

# SEC. WILSON DISAGREES WITH JAMES J. HILL

Associated Press to The Evening Times. Washington, Sept. 11.—Ever since the publication of the somewhat pessimistic article made by James J. Hill at the Minnesota state fair the secretary of agriculture has been receiving appeals to reply to Mr. Hill's inquiry. "How shall we feed the 200,000,000 Americans who will in fifty years constitute this nation?" Secretary Wilson consented today to discuss the subject, and his views, coming from a practical farmer and an economic philosopher of no little renown, will be read with especial interest.

"I have read Mr. Hill's article," said Secretary Wilson, "and regard it as a complete and statesmanlike paper. He outlines the situation with accuracy and an ability that nobody less familiar with the national interests could have applied.

"With regard to the exhaustion of wood oil and coal, the farmer will meet that. Congress has taken the first step in granting free alcohol, and this department is at work learning what can be done to develop its possibilities. The chemists are working at a big cannery in Illinois to learn how to produce alcohol cheaply from the by-products of that business, and an expert has been sent to Europe to study and bring back supplies of seed for production of the big stock potatoes raised there for alcohol and stock food. It is like the ordinary edible potato we know, but will give twice the alcohol from the product of an acre. Still other experts are studying the uses of alcohol for heat and power. I have no uneasiness about the prospective lack of coal and oil.

"As to the approaching exhaustion of iron, I would not add to what Mr. Hill has said; he is an expert in that line and I am not."

The secretary would not attempt to combat the seriousness of the danger of exhaustion of iron, but his chief aid, Dr. Galloway, of the Bureau of Plant Industry, offered an interesting suggestion.

**Will Use Iron Less.**

"We build our cities of iron," he said, "and make them ungainly, unsightly, uneconomical; some day we will do as they do in wiser countries, limit strictly the height of buildings to say six floors, and make it no longer an object to build them of iron. Then we will draw on the soil with its inexhaustible clay and stone for building materials. Look at our new building for this department—five stories high and not enough iron to make a set of barrel hoops in it, reinforced concrete construction. It will last for centuries, and no iron structure could be so attractive as it will be."

Secretary Wilson nodded assent.

"We study the soil in all its relations," he resumed. "The plant in it, the animal living on it. It is true, as Mr. Hill says, that the British grow an average of thirty bushels of wheat an acre or of less than fifteen. But we can get thirty if we adopt their methods. Their fertilizer for a root crop every four or five years and then

grow wheat the next year, and that only on the best land. They grow barley and oats on the poorer lands; wheat grew twenty to thirty bushels in Iowa fifty years ago; now little is grown because farmers find stock growing more profitable. But the Iowa blue grass lands can be turned up to crop an acre or more as big wheat crops as ever. As director of the Iowa Experiment Station, I got between thirty and forty bushels of wheat, and have no doubt they do it yet, but it was on the best land and in the best conditions.

"The Mississippi Valley farmer now gives up wheat altogether for corn, and his system of rotation is based on the requirements of the corn and livestock that he wants to produce. He raises corn two or three years on a given piece of land until the appearance of the root worm warns him to change; then oats a year and perhaps then another crop of corn; then he seeds the land and lets it lie in pasture for two or three years. When the sod is turned up again he gets a great corn crop, and if he wanted wheat he would get it as well. I know many farms in Iowa that are raising better crops today than they did fifty years ago. There need be no fears of the capacity of the soil to feed the people Mr. Hill expects to see here, and I don't question his figures, either. We will have them. But we must have different farming methods.

**Labels More Effective.**

"Mr. Hill's observations on the subject of farm help are correct, but it is hard to do much for the farmer at this point. Help is expensive and scarce, but better appliances make it produce more. A year ago, traveling in the Southwest, I saw this well illustrated. In Arkansas or Tennessee I would see a man cultivating behind a single horse that might weigh eight hundred or nine hundred pounds; going on to Oklahoma that man would be working with two horses. Up in the corn country of Kansas or Iowa, he would have three or four 1,600 pound horses. In old times a man and two horses would handle a ten-foot harrow; now a man and four big horses drag a twenty-foot harrow; then, grass was cut, raked, cocked, loaded on a wagon and later unloaded in a barn or stack all with pitchforks; now it is raked, loaded and unloaded with a machine by horsepower, and with a double harrow fork. These things illustrate how much the possibilities of one man's work have grown.

"We will irrigate more. The government is doing what it can for the land which lies below the level of the ditch. But what of the land that lies above the ditch, to which water cannot be taken? Well, we are working still more for it. We are finding crops that will grow on it; we are searching the ends of the earth for them; durum wheat, grown for centuries in Algeria, and dry parts of Russia, was brought to us. It will produce a good crop in ten inches of annual rainfall. Last year we raised 10,000,000 bushels of it,

and this year the crop will be much larger.

"Every acre of this domain is good for something. We are raising the spinifex cactus on the sands of the Mohave desert, and feeding cattle on it, to determine how the results compare with those in more favored sections."

**NOT EARNING BUT SAVING.**

**Is What Creates a Competence—Thrifty Greeks on Section.**

The Rolla Star has the following pertinent suggestion which is worth serious consideration:

There were issued at the Rolla post office last week five \$100 international money orders payable in Greece. The orders were purchased by a section hand on the Great Northern at this place in favor of his father. The purchaser earned the munificent sum of \$1.50 a day. He and his brother lived frugally, perhaps, too cheaply—but they saved their earnings, and now their father living in that far off country will in a few days receive the comfortable sum of \$500. It is not earning but saving that builds homes and buys farms and makes bank accounts. A man who earns \$5,000 a year and spends \$5,001 is a bankrupt, while a Grecian section hand who saves something from his \$1.50 a day is laying the foundation for a competence in his declining years.

**CROP YIELDS.**

**Wheat Will Not Be a Large Crop Along the River.**

Threshing activity reigns over the farms between Fargo and Grand Forks. From the car window in a northbound train last night, the Forum's traveling correspondent counted eight threshing rigs at different points on the east side of the track, and for miles, as far as the eye could see, were seen scores of blazing straw stacks.

Attorney Carmody informed The Forum that the general average in Tull county would be small, although some fields were producing big returns.

On the big Preston farm at Blanchard, 2,000 to 3,000 acres, there were yields of from twelve to twenty-two bushels to the acre and the anticipated average would be about sixteen bushels. So far the wheat was going fifty-nine pounds to the bushel.

From the Clark Dalrymple farm at Hillsboro come different results. This farm, about 1,100 acres, suffered from hail, and it is stated that the average yield won't exceed five bushels to the acre and weight fifty-seven pounds.

**TO DOG HEAVEN.**

**Poisoner Abroad at Bemidji "Gets" Five in a Single Night.**

Special to The Evening Times. Bemidji, Minn., Sept. 11.—A dog-poisoner is abroad in Bemidji and a number of unsuspecting canines have fallen victims to his wiles. Sunday night no less than five dogs, at different places in the city, were killed as the result of eating poisoned bread.

Mayor Carter is thoroughly aroused, as are the police, and vigorous measures are being taken to run the guilty party or parties down.

"It's an outrage," said a man today. "Lots of them, here lately."

A few years ago road dust was almost an insufferable plague on windy summer days in Southern California. Now the roads are sprinkled with petroleum twice a year and even an automobile raises no dust.

**A Rather Peculiar Crime**

**That of Last Week in Burleigh County—Insane Murderer Ate Flies Off Fly-paper.**

Bismarck Tribune: A horrible murder and suicide occurred at a farm house in the northeastern part of this county Wednesday night, the dead being brothers.

In a fit of probable insanity Lucie Schelgen shot his brother Emil in the back of the head with a shotgun loaded with buckshot, breaking his neck and killing him instantly. He then attempted to kill his brother Clovis, but the latter made his escape. The frenzied man pursued Clovis a short distance from the house and then put the muzzle of the gun to his mouth and blew a frightful hole in the top of his head. Death must have been instantaneous.

Four years ago Emil Schelgen came to this county from the west coast and located a claim in section 2-142-75. Shortly afterwards his three brothers, Clovis, Lucie and Camil, also came from the west and Lucie located a claim adjoining Emil's and the other brothers located near quite recently, in fact had not yet got upon their lands and were therefore living with and helping the other brothers. The house where the homicide occurred was located upon the line dividing the claims of Lucie and Emil, each living in his own part, and as far as can be learned, in a way farmed together. They also owned some sheep, and it is probable that the fear of losing his share of the proceeds of these sheep was the idea that caused, in part, the insanity of Lucie.

Some sheep had been sold and Emil, against the wishes of Lucie, as near as can be made out from the disconsolate brothers, who can speak little English, went to get the money and pay some bills. This proved not entirely satisfactory to Lucie, who had been acting rather strange for a day or two, and he lost much sleep over it, though no open rupture occurred between the brothers.

Tuesday night Lucie was not at the house when bed time came and Camil, one of the surviving brothers, found him in the sheep pen muttering to himself. After some parleying Lucie went to the house, but could not be induced for some time to get to bed, and during the night his mutterings kept all of them awake. He did not go to work Wednesday but remained about the house, his brothers noticing many queer things about him, which they attributed to his loss of sleep.

Wednesday night Clovis and Emil came in from the field and the latter went to the house, where Lucie was getting the supper. Noticing that the meat was burning, Emil told his brother to put water on it, but instead Lucie picked up a piece of fly paper and began picking the flies from it. Emil then went to the barn, returning in a few minutes. Clovis then heard a shot from the house and ran to the door just in time to catch the falling form of Emil in the doorway. As he did so Lucie, who was standing in the house with a smoking shotgun in his hands, said: "You are no better than him," and raised the gun to his shoulder to shoot Clovis. The latter quickly dropped his dead brother and ran around the house and hid behind a little knoll near by. Lucie followed a short distance and Clovis says he heard two shots, but was too scared to go back. He ran to the field and got Camil and as they were returning met a neighbor and told him what had occurred.

The three men feared to approach the house lest they be killed, but finally the neighbor mustered up courage enough to investigate and found Lucie dead beside the gun a few feet from the house. The charge of buckshot had blown a two-inch hole in the head above the left ear. Emil had been shot in the back of his neck at close range, the charge making two ragged holes about two inches long, and breaking his neck. He must have been trying to escape when killed. Lucie was 32 years old and Emil 35.

Camil hitched up and hurried to Steele from which point Sheriff Welch was notified, and went to the scene yesterday morning in company with E. E. Morris, and found the bodies lying as stated.

The remains of the two men were brought to town at once, arriving here at 8 o'clock this morning. After they had been examined by a physician and the coroner's jury, consisting of E. E. Morris, Thomas McGowan and H. B. Neighbor, an inquest was held and a verdict returned in accordance with the above facts.

The unfortunate men were buried this afternoon by the surviving brothers, in the local cemetery.

**A LIBEL SUIT.**

**St. Cloud, (Minn.) Politician Sues Two Papers for Libel.**

St. Cloud Journal-Press: The demands of retraction made by James R. Bennett, jr., on the Times Publishing Company and the Nordstern Publishing Company for libelous statements published in those papers about Mr. Bennett, have now been drawn by the attorneys for the democratic leader, and they will be filed in a short time.

The demands specify that the Times retract an article, entitled "The Anzeiger Poole," which appeared Aug. 22, and an article entitled "To Stearns County Democrats" published Aug. 28. It is stated in the notice that the statements made in both of these articles are libelous and absolutely false, and the withdrawal is demanded.

The articles in the Nordstern which Mr. Bennett demands be withdrawn appeared Aug. 16, Aug. 23 and Aug. 30. The article of Aug. 23 is signed by Frank Zins.

The demand sent to the Times is addressed to C. F. Macdonald and Fred Schlipin as co-partners, and the demand to the Nordstern is addressed to Frank Zins and the Nordstern Publishing Company.

James R. Bennett, jr., could not be seen today, but he has repeatedly made the statements that he had nothing to do with the articles which have lately been published in the Anzeiger.

The proposed cable to Iceland is to be laid from the Shetland Islands to Thorshavn, in the Faroe Islands, and thence to Seydisfjord, in Iceland. From the latter point there is to be a land line to Reykjavik. The cable is not expected to be completed until the autumn.

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**REBATEES NABBED.**  
 Associated Press to The Evening Times. Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 11.—Seven local agents of the National Life and Accident Insurance company of Nashville were arrested charged with rebating premiums.

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 MOTHER ANTELOPE INSTINCT.  
 Her Provision for Her Young a Wonderful Instance of Nature's Providence.  
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The manner in which the mother antelope protects her young until they are old and strong enough to join the full-grown bands in their wanderings is an interesting and wonderful instance of nature's providence. These beautiful creatures live in an open country infested by all kinds of enemies, and especially prowled over by the coyote, the gray wolf and the timber wolf, which subsist upon the young of all kinds of animals; yet the mother can easily protect her babies from the fercest of these marauders. The enemy most dreaded is the so-called eagle. There is a variety of cactus, a prickly plant which grows in great abundance all over the western plains, which furnishes her means for this protection. Horses, cattle, buffalo, and, in fact, all the animals know the danger of treading on this plant. It grows in large patches, some four or six inches in height above the ground, and forms a thick mat varying in breadth from the size of the top of a man's hat to many feet. It is in the center of one of these patches that the female antelope prepares a place of safety for her young. The thorns of this cactus, while very poisonous and terribly painful to every other animal for some reason are almost harmless to the antelope. The cactus may lacerate her legs, making them bleed freely, but neither the stickers nor their poison remain while other animals seldom bleed, but retain the poisonous stickers in their wounds until they become malignant sores, causing excessive swelling of the limbs and very great and long continued suffering.

When the antelope has selected her patch of cactus, backing away a few feet, she will make a running jump, bounding high in the air and alighting in the middle of the patch with all four feet close together, the hoofs pointing downward. Then springing out again and repeating this operation the cactus plants to pieces, she loosens and clears a space large enough for standing room. She then will enlarge it by pawing and digging with her sharp hoofs. Here she gives birth to her young in undisturbed security, knowing that she can leave them in comparative safety during the day and return to them at night to give them suck. Should it be in a locality where eagles abound, however, the mother does not venture far away, as the soaring eagle often swoops down on the young, taking them away if she is not there to do battle for their lives.—H. H. Cross in Century.

**MORE HELP NEEDED.**

People of United States Have Not Responded Freely.

Associated Press to The Evening Times. Washington, Sept. 11.—"Suffering is very great," says Mr. Hicks, American minister to Chile, in a dispatch received by the state department, urging the people of the United States to lend a helping hand for the relief of the distress caused by the recent earthquake that destroyed Valparaiso and did great damage in other Chilean towns.

The dispatch says that action should be prompt, and suggests that funds be sent to Santiago by cable.

Officials at the state department regret the apparent lack of interest shown in the misfortunes of this sister republic of the United States.

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