

Tenants of Dickinson Who Made Money

Fearless and in servitude yesterday; opulent, independent, master of broad acres and fat herds today—that is the history of hundreds of agricultural successes in Kansas. The happy transition, not literally of a day, perhaps, but of a few seasons at most, has been the experience of one-time tenant farmers, now among the "solid citizens" of the most prosperous rural communities in America.

Those men have proved that there is a short cut to wealth—that there is such a thing as a legitimate get-rich-quick system. They have proved that brains and sweat, mixed with the soil, will grow dollars where only weeds grew before, and that conscientious and intelligent effort, without capital, will produce more in the country than in the city.

What is their secret? There is none. There is nothing miraculous in their achievements—the wonder is that many more have not made the same success under like conditions. They are merely hard-headed, hard-headed, intelligent farmers, who know their business and took advantage of the opportunities offered. They have studied farming as a business, just as the successful city man has studied merchandising, banking or any other department of commercial life.

Their course has been certain and rapid, but not easy. It is not one to be followed successfully by the city man, intelligent and willing, perhaps, but without practical knowledge of farm problems and their solution. And they are no less above and beyond the class of countrymen lacking in initiative, brains, energy and stamina, who dreg away their lives as tenant farmers without accumulating enough to provide for a decent burial at the end.

A majority of the tenant farmer successes formerly were servants, "hired hands" in the employ of landowners, and had nothing but their wages of a few dollars a month. That was only a few years ago. Now most of them are well-to-do, and some are rich. Not rich in the sense of owning enormous bank accounts or bundles of stocks and bonds, but in the possession of their equivalent in rich farms, comfortable homes, a certain comfortable living and a margin of cash profit to lay away each season. They began by saving a little of the little they earned, skimping until they acquired, usually, a team of horses, the first essential to the business of farming. Then they rented land and set about the business of overtaking opportunities and seizing them for their own.

Here follow some of the plain stories that tell of the transition from poverty to prosperity:

Three miles north of Hope, here in Dickinson county, there is a typical Kansas farm, with its big barn—for barns in Kansas are by no means the last consideration—a comfortable appearing house, and scattered about the place may be seen cattle—some for beef and others for dairy purposes—hogs, sheep and chickens. There are 160 acres in this farm, and it is owned by a man who thirteen years ago "was a thousand dollars worth off than nothing." As a visitor drove into the lane, which led into this place he saw a farmer unloading hedgewood. There was nothing about this man which would have made him stand out in a crowd. He was robust and showed that he had lived much in the open. The visitor guessed him to be 45 years old.

This man was Tom Lay. Thirteen years ago he was threshing grain for farmers and there was not a foot of land on the earth which he could call his own. "One night I decided that I could never get ahead at the threshing game," Mr. Lay said, "so I made up my mind to farm. My two boys and I moved on a section of land six miles north of Hope. For ten years we plowed and sowed those 640 acres of ground."

Mr. Lay said that it was hard work but he did not mind it because his efforts were resulting in actual production of grain and feed. It was through feeding cattle and hogs that Mr. Lay found farming most profitable. The corn that he raised was ground and fed to cattle, and in the same pens with the cattle mingled the hogs. For ten years he farmed the 640 acres. Then the grain and feed which he had grown had fattened enough cattle and hogs to buy a farm of 160 acres, upon which he now lives. It did not take all his money to buy the land, and part of what was left was used in getting up a new house and a new barn on his home. Now Mr. Lay lives on his own home, and has

he was offered \$100 an acre for. But he won't sell. He enjoys telling how everything he has "was dug out of the ground."

Every man who rents farm land doesn't get rich. There is C. H. Peterson of Abilene, for example. He grew tired of a teamster's life a year ago and moved from Abilene to a farm five miles southeast of town. Last year was his first year on the farm. The crops in Dickinson county were decidedly not good last year, and here is all the grain that Mr. Peterson grew: Five hundred bushels of oats from 17 acres; 150 bushels of wheat from 15 acres; and 225 bushels of corn from 55 acres.

"But I cleaned up several hundred dollars besides my living," Peterson said, "and that is better than I could have done in town, so I am not complaining."

It was not from the grain that he made the several hundred dollars. He had several cows and the natural increase and the milk he sold netted him about \$200. Then there were chickens and these brought him some money.

"In a good year I ought to make \$1,000," the new farmer said.

There are not many farmers who are as fortunate as Henry W. Smith. Fortune scarcely is the word. Three years ago Mr. Smith owned no land. But he had \$1,000. He planked down \$500 of it as one year's rent for the George W. Borman place, comprising 320 acres of grass prairie, alfalfa, corn and wheat land, in Dickinson. Fine farm buildings, too, figured in the deal; a commodious dairy barn swung the deal. When Mr. Smith saw that he would be equipped to keep a large herd of dairy cows the bargain was completed.

The first thing he did was to visit the markets in Kansas City. Hundreds of cattle that were too emaciated for availability in the packing houses, and the packers were anxious that these cattle should return to Kansas and be fattened. He bought a lot of these cattle that were too poor to butcher for beef, shipped them to his farm and fattened them. All his grain went into the cattle. Sometimes he was not able to grow enough and he bought grain from the neighbors.

The venture proved so profitable that he continued to fatten cattle. And all the time he was milking from twenty to thirty choice dairy cows. He had a cream separator in his barn. The cream was sold at Navarre and the separated milk was fed while worn to pigs and calves. The stock grew into money and in three years this man accumulated enough money to buy a 480-acre farm in Johnson county.

H. H. Henderson, who owns a 200-acre farm valued at \$100 an acre, four miles southeast of Abilene, Kansas, twelve years ago was a hired hand on the farm, getting \$20 a month. He made up his mind that he would go into the farming business and make the profit on his own work. With \$300 that he had saved by monthly labor, he bought a team and rented the farm which he now owns. He paid one-third of the crops for rent. The first year conditions were unfavorable for farming and he ended the year \$150 in debt. Not discouraged, he borrowed money at the bank, bought seed and put out another crop, with the result that the second year his profits were large. The third year his corn and grain bins were filled for the first time and he made the first payment on the farm. He obtained stock and chickens.

Chickens are a small item, but Mr. Henderson believes that he has made as much money from his chickens as he has from his cattle.

Mr. Henderson says that there is money in stock. He believes in having a variety; and no matter what the season of the year, horses, cattle, sheep and hogs are in his barn lot. "They grow while I sleep," Mr. Henderson said.

Alfalfa helped Mr. Henderson to pay for his farm. After making the first payment he sowed thirty acres in alfalfa. This, some years produces five tons to the acre, a ton at such cutting. It is marketable in Abilene at \$10 and \$12 a ton.

J. A. Moyer never had any education. He used to live in Muscatine, Ia., and decided one day about sixteen years ago that the farm was the place for him. "Thirty dollars worse off than nothing" was his condition. Now he owns a fine Dickinson county farm of 120 acres, five miles southeast of Abilene, and several times he has returned \$100 an

acre for it. This spring he sold a 40-acre tract of land several miles from his home place and received for it \$2,500. And, besides owning 120 acres of improved land, Mr. Moyer has money in the bank.

"How did you do it?" he was asked.

Mr. Moyer said that he followed no set plan in the sixteen years he has been farming. But he always had found it more profitable to put the grain and feed into stock, and then sell the stock. He believes that the most of his money was made in that way.

Ed. Mitchell used to own the town dray in Hope. He hauled the merchandise and baggage of the town for three years. Then one day it occurred to him that he was not putting aside any money for old age. After a little talk with his partner—Mrs. Mitchell—he decided to try the rural life. He rented a farm three and a half miles north of Hope and gave as rent one-third of the crop. He kept a few milch cows, some hogs and enough horses to farm eighty acres. His first two years on the farm did not produce results, though the crops generally were good. He explains this now by saying that he did not understand the real science of farming the first two years that he was following the plow. "I used to sell my grain and take the prices that prevailed in the open market," he said. "Now I sell no grain, but feed it and sell the stock."

Eight years have elapsed since Mr. Mitchell first began farming, and now he owns a quarter section of fine land in Franklin county.

J. F. Brechtbill, five miles north of Detroit in Dickinson county, is the kind of a tenant farmer who knows how he makes his money. Mr. Brechtbill keeps books. He knows at the end of the year just what his milch cows have earned for him; what his bees have produced, valued in dollars, and what his profits have been on the colts. He has figured that during the three years he has been on the farm he produced \$3,500 above his living.—Kansas City Star.

HIGH SCHOOL ARTISTS.

Concert and Minstrel Show Friday Night a Hammer.

Indications are for a full house at the high school glee club's minstrel show Friday night at the Seelye. Part one will be a concert including music by the high school orchestra, solos by Warren Coleman, Marion Seelye, E. C. Tillotson. Part two will be the old fashioned minstrel show with Earl Merrifield interlocutor and the usual array of blackface artists. The members of the girls' glee club are: Hazel Beaver, Irene Etherington, Juanita Engle, Mary Hill, Frances Stovitts, Gladys Tufts, Ethel Coleman, Rowena Engle, Florence Van Doren, Vestta Engle, Annie Glah, Edna Kugler, Esther Solt, Jessie Good, Jennie Hope, Elizabeth Landis, Ethel Engle.

Of the boys' glee club these are the members: Earl Merrifield, Oron McCoy, Walter Vickers, Amos Engle, Paul Steelsmith, David Stanley, Howard Hoffman, Alfred Schmutz, Ralph Morton, Stanley Raub, Roy Garver, Clinton Solt, Owen Glah, Albert Glah, H. W. Rohrer, Frank Ackers, Ward Barber.

AN ATTRACTIVE PICTURE.

Abilene Wells Farm Shows in an Artistic Window Card.

The Abilene Company has received the first shipment of ten thousand large window pictures that will be put up in nearly every drug store in the country. It shows in a reproduction from photographs the Abilene farm ten miles northwest of Abilene with the fifty wells, the pumping arrangements with portable gasoline engine, the loading of the water and the shipping station, all artistically depicted by a skilled artist. The picture is not only true to life but a great attraction. When first put up in Chicago the crowds blocked the streets to get a look at the scene. Abilene is being advertised the country over in newspapers and magazines and its fame and sales are growing.

Farmers Attention.

Before sowing oats or planting your corn get our latest improved Climax Fanning mill and grader. We have added a corn grader to the mill which does excellent work.

Parties having oats and wheat mixed or barley and wheat, we have added special sieves and screens for that purpose, that does splendid work.

The mill cleans and grades all kinds of seeds from alfalfa to corn. WM. SULLIVAN, 170132nd Manufacturers' Bldg.

Woman Held-Up Rob Store.

Washington, April 4.—Hiding a revolver beneath a long black veil, a woman entered and robbed a grocery store here. Pointing the weapon at the young woman clerk and at another woman who was in the store, the robber ordered them out, she then proceeded to open the cash register. An arrest has been made.

Rabbits Shielded the Quail.

Topeka, April 4.—Prof. L. L. Dyche, state fish and game warden, has found out how many hunters succeeded in grading the quail shooting last winter. He found that these hunters started the quail into cleaned rabbits and were thus enabled to escape detection. The warden has the names of several hunters who are said to have graded the law against killing quail and he said that warblers probably would be scarce out for them.

SPECIAL SESSION READY FOR WORK

Democrats Organize House for First Time in 16 Years.

CHAMP CLARK THE NEW SPEAKER

James R. Mann—Not Cannon—Selected by Republicans as Their Floor Leader—A Long Session Expected.

Washington, April 4.—In accordance with the call of President Taft congress convened in extraordinary session at noon. The house was called to order by Alexander McDowell clerk of the last session.

For the first time in 16 years the Democratic party finds itself in control by a most decisive majority in the lower house. One of the first acts was the election of Champ Clark of Missouri, as speaker to succeed the picturesque Cannon. All the world was there to see. Democrats have flocked into Washington during the past two days from every section of the country.

As soon as the house was organized the president was notified that congress awaited any communication he might wish to send.

The session has been called specifically for the purpose of giving effect to the reciprocity agreement which the president negotiated last January. The best information obtainable at the White house is that President Taft will deal with this matter alone in his message which he will send to the congress when he has been notified that the two bodies are organized and ready to receive any communication that he might have to make to them.

Spoke for the Democrats.

Next to this message the address of Champ Clark on assuming the speakership was the most important utterance of the day. Mr. Clark is essentially a presidential candidate. But that aside for the present by reason of the post for which he has been chosen, he speaks for the great body of victorious Democrats—he sounded the party keynote for the special session laying down the lines, marking out the course.

The president's message will urge the enactment of the reciprocity pact. But by this act in summoning congress into extra session he has hung wide open the doors for legislation and the Democratic party, with its promises of 15 years strewn over the political battlefields of that period, has been quick to seize its opportunity and bills have already been framed to reduce the tariff on wool, cotton and the other articles of clothing and food that enter into the common life of the masses of people.

No Waiting for Tariff Record.

The president is on record as having declared that the tariff revision ought to wait until the tariff board has presented the facts on which to base a revision of the schedules. The Democratic position is that for 15 years the party has urged the electorate to elect a Democratic congress which would revise the tariff and reduce the cost of living. If after 15 years of promising the party should now turn and ask a few months' more time in which to prepare for that which they have already proclaimed a readiness to do, the leaders hold that they would be placing their party in a ridiculous and untenable position before the nation. Therefore the tariff revision will proceed, schedule by schedule at the extra session and the senate first, and after that president Taft will be left to decide whether the verdict of last November shall be given the effect of law.

Stateshood for Arizona and New Mexico is promised for this session as is also the resolution providing for amending the constitution whereby United States senators may be elected by popular vote.

It is believed that reciprocity will be passed but whether alone or as a part of one of the bills revising a schedule of the tariff, has not yet been settled by the Democratic leaders.

With the program ahead the leaders insist that it will be September before the work of the session is completed.

Woman Held-Up Rob Store.

Washington, April 4.—Hiding a revolver beneath a long black veil, a woman entered and robbed a grocery store here. Pointing the weapon at the young woman clerk and at another woman who was in the store, the robber ordered them out, she then proceeded to open the cash register. An arrest has been made.

Rabbits Shielded the Quail.

Topeka, April 4.—Prof. L. L. Dyche, state fish and game warden, has found out how many hunters succeeded in grading the quail shooting last winter. He found that these hunters started the quail into cleaned rabbits and were thus enabled to escape detection. The warden has the names of several hunters who are said to have graded the law against killing quail and he said that warblers probably would be scarce out for them.

Topeka, April 4.—The war department has suggested to the state that it reorganize the Kansas National guard to conform to the government regulations. If this is done the governor's personal staff will be abolished and there will be a complete reorganization of the department.

Under the present laws of Kansas the governor, as commander-in-chief of the state militia, has a personal staff corps of officers ranking as colonel and lieutenant colonel. Should the scheme of the department of militia affairs be adopted, this staff corps will be cut off.

The circular from the war department is in the nature of a suggestion, but it is believed that if the suggestion is not adopted a general order will follow which will demand that the organization conform to the new regulations.

CASTORIA

For Infants and Children.

The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of

Wm. D. Gifford

NEW YORK.

35 CENTS

Exact Copy of Wrapper.

SUPREME COURT HITS MONOPOLIES

Commodities Clause of the Railroad Law Upheld. WAS A GOVERNMENT VICTORY

Railroad Companies Through Interlocking Directors May Not Control Subsidiary Companies Whose Freight is Handled.

Washington, April 4.—According to the decision rendered in the patent medicine monopoly case, the supreme court believes in free and full competition for the benefit of the consumer.

In the opinion of the department of justice this decision is of vital interest as tending to show the trend of opinion of the court and indicative of decisions to be rendered in the Standard Oil and American Tobacco cases. The right and practice of these companies to fix the prices of their produce to the consumers had been challenged by the government.

Justice Holmes dissents.

Justice Holmes dissented from the opinion of the court. He said he believed in the policy of letting people manage their own business in their own way so far as possible. He said further he believed there was a tendency to over value the benefits to the public of competition and the popularity of that belief led him to express his dissent from the majority decision.

The court upheld the constitutionality of the commodities clause of the railroad law, under which railroads may not own and control subsidiary companies from which they draw their freight. The decision is a victory for the government over the Anthracite coal carriers. It reopened fundamental questions arising under the law by reversing the lower court and remanding the government case against the coal roads for retrial.

Lower Court Overruled.

The claims of the government against the Lehigh Valley Railroad company was made a test case by the department of justice. Similar questions were involved in appeals taken in cases against the Erie, Central of New Jersey and the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad companies in which similar decisions were rendered by Chief Justice White.

The government sought leave to amend its pleadings in the circuit court of eastern Pennsylvania. The court refused permission and decided the commodities law unconstitutional, and that the lower court was in error when it refused permission to the government to amend its pleas.

Officials of the department of justice say they have won a great victory and that the decision of the supreme court will force the railroads from the control or interest in the anthracite coal mines.

In discussing the decision Chief Justice White said:

To the Point of the Question.

The questions involved went to the root of the question whether a carrier should be permitted to control through interlocking directors subsidiary companies engaged in other lines of business, whose freight was

PERMIT TELEPHONE MERGER

Bell and Independents May Be Permitted to Divide Nebraska into Two Districts.

Lincoln, Neb., April 4.—The Nebraska senate passed a bill designed to pull the claws of the state anti-trust law, so as to permit the merger of competing telephone companies. Both Bell and Independent interests are behind the senate bill and have planned to divide the state into two telephone zones, the Bell taking control of the telephone field in the north half of the state but independents being given a clear track in the south half. Their deal follows the lines of the recent dicker proposed by Morgan and Independent interests for a national merger.

DRUGGISTS MAY CUT PRICES

The United States Supreme Court Refused to Give Manufacturers Right to Control Retailers.

Washington, April 4.—The attempt to put the ban on "cut rates" in proprietary medicines in this country received the unqualified disapproval of the supreme court of the United States. That tribunal declined, in an opinion by Justice Hughes, to give its aid to such an attempt on the ground that it would afford the manufacturers of medicine an unlawful monopoly.

The question of the right of manufacturer to control the price of his article to the consumer arose in a suit begun by the Dr. Miles Medical company of Elkhart, Ind., against a wholesale dealer in medicine in Cincinnati, John D. Park & Sons company.