

FRANK PORTER DRUGGIST

P. O. Block,

Great Bend.

ABOUT KANSAS FARMERS.

AN OHIO EDITOR TELLS US SOMETHING NEW.

And is Called Down by Typical Kansas
Bryan Man.



THE old saying that "you must go away from home to learn the news" is, in a measure aptly illustrated in the following correspondence between a Kansas patriot and an Ohio friend:

A few days ago John E. Wagner of Leavenworth county received a letter from a cousin in Ohio, twitting him about the decadence of the people's party and asking him if he was still chasing free silver rainbows, and wound up by filling the envelope with clippings from different eastern newspapers telling of the popularity of Mark Hanna and of the wonderful prosperity of Kansas. Of course John, living in Kansas, was not supposed to know of the state's prosperity, so his cousin with true Ohio egotism proceeds to enlighten him. Among the clippings appear the following from the Delaware, O., Evening Journal:

"Five years ago the farmers of Kansas were suffering for the want of bread, were tired of doing nothing but carrying great mortgages on their farms, and even sick of life. Now they are rolling in ease, wearing diamonds. The yield of wheat of the last five years has been sold for enough money to plaster the state with \$2.00 bills.

"Out in western Kansas the yield will be sixteen bushel to the acre. As there is no plowing, no drilling, no binding or twine to pay for, the expense of handling there is much less than in other sections and seldom runs over \$3.00 an acre. This leaves about \$6.00 an acre clear profit. The general value of such wheat land is \$20.00 an acre, which brings the farmer an annual interest of about 30 per cent. on the investment. This varies of course with the yield and expenses, but there are few farmers who would take 25 per cent. for their chances. A farmer in Barton county last year carried into successful operation a plan whereby he had to have no outside help. He has two grown sons, and alone they planted and reaped a field of 500 acres of wheat. They started planting in September and kept this up until March, dividing each month into a separate patch. In June the wheat sowed in September was ripened and harvested, while in July the October field was cut, and so on. The three men were kept busy all the year and cleared \$7,000 out of the wheat field. In Sumner county, the greatest wheat county in Kansas, every farmer is scheduled as being worth \$10,000 while there are many who have cleared \$50,000 in the last year."

We publish in full the reply;

Charles O. Swisher, Columbus, O.

MY DEAR COUSIN: I hasten to acknowledge receipt of yours of recent date, also to thank you for the clippings you enclosed. Until I read them I did not know how popular Senator Hanna was at home. I only remembered that when he ran for senator he lost every legislative vote in Cuyahoga county, his home, by a majority that footed up about twenty-seven thousand.

Neither, until I read the clippings from the Ohio papers, did I realize how prosperous us Kansans were. Thanks to these Ohio editors and you for enlightening me. But for those clippings I might have gone foolishly thinking I was poor, whereas I am "wearing diamonds" and don't know it.

I note your inquiry if I am still chasing free silver rainbows? I am. You know I was foolish enough to be a republican until 1896 and while a republican I was taught those silver "heresies." I received my first lesson when Stanley Mathews, then a republican senator from Ohio, introduced a concurrent resolution into the United States senate, declaring the bonds of our government payable in either gold or silver at the option of the government. Among the members in the house who voted for that resolution was Wm. McKinley of Ohio. Some time later, when Richard Bland introduced his famous free silver bill, that after amendment, became a law under the title of the Bland-Allison act. Among the enthusiastic supporters of that bill, that before amendment, provided for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at a ratio of 16 to 1 without aid or consent of any nation on earth, again appears the name of one Wm. McKinley of Ohio.

Now for the life of me I cannot understand how or why the right to pay the national debt in silver in '78 had become a national dishonor in '96, or how the right to coin silver at 16 to 1 in '79 had become "repudiation" in 1900. Then at Chicago in '88 I heard Wm. McKinley read the platform which among other things good and bad, read: "We favor the use of both gold and silver as standard money and condemn Grover Cleveland for attempting to demonetize silver," but then, you know, this is dead. The republicans all say so. Still I hope you will note that I had good republican company when I was learning those "heresies."

I note your statement that there was only one populist vote cast in the recent election in your ward, and among 436, too. Lets see, how big was Sodom and Gomorrah? I have read somewhere in the bible, wasn't it, that those cities had only eight righteous people, but until I read your letter I didn't know that Columbus, O., was worse. And you say that he, poor fellow, mismarked his ballot and lost his vote.

Now, out here in Kansas, it is the republicans who were so "shy on intelligence" that they

couldn't vote properly, and immediately they got the legislature they amended the Australian ballot law to provide for a picture at the head of each column, for, like the lamented Petroleum V. Nasby, they reasoned that "any dern fool could read a picture." And then appreciating the eternal fitness of things they chose the "buzzard" for their party emblem. Perhaps, as you say, the west misjudges Senator Hanna in about the same measure, I imagine, as the east does Wm. J. Bryan, where in Massachusetts, I am told, they use the name of Bryan to scare the children into being good. Out west Hanna wouldn't scare anything, unless he should attempt to make one of Roosevelt's anti-trust speeches. That, of course, would scare anything mortal, and we Kansans are at least that.

I am glad indeed to read of the material wealth and prosperity of the people of our state. In the past, we had to "toot our own horn," now others "toot" for us. It is true we had a magnificent wheat crop in 1901, for which, I presume, we should thank McKinley. I note also that the price of corn is high, but I thought this was caused by the greath drouth that cut production almost eight hundred million bushels. I notice that with wheat you republicans were willing to thank the administration for the crop and blame God for the price, while with corn and potatoes you were willing to blame God for the crop and thank the administration for the price. Now populists are willing to be fair; they are willing to thank God all of the time and blame Roosevelt part of the time, and we can find plenty to blame him for, paying J. P. Morgan's son \$25,000 to attend the coronation of Edward, the Huger, for instance. Of course, you understand those tales of our prosperity ar absolutely true. More especially the ones relating to Barton county, where they sow wheat right through the winter regardless of zero weather, and in Sumner county, where every farmer is worth \$10,000 and many of them cleared \$50,000 raising wheat last year.

Your experience as a farmer before you started to hold a soft job in Columbus, convinces you all this is true, but it don't go far enough. For instance, Johnson Co. has a man that got rich raising a new kind of strawberry, crossed with the finest grade of winter wheat and granulated sugar; it grows strawberry shortcake ready to eat. Montgomery county came to front with a man who became a millionaire by raising poultry from egg plants, while an Osage county man distinguished himself and acquired untold wealth selling a new kind of bird seed to gullable eastern people that warranted to raise everything from singing birds to bald eagles. I am told a nurseryman in Sedgwick county is selling trees budded with ground tin that is warranted to grow peaches already canned. To all those who buy one hundred trees, he throws

in a stump puller, a pencil sharpener, a corkscrew and a can opener. He will be a plutocrat shortly.

Candidly, the wheat crop did not cover the state with two dollar bills. The only time I have seen it so covered was just before the presidential election of 1900 and just after the republican state committee had heard from "Uncle Mark."

Hoping the above will, in a measure, answer your questions, I remain your true cousin,

JOHN E. WAGNER.

Linwood, Kan.

Everybody should help to celebrate the moving of the College into this city, and we would suggest that a committee be appointed to notify the Commercial Club, of the change, and invite them to the celebration.—Beacon.

Most certainly; if the college will be improved by the change, everybody will celebrate, and will gladly assist in any manner in reason to make the institution creditable to the city. Just what the Beacon means by its reference to the Commercial Club in the above manner we are at a loss to know. The Commercial Club and its members have no dog-in-the-manger methods in any of its movements, and is always doing something to further the best interests of the city—even without consulting the Beacon.

About this time of year the notion generally strikes us to look after other peoples' business to some extent, by warning the farmers to guard against prairie fires. A prairie fire last week destroyed some pasture and hay belonging to Jake Alefs. John Everett, L. P. Frey and P. F. Schneck, in Buffalo township.

HOME AND CHILD

Does your horse "feel his oats"? What a difference between the grain-fed and the grass-fed horse! The first strong and full of ginger, the second flabby, weak and tired out before he begins. The feeding makes the difference.

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