similar demand would be made in reference to some other article in general use. A fight of this kind could not be made unless a constant menace must be organization. If the fault lay in the patent laws, the attention of Congress must be called to it, so that the laws may be so amended that royalty in all cases shall be collected from the manufacturer instead of the user. The people would then be free to use what they were purchasing, and there would be no opportunity for such swindles as that now being perpetrated.

Mr. Fiske likewise agreed with the preceding two speakers. State organization was the need of the hour. Once such an organization secured and he had no doubt the aid to make the great fight would be forthcoming. All that was needed was a head. He felt a considerable number of people from the fact that the robbery was not going to stop with the drive well swindle. This allowed to go on without protest, and effective process, too, other combinations would be made to collect royalty on some article in general use, and again, that Minnesota had allowed themselves to be lied to the tune of \$75,000 to \$100,000, their first raid would be here.

Other gentlemen present spoke to the general purpose of the organization. Mr. S. Reeves moved that a State association be organized, and that the temporary president and secretary be permanent officers of the association until otherwise ordered, which was adopted.

On motion, J. W. Emery, E. Z. Needham, and Z. B. Clark were appointed a committee to prepare and report temporary rules for the association. The committee retired, and after a short absence returned and reported the following, which was adopted:

The undersigned associate themselves together as an organization to be known as the Minnesota State association, for the purpose of resisting by lawful means through the United States courts, the pretended claim for a patent on what is known as the Green Drive Well. For a temporary association until all portions of the State are represented, we will elect a president, secretary and treasurer, and also appoint a central executive committee, in number at the discretion of the association, the duties of this committee to be the general business and correspondence necessary to secure co-operation of all interested, and they shall have entire control of all the funds collected, which shall be de-

posited in some bank to their order, and which fund, unless used to contest the claims aforesaid, shall be returned to the donors, except the sum necessary for actual expenses.

On motion of Mr. Needham, the following executive committee was appointed by the chair: J. W. Emery, Farmington; J. A. Wiswell, Mankato; Samuel Doughty, Lake City; Z. B. Clarke, Benson; R. S. Reeves, Minneapolis; V. Simpson, Winona and G. A. Armstrong, St. Paul.

Mr. Fiske moved the appointment of three to prepare an address to the people of the State, briefly reviewing the history of the drive well contest, the present situation, and the urgency for organization to combat and overthrow the swindle. The chair appointed as such committee: J. W. Emery, of Farmington; Z. B. Clarke, of Benson, and G. C. Bart, of Mankato.

On motion, President Wilson was authorized to act as treasurer for the president, and the First National bank was made the depository of all funds contributed to the cause. A general interchange of opinion followed, showing great earnestness of purpose to fight the cause through to the court of last resort, after which the association adjourned, subject to call of president and secretary.

THE 50,000 ACRES.

Conclusion of the Great Sale. Yesterday the sale of the railroad lands upon the St. Paul & Pacific extension was continued in the Governor's office at the capital. There was a larger attendance than on the first day of the sale (Wednesday), and the competition was more spirited; this was owing probably to the fact that many of the sections were pine lands with a good growth of timber on them. Several lots, however, were mere tamarac swamp and that too with the timber out of the. The 240 acres purchased by James Conway on Wednesday, at \$1.55 per acre, was put up again and resold, the late purchaser declining to complete the sale, as people had frightened him into the belief that no good title could be given. The land in question was one of the best lots in the whole 50,000 acres and worth \$7 per acre. The following table shows the first bid, the purchasing price and the purchaser, according to the St. Paul Herald, per acre, per acre.

Acres, Sec. 2, T. 129 S., R. 13 E., 1st bid.		Purchase price, per acre, per acre.						
67.41	7	129	30	\$	10	\$	20	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	9	129	30	10	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	13	129	30	10	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
52.00	15	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	21	129	30	10	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	23	129	30	10	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	25	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	27	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	29	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	31	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	33	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	35	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	37	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	39	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	41	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	43	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	45	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	47	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	49	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	51	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	53	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	55	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	57	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	59	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	61	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	63	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	65	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	67	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	69	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	71	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	73	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	75	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	77	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	79	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	81	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	83	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	85	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	87	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	89	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	91	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	93	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	95	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	97	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	99	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	101	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	103	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	105	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	107	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	109	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	111	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	113	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	115	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	117	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	119	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	121	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	123	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	125	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	127	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	129	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	131	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	133	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	135	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	137	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	139	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	141	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	143	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	145	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	147	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	149	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	151	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	153	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	155	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	157	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	159	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	161	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	163	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	165	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	167	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	169	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	171	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	173	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	175	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	177	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	179	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	181	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	183	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	185	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	187	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	189	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	191	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	193	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	195	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	197	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	199	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	201	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	203	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	205	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	207	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	209	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	211	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	213	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	215	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	217	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	219	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	221	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	223	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	225	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	227	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	229	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	231	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	233	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	235	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	237	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	239	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	241	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	243	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	245	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	247	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
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64.00	267	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
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64.00	279	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
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64.00	285	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
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64.00	291	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	293	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
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64.00	301	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
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64.00	305	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
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64.00	333	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
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64.00	337	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	339	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	341	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	343	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	345	129	30	25	10	10	10	B. E. Eaton.
64.00	347							