WHO OWNS THE FARM?

The Story of an Acre of Corn Which Settles "the Essence of Ownership."

Leland Stanford says the essence of ownership is control. He applied this statement to railroads, and intended to say that whoever controlled and administered the revenues of the roads was practically their owner. We suppose that is as applicable to farms as it is to railroads. Whoever controls and administers their revenues possesses the essence of ownership. If one can control revenues without the bother of nominal ownership—without the trouble of repairs, taxes, insurance, and without the expense and labor of cultivation, certainly he has found the essence of ownership—in fact, the oil of it, the soul of it. Has any natural or artificial person found this? In trying to solve this question we publish the following account of sales of one acre of corn:

SALES.

One car corn, 674 bush. 37 lbs., at 22¼c. per bush	$149 96
CHARGES.	
Freight, $8.56; inspection, 42c; commission, $3.37	6 33
Total net product	$87 63

It will be seen that the freight on above car of corn amounts to a little over 8½ cents per bushel. This is the gross share the railroad company gets. Its net share is about half that amount, or 4¼ cents per bushel. Now, let us see how much the farmer gets out of it. This corn was raised in Cass county, and it is fair to suppose that the land it was raised on was worth $30 per acre. It was raised in a good corn year, and it is fair to suppose the yield was about fifty bushels per acre. The account then would stand thus:

Rent per acre	$2 50
Plowing	1 00
Harrowing	25
Planting	50
Seed	10
Plowing three times	1 50
Picking	2 00
Shelling	50
Hauling	1 00
Total expense of acre	$9 35
Income fifty bushels corn at 13c	6 50
Loss	$2 85

The above is a fair estimate of the cost of raising an acre of corn in Cass county, and the yield given is a good one. In order to come out without any loss the expense must be reduced $2.85 per acre, and it cannot be done. But on that same corn on which the farmer loses in unrecompensed labor nearly five cents per bushel, the railroad makes a net gain of 4¼ cents per bushel.

Now you know who owns the farm. The railroad owns it, and owns it by virtue of the laws the people have made and the laws the people have neglected to make. Without any investment, without any taxes, repairs, insurance, without any bother of any sort from nominal ownership, the roads take a net income of $2.75 to $3.50 per acre on every fifty bushels of corn shipped over their lines. This is what Stanford called "the essence of ownership," and he knew what he was talking about.—Farmers' Alliance.

Words, Not Deeds.

Every one of the members of the transportation board of this state at one time denounced the charges as robbery, and then turned in their well paid positions and went to sleep. Within a few weeks the same board assured railroad managers of the destitution of the people: that bankruptcy was staring them in the face; that remedial action was imperative, and then refused to discharge the duties which their oaths and the courts imposed. A few days ago 50 cents per hundred pounds was taken for hauling household goods from Seward to Unadilla, fifty-four miles. The Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, which owns the Burlington and Missouri, makes rates from Chicago to the Missouri river, and they demand about 60 cents for that 500 miles, and in Nebraska 50 cents for fifty miles, and this is permitted by the board which has so much sympathy for farmers.—Senator Van Wyck's Speech.

HIGH LICENSE KILLED.

Regulation Destroyed in the House of Its Friends.

On close scrutiny there seems to be a large load of dynamite in that recent decision of the United States supreme court touching the original packages in which liquor can be carried through state lines. The gist of the decision was that no state can intercept these packages in transit over its territory because the interstate railroad law, which congress has created, fully permits the transportation of commodities between states, and, further, because liquor packages are not exempted in the operations of that law. Of course, as in the case of Iowa, this knocks Prohibition a deadly blow on the head. It completely kills the police regulations against this traffic which may be on the books of any state or territory of the Union. But this is not the worst of it.

Senator Wilson, of Iowa, a most able lawyer, by the way, and a member of the senate judiciary committee, discovers a new and alarming danger in the decision. He contends that it practically robs the states of all police power and control over the liquor traffic. It removes even the scant barriers of a license. He claims that under the decision a person in New York city who wants to avoid the payment of license can make arrangements to get his liquor from New Jersey in the packages desired and then sell them here with perfect freedom as a privileged commodity under the federal interstate law, which supersedes any and all laws of the state on that subject. "True," he says, "there can be but one sale in the original package, but that may practically answer all the purposes of a saloon." Here is a "pretty how do you do." The court, standing as the interpreter and bulwark of federal law, cannot permit a state to impose restrictions on a traffic which is not excluded from interstate commerce.—New York Press.

DR. SHOREY HELPS.

Aid from Across the Ocean to the Nebraska Campaign.

Dr. John F. Shorey, a well known Prohibitionist, late of New York city, but now living in London, England, is still interested in our Prohibition movement. Though contributing liberally to the temperance work in England, and frequently called upon by the leaders there for financial as well as platform service, he writes Secretary John Lloyd Thomas as follows: "I am intensely interested in the Nebraska campaign for Prohibition. English leaders meet me and ask, 'What do you hear from Nebraska?' I cannot lend a hand in the fight, but my heart is with you, and I inclose my check for $50, to help."

NO LIQUOR FOR FIVE YEARS.

The Omaha Bee Shows That Prohibition Does Prohibit.

A small but enthusiastic bunch of Prohibitionists journeyed to the capital of Kansas last week to proclaim the glories of statutory sobriety, which existed only in their imagination. They trimmed the whiskers of that venerable fiction, "Prohibition prohibits," while within a stone's throw of the meeting place was a throng of thirsty residents rushing about with original packages. For the first time in five years liquor was sold openly in the city, and in less than eight hours the supply was exhausted, without apparently diminishing the demand.—Omaha Bee.

The Irrepressible Conflict.

The "irrepressible conflict" between state and national authority, precipitated by the "original package" decisions, has begun in earnest: a Maine judge fined a man $100 and costs for bringing liquor into that state in original packages, the judge holding that he was amenable to the state law. An appeal was taken.

The Ferd Heim Brewing company, of Kansas City, Mo., has opened a depot for the sale of its beer in original packages, on one of the principal streets of Kansas City, Kan. Similar depots are opened in Topeka and other Kansas towns.

Time to Arouse.

A southern paper has it borne in upon it that "any man that will stick to his dear old party while 80,000 persons are going into drunkard's graves each year is a man who will stick to his dear old coffin when Gabriel blows his trumpet on the resurrection morn."

The Lord Isn't Ready.

He was very, very pious,
But he thought the sky would fall
If the Prohibition party
Should come in ahead next fall.
An old party man his father was,
And so he'd always vote,
And you couldn't argue legal
Prohibition down his throat.

In this well defined position
He was strong and very clear,
But it struck us that his reason
For this view was rather queer.
He remarked, as if it really
Were a cause for deep regret,
That the Lord was not quite ready
For this great reform, as yet.

Where he got his information
We do not pretend to know,
But he says the Lord's not ready,
And we s'pose it must be so;
Still we never thought Jehovah
Was particular about
Any order of reforming
If it's only carried out.

And we think that any fellow
Who relates, with long drawn face,
What the Lord's specific plans are,
Is a little off his base.
For what people don't discover
(We will just observe to you),
Of the Lord's own private business
Is a good deal more'n they do.

It is proper to consider
And in reason to expect
That he favors any movement
That is aiming to correct
Any sin, or vice, or error,
In whatever time or place;
To uplift man's moral standard
And to benefit the race.

Now there isn't any weapon
That the imps of darkness use
That attacks frail human nature
With as great effect as booze;
And the Lord would be as likely
To assist the cause sublime,
To suppress the stuff, at present
As at any other time.

—J. B. Smiley in Joliet News.

Farmers Not Represented.

There is a bill before congress in regard to the business of the supreme court. It will become a law without a doubt, and a few more favored men will get a pull at the treasury teat. That bill was agitated by the lawyers, of whom there are 50,000 in the United States. There are 34,000,000 farmers in the United States, and what has been done with the only bill that was before congress for their benefit? Alas! it sleeps the sleep that knows no waking, and it forces us to the conclusion that farmers are not represented, but that this government is run, managed and controlled by subsidized corporations or their pliant tools.—J. J. Mills in Texas Farmer.

The jute bagging combination, it is reported, has reached the conclusion that it will be more profitable to dissolve their league and seek incorporation. According to The Boston Commercial Bulletin eight companies, with a rated annual capacity of 31,000,000 yards, will be incorporated under the laws of West Virginia as the American Manufacturing company, with a capital stock of $1,000,000. Fourteen mills will remain independent, with a capacity of 30,000,000 yards.

The delegates who met at Norristown, Pa., to form a farmers' league, passed this among other resolutions: Resolved, That this union will demand equalization of taxation of the next state legislature; that we should not be compelled to pay tax on such portions of our property already covered by mortgage, and that we should not pay county, school and road taxes levied against our farms, whilst corporations, stock and moneys at interest pay only a state tax.

SEE OUR CLUB RATES.

THE WORKINGMAN'S COLLEGE.

W. F. Crafts Gives Good Reasons for the Rest Day.

Four times seven is twenty-eight, that is, one-seventh of the days in twenty-eight years is four years—a college course. He who has missed a "liberal education" in the schools may make up for it by well spent Sabbaths, in one-third of a well rounded life, and still have left in his remaining years enough Sabbath time for thought and self improvement for two post-graduate courses as long as the first.

The British-American Sabbath may, therefore, be called the workingman's college, without which the toiler would not have time enough for the culture of intelligence and of conscientiousness to participate in government, but would remain, like the perpetual infants of continental despotisms, content to take childish Sunday amusements as substitutes for civil liberty.

If the Sabbath were not so valuable for the body and heart and soul, its educational value alone would vindicate its high place in society. As an educator it is only second to the public schools, if second at all. Certainly it is their best supplement. There are few men of fifty-six who have spent eight full years in school, but every man of that age has had eight years of Sabbaths, which have afforded opportunity for manifold culture.

Many of our most influential men had little schooling, but have found unconscious education in regular attendance at church, and in quiet reading and conversation at home. He who spends the Sabbath in "pleasure exertions," spends it in the worst of company, with ignorance and vice, from which he can learn nothing good. He who gives the day to the church and the library has noblest companions, and learns without effort the rarest wisdom.

Even from an intellectual standpoint the Bible contains the oldest history, the sublimest poetry, the noblest ethics, and no man can be said to have a good education who is not familiar with that book, which came into such lives as Shakespeare's and Webster's and Ruskin's and Goethe's as the mightiest of intellectual influences. In a score of ways the Sabbath brings the influence of this book to bear on the lives of all men who spend the Sabbath as the maker of both the Sabbath and man directed when he made one for the other.

Where are the great men who attribute whatever is admired in their literary style to their reading the gossip of a Sunday newspaper, as a substitute for the gospel?

But even to those who neither give nor receive direct religious instruction a Sabbath protected against both toil and dissipation is an educator both in knowledge and conscientiousness that help to protect the citizens against both the sophistries and bribes of the demagogue, and so a Sunday law is consistent with liberty on the same grounds as more direct laws of compulsory education.—Wilbur F. Crafts.

THOSE "ORIGINAL PACKAGES."

Congressmen Trying to Bulwark the Interstate Gap.

Senator Wilson, of Iowa, from the committee on judiciary, has reported the following bill as a substitute for the original package liquor bill now under consideration in the senate:

"That when any intoxicating liquors shall be transported from one state or territory to another, or from any foreign country, such liquor shall, when the actual and continuous transportation of the same shall have terminated, be considered to have ceased to be the subject of interstate commerce and be a part of the common mass of property within the state or territory, and subject to the respective powers of the state or territory in respect of all police regulations of prohibition, regulation or taxation."

Get up a Club and catch a Prize.